

4,000 pilgrims leave for hajj amid pious atmosphere



Expedia chief Khosrowshahi named to lead Uber



Lamar wins big, but absent Swift steals VMA show



I'm no Neymar, insists Barca new boy Dembele



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## 2 MILLION MUSLIMS CONVERGE ON MAKKAH FOR PILGRIMAGE

### IRANIAN PILGRIMS BACK FOR HAJJ AMID REGIONAL CRISES



Min 30°  
Max 43°  
High Tide 04:08 & 17:22  
Low Tide 11:10 & 22:55

#### AMIR MEETS RUSSIAN FM



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

**JEDDAH:** Two million Muslims from across the globe are converging on Makkah in Saudi Arabia for the hajj pilgrimage, a religious duty and for some pilgrims the journey of a lifetime. This year sees the return of pilgrims from Iran, regional rival to powerhouse Saudi Arabia, and comes with the Gulf mired in political crisis and Islamic State group militants squeezed in Iraq and Syria. "I'm so excited because many people dream of coming to this place," said 47-year-old Ani from Indonesia, her face framed in a sand-colored veil trimmed with lace. "We feel more religious when we leave this place," she said.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, and it also provides the largest number of pilgrims for the hajj. Ani's compatriots throng Jeddah airport 80 km west of Makkah, as tens of thousands of pilgrims pass through the gateway to the hajj every day. But Ani is almost oblivious to the hubbub that surrounds her as she studies her Holy Quran in the oppressive heat, pearls of sweat beading her face. "After my first pilgrimage I felt I wanted to come back to feel myself close to him," she said of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) before returning her attention to the holy book.

The hajj is one of the five pillars of the Islamic faith, which every Muslim is required to complete at least once in a lifetime if he or she has the means to do so. "This year we expect around two million pilgrims," Abdelmajeed Mohammad Al-Afghani, director of hajj and umrah (lesser pilgrimage) affairs, told AFP.

Continued on Page 11



MAKKAH: This long exposure photograph shows pilgrims circumambulating the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, in the Grand Mosque on Sunday prior to the start of the annual hajj pilgrimage. — AFP

#### HOUSTON RACES TO SAVE FLOOD VICTIMS BEFORE STORM RETURNS

**HOUSTON:** Rescue teams in boats, trucks and helicopters scrambled yesterday to reach hundreds of Texans marooned on flooded streets in and around the city of Houston before monster storm Harvey returns. Houston mayor Sylvester Turner said more than 2,000 people had been brought, soaking and desperate to rapidly filling shelters in America's fourth largest city - and more are yet to come. The 911 emergency services line has received more than 56,000 calls, but city officials urged residents facing life-threatening storm water floods to remain on the line and trust that help will come.

"The goal is rescue, that's the major focus of the day," Turner said, flanked by grim-faced city officials at a televised press conference, warning that 185 "critical res-

cue missions" are still pending and many more are expected. "People are needing clothing. Literally, people are coming in and they are coming in wet," he said. "We have kids, babies, up to senior citizens. They are needing everything. They are needing clothing, food, medical supplies." Houston fire chief Samuel Pena urged patience, promising: "We fully recognize there are many other people out there in distress situations and we intend to get to every one of them." Harvey hit Texas on Friday as a Category Four hurricane, tearing down homes and businesses on the Gulf coast before dumping what meteorologists said was an "unprecedented" nine trillion gallons of rainfall inland. The Texas bayou and coastal prairie rapidly flooded.

Continued on Page 11



HOUSTON: Evacuees wade down a flooded section of Interstate 610 as floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey rise on Sunday. — AP

PAKISTAN BANK FACES \$629M PENALTY IN US

PAGE 19

COMPUTER CHIPS THAT SMELL NEW LEAP FOR AI

PAGE 22

## RAPIST GURU JAILED FOR 20 YEARS

### 5 CANNIBALS IN S AFRICA COURT

**JOHANNESBURG:** Five South African men charged over suspected cannibalism appeared briefly in court yesterday as scores of angry protesters gathered outside, police said. The men from the rural town of Escourt, in KwaZulu-Natal province, were arrested over a week ago after one handed himself in to a police station, telling officers he was "tired of eating human flesh". His confession led to the arrest of his four co-accused. "All the five men appeared in court yesterday for a bail hearing but opted to abandon their bail application," police spokeswoman Thembeke Mbhele told AFP.

The accused, all in their 30s, are charged with murder, conspiracy to commit murder and possession of human parts. The grisly case, which has rocked the small town, has raised concerns about witchcraft and traditional medicine, as one of the arrested is reported to be a witch doctor.

According to the police, the first suspect walked into Escourt police station on Aug 18 with a bag containing a human leg and a hand. He told officers on duty that he had eaten human flesh and he led them to a house where more human remains were found. "At this stage we don't know who these body parts belong to. We are still awaiting DNA results," said Mbhele.

Continued on Page 11

**ROHTAK, India:** An Indian court yesterday sentenced a controversial spiritual leader to a total of 20 years in prison for raping two of his devotees, days after his followers went on a rampage that left 38 dead. The riots broke out on Friday when Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, 50, was convicted of raping the two women at the sprawling headquarters of his hugely popular Dera Sacha Sauda sect in the northern state of Haryana in a case that dates back to 1999.

"He has been sentenced for 10 plus 10, which is a total of 20 years of imprisonment," said Abhishek Dayal, spokesman for India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), after the sentencing hearing. "I have the judgement which details the sentence." A lawyer for the victims earlier told AFP that Singh had been sentenced to 10 years in jail. In fact, he was given two consecutive 10-year sentences.

Authorities had imposed a security clampdown on the city of Rohtak where Singh is being held due to fears of a repeat of Friday's violence, when tens of thousands of his supporters set fire to cars and clashed with security forces. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the violence but his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which is also in power in Haryana, was criticized for failing to anticipate the riots. Police were taking no chances yesterday in Rohtak,



Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

where mobile Internet has been cut, roads barricaded with barbed wire and soldiers deployed to man checkpoints.

More than 100 of Singh's senior loyalists had been placed in detention as a precautionary measure, said Rohtak police chief Navdeep Singh Virk.

Continued on Page 11

#### HAMAS LEADER PRAISES IRAN MILITARY SUPPORT

**GAZA CITY:** The Gaza head of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas said yesterday it had increased its military capabilities thanks to newly improved relations with Iran. In a rare meeting with a small number of journalists, Yahya Al-Sinwar said Iran was "the biggest supporter" of Hamas' military wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades. Hamas was "developing our military strength in order to liberate Palestine", Sinwar said in response to an AFP question, but he also stressed that the movement did not seek war.

Hamas has run Gaza since 2007 and received Iranian financial and military support for years

before it was reduced following a falling out over the Syrian civil war. It was the first time Sinwar had spoken on record with international journalists since he became the organization's Gaza chief in February. Sinwar said relations with Tehran had improved in recent months, with a delegation visiting Tehran. "The Iranian military support to Hamas and al-Qassam is strategic," he added, saying the relationship had "become fantastic and returned to its former era".

"Every day we build missiles and continue military training," he added, saying that thousands of people are working

Continued on Page 11



A Rohingya man cries after failing to cross Myanmar's barbed wire border fence due to the presence of Bangladeshi guards near Maungdaw on the frontier with Bangladesh yesterday. — AFP (See Page 9)

#### ROHINGYA TELL OF FLEEING MYANMAR FOR THEIR LIVES

**COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh:** Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh told yesterday how they fled for their lives from Myanmar's army as the UN refugee agency said more than 3,000 had arrived in the past three days. The influx follows a fresh outbreak of fighting between Rohingya militants and Myanmar troops in Rakhine state, which borders Bangladesh. Bangladesh has said there are thousands more Rohingya massed on its border with Myanmar, where the stateless minority faces persecution.

Dhaka has responded by stepping up border controls and pushing back hundreds of Rohingya who try to enter, although some

have still managed to evade the guards. Those who have got through took refuge in the mostly makeshift camps in the coastal town of Cox's Bazar, where some 400,000 Rohingya are already living after fleeing previous bouts of violence in Rakhine.

Sona Mia said at least 800 had arrived at his Balukhali camp since Friday. "Police said we can't let them stay or else we would be deported. We helped them enter through several points but are sending them to Kutupalong," said Mia, referring to another camp. Authorities at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital said they were treating 17 Rohingya.

Continued on Page 11

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Flamingo birds spotted at one of the beaches of Kuwait Bay. — KUNA

News

In brief

Policemen freed

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt Gen Mahmoud Al-Dosari yesterday ordered the release of all police personnel jailed for discipline measures. Such decision comes upon orders by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, the security media department said in a statement.

Local banks closed

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) announced yesterday that local banks will be closed for five days starting from the day of Arafah on Thursday till Monday September 4, on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. Dr Hamad Al-Hasawi, Secretary-General of the Association, said in a press statement that the banks will start operations on Tuesday, September 5. Al-Hasawi pointed out that this comes in accordance with the circular issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Kuwaitis unharmed

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuwait's General Consulate in Hong Kong said all Kuwaitis were unharmed in the second typhoon 8 signal that struck areas in Hong Kong and Macau yesterday. In a statement, the consulate advised Kuwaiti citizens to follow safety regulations and immediately call the consulate on number 0085298211669 in case of any emergency. A powerful storm lashed Hong Kong and Macau on Sunday just days after a typhoon swept through southern China and claimed at least 18 lives.

Weekly youth magazine

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth has launched a weekly magazine, the Youth News Network (YNN), which covers activities and initiatives of Kuwaiti youth. Deputy Director-General of the magazine Dr Fawaz Al-Ajmi said yesterday that the magazine will also highlight the achievements of Kuwaiti youth at the local, regional and international levels. He pointed out that the magazine, headed by the Director General of the Public Authority for Youth, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi will be run and managed by a team of young people specialized in the areas of writing, photography, editing and direction.

OIC condemns attack

**JEDDAH:** The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned the suicide attack at a mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan that killed at least 28 people and injured many others. The OIC Secretary General, Dr Yousef A Al-Othaimeen, voiced his shock and dismay at this horrific attack that targeted worshippers praying in a holy place. He stated that the perpetrators and supporters of this deplorable crime have definitely no place among Muslims. He further expressed his sincere condolences to the families of the victims, the people and the Government of Afghanistan, and prayed for the quick recovery of the wounded. While reiterating the OIC's support to Afghanistan in fighting extremism and terrorism, the Secretary General appealed to all Afghans and Muslim leaders to vigorously work toward solidarity and brotherhood among themselves and to unite their ranks against any attempt to stir sectarian divide.



Pilgrims undergo medical checkup before leaving for hajj. —KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Kuwait's International Airport has been teeming with activity as pilgrims begin the Holy Islamic journey of Hajj.

PILGRIMS LEAVE FOR ISLAM HOLIEST SHRINE AMID PIOUS ATMOSPHERE

**KUWAIT:** With only a few days remaining until Muslims across the globe undertake the Holy Islamic journey of Hajj, Kuwait's International Airport has been teeming with activity to accommodate pilgrims heading to Islam's hallowed grounds. Around 4,000 pilgrims are expected to depart en masse for Hajj - the fifth pillar of Islam and a mandatory religious duty for adult Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime. —KUNA



KUWAIT AND HONDURAS INK ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL DEAL

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait and Honduras have signed an agreement for promoting and developing bilateral economic and technical cooperation, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance said yesterday. The agreement was signed by Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance Khalifa Hamada and Honduran Ambassador in Kuwait Nelson Garcia. Kuwait is interested in promoting economic relations with all countries in order to create a congenial atmosphere for economic, trade and investment development, it added. The agreement is deemed a springboard for closer economic cooperative relations between Kuwait and Honduras, the ministry noted. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance Khalifa Hamada and Honduran Ambassador in Kuwait Nelson Garcia signed an agreement for promoting and developing bilateral economic and technical cooperation. — KUNA photos

KIB HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES

**KUWAIT:** As part of its ongoing humanitarian initiatives which target multiple segments within the local community, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is continuing with its initiative to distribute cold refreshments and water, to people visiting public institutions and laborers working in open areas across Kuwait.

Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, spoke about this latest social initiative, saying: "KIB organizes this initiative annually during the summer months, with the participation of a group of volunteers from within the Bank, in an effort to relieve people of the summer's high temperatures. This campaign has proven year on year to be a big success." Najia further added that this initiative truly embodies the

humanitarian role that KIB plays in the community.

The Bank constantly strives to support different segments across the local community, while simultaneously encouraging them to participate in volunteer work. He also lauded the efforts of KIB volunteers who have demonstrated their strong sense of social responsibility, which has extended past their job functions to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. It is also worth noting that as part of its leading social responsibility program, KIB continuously strives to adopt a number of various humanitarian programs and activities that reflect its social responsibility vision on the one hand, and its deep-rooted commitment to the principles of Islamic Shari'ah on the other.



Kuwait International Bank staff distributes cold refreshments and water during the hot summer.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday held a luncheon banquet in honor of visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his accompanying delegation. —KUNA photos



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov yesterday, as both officials held talks over bilateral ties and current global happenings. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Lavrov, who is on an official visit to Kuwait, also discussed numerous issues of mutual concern in a meeting that brought together a bevy of Kuwaiti and Russian diplomats.

# KUWAIT LEADERS HOST RUSSIAN FM

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received the visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his accompanying delegation at Seif Palace. During the meeting, they reviewed the distinguished historical relations between Kuwait and the Russian Federation at all levels and highlighted developments at the regional and international levels.

The meeting was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Head of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikhha Etmad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed Ali Al-Khubaizi.

Russian Foreign Minister said the implementation of bilateral agreements signed during His Highness the Amir's visit to Russia in 2015 would see further progress. "I hope we proceed towards the implementation of the agreements signed during Your Highness' visit," he said. Lavrov conveyed the greetings of Russian President Vladimir Putin to His Highness the Amir. —Agencies



## STRICTER PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST ANYONE WHO ASSAULTS MEDICAL STAFF

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi asserted yesterday that he fully supports a proposal submitted by the Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) to reinforce punitive actions against anyone who assaults medical staffers. The proposal has been submitted to the National Assembly for endorsement, he said. "The dignity and safety of the medical staff (doctors, nurses, technicians and administrators) is part of the minister and ministry's dignity," the minister said in remarks yesterday.

The ministry will "react immediately to encounter any assault incident against any member of the ministry, as the medical cadres and doctors reflect the humanity

aspect of our country", he said. The latest assault incidents were "individual and strange" and were not compatible with the Kuwaiti society's manners and values", Al-Harbi affirmed. The ministry has taken all the needed legal measures to assure that rights of the doctors and workers in the medical bodies are secured, he said. He hailed the attention given to this issue by the members of the parliament, adding that he looks forward for a rapid completion of this legislation. Meanwhile, the Minister indicated that the ministry is also keen on protecting the patients' rights according to the ministerial decision number 33/2017. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawwaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently honored the Amiri Hospital's Assistant Director for Administrative Affairs Abdul Rasool Al-Torky in appreciation for the outstanding health care patients get at the hospital.

## 26,000 KUWAITIS VISIT GERMANY IN 2 MONTHS

**KUWAIT:** "Kuwaitis have set a new record in travelling to Germany," German Ambassador to Kuwait Karfried Bergner said, noting that according to embassy records, around 26,000 visas were issued to Kuwaitis in July and August. Bergner explained that around 13,000 visas were issued in July - a daily average of 650 visas. "This reflects that Germany has become a

favorable destination for Kuwaitis," he underlined, noting that the daily visa issuance rate of 600-650 visas resumed during the first two weeks of August despite the reduction in the numbers of Kuwaiti patients. Bergner advised all Kuwaiti citizens planning to visit Germany to apply for visas three months ahead of their departure date to avoid delays. —Al-Rai

## FLIGHT J9/787 INCIDENT

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Jazeera Airways yesterday issued a press release about an incident involving Flight J9/787 arriving from Riyadh, explaining a strange object made contact with engine number 2 of the Airbus A320 plane. Jazeera stressed that all plane systems continued functioning normally after the incident and that the plane landed safely at Kuwait airport, where the engine is being repaired and an investigation is in progress.

mercial malls and service centers, in addition to three major recreational projects after the Eid holidays. Informed sources noted that the projects would be executed according to BOT and PPP systems.

### 2040 oil strategy

Informed sources said as part of the oil sector's plans to develop refining industries and improve them locally and abroad as part of the 2040 oil strategy, the oil sector plans to refine 3.3 million barrels per day by 2035.

### Minister tours schools

Education Minister Mohammed Al-Fares yesterday toured a number of Farwaniya schools to check ongoing preparations for the upcoming school year 2017-2018. During the tour, Fares stressed that MoE is keen on facilitating and solving all problems teaching or administrative staff members might face before the school year starts.

### Housing Welfare

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare announced spending KD 68,625,000 on rent allowance for 115,372 citizens from April till July. Statistics showed the total number of recipients dropped from 116,107, who were paid KD 210,566,000 last year.

### Hezbollah case

The Criminal Court yesterday adjourned hearing a case calling to join Hezbollah filed against lawyer Hani Hussein till Sept 25.

### Projects worth billions

The PPP Authority is scheduled to discuss projects worth billions, including com-

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\* This campaign is limited to participants in Kuwait only. Ministries and their departments, companies and NGOs cannot enter the festival.  
 \* Kuwait Times employees, spouses and their second degree relatives also cannot participate.

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**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Chairman of Capital Markets Authority's (CMA) Board of Commissioners and Managing Director Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf yesterday.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met with Chairman of the Public Authority for Communications and Information Technology Salem Mutheeb Al-Uthaina. — KUNA photos



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah holds talks with Dr Fayza Mohammad Al-Kharafi.

## CROWN PRINCE MEETS TOP OFFICIALS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received the Chairman of Capital Markets Authority's (CMA) Board of Commissioners and Managing Director Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf at Seif Palace. His Highness also received Chairman of the Public Authority for Communications and Information Technology Salem Mutheeb Al-Uthaina, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, retired Lieutenant General Thabet Mohamad Al-Muahhana, Dr Fayza Mohammad Al-Kharafi and Hussain Nasser Al-Huraiti. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received retired Lieutenant General Thabet Mohamad Al-Muahhana.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah holds talks with Hussain Nasser Al-Huraiti.

## KUWAITI MUSICIAN SELECTED AS JURY MEMBER IN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti musician Amer Jaafar was selected to be a member of the jury in the 11th International Music Festival currently being held in the Republic of Uzbekistan, National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) said yesterday. In a press statement, NCCAL's Assistant Secretary-General for the Arts Sector Dr Bader Al-Duweesh said the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the festival included members from Kuwait University and NCCAL. Al-Duweesh, who heads the Kuwaiti delegation, said the festival is held under the auspices of UNESCO, with a wide participation from about 100 countries and representatives to International organizations. The international event, considered as one of the biggest festivals in Central Asia, is organized under the initiative of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, aimed at developing cultural bonds, encouraging talents in musical and vocal sphere, and strengthening cultural and spiritual cooperation. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (right) meets with Australian Ambassador to Kuwait His Excellency Warren Hauck yesterday. They discussed issues of mutual interest. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (right) yesterday received the Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait His Excellency MP Bona. They discussed issues of mutual interest.

## KUWAIT'S AL-THIFEERI CRUISES TO VICTORY

**BEIRUT:** Meshari Al-Thifeeri won the Middle East Rally's Group N for the third time in his career after maintaining his lead in Lebanon yesterday. The Kuwaiti, who came fifth in the Rally of Lebanon, won the regional accolade leading his closest rival by a whopping 109 points. After the race, Al-Thifeeri said the result means he would not be taking part in the upcoming tour of the rally in Shiraz, Iran. He dedicated the win to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people. The Rally of Lebanon was clinched for the 13th time by Lebanon's Roger Feghali, with his compatriots Gilbert Bannout and Rodolphe Asmar trailing in second and third respectively. — KUNA



**Meshari Al-Thifeeri wins the Middle East Rally's Group N for the third time in his career after maintaining his lead in Lebanon. —KUNA**

## HAWALLY MUNICIPAL INSPECTORS LAUNCH INSPECTION CAMPAIGN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Municipality's PR Department announced Hawally Municipal inspectors launched an inspection campaign on all stores and restaurants within the governorate. The department added the campaign, led by the head of the emergency team Riyadh Al-Rabea, resulted in filing 50 citations including hiring workers without health certificates, using unlicensed ads, occupying extra space, violating cleanliness conditions and selling expired food items. As part of the same campaign, Farwaniya municipal inspectors inspected various stores and "bachelor" residences in Khaitan. The campaign resulted in filing seven warnings to bachelors, five citations and removing 21 ads.



Crime

Report

INDECENT VIDEOS

**KUWAIT:** A citizen was arrested for posting indecent videos of himself dressed in women's clothing and wearing makeup on Snapchat.

'Attempted suicide'

Following up the case of a citizen who fell from a 15-floor building in Salmiya, sustaining serious injuries and fractures, security sources are currently investigating the matter, especially since none of the building's tenants identified him to be residing in that building.

Suspect arrested

Following up the case filed against a citizen who attacked MP Safaa Al-Hashem's house, security sources said the suspect was identified as a citizen in his forties who had been dismissed from his job. The suspect was later arrested.

Suspect released

An Egyptian who had been detained for running over a compatriot in Hawally was released after detectives proved that it was an accident, despite what one of the eyewitnesses said.

Policeman arrested

A policeman working at the airport passports department was arrested for facilitating the departure and entry of an Indian expat six times without stamping his passport. Security sources said the suspect paid KD 700 each time. Case papers indicate that airport rangers noticed that on arrival, the Indian passenger seemed nervous and kept delaying approaching any of the passport counters. On asking him, he said he was waiting for a certain passport officer, before he buckled and told the whole story. The suspect was later arrested and referred with the passenger to relevant authorities.

Man dies in bathroom

A citizen in his forties was instantly killed when he slipped while having a shower at his house in Bayan and banged his head against the wall.

4 arrested for fighting

Four stateless people were arrested in Jahra for fighting over cheap merchandise in a Jahra department store. They resumed their fight at Jahra Hospital, where they were taken to receive treatment from their injuries. — Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa

Prices



Al-Anbaa

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

DRIVE SLOWLY!

By Abdullah Bowair

I greatly thank July and August for their annual role in reducing traffic congestions in Kuwait. NO thanks to Mol or MPW. I feel very comfortable driving my vehicle during the long summer months, because I manage to get to my destination quickly without any stress caused by traffic jams. This happens not because of the efforts exerted by the ministries of interior and public works, but rather because over half a million people are usually out of the country during this period, including citizens and expats "who have taken up our jobs", as those profiteering from politics like to call them!

The current traffic conditions do not allow you to listen to a complete song by Um Kalthoum because the drive from work to home consumes just enough time for her to sing only the first part of the song. Traffic-wise, these are really blessed days that will come to an end once swarms of people return to Kuwait after the Eid holidays.

I personally value statistical data and on reviewing Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau's website's report published in 2015 on transport, I came up with the following facts. The total number of vehicles jumped from 1.2 million in 2006 to 1.9 million in 2015, while we only have 5,285 traffic patrols. The total length of roads built in the same period was limited compared to the increase in vehicles, as the total length of roads in Kuwait was 5,959 km in 2006 and only became 7,500 km by 2015, which leads to unbearable traffic congestions on various roads, especially in view of annually issuing an average of 80,000 driving licenses!

This increase in issuing driving licenses led to an increase in the number of vehicle owners and a decrease in the number of public transport passengers, as their numbers dropped from 59,000 in 2011 to only 20,000 in 2015. Public transport subscriptions also dropped from 27,000 to only 7,000 in the same period. This shows that traffic problems are totally absent in government policies, which means that they will last for years to come, leading to very bad behaviors by drivers, which is already happening.

The funny part in these statistics is the unjustified categorization of over 17,000 taxis and around 55,000 busses. Statistics also showed that 3.5 million traffic tickets were issued in 2015, including only one for wearing the niqab while driving, which is weird! The traffic situation in Kuwait is terrible because in other countries, thanks and gratitude are expressed to ministers and officials responsible for building roads and to the police manning them, while we can only thank July and August for it because it seems that time has more mercy on us! —Translated by Kuwait Times

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

MOHAMMED ABDO AND DAJEEJ

By Saad Al-Motesh

Every area in Kuwait was named for certain reason. For instance, 'Qibla' was named thus because it is located towards the Muslims' direction of prayer. Sharq was named thus because it is located towards the east of Kuwait City. Many areas were named after certain characteristics and according to the nature of their location, such as Mirqab and Watiya.

Modern areas, however, were mainly named after Kuwait's rulers, such as Salmiya, Jabriya, Ahmadi, Abdullah Al-Salem, Sabah Al-Salem and Mubarakiya, which was named to commemorate the founder of Kuwait, the late Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah. There are hardly two areas in Kuwait with the same name, though they might have the same structural plan.

However, everyone knows that there is only one area named Dajeej (Noise), and it was named thus due to its nearness to the airport and the noise planes cause on takeoff and landing. Yet, there is a noisier place, which reminds me of the Danish saying 'hollow drums sound

louder'. Everyone notices the noise some lawmakers made and how some of them threatened to grill the prime minister over appointing expats, as if the man was responsible for those appointments. Many of them forgot that the government is only an executive power putting legislations made by the parliament into practice. Such calls made the parliament sound more like a 'Dajeej' area.

Those MPs should have set laws and legislations banning the employment of expats in jobs they prefer to be done by Kuwaitis. They also have to be wary of each other because they will fight to have whomever they want appointed in certain positions following the famous Saudi singer Mohammed Abdu's song that goes: '...all places miss you'. It seems that they themselves miss those positions and yearn to having their nearest and dearest appointed in them. Just check how many of you got incompetent people appointed in certain positions! —Translated by Kuwait Times



BURGAN BANK DEDICATES 6 BRANCHES TO ASSIST CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

BEST IN-CLASS SERVICE FOR ALL SEGMENTS OF THE SOCIETY

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank, a dynamic and progressive financial institution with a firm customer-centric approach, is pleased to announce the activation of a comprehensive plan to accommodate the financial requirements of its special needs customers. Catering to all segments of society, Burgan Bank's latest offerings ensure a banking experience with improved accessibility and the latest world-class technological applications.

In full compliance with the new banking guidelines set by the Central

Bank of Kuwait, Burgan Bank has dedicated six fully-equipped branches across all governorates to enable physically disabled, visually impaired and seniors' access to tailor-made products and services. Available at convenient locations in Adaliyah, Bayan, Khaitan, Qurain, Riqqa and Al-Qusur, customers can carry out their banking transactions proficiently, independently and with utmost ease. All the six branches are managed by a number of well-trained employees who have been taught to communicate via sign lan-

guage with those who suffer from sensory disabilities - hearing and speech impairment.

Going well beyond the regulatory requirements, Burgan Bank has played a vital role in pioneering advantageous solutions to vulnerable groups to facilitate access to the full range of financial services and provide world-class services in an inclusive manner. Only recently, Burgan Bank launched the award-winning, ReadSpeaker technology, the first-ever text-to-speech technological solution integrated on its website along with mobile applications to better serve customers with vision-impairment and need for audio interactivity.

Assuring an environment that is conducive to the peace of mind of its special needs customers, Burgan Bank provides accessible safety deposit boxes and credit, debit and prepaid cards that are issued with a picture imprinted of the special need customer. Additionally, account statements can also be printed in Braille language and all ATMs are backed with audio guidance command technology as well as braille key pads to perform their transactions in full privacy.

In an effort to safeguard customer safety, Burgan Bank also employed extra security measures inside the ATM rooms. Burgan Bank's latest announcement clearly demonstrates its pledge to delivering evolutionary business solutions while strictly adhering to regulatory requirements. Putting people at the heart of business is the philosophy Burgan Bank is guided by, as it works tirelessly to promote social inclusion and the interest of all communities in which it operates.

CBK LAUNCHES 'HAWWIN ALAIHOM' CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** As part of its social responsibilities, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently visited various construction sites and places where garbage collectors worked to distribute Eid gifts. Water, face masks, hand sanitizers, cabs and other items were distributed as part of CBK's 'Hawwin

Alaihom' (Make it Easier for Them) campaign that focuses on protecting these workers and preventing any health problems they might undergo as a result of sand or dust storms or the extreme summer heat. In this regard, the Assistant General Manager for Media and PR Affairs Amani Al-

Wer' said that CBK is keen on communicating with all sectors and providing the best corporate and social services. She added that the campaign was awarded as the 'Leading GCC Social Project' in 2016 and that the gifts were being prepared long before the Eid vacation.



KUWAIT: Photo shows the full moon over Anjafa Beach. — KUNA



**German killer nurse jailed for murder of 90 patients**

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## POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT MYANMAR, BANGLADESH AS CRISIS INTENSIFIES



**GOA:** In this file photo, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the BRICS summit in Goa, India. — AP

# INDIA SAYS MILITARY STAND-OFF WITH CHINA ENDS

## PM MODI TO TRAVEL TO CHINA FOR BRICS SUMMIT

**NEW DELHI:** India said yesterday it had agreed with China to end a months-long military stand-off at a strategically important disputed area in the Himalayas and troops were disengaging. The foreign ministry said it had reached an "understanding" after talks with Beijing about the tense confrontation in an area near the Indian border that is claimed by both China and Bhutan. China's foreign ministry said only that Indian troops were withdrawing. But New Delhi later made clear that both countries were pulling back their border forces.

"We had earlier in the day announced that following diplomatic communications, expeditious disengagement of border personnel of China and India at the face-off site was ongoing," the Indian statement said. "This process has since been almost completed under verification." The stand-off at the Doklam plateau began on June 16 and sparked what some analysts said was the worst crisis in decades between the nuclear-armed neighbors. India does not claim Doklam for itself but is closely allied with Bhutan, which it regards as a buffer against rival China to the north.

India and China have a long history of mistrust and went to war in 1962 over the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. China announced it was "pleased" that India had agreed to withdraw troops from the flashpoint area. "I am pleased to confirm that trespassing Indian personnel have all pulled back to the Indian side of the boundary," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said. "Chinese troops continue to patrol on the Chinese side of the boundary," she said.

China had repeatedly said India must withdraw its troops before any proper negotiation takes place. India said both sides should withdraw their forces together. The border trouble began in June when Chinese soldiers started to extend a road through the Doklam territory-known as "Donglang" in Chinese. India deployed troops to stop the construction project, prompting Beijing to accuse it of trespassing on Chinese soil.

The plateau is strategically significant as it gives China access to the so-called "chicken's neck"—a thin strip of land connecting India's northeastern states with the rest of the country. Another inci-



**SIKKIM:** This file photo shows a Chinese soldier, left, gesturing next to an Indian soldier at the Nathu La border crossing between India and China in India's northeastern Sikkim state. — AFP

dent elsewhere earlier this month, in which Indian and Chinese soldiers fought with rocks and sticks at a high-altitude lake on the disputed border between the two countries, further inflamed tensions. Dhruva Jaishankar, a foreign policy fellow with Brookings India, said India had achieved its objective by refusing to budge and getting China to step back from its contentious road project.

"The Chinese side is going to focus on the fact that the Indian troops have withdrawn. (But) ultimately the issue is whether this road gets built or not, and it appears that it won't be the case," Jaishankar said.

India has historically been closely allied to Bhutan, but in recent years China has sought to increase its own engagement with the tiny mountainous kingdom. That has fed into a broader competition for regional influence between the two Asian powers. Yesterday's announcement comes days before India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to China for a summit of BRICS countries—India, China, Russia, Brazil and South Africa.—AFP

## IS-CLAIMED CAR BOMB KILLS 11 IN BAGHDAD MARKET



**BAGHDAD:** Iraqis look at the damage following a car bomb explosion in Baghdad's Shiite-majority district of Sadr City. — AFP

**BAGHDAD:** A car bomb exploded in a market in the Iraqi capital's Shiite-majority district of Sadr City yesterday, killing 11 people and wounding 26, security officials and medical sources said. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement carried by its propaganda agency Amaq. A police officer, who asked to remain anonymous, said the explosion ripped through a market in northeastern Baghdad leaving "11 dead and 26 wounded".

Members of the security forces were among the victims, medical sources said, confirming the toll. Security sources said the bombing occurred near one of Baghdad's largest shopping centers at around 10:30 am. The casualties were evacuated to two hospitals in Sadr City. The explosion damaged several stalls at the market and gutted shops in the adjoining shopping centre, with debris, glass and vegetables strewn across the ground, an AFP reporter said.

Bulldozers were still trying to clear the area at midday, including removing two cars destroyed in the blast. The mangled hulk of a vehicle suspected of being the car used in the attack could be seen in the area. IS has claimed several bombings in Baghdad, many taking place after the jihadist group became the target of a massive assault on its Mosul bastion which Iraqi forces retook in July after nine months of fighting. The latest bombing comes as Iraqi forces and the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition dominated by Shiite fighters, some from Sadr City, battle IS in their last pocket in the northern province of Nineveh. — AFP

## UAE DROPS JAIL TERM FOR SINGAPOREANS FOR 'DRESSING FEMININE'

**SINGAPORE:** A Singaporean man and his transgender friend facing jail in the United Arab Emirates for dressing in a "feminine" way have had their sentences reduced to a fine and deportation, reports and a source said yesterday. Fashion photographer Muhammad Fadli bin Abdul Rahman and his transgender friend Noor Vitriya Kistina Ibrahim were arrested at an Abu Dhabi shopping mall this month, according to relatives and non-profit group Detained in Dubai, which claims to assist victims of injustice across the emirates.

Fadli's brother Saiful previously said the pair were detained by the tourism police for "looking feminine", while Detained in Dubai said they were convicted of charges related to "inappropriate behaviour over their clothing". Abu Dhabi's penal code criminalizes "indecent attire" as an act of public indecency. The pair were sentenced to a year in jail. A person familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said their sentence was reduced to a fine and deportation on Sunday. Abu Dhabi-based newspaper The National also reported that the charges were reduced to a deportation and a fine of 10,000 dirhams, citing the emirate's judicial department.

Family members did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Fadli, 26, was wearing earrings and a tie at the time of his arrest, according to his brother. Noor, reported to be 37, is described by activists as a transgender person who has not yet undergone sex change surgery to become a woman, so is described as male on her passport. Rights activists in Singapore had raised Sg\$25,000 for their legal and other fees last week, and sent it to a law firm in Abu Dhabi. The United Arab Emirates also criminalizes sodomy, pre-marital and extra-marital sex.—AFP

## UN REFUGEE AGENCY CHIDES AUSTRIA OVER XENOPHOBIC POLITICS BEFORE VOTE

**VIENNA:** The UN refugee agency has denounced "xenophobic debates" in Austrian politics ahead of a parliamentary election in October, calling on political parties to set a more inclusive tone and do more to help those seeking sanctuary. Austria's election campaign has yet to fully emerge from a long summer lull, but immigration has been a major theme in what little debate there has been so far. The issue has dominated politics since Austria was swept up in Europe's migration crisis in 2015.

The far-right Freedom Party's candidate came close to winning the country's presidential election last year, helped by widespread concerns about security and the economy after the country took in more than 1 percent of its population in asylum seekers during the 2015 influx. The Freedom Party has since lost its lead in opinion polls to the conservative People's Party, led by 31-year-old Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, who has made a hard line on immigration one of his hallmarks. Kurz has also said Muslim kindergartens risk creating "parallel societies" and should not exist.

"In recent years a considerable amount has been achieved in Austria in taking in, providing for and integrating refugees," the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said

in a statement posted on its Austrian arm's website yesterday. "At the same time, however, we view xenophobic debates and exclusionary tendencies with concern. We call on all democratic parties to carry out political debates thoughtfully and to put what unites above what divides," it added.

The statement, which did not mention any parties by name, was issued with list of suggested improvements to Austria's handling of refugees. Those included immediately providing a guardian for unaccompanied minors and granting refugees the same benefits as Austrians—a response to provinces of various political shades curbing welfare payments for new arrivals such as refugees. Chancellor Christian Kern's Social Democrats (SPO) are in government with Kurz's conservatives.

Together they passed a range of law-and-order measures this year, including a ban on Muslim face-covering veils. The Social Democrats have focused their campaign on issues such as jobs and the economy rather than immigration, but they have also sought to appear tough on securing Austria's borders, prompting a spat with Italy last month. "Political debates that are conducted at refugees' expense reinforce xenophobic tendencies," the UNHCR said, adding that "some people confuse the refugee issue with a security debate."—Reuters

## TRUMP EXPECTED TO DECIDE ON FATE OF YOUNG IMMIGRANTS

**WASHINGTON:** After months of delays, President Donald Trump is expected to decide soon on the fate of young immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children as he faces a looming court deadline and is digging in on appeals to his base. Advocates on both sides of the issue are bracing for the possibility that Trump will halt the issuance of new work permits under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, a move that would effectively phase out a program that gave hundreds of thousands of young people a reprieve from deportation and the ability to work legally in the US.

The Trump administration faces a Sept 5 deadline from a group of Republican state lawmakers hoping to force the president's hand. The White House, however, insisted Sunday that it had no announcement on an issue the president has openly wrestled with for months. The deliberations come as Trump has been under fire for his response to a white supremacists' protest in Charlottesville, Virginia. Trump further fanned the flames of racial tension Friday when he pardoned Joe Arpaio, the former sheriff of Arizona's Maricopa County, who had been found guilty of defying a judge's order to stop racially profiling Latinos.

### Illegal amnesty

The decision drew fury from Democrats and opposition from some Republicans, but was hailed by Trump's most fervent base. Trump has wavered back and forth on his plans for DACA, which he slammed during his campaign as "illegal amnesty." Since taking office, however, Trump has softened his stance on the issue, at one point telling The Associated Press that the affected young immigrants could "rest easy." His administration, Trump said back in April, was "not after the dreamers, we are after the criminals." All the while, the Department of Homeland Security has continued to grant two-year, renewable DACA work permits, to the dismay of immigration hard-liners.

But now, Trump is under pressure to make a final call: His administration is facing a September 5 deadline set by a group of Republican state lawmakers, led by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The group, which successfully halted an Obama-era program that would have protected certain parents living in the country illegally, threatened to take on DACA if the administration does not rescind the order and stop issuing work permits by their deadline.

## AFTER DEAL, IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE SYRIA-LEBANON BORDER AREA

**RAS BAALBEK, Lebanon:** Islamic State militants and their families began leaving a border area between Lebanon and Syria yesterday as part of a negotiated deal to end the group's presence there, Lebanese and Syrian media reported. An unidentified number of militants and their families headed in buses toward a town held by the extremist group in far eastern Syria, near the border with Iraq. The transfer comes nearly a week after Lebanon launched a military campaign to drive IS from the rugged mountainous area along its border with Syria.

The Syrian army and the Lebanese Hezbollah group have been waging their own separate but simultaneous offensive to pressure IS on the Syrian side of the border. Hezbollah has been fighting alongside President Bashar Assad's forces in Syria since 2013. Nearly two dozen buses and 11 ambulances carried the militants and their families from the area straddling the Syria-Lebanon border toward the IS-held town of Boukamal in eastern Syria. Syrian Al-Ikhbariya TV reported that there were about 250 militants in the transfer.

The Central Military Center, a media outlet run by Hezbollah, said ambulances ferried 25 IS wounded fighters from the area. The Lebanese military

yesterday took journalists on a tour of areas along the border near Ras Baalbek that were recaptured from IS in the past week. Soldiers, tanks and armored vehicles were heavily deployed along the border area, and caves used by IS bore signs of damage from the recent fighting. About 5,000 Lebanese soldiers took part in the offensive. A senior Lebanese military official said a number of militants were also leaving from the Lebanese side of the border, to be transferred with the Syrian convoy.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not part of the negotiations, did not have a number for militants leaving Lebanon. The transfer of the militants is part of a deal that came into effect following negotiations, led by Hezbollah, to determine the fate of nine Lebanese soldiers who were kidnapped in 2014. On Sunday, the Lebanese army, on one side, and Hezbollah and the Syrian army on another, declared separate but simultaneous cease-fires. Shortly afterward, the remains of eight soldiers were located and exhumed in an area near the border with Syria.

The fate of one soldier remains unclear. The bodies of five Hezbollah fighters killed in fighting the militants were also handed over, allowing for the transfer of militants.—AP



**ANKARA:** Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, right and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, left, hold a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Ankara, Turkey.—AP

## UN CHIEF SEEKS DREAM OF ISRAELI PALESTINIAN PEACE IN FIRST VISIT

**JERUSALEM:** UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres held talks with Israeli leaders yesterday on his first visit since taking office, making a forceful argument for a two-state solution with the Palestinians and speaking of his "dream" for peace. Guterres also spoke of what he called obstacles to peace when meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, including Israeli settlement building and the need for Palestinian leaders to condemn "terrorism."

"I dream that I will have the chance to see in the Holy Land two states able to live together in mutual recognition, but also in peace and security," Guterres said in remarks at Netanyahu's office. He recalled past secret talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders at his office when he was prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, saying it had exposed him to the difficulties of the peace process. Guterres spoke of improving economic and social conditions for Palestinians to provide them with a "dividend" and incentive for peace.

The UN chief's meeting with Netanyahu was part of his three-day visit that ends Wednesday and came with the two-state solution, long the focus of international diplomacy, under threat. Earlier in the day he met Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, and is due in Ramallah on Tuesday for talks with Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas is visiting Turkey and is not expected to meet Guterres during the trip. Guterres will then travel to the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

### Concessions not possible?

After arriving on Sunday evening, the UN chief met Jason Greenblatt, a top aide to US President Donald Trump charged with pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. Greenblatt was part of a US delegation last week including Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner that held talks with Netanyahu and Abbas. He remained in the region for further discussions. Peace efforts have been at a standstill since April 2014 and Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank has continued.

Trump has said he wants to reach the "ultimate deal", but he himself has cast doubt on the two-state solution, saying he could support a single state if it meant peace. Such statements deeply concern Palestinians, while delighting right-wing Israelis who want their country to annex most of the West Bank. The two-state solution envisions an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel and has been the focus of international diplomacy since at least the early 1990s.

### Iran, Syria

At the same time, many analysts say both Netanyahu and Abbas are not in position to make any major concessions for now. Netanyahu faces pressure from his right-wing base not to do so and to continue settlement building, and there is little incentive at the moment for him to change course, some analysts say. The 82-year-old Palestinian leader is unpopular and his Fatah party, based in the West Bank, continues to be divided from

Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip. While Guterres spoke at length in his public comments on Monday on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israeli leaders' interests lie elsewhere for now. Netanyahu pressed Guterres on the UN peacekeeping force in neighboring Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, with Israeli officials having accused it of "blindness" to what they call an arms buildup by Hezbollah. The trip comes as the UN Security Council debates renewing the force's mandate for a year, with a vote expected on Wednesday.

Guterres told Netanyahu: "I will do everything in my capacity to make sure that UNIFIL fully meets its mandate." United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric has expressed "full confidence" in the force's commander. Netanyahu also spoke of what he sees as Israel's arch-rival Iran seeking to expand its presence in the Middle East, particularly in neighboring Syria. He accused Iran of building sites to produce "precision-guided missiles" in both Syria and Lebanon. "Iran is busy turning Syria into a base of military entrenchment and it wants to use Syria and Lebanon as war fronts (for) it's declared goal to eradicate Israel," Netanyahu said in English. Beyond that, Netanyahu again accused UN bodies of bias against his country, saying they had "an absurd obsession with Israel", and called on Guterres to address it. Guterres, meanwhile, said: "To express that the right of existence of the state of Israel doesn't exist or the wish to destroy the state of Israel is an unacceptable form of modern anti-Semitism."—AFP

## IRAN EX-FOREIGN MINISTER DIES

**TEHRAN:** Ebrahim Yazdi, Iran's first foreign minister after the 1979 Islamic revolution, who later went on to become an opposition figure, has died aged 86, Iranian media reported Monday. He died late Sunday in Izmir, Turkey, where he underwent surgery after the United States refused his request for a medical visa. Yazdi was an old companion of Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic republic, and became foreign minister in the provisional government of Mehdi Bazargan after the revolution.

He resigned in November 1979 in protest at a group of Islamist students taking American diplomats hostage in Tehran. The hostage crisis, which lasted 444 days, led to the severing of diplomatic ties with Washington. Since 1995, he had headed the Freedom Movement of Iran, a small liberal party that is banned and has little influence in Iranian politics. Yazdi was arrested several times after the re-election of hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2009.

Mehdi Karroubi and Mir Hossein Mousavi, two reformist candidates in that election, claimed widespread fraud and led street protests against the results. Thousands were arrested and dozens killed during the regime's crackdown on the protests, known as the Green Movement. Yazdi and his party were close to the reformists, and he endorsed President Hassan Rouhani's bid for presidency in 2013 and this year. His body will be repatriated to Iran for burial in the coming days, the ISNA news agency reported those close to him as saying.—AFP



**TEHRAN:** In this file photo, Ebrahim Yazdi, once Iran's Foreign Minister, flashes the victory sign, as he arrives at the Interior Ministry, to register as a presidential candidate, in Tehran, Iran.—AP



**KILIS:** Syrian refugees arrive at the Oncupinar crossing gate, close to the town of Kilis, south central Turkey, in order to cross to Syria for the Eid Al-Adha Muslim holiday.—AFP

## THOUSANDS OF SYRIANS HEAD HOME FROM TURKEY FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY

**ONCUPINAR, Turkey:** Tens of thousands of Syrians who fled their country's civil war to Turkey are returning home temporarily to Syria to celebrate a major Muslim holiday, Turkish officials said yesterday. Almost three million Syrians have taken refuge in Turkey since the conflict broke out in 2011, the vast majority living in big cities rather than in camps. But a relative stability has descended on some areas in northwest Syria following a Turkish military operation against jihadists and a ceasefire backed by Ankara and Moscow earlier this year.

The authorities in Turkey's southern province of Kilis bordering Syria have put in place a special system whereby Syrians can go home for the Feast of the Sacrifice (Eid Al-Adha in Arabic, Kurban Bayrami in Turkish) and return to Turkey afterwards. After uploading details on a special Internet site and registering, they can leave Turkish territory through the Oncupinar border gate until Wednesday and then must return by October 15.

Long lines of Syrian families, laden with baggage, were queuing yesterday to cross through Oncupinar in time for the start of the holidays, an AFP photographer said. A local Turkish official, who

asked not to be named, said 40,360 Syrians had crossed over so far with around 4,000 people now crossing every day. Some used umbrellas to protect from the merciless afternoon sun while young children slept in the shade on rugs as the formalities were carried out.

The crossings have been allowed since August 15, according to the Kilis governorate. Turkey will celebrate the Feast of the Sacrifice on Friday. The Syrians were returning to towns including Al-Bab and Jarabulus, which were cleared of Islamic State (IS) group extremists in Turkey's Euphrates Shield cross-border operation which wrapped up earlier this year.

Turkish state media reports have indicated that life in the towns is gradually returning to normal with schools reopening and municipal services resuming. Turkey had previously allowed Syrians to return home temporarily earlier this year for the Eid al-Fitr festival that follows the holy fasting month of Ramadan. The Feast of the Sacrifice is a festival celebrated throughout the Islamic world marking the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son to God, who then sent a sheep to kill instead.—AFP

# AFRICAN, EU LEADERS MEET ON MIGRANT CRISIS

**PARIS:** Seven African and European leaders are meeting in Paris yesterday to discuss ways to stem the flow of migrants into Europe from northern Africa. French President Emmanuel Macron has invited his counterparts from Niger and Chad as well as the head of the Libyan unity government Fayez al-Sarraj, whose countries lie on the main transit route for migrants heading to Europe. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Spanish and Italian prime ministers Mariano Rajoy and Paolo Gentiloni, and Europe's top diplomat Federica Mogherini will join the talks.

European nations are keen to offer development aid and funding to their African partners in return for help in stemming the flow of economic migrants and asylum seekers. Some

125,000 migrants have crossed the Mediterranean by boat this year, according to UN figures, with the vast majority arriving in Italy before travelling on to other EU members. An estimated 2,400 have died en route. France is seeking improved border controls and patrolling of the waters around Libya—a mission complicated by the country's competing governments and state of lawlessness—as well as development aid to create jobs in Africa.

In July, Macron also proposed—without consulting his allies—the creation of so-called “hotspots” in Africa where asylum seekers fleeing persecution or war could lodge a request to travel to the EU. Under such a system they may be less tempted to make the perilous trip across the Mediterranean with the help of

people traffickers, who frequently overload flimsy boats and often mistreat the migrants. “Above all, we have to save lives, we have to avoid situations where migrants and refugees put their lives in danger to reach protection,” said Ralf Gruenert, France's representative of the UN refugee agency UNHCR. “This working meeting will try to explore... how to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers can access protection mechanisms,” he said.

## Sharp fall in crossings

The meeting might also provide insight into why arrivals have plummeted in recent weeks from Libya, the main route into Europe since a separate pathway from Turkey into Greece was shut down in 2016. The numbers

arriving in Italy have fallen by around 50 percent in July and August compared with last year. Possible reasons include improved action by the Libyan coastguard, tougher border controls in transit countries inland, as well as Libyan militias joining efforts to stop boats leaving. The president of Niger, Mahamadou Issoufou, will tell his European counterparts that the number of migrants passing through the transit town of Agadez in his country has fallen by 80 percent thanks to government efforts, a source in his team said. Libya has also sought to restrict the work of NGOs operating rescue boats in the Mediterranean that pick up migrants stranded on inflatable dinghies or other unseaworthy crafts.

Italy has also sought to impose a code of

conduct on the NGOs, which face accusations from some critics that their operations have encouraged migrants to attempt the crossing with the knowledge that they will be picked up in an emergency. The code has been signed by five of seven NGOs with rescue ships—only the French organization Doctors Without Borders and Germany's Sea-Watch have refused as a matter of principle, saying they wait to maintain their independence.

The code is set to be approved by all the countries attending Monday's meeting, according to the Italian news agency ANSA. After the talks about immigration during the day, the European leaders are set to discuss reforming the EU and joint efforts to prevent terror attacks. — AFP

## CANADA'S TOP GENERAL TAKES PART IN GAY PRIDE

**OTTAWA:** Canada's top military official on Sunday for the first time took part in the Gay Pride parade in Ottawa, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also on hand. Army General Jonathan Vance, the chief of the defense staff of the Canadian Armed Forces, became the highest ranking military official to join people celebrating in Canada's federal capital.

He said earlier he wanted to show solidarity with members of the LGBT commu-

nity and underscore that they are welcome in Canada's military. It was a sharp contrast to the United States, where President Donald Trump is seeking to ban transsexuals from military service. Trudeau had taken part in pride events in the past, but this was also the first time here that he did so as prime minister. We are “open to diversity, and we know it's one of our strengths, whether it be in the military or everywhere else,” Trudeau said. — AFP

## GUATEMALA'S PRESIDENT MORALES PLUNGES INTO CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

**GUATEMALA CITY:** Two days after prosecutors announced they would seek to lift Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales' immunity, he ordered the expulsion of the head of a highly praised UN anti-corruption commission and plunged into a faceoff with the nation's top court and the international community. It was a stunning reversal for a president whose predecessor had been forced to resign by the same body's investigation two years earlier and who campaigned as the panel's biggest advocate. “Neither corrupt nor a crook” was Morales' campaign slogan.

What happened between the television comedian taking office in January 2016 and the constitutional crisis he provoked Sunday was that the UN commission and the aggressive Guatemalan prosecutors it has helped train over the past decade turned their sights on him and allegations of illegal campaign financing. Morales has strenuously denied any wrongdoing, and rumors swirled last week that Morales' visit to UN headquarters in New York was to get rid of the commission's head, Ivan Velasquez.

By Friday afternoon, Velasquez stood beside chief prosecutor Thelma Aldana to announce that they were asking a court to start the process for removing Morales' immunity from prosecution, a move that would eventually need the support of congress. “It's based on his own personal interest,” Jo-Marie Burt, a senior fellow with the Washington Office on Latin America and a professor in the school of public policy and government at George Mason University, said of Morales' decision to oust Velasquez.

That order quickly ran into Guatemala's Constitutional Court, which temporarily suspended the expulsion while it studies

the case, based on arguments that Morales had a fundamental conflict of interest. At least one Cabinet minister resigned in protest and the foreign minister was fired for refusing to expel Velasquez, people gathered in the capital in several spots to demonstrate against the decree, and the United States, European Union and others expressed deep concern about the president's action.

## Fighting for a better country

Not only are prosecutors investigating the campaign financing of the party led by the Morales, but his brother and son have been ordered to stand trial for an alleged tax fraud scheme. Morales remained defiant, issuing another statement later Sunday saying he stood by his original order in spite of what the court ruled. “He's pushing the country into a constitutional crisis,” Burt said. The chief prosecutor had said previously that she would resign if Velasquez was removed, so Morales may have been hoping that he could get rid of the two leaders of the country's anti-graft efforts.

But once the court stepped in, Aldana said she was staying as chief prosecutor, dissent appeared within the president's administration and protesters took to the streets. Working together, local prosecutors and the UN panel have won popularity over the last decade by beginning to hack away at corruption long endemic in Guatemala, including forcing Otto Perez Molina from the presidency in 2015. “An attack upon them is an attack upon everyone in Guatemala who is fighting for a better country,” said Mike Allison, a political science professor at the University of Scranton. — AP



**OLDENBURG:** (L-R) Press spokesman for the prosecutor, Martin Koziolk, Chief prosecutor Daniela Schiereck-Bohlmann, Chief Prosecutor Thomas Sander, Police President Johann Kuehme, Commissioner of the criminal investigation Department Arne Schmidt and Maïke Meisterling, Press spokeswoman of the SOKO 'Kardio' inform about the investigation against the former nurse Niels H during a press conference in Oldenburg, northern Germany. — AFP

## GERMAN KILLER NURSE JAILED FOR MURDER OF 90 PATIENTS

### NURSE TESTIFIES HE ACTED OUT OF BOREDOM

**BERLIN:** A male nurse jailed for life two years ago for killing two hospital patients with lethal drug overdoses murdered at least 90 patients in total, and possibly twice as many, police said yesterday, calling it post-war Germany's worst killing spree. Niels Hoegel, 40, was jailed in February 2015 for two murders and four counts of attempted murder or causing bodily harm on intensive-care patients at the Delmenhorst hospital near the northern city of Bremen.

Police said yesterday that forensic experts had since exhumed and analyzed more than 130 additional bodies and had found evidence of a vastly higher death toll at two hospitals where Hoegel had worked between 1999 and 2005. “The insights we were able to gain are terrifying, they surpass what we could have imagined,” said Johann Kuehme, police chief in the city of Oldenburg, where the other hospital is located.

The death toll “is unique in the history of the German republic,” said the chief police investigator in the case, Arne Schmidt, adding that Hoegel killed “without a discernible pattern” and preyed especially on those in critical condition. There

was “evidence for at least 90 murders, and at least as many (suspected) cases again that can no longer be proven,” he told a press conference, declaring himself “speechless” at the outcome. Hoegel has admitted to injecting patients with drugs that can cause heart failure or circulatory collapse so he could then try to revive them and, when successful, shine as a savior before his medical peers. He earlier testified that at times he acted out of “boredom,” that he felt euphoric when he managed to bring a patient back to life, and devastated when he failed.

## Murderous obsession

After the revelations, police and prosecutors three years ago launched a special forensic commission dubbed “Kardio” (Cardio) to look into other patient deaths. Presenting their findings, police said yesterday that 134 bodies had been exhumed and tested for traces of the deadly drugs, and that police also reviewed scores of medical records and questioned hundreds of witnesses. The cause of death in many cases could not be determined because the bodily

remains had been cremated, said Kuehme.

The grisly revelations date back to June 2005, when a female nurse witnessed Hoegel trying to inject a patient at the Delmenhorst hospital. The patient survived and Hoegel was arrested and, in June 2008, sentenced to seven and a half years in jail for several cases of attempted murder. Amid the media publicity, a woman then contacted police, voicing suspicion that her deceased mother had also fallen victim to the killer nurse. The authorities exhumed several patients' bodies and detected traces of the drug in five of them, declaring it either the definitive or possible contributing cause.

Hoegel was jailed for life in 2015, but at the time it was clear he had murdered many more patients, with investigators admitting they may never know the true number. Several senior medical staff at Delmenhorst also faces separate trials for having failed to act speedily over the high number of suspicious deaths when Hoegel was on duty, while investigations continue at the Oldenburg clinic. “The murders could have been prevented,” said Kuehme. — AFP



**GUATEMALA CITY:** People gather to protest Guatemala's President Jimmy Morales outside the National Palace of Culture in Guatemala City. — AP

## VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT AT BERKELEY POLITICAL RALLY

**LOS ANGELES:** Thousands of counter-protesters clashed with supporters of President Donald Trump in California on Sunday, leading to more than a dozen arrests, police and witnesses said. A peaceful protest in Berkeley, outside San Francisco, began turning violent around noon as fights broke out with the opposing sides facing off in Martin Luther King Jr Civic Center Park, which was closed to the public.

Hundreds of black-clad leftist “antifa” activists jumped police barricades to confront the small number of Trump supporters who had showed up, despite their “No to Marxism in America” rally having been canceled over fears of violence. The counter-demonstrators surrounded their outnumbered rivals, chanting: “No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA” and “Go home Nazi.” A number of demonstrators with their faces covered were escorted out of the park by police, who reported 14 arrests, mostly for violating a ban on masks, sticks and other potential weapons.

Police in riot gear fired a rubber bullet at a demonstrator who attempted to cross a barricade into the park, according to the Los Angeles Times, while protesters set off smoke bombs. Joey Gibson, leader of the right-wing Patriot Prayer group, was pepper sprayed by leftist counter-protesters, an AFP photographer saw. Mother Jones reporter Shane Bauer tweeted that he had been pepper sprayed and posted a video he said showed anti-fascist protesters stomping on and beating an “alt-right” supporter as he lay in the road.

It was one of a number of videos posted on social media purportedly showing black-clad antifa activists physically attacking both pro-Trump demonstrators and journalists. City officials had denied at least three requests for permits from demonstrations on both sides at the park, they said. Amber Cummings, a Trump supporter, had organized the “No To Marxism in America” rally but later asked supporters not to show up out of fears of violence. — AFP

## BREXIT TALKS FACE ‘VERY BIG GAP’ AS NEW ROUND BEGINS

**BRUSSELS:** Britain and the EU kick off a third round of Brexit talks yesterday still sharply divided over what comes first—London's future relationship with the bloc or the costly divorce settlement. The European Union says there has to be “sufficient progress” in three key areas—EU citizen rights, Northern Ireland's border and the exit bill—before it will turn to post-Brexit arrangements, possibly beginning in October.

Britain says the two strands should be negotiated in parallel, arguing that progress on a free trade deal may even help resolve other sticky issues such as the future EU-UK border between Northern Ireland and the Republic. That is a complete no-go for Brussels, with officials saying they expected little progress in bridging a “very big gap” at this week's talks. They also blamed Britain for a “lack of substance” despite a flurry of position papers they said were strong on aspiration but short on detail.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier meanwhile listed on Twitter the EU's own negotiating documents, noting: “EU positions clear and transparent since day one.” Barnier meets his British counterpart David Davis late afternoon for a first exchange, followed by three days of talks and a joint press conference. Both sides have repeatedly warned that the clock is ticking down to the March 2019 Brexit deadline and that they are the ones doing their best to make progress.

## UK seeks flexibility, imagination

Davis said yesterday this week's talks were all about “driving forward the technical discussions across all the issues.” “In order to do that, we'll require flexibility and imagination from both sides,” he said. “We're ready to roll up our sleeves and get down to work once more.” Asked about the British approach, the European Commission refused to be drawn yesterday.

“Let's have the negotiators do their negotiation... as for flexibility, we are working within the mandate given us by the European Council



**TILBURY:** Residents cross the road in the dock town of Tilbury in Essex, east of London. — AFP

(of member states),” EU spokeswoman Lucia Caudet said. The talks take place amid continued turmoil in Britain, with the opposition Labor Party over the weekend backing a “soft” Brexit whereby the country remains in the EU's customs union and single market for a transition period. Prime Minister Theresa May has said she wants Britain unequivocally out of both but her position has been crippled since a June election gamble backfired and she lost her parliamentary majority.

May remains in office thanks to a deal with Northern Ireland's ultra-conservative Democratic Unionist Party which views the EU-member Republic with deep suspicion. EU officials warned last week that the hard-won Northern Ireland peace process could not be used as a bargaining chip.

London's hopeful suggestion that technology could help prevent the border becoming a phys-

ical barrier to trade and the peace process was just “a lot of magical thinking,” one EU official said. Britain also said the European Court of Justice could continue to have an indirect influence, softening its position that the EU's top court would not have any say in the country at all.

But again this was not enough, EU officials said. The rights of more than three million EU citizens in Britain and one million Britons in Europe arose from EU law remains the remit of the ECJ. “There is no other possibility,” one official said. As for Britain's divorce settlement—estimated at up to 100 billion euros in Brussels but much less at 40 billion according to reports in London—EU officials said the talks were not about fixing a number but about agreeing how to work out the bill. “We have to have a methodology sufficiently detailed so that commitments made to various beneficiaries of the EU budget will be honored,” one of the EU officials said. — AFP



# BOMBING KILLS TWO PAKISTANI TROOPS IN TRIBAL REGION

ISLAMABAD: Two Pakistani soldiers were killed when a bomb went off during a military search operation in a tribal region near the border with Afghanistan, the military said yesterday. The attack came as Afghan and Pakistan army chiefs met in neighboring Tajikistan.

A military statement said the Pakistani troops were conducting the search in the Angur Adda area, close to the border, when the bomb went off late

on Sunday night. Pakistan has carried out several military operations against militants in South Waziristan and elsewhere in recent years. The army says it's now clearing up remaining pockets in areas once used by militants as sanctuaries. Last week, US President Donald Trump demanded that Pakistan shut down safe havens for the Afghan Taliban - a charge Islamabad dismissed, saying Pakistan has no safe havens for the

Taliban. The demand came during Trump's speech announcing a new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia. In a rare meeting, the Pakistani and Afghan army chiefs met on the sidelines of a regional conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Sunday, according to a Pakistani military statement.

Pakistan's Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa proposed the formation of an Afghan-Pakistani working group so the two

armies could jointly work and formulate security recommendations for their governments.

Bajwa reportedly reassured his Afghan counterpart, Gen. Sharif Yaftalin, that Islamabad is open to any suggestion that would facilitate peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan has already started unilateral border security measures, including erecting a fence, Bajwa added. But Afghanistan did not seem enthusias-

tic about the proposal. In Kabul, Gen. Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry, said militants along the border were not the only border issue with Pakistan but that the extremists have sanctuaries in big Pakistani cities as well. "If Pakistan really wants to fight terrorism, first of all they should start fighting them (terrorists) in their big cities and then come down to the borders," Waziri said.—AP



TORKHAM: Pakistani tribal people rally against the United States in Torkham, a border town along the Afghanistan border.—AP

## PAKISTAN DELAYS US ENVOY'S VISIT AFTER TRUMP CRITICISM

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has postponed a visit by a US diplomat who had been due to arrive yesterday, a week after President Donald Trump publicly upbraided Islamabad for harboring militants attacking US and Afghan troops. The delegation led by Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Alice Wells was set to be the first major visit by an American official since the president's comments.

"At the request of the Gov't of Pakistan, the visit of the US delegation has been postponed until a mutually convenient time," the foreign ministry said late Sunday. In a major speech outlining US policy on Afghanistan Trump slammed Pakistan for offering safe havens to "agents of chaos" and suggested relations would be adjusted

immediately. He offered few details. Successive US administrations have criticized Pakistan for maintaining links with the Taliban and harboring leading jihadists-like Osama bin Laden.

Following Trump's remarks, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson also cautioned that Pakistan could lose its status as a major US ally and see its US military aid suspended. Pakistan's powerful military chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in comments after the speech, demanded "trust" rather than continued financial aid from Washington. Islamabad has repeatedly denied claims of being soft on militancy, accusing its ally of ignoring the thousands who have been killed in Pakistan and the billions spent fighting extremists.—AFP

# POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT MYANMAR, BANGLADESH AS CRISIS INTENSIFIES

## CATHOLIC LEADER DECRIES PLIGHT OF ROHINGYA MUSLIMS

YANGON: Pope Francis will visit Myanmar and Bangladesh later this year, the Vatican announced yesterday, hours after the Catholic leader decried the plight of Rohingya Muslims as they flee fresh fighting between the army and militants. The landmark visit in late November and early December takes in Myanmar—a largely Buddhist country plagued by inter-religious fighting—and Muslim-majority Bangladesh which hosts hundreds of thousands of refugees from that conflict.

Francis has frequently lamented the treatment of the Rohingya, a largely stateless Muslim minority who have long lived under apartheid-like restrictions in the western Myanmar state of Rakhine. Tens of thousands have fled to Bangladesh in recent months to escape fighting between Rohingya militants and Myanmar's army—with particularly ferocious clashes erupting in the last few days. Announced simultaneously yesterday in Rome, Yangon and Dhaka, the visit will see Pope Francis travel first to Myanmar on November 27 to 30, taking in Yangon and the capital Naypyidaw.

On November 30 he will travel to the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, leaving on December 2. It is the first time a pope has travelled to Myanmar and only the second time a papal visit has been made to Bangladesh after Pope John Paul II's trip there in 1986. Myanmar boasts somewhere between 500-800,000 Catholics while Bangladesh has an even smaller community of some 350,000 adherents. Myanmar and the Vatican only established full diplomatic relations in May, shortly after de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi met Pope Francis during a European tour.

That visit was overshadowed by her country's treatment of the Rohingya. Only weeks before Francis had described the Muslim minority as "brothers and sisters" who were being tortured and killed for their faith. He added they were "good and peaceful people who have suffered for years," and urged Catholics to pray for them. On Sunday, as fresh fighting raged in Rakhine state, he hit out once more at the "sad news about the persecution of the religious minority of our Rohingya brothers." "I would like to express my closeness to them and all of us ask the Lord to save them and to prompt men and women of good faith to help them and ensure their full rights," he added.

### Crucible of religious hatred

Impoverished Rakhine, which neighbors Bangladesh, has become a crucible of religious hatred focused on Rohingya, who are reviled and perceived as illegal immigrants in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. Despite years of persecution and government restrictions, the Rohingya largely eschewed violence. But sporadic armed clashes have erupted since October when a previously unknown Rohingya militant group staged a series of attacks on security forces, sparking a massive crackdown by Myanmar's military which the UN believes may have amounted to ethnic cleansing.

A brutal round of fresh fighting has been raging since Friday when militants staged new coordinated ambushes. More than 100 people, including some 80 militants, have been confirmed killed. Thousands of Rohingya civilians have fled towards Bangladesh while local Buddhists and Hindus have sought sanctuary in towns and monasteries away from the clashes. Both sides have accused each other of committing fresh atrocities in recent days, accusations that are difficult to verify because the fighting is taking place in inaccessible villages.

Suu Kyi's government has dismissed accusations of atrocities and refused visas to UN officials tasked with investigating the allegations—a stance that has caused dismay overseas. Analysts say Suu Kyi knows there is little domestic political advantage in supporting the Rohingya while her civilian administration has limited control over the country's notoriously abusive military. Buddhist nationalist hardliners in Myanmar have previously vowed to protest any papal visit because of the Pope's sympathy for the Rohingya. While they may not see eye to eye on the Rohingya, the Vatican is keen to court Myanmar's government now that diplomatic ties are established.

A key issue for the Church in Myanmar is its ability to support Catholic education. All Church schools were nationalized in 1965 following the 1962 military coup in the former British colony. The Church has recently been able to invest in schools again but supported establishments have to be registered in the names of private individuals rather than being officially run by the Church. Strongly Muslim Brunei and the officially communist regimes of China, Laos, North Korea and Vietnam are the only Asian states not to have full diplomatic relations with the Vatican.—AFP



YANGON: (L-R) Bishop John Hsane Hgyi, Bishop Felix Lian Ken Thang, Bishop John Saw Yaw Han and Monsignor Dario Pavisa from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar, attend a press conference about Pope Francis's visit to Myanmar, in Yangon.—AFP

# TWO DEAD, 25 MISSING IN CHINA LANDSLIDE

BEIJING: A landslide struck some 34 homes in southwest China yesterday, killing two people and leaving another 25 missing in the latest natural disaster to hit the country, according to the local government. Rescuers pulled six people out of the rubble, including the two who died, in a township in Bijie city in the southwest Guizhou province, authorities said in a statement on their official website. Search efforts are ongoing and local authorities sent tents, quilts and camp beds to the site, the agency said.

Video of the landslide posted to the Twitter account of the official People's Daily showed the side of a hill collapsing, with

dirt rushing across the outskirts of the town as onlookers shouted in fright. Another video showed people standing on top of massive boulders. Landslides are a frequent danger in rural and mountainous parts of China, particularly after heavy rain.

In June and August, massive landslides in southwestern Sichuan province killed more than 30 and left scores missing. In July, 63 people were killed by landslides and floods in the central province of Hunan. Some 1.6 million people were forced from their homes. Last week, powerful Typhoon Hato killed 18 people as it tore across southern China, including Hong Kong and Macau.—AFP



PANCHKULA: In this file photo, a fire brigade truck burned by Dera Sacha Sauda sect members lies near Panchkulais court house, India.—AP



NAIROBI: Kenya's opposition leader and National Super Alliance (NASA) leader Raïla Odinga, center, arrives to attend a hearing in Nairobi, over an opposition petition challenging the result of the August 8 presidential election.—AFP

## KENYA'S SUPREME COURT BEGINS HEARING ELECTION CHALLENGE

NAIROBI: Judges at Kenya's Supreme Court yesterday began hearing an opposition petition challenging the result of the August 8 presidential election. The seven judges have until September 1 to rule in the case in which opposition leader Raïla Odinga alleges computer hacking and fraud handed victory to incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta. Yesterday the court permitted lawyers for Odinga's National Super Alliance (NASA) coalition to have access to the computer servers and electronic voter kits of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in order to prove their allegations that the results were fiddled. "The commission has nothing to hide," said IEBC lawyer Paul Muite. Odinga himself was among those inside the packed court on Monday morning, while outside police had deployed in large numbers. Proceedings were televised live on various Kenyan media channels and followed eagerly.

James Orenge, a senior NASA official and lawyer, told the court that the alleged irregularities "cannot be considered as minor transgressions" leaving the result in question and requiring the annulment and rerunning of the vote. Another opposition lawyer, Otiende Amollo, said tally sheets had been doctored in "a consistent pattern, that is: increase the votes for Uhuru Kenyatta and decrease the votes for Raïla Odinga."

### Brutal crackdown

Odinga challenged his last election defeat in 2013, but lost in court. In 2007 widespread and violent street protests followed the declaration of Odinga's loss and yesterday a rights group said police had once again used excessive force to

crush opposition protests following this month's vote. "The brutal crackdown on protesters and residents in the western counties, part of a pattern of violence and repression in opposition strongholds, undermined the national elections," said Otsieno Namwaya, Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"People have a right to protest peacefully, and Kenyan authorities should urgently put a stop to police abuse and hold those responsible to account," HRW said police shot some people dead, wounded others, raped women and stole property while putting down the protests in parts of the country following opposition allegations of rigging. At least 12 people were killed in the west of the country, including the city of Kisumu, HRW said, and more than 100 people were injured, but it added the true figure "is most likely much higher" as victims and relatives are reluctant to speak out.

An AFP tally of the dead now stands at 21 nationwide. Actions against protesters included "unlawful killings and beatings by police during protests and house-to-house operations," HRW said, adding there were at least three cases where women alleged police had raped them. Namwaya said investigations must be carried out and responsible officers prosecuted. So far the government has denied using excessive force against protesters.

"With tensions still running high as the country awaits the court's decision on the opposition's petition, Kenyan authorities need to be vigilant in preventing more police abuses and upholding the right to peaceful protest," Namwaya said. "Kenyans should be able to express their grievances without being beaten or killed by police."—AFP

# MAN ADMITS TO SELLING GUN USED IN MUNICH MALL SHOOTING SPREE



MUNICH: The defendant Philipp K, center, and his lawyers David Muehlberger, left, and Sascha Marks, right, speak together in a court room at the country court in Munich, southern Germany.—AFP

MUNICH: A 32-year-old man yesterday confessed to selling the gun and bullets used by a teenager to kill nine people in a shooting spree at a Munich mall last year. The suspect, Philip K., told the court at the start of his trial in the southern German city that he "would have never sold him the weapon" if he had known that the gunman was planning "such a horrible act". In a statement read out by his lawyer, he also expressed his "sincere condolences" to the families of the victims.

The 18-year-old attacker, David Ali Sonboly, killed himself after his murderous rampage at Munich's Olympia mall in July 2016, using the gun he had bought through the darknet. Prosecutors argue that the crime would not have been possible had Philip K. not provided the Glock 17 and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, at a price of around 4,500 euros. He was arrested in August 2016 and charged with negligent homicide, illegal arms trafficking and other weapons violations.

As his trial began on Monday, the suspect admitted to the weapons charges and explained that he used the darknet, the hidden part of the internet, to make contact with buyers before meeting them in person to make the transaction. His trial is set to run until September 19. If convicted, he faces several years in jail. Police believe Sonboly, who suffered from psychological problems and was bullied at school, had planned his mass shooting for over a year but chose his victims at random.—AFP

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## Focus

## GET OUT, AND GO QUICK: BREXIT HEARTLAND DEFIANT

In the rundown dock town of Tilbury on the eastern outskirts of London, backing for Brexit remains rock-solid, with uncompromising voters wanting Britain to get out of the EU, and get out fast. The British summer political break has been filled with talk of London softening its "hard Brexit" stance, seeking transitional arrangements after the UK leaves the European Union in March 2019. But in this bastion of Brexit support in southeast England, the sooner Britain quits, the better. "I hope they pull us out completely because that's what we voted for," said David Cunningham, 65. "Get on with it. The longer you drag it out, the harder it's going to be to cut the cord."

As Britain and the EU prepared for another round of negotiations starting yesterday, the retired car builder said he wanted "an independent Britain, back to the days when we could trade with everybody." "I like the continent. But the common market wasn't working. If it's not working, get out." Around 35 km east of central London, on the River Thames estuary, Tilbury is known for its docks and the 17th-century fortress built to protect the capital from naval attack.

The 12,000-strong town grew up around the 1880s docks, which remain one of Britain's main container ports. Its street names evoke old imperial destinations such as Sydney, Bermuda and Calcutta, but Tilbury itself looks timeworn. In the June 2016 referendum, of the UK's 382 voting areas, the local Thurrock borough had the fourth-highest vote to leave the EU, at 72.3 percent.

### 'Got to get out somehow'

"We should have stayed with the Commonwealth," said Derek Howard, 77, a retired joiner drinking tea from a polystyrene cup. Describing the area as "a bit run down" with "a lot of unemployment", he said local people wanted the money going to Brussels spent on British health care and welfare. He said talk of paying billions of pounds to leave the EU was "ridiculous" but worth paying "if that's what it takes." "We've got to get out somehow," he said.

While Britain seeks post-2019 transitional agreements, a nationwide YouGov poll this month found no softening of resolve on Brexit among Leave voters. It found 61 percent think "significant damage to the British economy to be a price worth paying" for leaving the EU. Some 39 percent of the 2,043 respondents polled last month thought likewise for themselves or a family member losing their job.

Standing near a war memorial in Tilbury's Civic Square, 42-year-old Darren said mass immigration was a key factor in his Leave vote. "They're doing our jobs. There's a lot of jobs out there. If a lot of these people left, it would work out better for us," said the unemployed man, who declined to give his surname. "I think this country's overrun. I think they need to get out. It's not a British country any more. It isn't." Carrying a bent sink he hoped to sell for scrap, he said Brexit was the "best thing that's ever happened".

### EU nationals leaving

Tilbury Docks was where the first wave of Caribbean immigrants arrived in 1948 on the Empire Windrush, which became shorthand for post-war black immigration. "A lot of people thought that people from other countries apart from the EU would be slung out - especially round here. But that's not going to happen," said Jackie Valentine, 69. "It's going to have an adverse effect on many things," said the former National Health Service worker, who voted to leave as a rejection of "lawmakers in Brussels telling us what to do".

"EU nurses who might have considered working here are not applying any more. The good people that we could do with in this country are not coming. We'll survive," she added. Valentine was walking along the riverfront to Tilbury Fort, a moated, star-shaped bastion.

Tilbury is synonymous with resistance to foreign interference. Facing the 1588 Spanish Armada, queen Elizabeth I rallied her troops at the fort with one of the most famous speeches in English history. "I voted out. I object to being told what to do by non-elected people," said Tony Church, 65, who was fishing in the estuary. "You get the impression they're more prepared than we are to negotiate. We seem to be dragging our feet. I just hope that they don't just capitulate and give away too much." — AFP

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## CAN TECH HELP END MASS ARSENIC POISONING?

Almost a quarter of a century after public health experts discovered mass public poisoning in Bangladesh caused by water contaminated with arsenic, the government is planning a new push to end the scourge, while researchers are designing an app to find safe sites for new wells. About 20 million Bangladeshis, or one in eight, have been drinking water with arsenic levels higher than the government's limit of 50 microgrammes per litre, said Kazi Matin Uddin Ahmed, geology department chair at the University of Dhaka.

That limit is five times higher than the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline of 10 microgrammes per litre. When the lower ceiling is used, the number affected jumps to 45 million people, according to a book published this month by the International Water Association. Long-term exposure to the highly toxic substance - which is colorless, tasteless and odorless but found in millions of shallow wells across Bangladesh - leads to arsenicosis, which can cause skin lesions, cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, as well as impaired cognitive function in children, according to the WHO.

In 2002, the UN agency described the Bangladesh crisis as "the largest mass poisoning of a population in history." "It's been an emergency for the past 20 years," said Alexander van Geen, a professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, who has worked with Ahmed since 2000 to find solutions. An estimated 5 percent of deaths in Bangladesh are attributable to drinking water that is high in arsenic, he said.

Now the Bangladesh government is planning a four-year, \$200-million program to tackle the problem, according to officials at the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE). Proposed activities include testing wells, raising awareness of the dangers, and installing site-specific solutions, said Md. Saifur Rahman, an executive engineer with the DPHE. The plan is awaiting approval by a high-level government committee, and could start next

year, officials said. The sheer number of wells - around 10 million, 90 percent of which are privately owned - makes testing and maintaining them a huge task. Between 1999 and 2006, donors and the government organized awareness-raising programs and the testing of nearly 5 million wells, but efforts tapered off after that, according to a 2016 Human Rights Watch (HRW) report. Paint marking safe and unsafe wells has worn off, while many new ones have been dug and people mistakenly believe the issue has largely been resolved.

### Digging Deep

Bangladesh is the country most affected by arsenic poisoning, but naturally occurring arsenic is a problem in other parts of the world too. Experts estimate that more than 150 million people are exposed to drinking water with arsenic levels higher than the WHO guideline, including in India, the United States, China, Vietnam, Myanmar and Argentina. The most sustainable and cost-effective solution in Bangladesh is to sink deep tube wells 150 m or more in the ground that can serve communities, said geology professor Ahmed.

In these wells, the water usually meets WHO standards, but they cost about \$1,000 each to install - more if deeper. As that is beyond the reach of ordinary Bangladeshis, the government usually pays for them. Other options like rainwater harvesting tend to be small-scale and seasonal, while treating surface or groundwater is expensive and requires regular maintenance, Ahmed said. Some experts argue that solving the problem is more of a governance challenge than a technical issue.

The government did sink tens of thousands of deep tube wells across Bangladesh but they are not concentrated in areas that need them most, said Richard Pearshouse, author of the HRW report. "A village that has 1 percent of its wells contaminated has as many deep tube wells as a village where 99 percent of its wells are contaminated," he

said. Researchers from HRW also found deep tube wells in the fenced compounds of politically influential people, blaming a government policy allowing members of parliament to allocate up to half of the well locations. "After somebody gets elected, there's a greater likelihood for there to be a deep well within a 100-metre radius of that person," said Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak, a Bangladesh-born economics professor at Yale, who plans to release the results of his work later this year. Such political interference is "a large part" of why previous efforts have had limited impact, HRW's Pearshouse said. A senior official, who did not want to be named, acknowledged the criticism, but said the government had now initiated its plan to tackle the arsenic problem.

### Technology to the Rescue?

Pearshouse welcomed the new state-led program but said it would need to eliminate political meddling to succeed. Van Geen said Lamont researchers are developing a mobile-based mapping application to help DPHE employees collect and input data on wells using a smartphone or tablet. The app will display a map of all tested wells and their status, and can assess the suitability of potential sites for deep wells, increasing the chances of more equitable distribution, van Geen said.

The maps should be displayed outside local government offices, he added. "This is not so much about technology ... but about making information available in a way that will affect local policy decisions," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The team has received funding from the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, but van Geen is looking for additional backing to launch the app in six months. Yale's Mobarak, who also advises the Bangladesh government, said providing more information was "a good first step," but it would need to be paired with incentives for local governments to perform well in reducing arsenic levels in their water. — Reuters

## DARK HISTORY BEHIND INDIA'S 'GURU IN BLING'

Self-styled "godman" Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh inspired extraordinary devotion in India, where huge crowds flocked to hear his teachings - even after he was accused of rape in a high-profile case that ended in conviction. Singh counted film stars, cricketers and politicians among his legions of supporters. But the most devoted were the vast numbers of ordinary Indians, many of them poor, who flocked to the sprawling headquarters of his controversial sect in the northern Indian state of Haryana to hear his teachings.

There, delirious devotees were said to weep with joy and fall at his feet for blessings. They called Singh "pita-ji", or "revered father", and said his message of living simply and eschewing meat and alcohol had changed their lives. That Singh's own life was far from simple did not seem to matter. The extravagantly-bearded 50-year-old was dubbed the "guru in bling" for his flamboyant wardrobe, which included trousers emblazoned with sequins.

He travelled in a convoy of SUVs, starred in pop videos and even launched his own "Messenger of God" movie franchise in which he performed miracles, preached to thousands and beat up gangsters - all while singing and dancing. In the latest, "MSG - The Warrior Lion Heart", he played a secret agent fighting aliens and UFOs. That spawned a line of merchandise including T-shirts, caps and other insignia emblazoned with Singh's smiling face. But the razzamatazz of his showbusiness career concealed a darker side to Singh's story.

In 2002 an anonymous letter was sent to then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee accusing the guru of repeatedly raping the sender and several other women at the headquarters of his sect in Haryana. A judge asked the Central Bureau of Investigations to look into the accusations, but it took years to trace the alleged victims and it was not until 2007 that two women came forward and filed their complaint. A local journalist who had covered the case was later killed. Singh still faces a



In this Oct 5, 2016 file photo, an Indian guru who calls himself Dr Saint Gurmeet Singh Ram Rahim Insan rides a motorcycle as he arrives for a press conference ahead of the release of his new film 'MSG: The Warrior Lion Heart' in New Delhi. — AP

conspiracy charge for alleged involvement, which he denies.

He is also being investigated for allegedly persuading up to 400 of his followers to undergo castration. Despite the charges he faced, he was courted by Indian politicians eager to win his support - and by extension that of his many followers. Recent images showed Singh taking part in a cleanliness drive with the Haryana chief minister, who has been criticized for failing to prevent his supporters from going on a violent rampage after his conviction on Friday.

### 'Image of the lord'

Police say at least 38 supporters of

Singh's Dera Sacha Sauda sect were killed in the rioting that broke out minutes after the verdict was announced. By then Singh himself had been whisked off in a government helicopter, accompanied by his adopted daughter, and taken to a jail in the city of Rohtak. He had been chosen to head the Dera Sacha Sauda - a controversial sect that describes itself as pan-religious and has angered Sikhs and Hindus - as a child and formally took on the role when he was 23.

Despite his larger-than-life public persona, little is known about Singh's personal life. According to his website, he was born on August 15, 1967, the only child of

wealthy parents in western Rajasthan. "Soon, his parents realized that he wasn't merely a child but the image of the lord. And thus, they never hurt him physically or verbally," says his profile.

Singh is married and has two daughters and a son. In 2009 he adopted one of his female followers, Honeypreet Insan, who reportedly calls herself "papa's angel" and is thought to be his intended successor. He has sought to portray himself as a social reformer, promoting vegetarianism, campaigning against drug addiction and holding huge blood donation camps. But he has antagonized other religious communities, notably the Sikhs. — AFP

WORLD BANK: COST OF CLEAN WATER \$150 BILLION A YEAR

TEPIC, Mexico: Countries need to quadruple spending to \$150 billion a year to deliver universal safe water and sanitation, helping to reduce childhood disease and deaths while boosting economic growth, said the World Bank.

"Millions are currently trapped in poverty by poor water supply and sanitation," Guangzhe Chen, senior director of the World Bank's global water practice, said in a statement.

The high cost of clean water risks jeopardizing the ability of countries to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of providing access to safe and affordable sanitation for all by 2030, said the World Bank.

The risk of diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation is creating a "silent emergency", with stunted growth affecting more than 40 percent of children under five in countries including Guatemala, Niger, Yemen and Bangladesh, said the report.

It said under-nutrition could have long-term effects

on children, including poor mental development and reduced ability to work, which would eventually affect economic development.

Some countries fail to maintain infrastructure or struggle to cope with growing populations. Nigeria provided piped water to fewer than 10 percent of city dwellers in 2015, down from 29 percent 25 years earlier. In Haiti, only 7 percent of households have piped water, compared to 15 percent previously.

In some countries, tap water is even more unsafe than pond water, with around 80 percent of Bangladesh's piped supplies contaminated by E.coli bacteria, said the report. It urged governments to better inform people and encourage more household water treatment. Providing piped water in cities could generate economies of scale, the bank said, urging greater private-sector involvement in urban water provision where recovering costs may be easier.

Researchers, decision makers and aid specialists are meeting in Stockholm for the annual World Water Week where they will focus on how to reduce waste in water use. Water and sanitation improvements should be linked to health programs to better tackle disease and malnutrition, said the World Bank report.

"Renewed efforts are needed to address those populations at greatest risk of death and disease due to inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene, which threatens human capital and economic development," it said. — Reuters

ROHINGYA TELL OF FLEEING MYANMAR...

Continued from Page 1

One had died of gunshot wounds on Saturday. Mohammad Ziabul, a 27-year-old farmer, fled for his life after Myanmar troops shot and killed his brother.

"Two bullets hit my body - one at my left hand and the other one at my head. I fell on the ground. My elder brother Dil Mahmud who was also hit by bullet, died on the spot." He said around 1,000 Rohingya had fled his village alone to hide out in the forest.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said many of the new arrivals are women and children. "UNHCR and other UN Agency teams in registered camps estimated that more than 3,000 'newly arrived' individuals were seen in and around the camp," said UNHCR spokesman Joseph Tripura.

HAMAS LEADER PRAISES IRAN MILITARY SUPPORT

Continued from Page 1

"day and night" to prepare for the next conflict. However, he stressed that the movement "doesn't want a war and takes every effort to avoid a war".

The election of the 56-year-old in February was seen by analysts as Hamas's military wing asserting power over the political one. Prior to taking the job, he was a top commander in Qassam with decades of intelligence experience and a reputation as a fierce advocate of military struggle against Israel.

Sinwar has reached out both to old allies and to enemies as Hamas seeks to avoid regional isolation. Relations

with Iran had faltered over Syria, where Tehran backed President Bashar al-Assad while Hamas distanced themselves from his regime as he violently crushed an uprising.

Residents now receive only a few hours of mains electricity a day. Sinwar called on Abbas to form a government of national unity with Hamas "for a year or two in preparation for holding presidential and legislative elections".

Multiple attempts at reconciliation between Abbas' Fatah movement and Hamas have failed. — AFP

HOUSTON RACES TO SAVE FLOOD VICTIMS...

Continued from Page 1

but the region's sprawling cities - where drainage is slower - were worst hit, with highways swamped and street after street of housing rapidly rendered uninhabitable, power lines cut and dams overflowing.

The US Army Corps of Engineers yesterday moved to progressively open the Addicks and Barker dams - under pressure from what the agency has dubbed a "thousand-year flood event" - to prevent a catastrophe on the outskirts of Houston.

Flood-hit Texas is braced for a renewed battering and yesterday President Donald Trump - facing the first major natural disaster of his presidency - pre-emptively declared a state of emergency in neighboring Louisiana, freeing up federal funds.

Thousands of National Guard troops joined local police and emergency workers to help with rescues in inundated areas of Houston. Boats also were being deployed, but more were needed.

FEMA said there should be no illusions about the long-term impact of Harvey. Long told CNN it would take "years" to recover.

5 CANNIBALS IN S AFRICA COURT

Continued from Page 1

"We are also investigating how long has this been going on for and how many people have been killed," she said. Local media reported that police have linked the case to the killing of at least one woman in the area.

Outside Estcourt Magistrates' court where the men appeared, a crowd waved placards condemning the alleged crimes. South African media reported that one of the men wept uncontrollably in court.

RAPIST GURU JAILED FOR 20 YEARS

Continued from Page 1

He said his officers would use "whatever force is required" against the guru's devotees should they again resort to violence.

A judge was flown in by helicopter to sentence the spiritual leader, known as the "guru in bling" for his penchant for bejewelled costumes.

The rape case was brought after an anonymous letter was sent to then-prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002, accusing Singh of repeatedly raping the sender and several other women in the sect.

Utsav Singh Bains, a lawyer for the victims, said there could be dozens more cases of abuse involving women at the sect. "We believe there are at least 48 more victims who were sexually abused and who may have been killed or are too scared to come out and testify against Ram Rahim," he told AFP by phone.

2002 of a journalist investigating the rape allegations. He denied the charge and the case is ongoing. Over the weekend thousands of followers congregated in the spiritual headquarters of his sect at Sirsa, despite calls from police and troops for them to disperse.

Haryana authorities came under fire grossly underestimating the risk posed by the army of devotees after violent protests in many parts of the northern state on Friday.

2 MILLION MUSLIMS CONVERGE ON MAKKAH...

Continued from Page 1

Iranians are back after not attending in 2016 following a deadly Makkah stampede the previous year that killed nearly 2,300 pilgrims. It was the worst catastrophe in the history of the hajj, with 464 people from the Islamic republic among the dead.

Following the disaster, Tehran railed against Saudi Arabia's organization of the pilgrimage. The two countries then severed diplomatic relations in Jan 2016 after the Saudi embassy in Tehran was ransacked by a crowd protesting against the execution in the kingdom of a Shiite religious dignitary.

Accusations of the hajj being politicized have marred the region for some time. For nearly three months, the Gulf has been embroiled in its worst ever political crisis, with Saudi Arabia and its allies facing off against Qatar, which they accuse of being too close to Iran and backing extremism.

haji-related travel, although Riyadh announced it was relaxing certain restrictions for pilgrims.

In the arrivals hall at Jeddah airport, determined pilgrims walk hastily to avoid losing contact with other members of their group. "I'm so happy to be a part of it this year," said 43-year-old Nigerian Mohammed Said, in the seamless two-piece white garment or "ihram" worn by male pilgrims.

Murderous attacks across the world in recent years will be on the minds of many pilgrims, especially those from Iraq and Syria where the IS has suffered a series of setbacks. But the threat from extremists has not put off pilgrims such as Fatima, from Perpignan in southern France.

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Advertisement for Best Appliances featuring Sharp refrigerators. Models include SJ-K325E-SS3 (278 Ltr), SJ-K355E-SS3 (309 Ltr), and SJ-K385E-SS3 (348 Ltr). Includes 'PAY LESS' offers and contact number 1809 809.

### FORMER IRELAND STAR DUGGAN DEAD AGED 67

**DUBLIN:** Former Ireland international Willie Duggan has died at the age of 67, Irish Rugby announced yesterday. "Sad news today that Ireland legend Willie Duggan has passed away," the Irish governing body said on Twitter. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. May he rest in peace." Duggan, considered one of Ireland's greatest players, made 41 appearances for his country at number eight between 1975 and 1984. He played all four Tests of the British and Irish Lions' series in New Zealand in 1977, which the All Blacks won 3-1. He died from a suspected heart attack yesterday. Leinster, his former province, wrote on Twitter: "Very sad news from Kilkenny this morning of the passing of Leinster and Ireland Rugby legend Willie Duggan. "Ar dheis De go raibh a anam (May his soul be at God's right hand). #RIP" — AFP

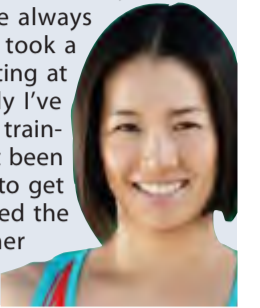


### SERI BLASTS NICE OVER BROKEN BARCA DREAM

**BARCELONA:** Nice midfielder Jean Michael Seri has blamed the French club's greed for the breakdown of his dream transfer to Barcelona in an explosive interview with Catalan sports daily Mundo Deportivo. Seri's move to the Catalan giants broke down after Nice's Champions League qualifying defeat to Napoli last week amid reports Nice had upped their asking price due to interest from Paris Saint-Germain. "After the match (against Napoli) I met with Barcelona's directors for more than an hour and they didn't tell me anything about not going through with signing me," said the Ivorian. "I went home really happy; then the next day I read the news. I was stunned to see the move had broken down in an incomprehensible manner for me. I went to the Nice offices to see the board and find out what happened. I exploded! The walls shook. They didn't say anything to me, they didn't look me straight in the eye." — AFP

### JAPAN'S 'IRON LADY' DATE TO QUIT GAME

**TOKYO:** Japan's Kimiko Date, the grand dame of women's tennis, announced yesterday that she will retire from the game a few days short of her 47th birthday. The former world number four said on her official blog that she will add the "full stop" to her career by retiring-for a second time-after the Japan Women's Open tournament, which begins in Tokyo on September 11. "I have always been obsessed with competing," said Date, who took a 12-year hiatus from professional tennis after quitting at the peak of her powers in 1996. "But increasingly I've found myself adjusting the length and intensity of training to look after my physical condition. It has not been an easy decision to sever the feeling that I want to get back on court and run around like I used to," added the eight-time WTA Tour singles champion and former Wimbledon semi-finalist. — AFP



### JEREMY CLEMENTS TAKES ROAD AMERICA FOR FIRST XFINITY WIN

**ELKHART LAKE:** Jeremy Clements battled Matt Tifft down the stretch at Road America before pulling away to the finish line after the two leaders spun out near the end of the second-to-last lap for his first career Xfinity Series victory. Working with fresh tires down the stretch, Clements chased down Tifft after pitting with nine laps left to surrender the lead. Clements finally caught up with Tifft on the 44th lap, with their cars spinning into the dirt on last turn of the 14-turn road course. The 32-year-old Clements recovered first and sped away on the last lap to capture the checkered flag for the first time in 256 Xfinity series races. Michael Annett passed Tifft to take second, 5.8 seconds behind Clements. Tifft settled for third. Series leader Elliott Sadler finished 14th. Racing at Road America took center stage in NASCAR with the top-level Monster Cup series and the Camping World Truck circuit off for the weekend. The Xfinity drivers didn't disappoint on an overcast day at the rural Wisconsin track. The early portions of the race were just as eventful as the end. Daniel Hemric took

the second 10-lap stage that included four cars spinning out of the left-hand Turn 5. James Davison said his No. 20 Toyota got clipped in the scrum and a cracked radiator knocked him out of the race. It was such a memorable afternoon until then for Davison, who started second and led the first 11 laps to win the first stage. The 31-year-old Davison led an Xfinity race lap for the first time in three career series races. "I had nowhere to go, totally innocent," Davison said. "Look that's racing." Qualifying for the 45-lap race was cancelled because of weather, with rain having fallen earlier in the morning. The starting grid was determined by owner points, so Austin Cendric took the pole in his No. 20 Ford for Team Penske in his Xfinity series debut. The son of Penske team president Tim Cindric got a preview of the tight racing to come by competing in the ARCA series race earlier Sunday, finishing 12th in that race. In the end, it was Clements' small, family owned team that emerged for the victory. He said his No. 51 Chevy was built in 2008. "I can't believe it ... It's just a shock," he said. "It's pretty neat to be this field with about a 10-year-old car." — AP

### SPARKS BEAT LYNX, MOVE CLOSER OF WNBA LEADER

**LOS ANGELES:** Candace Parker had 24 points and 10 rebounds and Chelsea Gray added 15 points, six rebounds, five assists and three steals to help the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Minnesota Lynx 78-67 on Sunday to move within a half-game of the WNBA leader. Los Angeles (24-8) clinched at least a top-two seed in the WNBA playoffs which begin Sept. 6. The Sparks beat Minnesota in the WNBA Finals last year on Nneka Ogwumike's last-second putback. Minnesota (24-7) led 6-0, but the Sparks scored 22 of the next 29 points, including 10 by Parker, and maintained the lead the rest of the way. Maya Moore hit a 3-pointer to pull the Lynx within three points midway through the second quarter, but Gray scored six points during a 13-2 run to close the half and take a 46-32 lead into the break. Minnesota trailed by double figures the rest of the way. Sylvia Fowles led the Lynx with 17 points and 14 rebounds.

**LIBERTY 92, SKY 62**  
Tina Charles scored 18 of her 22 points in the first half as New York beat Chicago for its eighth consecutive victory. New York (20-12) wrapped up the No. 4 seed in the playoff, earning a first-round bye. The Liberty are a half-game behind Connecticut for the third seed. Stefanie Dolson scored 22 points for Chicago (12-19).  
**MERCURY 75, STORM 71**  
Brittney Griner had 29 points, eight rebounds and five blocks, and Leilani Mitchell hit two late 3-pointers to help Phoenix hold off Seattle. Diana Taurasi scored 18 points, and Mitchell finished with 11 for Phoenix (16-16). The Mercury clinched a playoff berth earlier Sunday when Chicago lost at New York. Jewell Loyd scored a career-high 33 points, and Breanna Stewart added 13 points and nine rebounds for Seattle (14-18). — AP

### VERSTAPPEN FACING 'BUNCH OF PENALTIES' IN MONZA

**SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS:** Max Verstappen is set to take "a bunch of penalties" at Monza after his Renault engine failed again and forced him to retire from Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, his Red Bull boss Christian Horner predicted. Horner complained that Renault were giving his team a "below par" service - for which the French constructor's representative Alain Prost apologized personally to Verstappen - despite seeing his teammate Daniel Ricciardo claim third behind race winner Lewis Hamilton. The team chief added that Verstappen's post-race outburst of frustration with the team, and thinly-veiled threat that he was considering his future, was to be expected. "He's just enormously frustrated, as you can imagine," said Horner. "Once again, he's in a great position and through no fault of his own he's had another engine issue. "Sometimes words escape you... obviously he's had Alain Prost come and apologise, Renault are going to apologise, but it doesn't change the situation unfortunately. "I think that Renault are quite aware that their reliability and product isn't where it should be and that's their business to sort that out.

"We're a paying customer and it's obviously below par the service that we're seeing at this point in time, because of the reliability issues. We're staring down the barrel at a bunch of penalties at Monza." Verstappen was fifth and had completed just eight laps in front of an 80,000-strong Dutch army in a record crowd at the spectacular Spa-Francorchamps - more than 265,000 packed in during the weekend - before he lost power and parked his car. It was his sixth retirement in 12 races. "I can understand his frustration, but the majority of them have been beyond our control," explained Horner. "He's now staring down the barrel of a bunch of penalties in Monza so it is really frustrating for him. "He's just been desperately unlucky. The issues haven't been car-related, it's been engine-related. "We don't know what happens behind the scenes, but Renault has always supplied equal equipment to both drivers in all the history we have had. It's bad luck the failures on a Sunday seem to be happening on his side of the garage. "Daniel has had as many failures, but they have tended to be on Fridays and Saturdays rather than Sunday afternoons." — AFP



Max Verstappen



FRANCORCHAMPS: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain, center, jubilates on the podium after winning the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix in Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium, Sunday. Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany placed second and Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo of Australia placed third. — AP

MOTOR RACING

## LEWIS HAMILTON FEARS FERRARI CONSISTENCY

**SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS:** Lewis Hamilton fears that, despite steering his Mercedes to victory in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, Ferrari have a faster car and he faces an uphill struggle to catch title leader Sebastian Vettel. The 32-year-old Briton, who reeled off his fifth win of the year to reduce Vettel's lead to seven points with eight races remaining, said he had found it difficult to resist the German's attacks. "I think Ferrari were ultimately quicker. I was just able to keep them at bay," said Hamilton. "But if our cars were reversed, I don't think I would have been able to hold as close as he did. "If anyone's out there thinking we have the best car this year then they need to think again because it's not the case... We might have the upper hand in power, but that's not enough - we have to keep improving."

Heading into Ferrari's home race at the Italian Grand Prix, Hamilton knows he needs to make the most of Mercedes marginal power advantage in his bid to take the championship lead for the first time this year. Mercedes introduced an upgraded engine at Spa-Francorchamps and their speed in straight lines on the long straights was critical to the result of qualifying and the race. "I think we have the upper hand power-wise, but we've got to keep improving," added Hamilton. "The pressure is on. The next race, package-wise, should be similar to this weekend, but when we get to Singapore that's really where the test is going to be - and where Ferrari should be really fast, as they were in Hungary..." Hamilton added: "Ferrari have had the most consistent season and, while we've had a solid

and well put together weekend, it was only just enough to stay ahead. "I hope we have more to come and we need more to come in order to win this thing for sure. It's going to take everything from every single one of us to finish these next eight races and come out on top. "That's how a championship should be so I'm really looking forward to that challenge. It's going to go right down to the wire." Mercedes boss Toto Wolff admitted his team were "surprised" by Ferrari's speed and challenge. "They have done a good job in bringing an upgrade package that works - this is a track that shouldn't suit them, like Silverstone, but they were much closer than expected. "We just have to keep our development scope steep and continue to bring bits on the car and deliver faultlessly." — AFP

## DALTON, BENGALS LOOK REGULAR SEASON READY AGAINST REDSKINS

**LANDOVER:** Andy Dalton and the Cincinnati Bengals' starters shrugged off a rough start to the preseason to finish exactly the way they wanted. Dalton was 8 of 13 for 70 yards and Cincinnati's first-team offense and defense looked sharp against Washington on Sunday as the Redskins won 23-17 on the strength of their backups. A.J. Green had four catches for 43 yards, Jeremy Hill ran for 15 yards and the Bengals regulars' first exhibition touchdown before his day was cut short with an ankle injury. "We just executed," Green said. "Once we're clicking on all cylinders and everybody getting their touches, we can be a dangerous offense." And a dangerous defense, too. Linebacker Vontaze Burfict intercepted Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins' pass and returned it for a touchdown, stiff-arming the quarterback at the end zone and jumping into the stands, before leaving with a back injury. Chris Smith and rookies Jordan Willis and Carl Lawson each sacked Cousins as defensive coordinator Paul Guenther seems to have the edge rushers he was looking for. "Good job today on third down, which was key," Cincinnati coach Marvin Lewis said after his team improved to 1-2 in the preseason. "We haven't played as well on third down defensively this preseason yet and so we made some good strides." It was the opposite for Cousins and the Redskins' starters, who ended their preseason with nine three-and-outs on 15 possessions. Washington went three-and-out three times on Sunday as Cousins was 10 of 19 for

109 yards and an interception, which he called "entirely" his fault. After generating 1 whole yard in the first quarter, the starters eventually put together a touchdown drive, but there's reason for the Redskins (1-2) to be worried about slow starts continuing in the regular season. "I'm a little concerned," coach Jay Gruden said. "We just got to figure out something new, maybe eat a different pregame meal or something."  
**INJURY UPDATE**  
**Bengals:** RB Giovani Bernard ran for 25 yards on four carries in his first game since tearing the ACL in his left knee last season. ... Along with his game-ending back injury, Burfict was evaluated for a concussion but cleared. ... RB Cedric Peerman suffered a left shoulder injury and TE Mason Schreck left with a knee injury. ... TE Tyler Eifert (tendinitis) did not dress.  
**Redskins:** DL Phil Taylor injured his left quadriceps muscle on the first defensive series and will have an MRI. ... LB Junior Galette, who had been out with a hamstring injury, saw his first game action since Dec. 28, 2014. ... TE Jordan Reed made two catches for 12 yards after missing the past month with a toe injury. ... WR Josh Doctson sat out with hamstring/groin soreness, and rookie LB Ryan Anderson was out with a shoulder stinger.

**ROSS:** "This is my first week so I've still got a lot of growing to do, a lot of learning to do." Gruden on Cousins' attempt to tackle Burfict: "To let a guy score a touchdown on our home field is unacceptable, so I'm happy he did that." — AP  
**POSITION BATTLES**  
**Bengals:** Hill versus Mixon got derailed by injury, and Bernard's return adds him to the mix. ... K Randy Bullock made a 53-yard field goal, while rookie Jake Elliott was wide right from 45 yards, his first miss of the preseason. Redskins: Zach Brown and Mason Foster again started at inside linebacker, leaving Will Compton to play with the second team.  
**QUOTABLE**  
**Ross:** "This is my first week so I've still got a lot of growing to do, a lot of learning to do." Gruden on Cousins' attempt to tackle Burfict: "To let a guy score a touchdown on our home field is unacceptable, so I'm happy he did that." — AP



LOS ANGELES: Milwaukee Brewers' Travis Shaw, second from right, tries to avoid a tag by Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Yasmani Grandal, second from left, as he tries to score on a single by Domingo Santana while home plate umpire Gabe Morales, left, watches along with Neil Walker, center, and Yu Darvish, of Japan, during the third inning of a baseball game, Sunday in Los Angeles. — AP

BASEBALL

# STANTON HITS 50 HR TO HELP MARLINS BEAT PADRES

MIAMI: Giancarlo Stanton hit his 50th home run to break an eighth-inning tie, helping the Miami Marlins sweep the San Diego Padres with a 6-2 victory on Sunday. Stanton became the first National League player to reach 50 homers since Prince Fielder hit 50 for Milwaukee in 2007. Stanton's 17th homer in August tied him for the second-most in MLB history in the month, behind Rudy York's 18 in 1937. With the score 2-all, Dee Gordon singled to lead off the eighth. Stanton then drove a 2-1 pitch from Clayton Richard (6-13) into the hedge in center field. The All-Star slugger also walked, doubled home a run and singled in four plate appearances, hiking his average to .296. He increased his RBI total to 108, a career high. Dan Straily, Kyle Barraclough (5-1) and two other pitchers combined on a seven-hitter. The Marlins' three-game sweep and fourth consecutive victory overall gave them 13 wins in the past 16 games.

### TWINS 7, BLUE JAYS 2

Byron Buxton homered three times and set a career high with five RBIs, powering the Twins to the win. Buxton had four hits, scored four runs and stole a base in his first career multi-homer game. Kyle Gibson (8-10) pitched into the seventh inning as Minnesota earned a rare series victory north of the border. Coming into the day, the Twins had a half-game lead over the Angels and Mariners in the race for the second AL wild card. Minnesota has won a major league-best 15 games since Aug. 6. Nori Aoki homered for the Blue Jays, who have dropped seven of nine. Joe Biagini (3-9) allowed five runs and nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

### INDIANS 12, ROYALS 0

Yan Gomes hit a grand slam to highlight Cleveland's nine-run second inning, and the AL Central-leading Indians completed a three-game shutout sweep. Carlos Carrasco (13-6) allowed six hits in seven innings, and the Indians, who haven't given up a run in 28 innings, outscored the Royals

20-0 in the series. It's the first time Cleveland has posted three straight shutouts since 1956. Kansas City hasn't scored in 34 consecutive innings, a team record and the longest drought in the majors this season. Royals left-hander Eric Skoglund (1-2) was charged with seven runs and seven hits in 1 1/3 innings.

### PHILLIES 6, CUBS 3

Rookie Rhys Hoskins homered for the fifth straight game and made a diving catch to start a game-changing triple play in the fifth inning, leading Philadelphia to the victory. Nick Williams also connected for the Phillies, who have gone deep in nine straight games, hitting 20 homers over that span. Hoskins led off the eighth with a drive to left-center to give him 11 home runs in his first 18 games, becoming the fastest in major league history to reach 11 homers. Hoskins, who has 24 RBIs, was called up from Triple-A Lehigh Valley on Aug. 10. Nick Pivetta (5-9) allowed three runs in five innings to get the win. Hector Neris worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save. Anthony Rizzo drove in two runs for the NL Central-leading Cubs. John Lackey (10-10) yielded five runs, four earned, and six hits in five innings.

### BREWERS 3, DODGERS 2

Jimmy Nelson took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and the Brewers beat Yu Darvish in his return from the disabled list. Hernan Perez homered and Domingo Santana had two hits and an RBI for Milwaukee, which took two of three at Dodger Stadium. The Brewers pulled within two games of the first-place Cubs in the NL Central. Los Angeles had gone 19-0-3 in series since dropping two of three games at home against Washington from June 5-7. Nelson (10-6) was charged with two runs in 6 2/3 innings. Corey Knebel worked the ninth for his 29th save. Darvish (8-10) lasted only five innings.

### YANKEES 10, MARINERS 1

Masahiro Tanaka finally flourished under

the sun, Starlin Castro had four hits and the Yankees took advantage of a record five errors by the Mariners in the first inning. Mariners shortstop Jean Segura committed three early miscues - two on one play. Third baseman Kyle Seager and left fielder Ben Gamel also botched balls as the Yankees scored six runs, one earned, in the first inning against Andrew Albers (2-1). That made it an unusually easy afternoon for Tanaka (10-10), who entered 0-6 with an 11.81 ERA in seven starts during the day this season. He struck out 10 while pitching seven innings of one-run ball. New York took two of three in the series and moved within 2 1/2 games of first-place Boston in the AL East after Baltimore completed a three-game sweep at Fenway Park with a 2-1 victory. Seattle's five errors were the most in an inning in club history. The previous major league team to make five errors in one inning was the 1977 Chicago Cubs, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

### ORIOLES 2, RED SOX 1

Adam Jones and Trey Mancini hit back-to-back RBI doubles against Doug Fister in the first inning, and the Orioles held on for a three-game sweep of the AL East-leading Red Sox. One outing after his shocking one-hitter, in which he gave up a leadoff homer and held the Indians hitless the rest of the way, Fister (3-7) again struggled in the first inning before settling down. But this time the Red Sox couldn't erase the early deficit, stranding 13 and batting 1 for 13 with runners in scoring position. It was the fourth straight loss for Boston, matching its longest losing streak of the season. Baltimore's Wade Miley (8-10) allowed one run in five-plus innings. Brad Brach got the last five outs for his 17th save as the Orioles won their fourth in a row.

### ASTROS 7, ANGELS 5

Brian McCann tripled with the bases loaded in the eighth inning, rallying Houston to the road win. Jose Altuve sparked the winning rally with a two-out single against Cam Bedrosian (3-3). Josh Reddick then singled and Yuli Gurriel walked before McCann's drive just got over a leaping Mike Trout in center field, giving Houston a 7-5 lead. The Angels loaded the bases against Ken Giles in the ninth, but designated hitter Albert Pujols flied out to center field to end the game. Joe Musgrove (6-8) got the win and Giles earned his 26th save.

### DIAMONDBACKS 11, GIANTS 0

Patrick Corbin pitched seven-plus innings in his fourth straight win, J.D. Martinez homered twice and Arizona pulled away for the victory. Paul Goldschmidt, Martinez and Daniel Descalso hit consecutive homers in Arizona's nine-run eighth inning. The Diamondbacks swept the three-game series and have won six of seven, maintaining a 1 1/2-game lead over Colorado for the top NL wild card. Corbin (12-11) allowed five hits and struck out eight. Giants starter Chris Stratton (2-3) struck out 10 in six innings. He allowed two

runs and four hits. San Francisco has lost four of five to fall to 52-80.

### ATHLETICS 8, RANGERS 3

Matt Olson and Matt Chapman hit consecutive homers in the second inning, and the Athletics beat the Rangers to complete a three-game sweep. Shin-Soo Choo hit his 16th home run and the Rangers added an unearned run, but managed little else against Jharel Cotton (7-10) and three relievers. Blake Treinen retired five batters for his seventh save. The loss dropped Texas three games behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card. Rangers right-hander A.J. Griffin (6-5) was charged with three runs and five hits in 3 1/3 innings.

### METS 6, NATIONALS 5, 1st game

### NATIONALS 5, METS 4, 2nd game

Sean Doolittle allowed a run before improving to 13-for-13 in save opportunities with Washington and the Nationals took advantage of four straight walks by Mets pitchers to salvage a doubleheader split. Doolittle gave up an RBI single to Jose Reyes with two outs in the ninth, but then got Juan Lagares to line out to left to stay perfect in save chances since a mid-July trade from Oakland. Tanner Roark (11-8) pitched six innings of three-run ball and Adam Lind had a homer and two RBIs for Washington in the nightcap. Anthony Rendon and Wilmer Difo each added two hits, and Washington took advantage of four straight walks — three by reliever Hansel Robles (7-5) — in the sixth inning to force a split of the four-game series. Amed Rosario hit a solo homer in the eighth inning to lift New York to a win in the first game. Jerry Blevins (6-0) got the win and A.J. Ramos worked two innings for his 25th save in 27 chances. Joe Blanton (2-3) got the loss.

### RAYS 3, CARDINALS 2, 10 INNINGS

Logan Morrison hit his second homer of the game in the 10th inning, sending Tampa Bay to the road win. Morrison drove a 97-mph fastball from Sam Tuivailala (3-3) into the right-center field bleachers with one out in the 10th for his 31st homer. Sergio Romo (3-1) got three outs and Alex Colome worked a scoreless 10th for his major league-leading 39th save in 44 chances. All five runs in the game were scored on solo homers. Kolten Wong and Matt Carpenter connected for St. Louis.

### ROCKIES 3, BRAVES 0

Jon Gray pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning and Mark Reynolds hit a two-run homer, leading Colorado to the victory. Gerardo Parra had two hits and scored two runs as Colorado took two of three from Atlanta for its first road series win since also winning two of three at Washington from July 29-30. Gray (6-3) struck out seven and walked two. Jake McGee worked the ninth for his third save. Mike Foltynewicz (10-10) lost his fourth straight start despite allowing only one run and four hits in five innings.

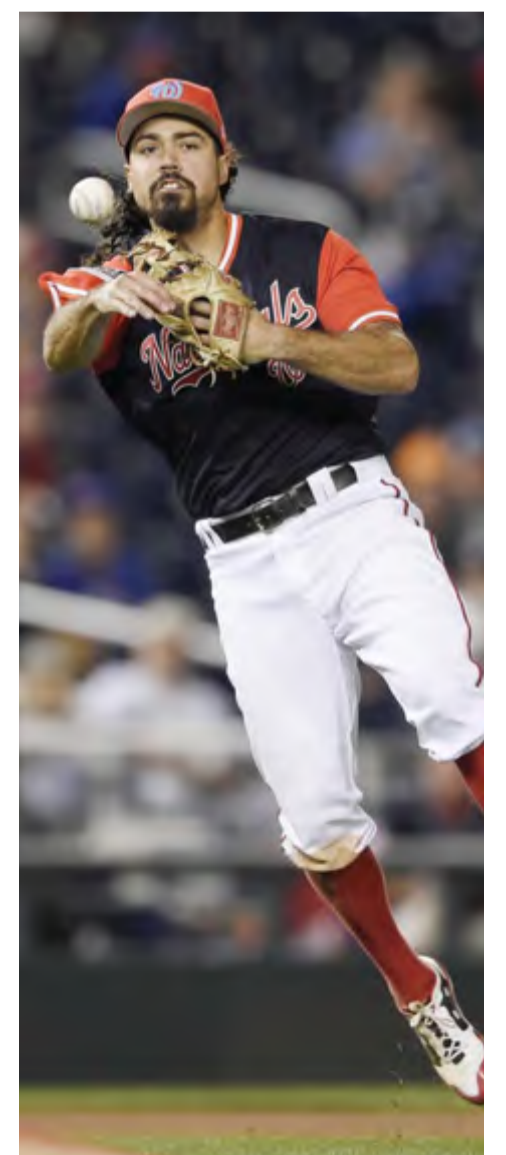
### WHITE SOX 7, TIGERS 1

White Sox right-hander Lucas Giolito

threw seven scoreless innings to earn his first major league victory. Giolito (1-1) allowed three hits in his second start with the White Sox after they acquired him in a December trade with Washington. Matt Davidson homered and Yolmer Sanchez had three hits for the White Sox, who have won four of five. Ian Kinsler hit his 14th home run for the Tigers, who lost for the 16th time in 21 games. Matthew Boyd (5-8) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings.

### PIRATES 5, REDS 2

John Jaso and Starling Marte each drove in two runs as Pittsburgh earned its second straight win. A.J. Schugel (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Felipe Rivero got three outs for his 16th save. The last-place Reds left 11 runners on base, including three in the ninth, while slipping to 2-4 on their nine-game homestand. Reds rookie Tyler Mahle (0-1) allowed three runs and four hits in five innings in his first major league start. He walked four and hit a batter. — AP



WASHINGTON: Washington Nationals third baseman Anthony Rendon throws to first to get out New York Mets' Travis Taijeron during the seventh inning of the second baseball game of a split doubleheader, Sunday, in Washington. — AP

## MLB Results/Standings

Washington 5, NY Mets 4; Milwaukee 3, LA Dodgers 2; Arizona 11, San Francisco 0; Oakland 8, Texas 3; Houston 7, LA Angels 5; Tampa Bay 3, St. Louis 2 (10 innings); Chicago White Sox 7, Detroit 1; Baltimore 2, Boston 1; Philadelphia 6, Chicago Cubs 3; Colorado 3, Atlanta 0; NY Mets 6, Washington 5; Cleveland 12, Kansas City 0; Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 2; Miami 6, San Diego 2; Minnesota 7, Toronto 2; NY Yankees 10, Seattle 1.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	78	51	.605
Boston	73	57	.562	Miami	66	63	.512
NY Yankees	70	59	.543	Atlanta	57	71	.445
Baltimore	65	65	.500	NY Mets	57	73	.438
Tampa Bay	65	67	.492	Philadelphia	48	81	.372
Toronto	61	69	.469	Chicago Cubs	69	60	.535
Central Division				Chicago Cubs	69	60	.535
Cleveland	73	56	.566	Milwaukee	68	63	.519
Minnesota	67	63	.515	St. Louis	65	65	.500
Kansas City	64	65	.496	Pittsburgh	63	68	.481
Detroit	56	73	.434	Cincinnati	55	76	.420
Chicago White Sox	52	77	.403	Western Division			
Western Division				LA Dodgers	91	38	.705
Houston	79	51	.608	Arizona	73	58	.557
Seattle	66	65	.504	Colorado	71	59	.546
LA Angels	66	65	.504	San Diego	57	73	.438
Texas	64	66	.492	San Francisco	52	80	.394
Oakland	58	72	.446				





# Sports

Sharapova's Grand Slam return steals US Open spotlight



Kylian Mbappe on verge of stunning PSG move



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STANTON HITS 50 HR TO HELP MARLINS BEAT PADRES

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BARCELONA: Barcelona's new signing Ousmane Dembele, right, and FC Barcelona's president Josep Maria Bartomeu pose for the media during official presentation at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. Barcelona is shoring up its attack following Neymar's departure by buying Ousmane Dembele from Borussia Dortmund in a deal that could reach 147 million euros (about \$173 million). —AP

## DEMBELE AVOIDS COMPARISON WITH NEYMAR

MADRID: Newly-signed Barcelona forward Ousmane Dembele said there is a long way to go before he can be compared to Neymar, as he was officially introduced by the Catalan club yesterday. The 20-year-old Dembele tried to avoid any parallels with the Brazilian star who left in a world-record transfer to Paris Saint-Germain in the offseason.

"There is a difference between me and Neymar," Dembele said through a translator. "He is one of the best players in the world, he is excellent. I'm young, I've only played two seasons as a professional. I'm trying to learn every

day, I'm trying to improve." Dembele said he was fulfilling a dream by joining the club he cheered for since he was a child, and that he was looking forward to playing alongside Lionel Messi.

"I want to learn from him," he said. "He is a fantastic player, the best in history. It will be an honor to play in his team. I want to see how he plays, I want to see what he does on the field and off the field. I'm here to learn."

Barcelona paid 105 million euros (\$125 million) to sign Dembele from Borussia Dortmund, plus possible add-ons that could reach 147 million euros (\$175 million) and would make the

Frenchman the second-highest transfer in soccer history. "It's not a pressure," he said. "The market has changed. What is important is that I do my job on the field. I'm not going to be affected by the amount of the transfer."

Barcelona said more than 17,000 fans were at the Camp Nou Stadium to get their first look at Dembele in a presentation that was delayed by approximately two hours because of a bureaucratic issue that was keeping the youngster from signing the new contract. Dembele underwent a medical before finally signing the contract alongside Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu.

He changed from his suit into the team's No. 11 shirt that Neymar used to wear, then greeted the crowd before doing a few tricks with the ball and exchanging passes with members of the club's youth squads. He also received the keys to the car he was awarded from one of the team's sponsors. Before his first press conference as a Barcelona player, Dembele posed with the team's shirt along with his family. Dembele's five-year contract has a buyout clause of 400 million euros (\$478 million). He was signed after Neymar left for PSG in a deal worth more than 220 million euros (\$262 million) just before the start of the

season. Barcelona initially tried to sign Philippe Coutinho from Liverpool but negotiations did not develop. Barcelona sporting director Robert Fernandez did not dismiss the possibility that Coutinho may still arrive, saying that the club was still negotiating to bring one or two players before the end of the transfer window on Friday.

Barcelona had already added forward Gerard Deulofeu, who was with Everton but used to play for the team's youth squads, and Brazil midfielder Paulinho, who was playing in China.

Barcelona won its first two games in the Spanish league. — AP



NILAI: Malaysia's Muhamad Azizul Hasni Awang competes in the sprint men's qualifying cycling heat of the 29th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in Nilai yesterday. — AFP

## CHAMPION 'ROCKETMAN' POCKETS RECORD-EQUALLING 111TH GOLD

NILAI: Track cycling world champion Azizulhasni Awang claimed Malaysia's record-equalling 111th gold medal at the Southeast Asian Games yesterday in another procession day for the hosts. Azizulhasni, the world keirin champion who is nicknamed "Pocket Rocketman" held off compatriot Mohammad Shah Firdaus Sahrom in an assured ride to win the men's sprint final.

As Azizulhasni celebrated with his wife and children, the National Velodrome in Nilai went wild as it was confirmed that Malaysia had matched their 2001 national record of 111 gold medals.

Malaysia now looks set to rubber-stamp their victory on the medals table today, the penultimate and busiest day of the competition, when 60 gold medals are on offer. Malaysia won three golds in track cycling, while in the diving pool Olympic silver-medallist Pandelega Rinong showed her class with victory in the 10m platform event. In another wildly successful day for the hosts, Amy Kwan secured their 100th gold with her ribbon victory in rhythmic gymnastics-in which Malaysian

won all five titles. Malaysia also scooped up pencak silat, taekwondo, squash and field hockey wins, and were assured of women's singles badminton gold when Soniia Cheah and Goh Jin Wei both reached the final.

Thailand beat Indonesia by 23 runs to win the women's T20 cricket competition, on a what was also a medal-laden day for the Thais who won six golds.

**NO TROUBLE**

Meanwhile, organisers yesterday played down fears that trouble might erupt at the men's football finals and insisted the multisport event was going smoothly despite a string of mishaps.

Malaysia are set to play Thailand today for the men's football gold medal, in one of the most hotly anticipated fixtures of the Games. But there have already been problems surrounding football matches. Malaysian fans came under fire for chanting "Singapore dogs" when their side played the city-state and two Myanmar fans were beaten up. Football has caused trouble at previous SEA Games-there was

a deadly stampede in the final at the Jakarta games in 2011. But SEA Games Federation president Tunku Imran Tuanku Ja'afar played down concerns of possible trouble on Tuesday, noting fans in the semi-finals had been "very well-behaved".

Low Beng Choo, secretary of the Games' sports and technical committee, told reporters sports officials had already met representatives of Malaysian fan groups before the semi-finals. "I don't think we need to meet them again... we've reached an understanding," she said.

The Games-which bring together athletes from 11 nations-have been hit by a string of problems, from athletes getting food poisoning, to an upside-down flag that caused fury in Indonesia and squash players from Myanmar being injured in a bus crash. But Tunku Imran rejected criticism that the event had not gone well, insisting overall the organisers had got a "very good final result". However he also revealed that the number of Malaysian athletes who had fallen ill in an outbreak of food poisoning had risen to 30, up from 16 cases previously reported.—AFP

## SHAKIB FIVE FOR 68 HELPS BANGLADESH 88-RUN LEAD

DHAKA: Left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan became only the fourth bowler to take five wickets in an innings against all nine test nations as Bangladesh took an 88-run lead against Australia in the series-opening Test yesterday. Shakib returned figures of 5-68 to help his side dismiss Australia for 217 after which Bangladesh ended the second day on 45-1.

Opener Tamim Iqbal was batting on 30 with nightwatchman Tajjul Islam yet to open the account. Trailing by 43 runs in its first innings, Australia got the lone success in the penultimate over of day two when left arm spinner Ashton Agar dismissed Soumya Sarkar for 15. Usman Khawaja completed the catch in the third attempt at long-on to ensure Bangladesh wouldn't be unscathed.

Shakib was aided by offspinner Mehidy Hasan who finished with 3-62. "Any lead would be competitive in this wicket," Mehidy said. "You saw us taking a lead despite scoring just 260 runs on the board. We have many batsmen to bat still in the second innings, so I think we have the edge."

"Our bowlers did extremely well. Shakib Al Hasan has been exceptional. Tajjul and me supported him. Our plan was to keep the ball in right place." Shakib ended the resistance of Pat Cummins, removing him for 25 straight after tea and then took the wicket of Josh Hazlewood to complete the five-for.

He joined an elite list which consists of Sri Lankan spinners Muttiah Muralitharan and Rangana Herath, and South African fast bowler Dale Steyn. Cummins and Ashton Agar stalled Bangladesh's progress to steer Australia to 193-8 at tea, combining 49 off 143. However, in the first over after tea, Shakib got Cummins to end the stubborn partnership. Cummins scored 25 off 95 with one four and one six. Agar took the onus and added another valuable 24-run with Hazlewood (5). Agar was not out on 41 off 97, hitting two fours and one six.

"I believe that we can chase anything because I think we can bowl them out pretty quickly tomorrow," Agar said. "It's going to be hard, any lead is competitive out there at the moment with the way the wicket's going, but I'm sure our batters will all learn from our first innings."

Cummins got a life on 11 as Shafiqul Islam put down an easy chance off Shakib's delivery. Bangladesh had a genuine chance of wrapping up the Australian innings when Shakib removed Glenn Maxwell for 23. But the resistance came from Agar and Cummins who survived for 90 minutes before tea on the tricky wicket. Hasan broke through right after lunch having dismissed Matthew Wade for 5 but Maxwell posed a threat until he was stumped by Mushfiqur Rahim.

Shakib had ended Australian opener Matthew Renshaw's watchful innings in the over before lunch to give Bangladesh the upper hand. Renshaw survived almost two sessions, facing 94 balls for his 45 runs while Australia lost five wickets, until he edged to Soumya Sarkar at slip. Hasan struck early, after Australia

resumed day two at 18-3, when he dismissed skipper Steven Smith (8) to make the total 33-4. Renshaw and Peter Handscomb (33) resisted the Bangladesh spinners on a tricky wicket in a 69-run fifth-wicket stand and appeared to be settling in, despite Renshaw getting reprieves on 14 and 42. But left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam got a vital breakthrough with a ball that kept low and trapped Handscomb lbw. —AP

### SCOREBOARD

**DHAKA:** Scoreboard at stumps on day two of the opening Test between Bangladesh and Australia at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday:

**Bangladesh first innings 260** (Shakib Al Hasan 84, Tamim Iqbal 71; P. Cummins 3-63, N. Lyon 3-79, A. Agar 3-46)

**Australia first innings** (overnight 18-3, M. Renshaw 6 not out, S. Smith 3 not out)

D. Warner lbw b Mehedi	8
M. Renshaw c Soumya b Shakib	45
U. Khawaja run out (Mushfiqur/Soumya)	1
N. Lyon lbw b Shakib	0
S. Smith b Mehedi	8
P. Handscomb lbw b Tajjul	33
G. Maxwell st Mushfiqur b Shakib	23
M. Wade lbw b Mehedi	5
A. Agar not out	41
P. Cummins b Shakib	25
J. Hazlewood c Imrul b Shakib	5
Extras (b15, lb3, w5)	23
Total (all out; 74.5 overs)	217

Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Warner), 2-14 (Khawaja), 3-14 (Lyon), 4-33 (Smith), 5-102 (Handscomb), 6-117 (Renshaw), 7-124 (Wade), 8-144 (Maxwell), 9-193 (Cummins), 10-217 (Hazlewood)

Bowling: Shafiqul 6-0-21-0, Mehedi 26-6-62-3, Shakib 25-7-68-5, Tajjul 8-1-32-1, Mustafizur 8-3-13-0, Nzair 1-0-3-0

**Bangladesh 2nd innings**

Tamim Iqbal not out	30
Soumya Sarkar c Khawaja b Agar	15
Tajjul Islam not out	0
Extras	0
Total (one wicket, 22 overs)	45

Fall of wickets: 1-43 (Soumya Sarkar)

To bat: Imrul Kayes, Sabbir Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nasir Hossain, Mehedi Hasan, Shafiqul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman

Bowling (to date): Hazlewood 3-1-3-0, Cummins 2-0-5-0, Lyon 9-3-11-0, Maxwell 3-0-17-0, Agar 5-0-9-1.



# Kuwait Times 55 BUSINESS

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Wall St edges up,  
dollar falls to  
16-month low

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Chinese seek 'Silk Road'  
riches in Pakistan

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Original 1960's Gulf  
Air uniform sketch  
donated to the airline

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## KUWAIT CREDIT GROWTH AT 3.6% IN JUNE

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An Egyptian farmer poses with mangoes at a field in Wadi Al-Natroun area in Al-Beheira Governorate. —AFP

## IT'S A DONE DEAL: AMAZON TAKES OVER WHOLE FOODS

### COMPANY CUTS PRICES ON GROCERIES AT WHOLE FOODS

**NEW YORK:** Amazon completed its \$13.7 billion takeover of organic grocer Whole Foods yesterday, taking quick aim at the chain's "Whole Paycheck" image and bringing it in line with Amazon's practice of keeping prices low to lock in customer loyalty. Beyond lowering prices on organic avocados, eggs and kale, it also means Whole Foods brands will be available on Amazon's site. The company aims to make Amazon Prime the rewards program for Whole Foods customers, and offer members special discounts. The deal could also spur big changes in how people shop for groceries.

In Amazon's first official day running Whole Foods yesterday, the online giant slashed some food prices. Almond butter went from \$7.99 to \$6.99 a jar. Organic Fuji apples went from \$3.49 to \$1.99 per pound. Organic rotisserie chickens went from \$13.99 to \$9.99 each. A dozen organic eggs now cost \$3.99 instead of \$4.29. The list goes on and also includes organic avocados, butter, salmon, and tilapia.

While the new price cuts aren't about to lose Whole Foods its "Whole Paycheck" moniker anytime soon, they make the cost of shopping there a bit - and only a very little bit - less prohibitive. In addition to lowering prices on foodstuffs, Amazon seems to be running another sale, the "pick of the season," at its new grocery chain. Here's what you need to know:

#### What Amazon wants from whole foods

It gives Amazon more than 465 physical stores in the US, Canada and the UK. Before

the acquisition, Amazon had a small brick-and-mortar presence with less than a dozen bookstores, a prototype convenience store in Seattle and pickup locations in some cities near college campuses. The tie-up may also give the Seattle-based company valuable data on how people shop in stores, where the vast majority of retail sales still take place. Amazon is an expert in using data on past purchases and browsing to offer suggestions that might make people buy more, and could start applying that in stores as well as online.

Whole Foods, meanwhile, gets to exhale. Before the deal, the chain was under intense pressure from shareholders to improve its financial results and figure out how to stop customers from going to lower-priced supermarkets to buy natural foods. Whole Foods CEO John Mackey, who will stay in that role, said Amazon's history of innovation could transform Whole Foods from "the class dunce" to "valedictorian."

#### What will change for shoppers

Amazon already lowered prices at Whole Foods yesterday on a range of kitchen staples, including ground beef and rotisserie chicken. Whole Foods was just starting to test a loyalty program. But soon, shoppers at all stores will be able to tap Amazon's \$99-a-year Prime loyalty program to get discounts at stores. And they will eventually be able to buy some Whole Foods products from Amazon.com. Lockers will be added in some locations so



**NEW YORK:** Amazon's Echo and Echo Dot appear on sale at a Whole Foods Market in New York yesterday. —AP

Amazon shoppers can pick up e-commerce orders or return items they don't want.

Amazon said more changes are coming, but didn't give details. Those that watch the industry expect it to push further into grocery

deliveries, among other things. Whole Foods stores can serve as new distribution points for the AmazonFresh delivery service, allowing Amazon to expand where it offers home deliveries. That could include an expansion of

ready-to-cook meal packages it's been testing in selected markets, including Seattle.

#### What it means for the competition

Shares of supermarkets took a hit when the deal was announced in June, and again when Amazon said last week that it planned to cut prices at Whole Foods. Rivals are scrambling to keep up: Kroger is testing online grocery delivery in several cities. And Walmart, the nation's largest grocer, is expanding its online grocery ordering and store-curb pickup to more stores. Last week, Walmart said it is joining forces with Google to let customers order goods with their voice on Google-run smartphones and other devices.

#### How the deal went through

Despite Amazon's dominance online, Walmart remains the leading retailer overall, with more than three times Amazon's retail revenue. A union that represents food-industry workers had asked the Federal Trade Commission to examine the deal carefully, saying it could hurt competition, but the US regulator didn't see it that way.

The FTC said last week that it conducted an investigation to see if the acquisition lessened competition and "decided not to pursue" the matter. Typically, deals that bring two direct competitors together raise flags with regulators, but Amazon - despite its online dominance - doesn't currently have a big groceries business. —AP

## KHOSROWSHAHI TO LEAD UBER

**DETROIT:** Expedia CEO Dara Khosrowshahi has been named Uber's top executive, taking the difficult job of mending the dysfunctional ride-hailing giant and turning it from money-losing behemoth to a profitable company. Uber's fractured eight-member board voted to hire Khosrowshahi late Sunday, capping three days of meetings and the withdrawal of once-top candidate Jeffery Immelt, former CEO and still chairman of General Electric, two people briefed on the decision said. They didn't want to be identified because the decision had not been officially announced as of Sunday night.

Khosrowshahi has been CEO of Expedia since August of 2015. The online booking site is one of the largest travel agencies in the world. He will replace ousted CEO Travis Kalanick and faces the difficult task of changing Uber's culture that has included sexual harassment and allegations of deceit and corporate espionage.



Expedia's CEO Dara Khosrowshahi

onage. Uber also is losing millions every quarter as it continues to expand and invest in self-driving cars. The company currently is being run by a 14-person group of managers and is without multiple top executive positions that will be filled by Khosrowshahi.

Khosrowshahi has served as a member of Expedia's board since it was spun off from IAC/InterActiveCorp. two

years ago. An engineer who trained at Brown University, Khosrowshahi helped to expand IAC's travel brands which were combined into Expedia, the company's website says.

He also serves on the boards of Fanatics Inc. and The New York Times Co. He immediately will face troubles on many fronts, including having to deal with multiple board factions that had once pushed Immelt and Hewlett Packard Enterprise CEO Meg Whitman. Several factions of the board are suing each other. Whitman, an investor in Uber, denied multiple times publicly that she was interested in the job.

Although she spoke to some board members remotely Friday night, they could not guarantee an end to their infighting or that Kalanick would not become board chairman, said another person with knowledge of the board discussions. That person also didn't want to be identified because board discussions are supposed to be private. — AP

## US TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS; RETAIL INVENTORIES FALL

**WASHINGTON:** The US goods trade deficit increased in July as exports fell, suggesting that trade would make a modest contribution to economic growth in the third quarter.

The Commerce Department said yesterday the goods trade gap increased 1.7 percent to \$65.1 billion last month. Exports declined 1.3 percent, weighed down by an 8.0 percent tumble in shipments of motor vehicles. There were also decreases in exports of consumer goods last month. Capital goods exports rose 1.5 percent.

"Early on in the third-quarter data cycle, we think trade will be a slightly positive factor for growth during the quarter," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan in New York. "With the July data now in hand for capital goods shipments

and related trade flows, we think real equipment spending will be strong in the third quarter." Imports fell 0.3 percent, reflecting a 2.8 percent drop in motor vehicle imports as well as a 1.7 percent decline in industrial supplies. Capital goods imports rose 2.0 percent last month and imports of consumer goods dipped 0.1 percent.

"The readings on consumer and capital goods imports are consistent with our view of ongoing expansion in US economic activity, led by household and business spending," said Michael Gapen, chief economist at Barclays Capital in New York. The government will publish its comprehensive trade report, which includes services, next week. Trade added nearly two-tenths of a percentage point to the economy's 2.6 percent

annualized growth rate in the second quarter. The Commerce Department also reported yesterday that whole-sale inventories increased 0.4 percent in July after rising 0.6 percent in June. However, retail inventories fell 0.2 percent after advancing 0.6 percent in June. Retail inventories, excluding motor vehicles and parts, the component that goes into the calculation of gross domestic product also fell 0.2 percent last month after rising 0.5 percent in June.

Despite July's soft inventory data, economists remained optimistic that inventory investment would contribute to growth in the third quarter. Inventory investment had a neutral impact on second-quarter GDP after slicing 1.46 percentage points from output in the first three months of the year. — Reuters











# WHEN EXECUTIVES THROW THEMSELVES IN WITH THE WOLVES

**ERNSTBRUNN:** "When they lick your face, keep your mouth closed. They have long tongues," Kurt Kotschal tells the group before they enter the wolf enclosure, soliciting a few nervous chuckles. But for the participants in this unusual executive coaching course in Austria, there are more worrying parts of the animals' anatomy. Their teeth, for example. Eyeing the group with curiosity-or is it hunger? -- are Nanuk and Una, two timber wolves reaching easily to waist height. Everything about them is big, from their paws to their heads to their mouths. "I'm a bit apprehensive," confides one participant.

Like every time, the encounter between the furry predators and the half-dozen humans passes off peacefully. The people pet the wolves-"Not the head," warn the keepers-and get sniffed back in return. The location is the Wolf Science Center, a unique institution in Ernstbrunn north of Vienna that compares and contrasts the behavior and smartness of wolves and dogs, and also hosts training courses like this. Co-founded by Kotschal, the centre is

home to 17 timber wolves from North America, Russia and Europe hand-reared from the age of 10 days to get them used to humans-although tame they are not. Also here, enthusiastically bounding around with wagging tails in separate enclosures, are 13 dogs from animal shelters brought up the same way.

### What big paws you have

But today it's about teaching a different kind of mammal with a big bite-business executives and senior managers-to learn from these awe-inspiring animals. The aim is to give people an exploration of what it means to develop "leadership presence", to develop one's "animal self" and to "communicate on a primal level", said Ian McGarry, co-creator of the "Talking with Wolves" program. "It doesn't matter who you are-you can be the CEO of an organization, you could be the janitor. The wolf really doesn't care," McGarry, a British psychologist said. "So when you walk into the wolf enclosure your position, your

status, who you are in your own business world is completely irrelevant," the 50-year-old said.

He's right of course. Nanuk and Una, a bit docile with the summer heat, couldn't give a hoot as they slink up and check out the intruders-who include an AFP reporter and a camera-woman-in their large, leafy pen. And although everyone is quite safe, being in close quarters with a real-life wolf is not for the faint-hearted. The participants relax, but not entirely. "Put out your hand," instructs one of the keepers. The wolves then obediently slap their massive paws-they are considerably bigger than a dog's-onto the waiting palms.

### 'Sensing your body'

The one-day course, which costs 650 euros (\$760) per person, also involves group discussion sessions-people only-on "being present", as well as seeing and listening exercises before another encounter with three livelier adolescent

wolves. "Take your inner vision onto sensing your body, listen to the sounds that aren't there," McGarry instructs the participants standing in a semi-circle, their arms stretched back. Bernhard, an international project manager, is impressed, calling the course "totally great". "At least 50 percent of the success of a project depends on the human factor, and that is exactly what we see here," he said.

"When you are going into managing a project you have to be able to read how people are behaving before they talk. Today I sharpened my senses again." Shirley Smith, a former human resources manager and now a "coach" based in Vienna, said that she overcame her fears-she is scared of dogs-to enjoy a "very special" experience. "The main thing I learned from this workshop is that I'm much stronger than I realized before," she said. "I felt I was meeting a very powerful creature eye to eye. And if the wolf saw me like that then I recognize that when I want to be, I too can be incredibly powerful." — AFP



**ERNSTBRUNN:** Photos show wolves at the Wolf Science Center (WSC) in Ernstbrunn, Austria. The WSC, co-founded by Kotschal in 2008, researches the behaviour and cognition of wolves and dogs. The six packs of between two and four Timber Wolves, as well as its dogs, arrived aged 10 days old and were hand-reared by humans in order to get them used to people. — AFP photos

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS HEALTH DISPARITIES IN APPALACHIA

**FRANKFORT:** The 25 million people who live among the Appalachian mountains have struggled to keep up with health gains of the rest of the nation, falling behind in most major public health indicators, according to a study released recently. The report shows the 13-state region lags the rest of the country in 33 out of 41 population health indicators, including seven of the leading 10 causes of death in the United States. Deaths by poisoning, which include drug overdoses, were 37 percent higher than the rest of the country - a testament to the opioid addiction crisis that has gripped the area for years. Central Appalachia, which is mostly in the eastern portion of Kentucky, was the worst of the worst. It led all other regions of Appalachia in deaths from heart disease, cancer, lung disease, injuries and diabetes.

In the category of "years of potential life lost," a measure of premature deaths, central Appalachia lost more than 11,200 years from 2011 to 2013. No other Appalachian region was above 9,200. "I think it's a wakeup call," said Ben Chandler, president and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, which issued the study along with the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "We are dealing with real challenges in Appalachian Kentucky and the health of the entire state, both economically and physically."

A spokeswoman for Republican Gov Matt Bevin of Kentucky said the report highlights why states "need flexibility to tailor programs like Medicaid to the unique needs of their populations." Bevin has asked the federal government for permission to change the state's Medicaid program by charging premiums to some beneficiaries and requiring some to have jobs in order to keep their benefits. Bevin said such changes would encourage people to be

healthy, while critics said it would make it harder for poor people to obtain health coverage.

The report showed the health of the regions' residents has improved over the years, but it has not kept up with gains elsewhere in the country. The result is a widening disparity that leaders worry is affecting the region's economic potential as it struggles to recover from the decline of the once dominant coal industry. "I'm picturing county commission battles and, you know, town meetings and high school football games and the things that make up life in a small town in Appalachia," said Hilary Heishman, senior program officer with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a native of West Virginia. "I read this and I feel, I can't say I feel it more than other people, but I feel a certain weight to it. It's not just numbers to me."

While the area has some of the worst health problems, it has the least amount of doctors and other medical staff when compared to what's available in the rest of the country. The region's suicide rate is 17 percent higher than the national population and depression among Medicare beneficiaries is 16.7 more frequent than any other part of the country. Despite that, Appalachia has 35 percent fewer mental health providers than everywhere else in the US.

The report was not all bad. It showed Appalachian residents did better than the rest of the country in areas of HIV and chlamydia prevalence, excessive drinking, student-teacher ratios and the percentage of the population under age 65 that is uninsured. Later this year, the advocacy groups plan to release a second report titled, "Bright Spots." That report will highlight 10 Appalachian counties that are bucking the regions' trends and what can be learned from them.—AP

## US INSURER FILLS LAST HOLE IN HEALTH LAW MARKETPLACES

**COLUMBUS:** The lone US county still at risk of leaving shoppers with no choices next year on the federal health law's insurance marketplace has landed an insurer. Ohio-based insurer CareSource will step up to provide coverage in Paulding County, Ohio, in 2018, the company and the state Department of Insurance announced. The most recent national analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation identified Paulding, just south of Toledo, as the final county still at risk of lacking an insurer when 2018 signups begin Nov 1.

About 10 million people, including 11,000 Ohio residents, currently are served through HealthCare.gov and its state counterparts, a system created under the Affordable Care Act. Earlier this year, well over 40 mostly rural counties faced the prospect of having no options for their exchanges next year, but insurers have gradually come forward to fill the gaps. Insurers have been pulling back from the exchanges for a few years now, after getting stung by heavy losses and struggling to attract enough young, healthy customers to balance all the claims they get from people who use their coverage.

Many also cited uncertainty over the future of former President Barack Obama's health care law, which Congress is revisiting - though, so far, without success. Coverage choices have grown particularly thin in rural areas. Those markets are uninviting for insurers because they usually have a smaller, older customer base and a care provider like a hospital system with a dominant market position. That can make it difficult to negotiate payment rates.

Despite those challenges, insurers are expanding to fill holes in these markets because they're getting a nudge from state regulators who don't want to leave their constituents without options. These exchanges offer the only way for customers to buy individual insurance with help from income-based tax credit created by the ACA. "Good, long-term relationships with the insurance commissioner are very important to an insurance company," said health care consultant Robert Laszewski, a former insurance executive.

Some insurers also have figured out they can make money on exchanges by targeting low-income customers, who receive big tax credits to help cover their insurance bills that can both insulate con-

sumers and provide steady revenue to insurers. In Ohio, 20 of 88 counties were threatened with a lack of coverage as insurers withdrew. State officials had previously announced coverage was restored to the other 19. Ohio State Insurance Director Jillian Froment said working through the challenge of covering affected counties has been a priority of her staff in recent weeks.

"There is a lot of uncertainty facing consumers when it comes to health insurance and these announcements will provide important relief," she said. Republican Gov John Kasich has been part of a bipartisan governors' group calling for action in Washington to strike a compromise on the embattled health care law, which many Republicans revile as "Obamacare," in order to stabilize insurance markets. While insurers now have made preliminary plans to sell coverage on the exchanges in every county next year, they still have about a month to back out.

They are worried about the fate of billions of dollars in payments from the government to cover cost-sharing reductions for customers with modest incomes. These payments reimburse insurers for lowering deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses for customers. They are separate from the income-based tax credits that help people buy coverage. The federal government announced last week that it will make these payments for this month, but their future is unclear. President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to end them, and insurers say premiums could soar for some of their plans if this happens.

Even so, CareSource President and CEO Pamela Morris expressed her company's commitment to the exchange. The company had been one of the insurers to cover some other counties that lost their exchange options. "The Marketplace provides vital health care coverage to more than 10.3 million Americans and we want to be a resource for consumers left without options," she said in a statement issued Thursday. "Our decision to offer coverage in the bare counties speaks to our mission and commitment to the Marketplace and serving those who are in need of health care coverage." AP Health Writer Tom Murphy reported from Indianapolis. Data editor Meghan Hoyer contributed from Washington, DC. — AP

# CLINIC

# PAGE

**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
**د. فهد علي المخيزيم**

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
**M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM**

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Dean of the diplomatic corps Abd Elahad Imbaki had recently hosted a farewell dinner in the honor of the ambassador of Burkina Faso to Kuwait, Abu Bakr Koti on the occasion of the end of his diplomatic mission in Kuwait. Many ambassadors and dignitaries attended the event.



## LAPA TO LAUNCH MURAL OF ABDUL HUSSEIN

LOYAC Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA) is currently getting ready to launch a mural of the late Kuwaiti comedian Abdul Hussein Abdul Redha made by number for formative artists under the supervision of the head of LAPA's formative arts department, Amira Behbehani. In this regard, LAPA's president, Farea Al-Saqqaf stressed that the mural is a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for Abdul Redha's art that has had its impact on many generations of the Kuwaiti, GCC and Arab peoples.



## ASSE ORGANIZES LEAD AUDITOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Adding on to its illustrious pathways of educating and empowering its members, American Society of Safety Engineers, (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter organized ISO 14001:2015 Lead Auditor Training Program on July 29, 2017 to August 2, 2017, at Best Western hotel, Mahboula. ASSE- Kuwait Chapter lead by Chairman Fadhel Al-Ali, is a non-profit organization which always strives to excel in providing quality trainings and consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment all across different public and private sectors in Kuwait.

Muhammad Alamgir, President of ASSE Kuwait chapter welcomed the participants. He briefed about the significance of the training seminar and the importance of conducting the training program to help the people get certification in the field of Health, Safety and Environment and wished success to all participants for their endeavor to become an IRCA EMS Lead Auditor. Jahid Thakor, Secretary thanked the participants for their interest shown towards this program and shared upcoming chapter activities.

Anan Yousaf, Head of Training Committee, in his brief address, congratulated the participants for their interest to learn and updating their knowledge and committed to serve the community by providing such training courses for enhancement of professional's skills, he introduced the trainer Ravi Shankar from Dubai. Ravi Shankar (Trainer TUV Middle East W.L.L.) conducted various Lead Auditor trainings on ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and OHSAS 18001 in Middle East and in Asian countries.

Training session was held for five days, on last day Aamir Rasheed Vice president ASSE Kuwait Chapter visited the venue and took feedback from participants. During his closing remarks he thanked the trainer and the participants on successful completion of the session. Twenty ASSE Members utilized this opportunity in Batch-I. ASSE Kuwait Chapter will continue it's strived to do their best for the progress of the society and its members in particular, by organizing such important and remarkable events in future too.



## Winding through the wilds: Road-tripping Norway's west coast

Norway means 'narrow way through the straits', rather apt, given the mighty glacial fjords that lacerate its western coast. Admittedly there's not much that's spellbinding as I roll north out of Bergen. The majesty comes later; for now I'm passing the engineering workshops and other small factories serving the oil and gas industry that has made the city rich again. The charming buildings that surround the harbor are a reminder that Bergen was a successful business centre for many centuries, going back to its days as a Hanseatic port.

I'm riding out in the wonderful, slightly watery, sunshine typical of Norway. As I follow the fjord first east and then north before turning inland again to Voss, the rugged, often vertical countryside begins to work on me, raising thoughts of Vikings and moody gods. Norway's roads, bridges and tunnels are sparkling examples of their builders' skill and tenacity, but they shrink to scratches on the mile-high cliffs if you look up a little. Whoops! Not enough attention on the road and a long frost break is trying to turn my front wheel into oncoming traffic. Norway's main roads are excellent, but not all back roads survive the brutal winters unscathed.



I turn north at Voss and then take Stalheimsleiva, the loop of road which runs between two waterfalls and offers 13 hairpins on its mile-long 20-degree climb to the eponymous hotel. It took seven years to build the whole 6 miles of road, finishing in 1849. The view towards Gudvangen from the hotel is spectacular, with near-vertical cliffs boxing in the narrow green valley bottom.

Not far past Flam, I face a decision. Carry on straight ahead through the world's longest road tunnel, a 16 mile marvel, or take the old road across the top? I've ridden through the tunnel before, so the choice is easy. I don't regret it. There are deep snow banks alongside the 30 mile stretch of narrow, steep and twisting road but its surface is clear and tempts my inner boy racer.

Back at sea level I am speeding along one of the tentacles of Sognefjord. I cross it on a ferry and turn west along its shore before another ferry takes me across to Dragsvik and on to the E39 main road. It's an intoxicating run north and east from here, always either alongside a fjord or crossing a rocky range by hairpins, smooth, long curves and regular blinks of tunnels.

At Grotli I turn west again, and after following the waterside for a while, climb back up to the high, icy country that interrupts the fjords. The drop back down to sea level at Geiranger is a superb stretch of road, which deservedly won a prize at the 1924 World Expo in Paris. Climbing back up from Geiranger is just as impressive. This is Ornesvingen, the Eagle's Road, and it has a wonderful lookout like a long

tongue of concrete at the top. The high valley before Trollstigen is renowned for its strawberries, and the fields stretch as far as I can see. A quick visit to Jordbaestova, a cafe advertising the best strawberry cakes in Norway, and then I reach the top of the Troll's Ladder. I pull in at the car park and walk to the viewing platform. Piles of stones, balanced on one another, dot the rocks. 'The tourists think the trolls like them,' says a local. 'They don't. Anyway, there are no such things as trolls.' I'm not sure about that. There's one outside the futuristic information centre, with its odd looks combining humor and veiled threat.

The brochure about Trollstigen claims only 11 hairpins for the descent. That may be true in the strictest sense, but it feels like a lot more, as my bike takes me over bridges spanning the white water tumbling the 762 meters to the valley floor, and along short straits with steep drops on one side and more sheer rock on the other. Then it's a short run along Romsdalsfjord and up the peninsula that has Alesund at its tip. This is a lovely town, best seen from the hill behind its sprawl around the waterways that define it. — www.lonelyplanet.com









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PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Table listing hospitals such as Sabah Hospital, Amiri Hospital, Maternity Hospital, etc., with their respective phone numbers.

Clinics

Table listing various clinics including Kaizen center, Rawda, Adaliya, Khaldiya, Kaifan, Shamiya, Shuwaikh, etc., with their phone numbers.

Table with columns: GOVERNORATE, PHARMACY, ADDRESS, PHONE. Lists pharmacies across different governorates like Ahmadi, Jahra, Capital, etc.

Table listing international calls with columns for country names and their corresponding phone numbers.

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Contact information: Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817, Fax: (+965) 24348714, www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h...

Weather information including a weather warning table, a station temperature table, a synoptic chart, and a 4-day forecast table.



PRIVATE CLINICS

Table listing private clinics and their specialists, including Ophthalmologists, Plastic Surgeons, Paediatricians, and Endocrinologist.

Table listing private clinics and their specialists, including Family Doctor, Psychiatrists, Gynaecologists & Obstetricians, and General Practitioners.

Table listing private clinics and their specialists, including Dermatologists, Dentists, Neurologists, Gastrologists, and Internists, Chest & Heart.

Table listing private clinics and their specialists, including Physiotherapists & VD, Rheumatologists, and Consultant Cardiologist.

GOSSIP

# Brian Johnson joins Muse on Reading stage



Muse topped off Reading Festival by bringing out AC/DC's Brian Johnson for a cover of 'Back in Black' on Sunday night. The weekend was full of surprise guest appearances, but the last day of the music extravaganza saw the biggest stars come all the way to the town in South England. Grime star Giggs' set on the main stage saw superstar rapper Drake turn up for a rendition of their track 'KMT'. However, as soon as Muse frontman Matt Bellamy declared Brian was "back", the true highlight of the weekend began. Getting to see the rock singer in action is a rare occasion these days as he was ordered by doctors to stop touring or face permanent hearing loss. The 69-year-old singer was in great form at one of his first live appearances since he stepped back from the microphone. At the end of the astounding cover of the classic 1980 song, Brian gave Matt a huge hug, and said: "Thank you so much, thank you boys." Muse wowed Reading performing over 20 songs from their back catalogue, opening with new song 'Dig Down' and closing with 2013's 'Knights Of Cydonia'. Prior to Muse, former Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher took to the stage indulging himself in songs from his forthcoming debut solo album 'As You Were'. He swaggered his way through 'Greedy Soul', 'Bold', 'For What It's Worth', 'You Better Run', and lead single 'Wall of Glass', occasionally accompanied by a pair of maracas. Before 'Bold', Liam joked: "No miming up here mate." The majority of the songs on the album are slow numbers, one of

them being 'Universal Glean', which the 44-year-old rocker restarted, saying: "They don't like this one." Liam closed his set with what everyone wanted to hear; more Oasis songs in the form of 'Be Here Now' and a mass sing-a-long of 'Wonderwall'. Liam was noticeably quiet during the set, sipping from a bottle of water and not his usual beer, perhaps due to the fact he was told he wasn't allowed to swear at Reading's sister festival in Leeds earlier in the weekend. However, he still entertained the audience with the odd joke. When he saw a fan holding up a poster with "WhatsApp Rocky" on it, referring to him calling rapper ASAP Rocky just that, Liam said it was his "finest moment". Other highlights of the final day were Mercury Prize-nominated indie rockers Blossoms who performed before their idol Liam came on. Their biggest songs, 'Honey Sweet', 'This Moment' and 'Charlemagne', were received well, with every word sung right back at them. Other acts who took the main stage by storm were metal band Architects and festival openers The Xcerts who were a last-minute addition to the bill. Jack Daniel's kept festival-goers lubricated over the weekend with their range of Whiskey-based cocktails. The Jack Rocks stage with This Feeling put on a stellar line-up of rising acts including The Spitfires, No Hot Ashes and Surge.

## Drake flew 'seven hours' to perform with Giggs at Reading festival

Drake flew "seven hours" to perform with Giggs at this year's Reading Festival. The 30-year-old singer and songwriter jetted all the way to the UK to make a surprise appearance at the annual music extravaganza on Sunday and stunned crowds when he joined the 'Lock Doh' hitmaker on the main stage to belt out his hit track 'KMT', which features Giggs. Giggs - whose real name is Nathaniel Thomson - revealed he has "only" ever wanted to entertain his fans at Reading festival, and was proud to introduce his "friend" during his set. As he introduced the Canadian hunk - whose full name is Aubrey Graham - Giggs said: "Reading's the only festival that wanted to book me. They've always showed me mad love. I want to bring one of my friends out. He's travelled a long way." And when the dark-haired heartthrob appeared from the wings of the stage, he said: "I came all this way, seven hours, to have this motherfucking party with you. I want to see everybody go crazy, Reading." During the performance of the track from Drake's 'More Life' Giggs stopped rapping briefly before he reloaded the record because he wanted to ensure the duo did the song justice. The 34-year-old rapper said: "This doesn't happen every day. We've got to do this right. We've got to do this properly." "I want to see the moshpit gang," Drake added: "I want to see all the circles right now." However, the 'One Dance' hitmaker did not want to steal all of the attention from Giggs and soon exited the platform to allow the fellow musician to continue with his set. As he left the stage, Drake said: "Reading, I go by the name of Drake. I appreciate you, but today is not about me so please make some noise for this legendary god right here. He goes by the name of holler man Giggs." Giggs continued to wow crowds with 'Look What The Cat Dragged In', 'Talking The Hardest' and 'Whippin' Excursion', whilst earlier in the day he performed 'Man Don't Care', '3 Wheel Ups' and his 2016 hit track from his 'Landlord' LP titled 'Lock Doh'.



## Amy Winehouse had unreleased songs

Amy Winehouse's drummer Troy Miller says there are unreleased songs they worked on together. The 'Rehab' hitmaker tragically died of alcohol poisoning back in 2011, aged just 27, and left behind some musical gems, though Troy says he doesn't feel it is right to release the tracks without Amy because she was so protective of her music. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, he said: "I have mixed feelings about those releases, but at the same time I think if its good music I think that people deserves to hear it, we recorded some stuff in St Lucia and none of that has been purred, as far as I know." The producer - who is working on Jamie Cullum's new record - says the only problem is that getting hold of the recordings could prove difficult as a lot of the studios they worked at have shut down. He continued: "It'll be on people's up drives and some studios that recorded her stuff back in the day are now shut down. I dare say people have got footage or recordings somewhere. In one sense it's a shame to keep it, I know that probably Amy wouldn't have wanted any of it to be put out, just knowing her." Troy says the 'Back to Black' singer was working on music before her death, but turned down the chance to work with him because she likes to have ownership over her work. Asked if it's because she would have wanted the last say on releasing the tracks, he replied: "Yeah, she did tend to be like that. I remember not long before she died I said let's get in the studio and do some writing and she said thanks Troy, but I like to write on my own. I wanna put my own stuff out. She did collaborate a little bit but for the most she wanted to do her own thing. I think for an artist in touch with their emotions they've gotta feel like it's all their own and have ownership over what they do."



## Iero to release new music in 2018

Frank Iero is waiting until next year to release new music. The former My Chemical Romance guitarist is thankful that he can play the music from Frank Iero and The Patience's last record 'Parachutes' after a near-fatal accident in October in Sydney, Australia when his band and publicist were unloading their equipment and a bus collided with them. The 35-year-old bassist and singer is still trying to process the "crazy experience" and work out what it all means before he can begin to express it in musical form. He exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "I'm kicking around a lot of ideas. I feel like in the past nine months I have had a lot of crazy experiences and they've changed me a great deal. I don't know if it's for the better or the worse. I'm just different but I'm trying to figure out what that all means and I think it'd be hard for me to describe that to someone else if I don't know what it is myself. I'm trying to figure it all out. I would say 2018 I will probably start working on it in a more sincere manner. Right now I feel like we're getting to play the songs off 'Parachutes' that I honestly didn't think we would ever get to play. So I'd like to tour on this for as long as humanly possible and then get back to figuring out what's the new thing, like what do I need as an artist to do in order to keep my heart beating."



## Wiig unhappy with Bridesmaids gross-out scene

Kristen Wiig was unhappy with the gross-out scene in 'Bridesmaids'. Although the former 'Saturday Night Live' star and her pal Annie Mumolo wrote the script for the movie, she admitted they did not originally include the scene which sees the central characters develop diarrhoea after eating bad meat but were strongly encouraged to add it in. She told The Hollywood Reporter's 'Awards Chatter' podcast: "When people say, 'Oh, we're gonna give more female-centered movies a chance, you're not reading the fine print, which is, 'Oh, but, they have to be like this.' They want to see women acting like guys. The scene in 'Bridesmaids' was not our idea and it was not in the original script and we didn't love it. It was strongly suggested for us to put that in there. I didn't want to see people sh\*\*\*ing and puking." Meanwhile, Kristen found fame on 'SNL' between 2005 and 2012 and says it feels as if nothing has changed whenever she goes back. She said: "I go back to 'SNL' and it's the same. My dressing room's still upstairs and I feel like I haven't left. But, maybe because I'm on the West Coast now, it feels like I worked there 10 years ago as opposed to just five. The two [sketches] that I think of are the one I did with Kate [McKinnon], the Whiskers, and the QVC one with Cecily [Strong]. We couldn't get through either one of those without laughing. Working that muscle again, and working with some of the same writers that were there when I was, is just so fun. I mean, it's a hard, long week of madness and just laughing so much."



## Justice League reshoots following Snyder's plan

The 'Justice League' reshoots are following Zack Snyder's plan. The 51-year-old filmmaker stepped down from the upcoming DC Comics movie in order to grieve for his daughter Autumn - who died by suicide in March - and replacement director Joss Whedon has been sticking to the ideas laid out by Snyder. According to Mark Hughes at Superhero News: "The amount of content that has been shot and is being shot is still pretty much what they expected and figured was going to be happening... The majority of the footage that you're going to see on the screen is still the footage that was previously shot during principal photography." And although it appears that reshoots have been going on for some time, he insists that the delay has been caused by lining up schedules of the movie's stars. Hughes added "Reshooting and filming requires people's schedules to line up, getting things in order, so it has not been as easy as they expected it to be when this was all being planned months ago." It was previously reported that Whedon will "adhere to the style and tone and the template that Zack set". And Warner Bros Pictures president Toby Emmerich has said: "What they are going through is unimaginable, and my heart - our hearts - go out to them ... The directing is minimal and it has to adhere to the style and tone and the template that Zack set. We're not introducing any new characters. It's the same characters in some new scenes. He's handing the baton to Joss, but the course has really been set by Zack. I still believe that despite this tragedy, we'll still end up with a great movie." It is thought 'Justice League's' November 17 release date will not be affected by Snyder stepping down.



## MACDONALD WANTS KIM KARDASHIAN WEST TO MODEL IN LFW SHOW

Julien Macdonald would love the Kardashian family to model in his London Fashion Week show. The 46-year-old fashion designer is set to showcase his new collection at the annual fashion extravaganza in England's capital next month, and although the star has kept the casting details close to his chest he has admitted he would like a 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star to grace the runway in his glitzy garments, as he has previously worked closely with Kim Kardashian West and Kylie Jenner in the past. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, the creative mastermind said: "[Fashion Week] is two weeks to go. It's a crazy time for designers at the moment. I have clothing and then fashion week on Monday night so that's going to be a star-studded show. Last season we had Hailey Baldwin so that was really, really great. You never know but hopefully I'll get some big talent to close my show. A show with the Kardashians would be nice. I have dressed Kim quite a lot. I like Kylie - I like her, I think she's really good." And the style guru has admitted a member of the Kardashian/Jenner brood starring in his show would mean a lot to him because he is a "big fan" of the family and has even tuned into the 20-year-old's new spin-off show 'Life of Kylie', which first aired earlier this month. He said: "I've been watching her [Kylie's] new show on the E! channel so I'm a big fan of the Kardashians." And Julien - who has recently partnered with McDonald's to create a limited edition bejewelled box for the brand's Signature Collection burgers - has hinted his forthcoming capsule will be "very glamorous and very desirable", and he hopes to see "incredible women" adorning his garments in the future. When asked about the details of the collection, he said: "That's a designer's secret. I can tell you that it will be very glamorous and very desirable and hopefully will be worn by some incredible women over the coming months." — Bang Showbiz

MUSIC & MOVIES



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ryan Gosling, left, and Harrison Ford in a scene from "Blade Runner 2049." — AP photos



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Matt Damon, left, and Noah Jupe in a scene from "Suburbicon."



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Julianne Moore, left, and Matt Damon in a scene from "Suburbicon."

Fall Movie Preview

# Hollywood confronts the Trump era



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ezra Miller, from left, Ben Affleck and Gal Gadot in a scene from "Justice League."



This image released by Lionsgate shows Bryan Cranston, from left, Steve Carell and Laurence Fishburne in a scene from "Last Flag Flying."



This image released by Lionsgate shows Laurence Fishburne, from left, Bryan Cranston and Steve Carell in a scene from "Last Flag Flying."

**F**BI battles with the White House. Revelatory government leaks on the front page. Soldiers haunted by unwinnable wars. Courtroom clashes over civil rights. Movies take years to make, but many of this fall's films may feel almost preternaturally programmed for the President Trump era. Some have been in development for more than a decade, others have been fast-tracked since the election. But moviegoers will soon have no shortage of films offering timely reflections on America and the policies of its president. The fall movie season has much more than politics on its mind. There are a string of major releases - "Blade Runner 2049" (Oct 6), "Thor: Ragnarok" (Nov 3), "Justice League" (Nov 17), "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" (Dec 15) - that many expect will reverse the brutal summer box-office slide. And of course, many Oscar contenders are also lined up, including festival hits "Call Me By Your Name" (Nov 24), "The Florida Project" (Oct 5) and "Mudbound" (Nov 17).

But even the typically all-consuming Oscar horse race might be secondary this fall - and not just because "Dunkirk," "Get Out" and "Wonder Woman" have already emerged as potential awards contenders. Instead, one of the fall's most captivating dramas might be between Hollywood and the White House. Writer-director Peter Landesman ("Concussion") found himself making a film about the FBI battling White House interference while a curiously similar conflict played out between Trump, James Comey and the FBI. His movie, "Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the White House" tells the story of Felt (played by Liam Neeson), the legendary Watergate source known as Deep Throat, who was the No. 2 official at the FBI during the scandal. It's been in the works since 2005.

"This movie could have been made ten years ago or five years ago. The fact that it's coming out this year has a supernatural relevance," said Landesman. The film, which Sony Pictures Classics will release Sept 29, gives a close-up to the man previously seen - in the movies - as the shadowy figure in the parking garage of "All the President's Men." "Mark Felt just wanted to be left alone to do his job, however it turned out," said Landesman. "Jim Comey wanted to do the same thing." Similar parallels may also follow Steven Spielberg's keenly awaited "The Post," (Dec 22).

Spielberg's drama is about The Washington Post's 1971 publishing of the classified Pentagon Papers, which revealed many of the government's lies about the Vietnam War. The film, starring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks, is like an all-star team assembled as Hollywood's response to Trump. The project was announced in March and shot over the summer. Streep, who memorably critiqued the then-president-elect at January's Golden Globes and was then deemed "over-rated" by Trump, is already viewed as all-but-certain Oscar contender.

**Real-life heroes**  
Other timely tales of American heroism are



This image released by Open Road Films shows, from left, Josh Gad, Chadwick Boseman and Sterling K. Brown in a scene from "Marshall."

also rushing to the screen. Clint Eastwood, who has previously voiced support for Trump, is prepping "The 15:17 to Paris" about the 2015 Thalys train attack in France, with the real-life heroes playing themselves: Anthony Sadler, Alex Skarlatos and Spencer Stone. Whether it will be finished in time for 2017 isn't yet clear; no release date has been announced but Eastwood works famously fast.

Several other films are coming that explore the intersection of patriotism and politics. Just as Trump has ordered more troops to the war in Afghanistan, films like Richard Linklater's "Last Flag Flying" will contemplate the human cost of battle. "Last Flag Flying" (Nov. 3), a kind of loosely connected bookend to Hal Ashby's 1973 film "The Last Detail," stars Bryan Cranston, Steve Carell and Laurence Fishburne as Marines reunited to bury a dead son killed in Iraq. The film, a tender and comic road-trip odyssey, isn't overtly political or even a war film; Linklater is skeptical any war film can be anti-war. But it seeks to intimately understand the individual repercussions of war, free of saber-rattling or mythologizing.

"It will mean killing civilians. It will mean dead Americans. It will mean exorbitant costs. It will mean all that. That's what war is," says Linklater. "That's what does worry one about Trump. It's always the guys who didn't fight that want to prove their manhood by launching some bombs and missiles and being a tough guy. Both Republicans and Democrats it's the same. We haven't had a soldier anywhere near leadership in so long."

**Violent and racist**

"Thank You for Your Service" (Oct 27), starring Miles Teller and Haley Bennett, is about three soldiers returning from Iraq, adjusting to civilian life and fighting post-traumatic stress disorder. Other films will recall civil-rights icons. "Marshall" (Oct 13), stars Chadwick Boseman as a young Thurgood Marshall defending a black chauffeur in 1941 against his wealthy socialite employer in

a sexual assault and attempted murder trial. Rob Reiner's "LBJ" (Nov 3) stars Woody Harrelson as the 36th president, taking office after the assassination of John F. Kennedy and passing the Civil Rights Act.

Whether all of these films will resonate any differently in 2017 than they might have another year remains to be seen. George Clooney's "Suburbicon" (Oct 27), which he directed from a script by Joel and Ethan Coen, is about a bucolic 1950s suburb with a violent and racist underbelly. Clooney, who recently announced a grant of \$1 million with his wife Amal to combat hate groups in the wake of Charlottesville, says the film is about out-of-control white-male paranoia. "Trump got elected while we were shooting it," said Clooney. "A bunch of crew members came up to me and said, 'It's too bad it's not coming out today.' And I said, 'Unfortunately these issues never get old.' So, yes, it's timely, but unfortunately it's always timely." — AP



This image released by Open Road Films shows Chadwick Boseman in a scene from "Marshall."



This image released by Open Road Films shows Chadwick Boseman, left, and Sterling K. Brown in a scene from "Marshall."

## French actress, filmmaker Mireille Darc dies at 79

**F**rench actress Mireille Darc, who performed with some of France's leading directors and had a long relationship with actor Alain Delon, has died at 79. French radio Europe-1 and RTL quoted her husband Pascal Deprez as saying she had been in a coma and died yesterday. No other details were released. Darc, with a distinctive blond bob, was long seen as a sex symbol and was a fixture on French screens in the 1960s and 1970s.

She performed in some 50 films, including Jean-Luc Godard's "Weekend" and Yves Robert's "The Tall Blond with One Black Shoe." She turned to television series in the 1990s and directed documentaries. French Culture Minister Francois Nyssen tweeted her praise for "a talented actress, a woman of courage and commitment." — AP



In this March 4, 2011 file photo, French actor Alain Delon and French actress Mireille Darc arrive at the funeral ceremony of French actress Annie Girardot in Paris. — AP

## Year after album, Frank Ocean drops mellow new track

**F**rank Ocean, the introspective singer who has thumbed his nose at music industry conventions, has unexpectedly released a new song, a reflection on relationships set to a mellow R&B vibe. Ocean put out the new track, "Provider," on his irregularly scheduled Apple Music radio show on Sunday evening just as artists were gathered for the MTV Video Music Awards. Ocean has recently steered clear of award ceremonies, questioning their value and methods, despite himself winning a wide platform when his first album "Channel Orange" was feted at the 2013 Grammys.

"Provider" comes out one year after Ocean again gained wide acclaim for his follow-up album, "Blonde," which he independently released a day after uploading an abstract film to free himself from a record contract. "Provider," characteristic of Ocean's work, is set to gentle keyboards with his voice fluctuating between his rich, soulful range and hip-hop delivery. The song touches obliquely into the question of how to find intimacy as Ocean sings, "Show me some wisdom in your movement" before a chorus in which he repeatedly says the phrase, "Feelings you provide."

"Provider" goes heavy on pop culture references with allusions to Japanese anime, legendary film director Stanley Kubrick, New Wave rock pioneers Talking Heads and the English experimental DJ Aphex Twin. Ocean starts the song by mentioning a close friend named Memo, leading online fans to point to Memo Guzman, who was most recently spotted with Ocean near the ring at Friday's hotly anticipated boxing match between Floyd Mayweather and

Conor McGregor. Ocean made waves but largely won acceptance in the often macho world of hip-hop when he revealed at the start of his career that his life's first love was a man. — AFP



This file photo shows Frank Ocean performing during the 2014 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tennessee. — AP

A W A R D S



Kendrick Lamar poses in the press room with the awards for best hip hop video, best direction, best cinematography, best art direction, best visual effects, and video of the year for "HUMBLE." at the MTV Video Music Awards at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif.



Kendrick Lamar performs onstage.



Gal Gadot, left, presents the award for video of the year to Kendrick Lamar for "HUMBLE." at the MTV Video Music Awards. — AP/AFP photos

# VMA ARTISTS, SPEAKERS CALL FOR EQUALITY, SUICIDE PREVENTION



Ed Sheeran, winner of Artist of the Year.

The MTV Video Music Awards are known for creating viral moments meant to shock or amaze. But this year's show was a much more grown-up affair that was full of important speeches, exciting performances and pop culture events. Several award presenters called for equality, including the mother of a woman who was killed while protesting white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a descendant of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Other artists reached out to those suffering from depression. Pink taught her daughter a valuable lesson of self-acceptance. Finally, Kendrick Lamar, the night's big winner, set the stage ablaze at the beginning of the show, while Taylor Swift said goodbye to her reputation in a new music video. Here are the show's top moments:

**Pink's lesson of love**

Pink was honored on Sunday night with the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. After performing a medley of her hits atop a car suspended from cables and riding around on a lawnmower, Pink used her acceptance speech to address her 6-year-old daughter, Willow, who arrived on the red carpet in a three-piece suit to match her parents' suits. The Grammy-winning singer said her daughter told her recently she felt like she was ugly.

Pink responded that many artists, from Jackson to Prince to David Bowie and even herself, were regularly made fun of, but pressed ahead with their art to inspire others. "We don't change," Pink said. "We take the gravel in the shell and make a pearl. And we help other people to change so they can see more kinds of beauty." And in closing, she reminded her daughter: "You my darling are beautiful."

**Not alone**

The musical community was hit hard this year with the suicides of two rock artists, Linkin Park's Chester Bennington and Soundgarden's Chris Cornell. Jared Leto, actor and lead singer of the band 30 Seconds to Mars, talked about touring with both singers and how Bennington's voice was "at once ferocious and delicate. That voice will live forever." Leto used the tribute to reach out to those suffering with thoughts of suicide. "Hear me now: You are not alone," Leto said. "There is always a way forward. Reach out. Share your thoughts. Do not give up."

That sentiment was amplified during a performance by Logic, Alessia Cara and Khalid, who performed a song for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, "1-800-273-8255." The performers were joined on stage by suicide attempt survivors, some of whom were crying. Logic said the song was "a platform to talk about something that mainstream media doesn't want to talk about: mental health, anxiety and depression."

**A call for equality**

Throughout the night, the persistent theme for many artists and presenters on the stage was to call for unity and equality. Paris Jackson, daughter of Michael Jackson, said that America has zero tolerance for violence, hatred and racism. Susan Bro, whose daughter Heather Heyer was killed when a man drove his car into a crowd in Charlottesville, said people all over the world had been inspired by her daughter's courage. "I want people to know that Heather never marched alone," Bro said. "She was joined by people from every race and every background in this country." The violence in Charlottesville was sparked by the city's decision to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. One of his descendants, the Rev. Robert Wright Lee IV, introduced Bro and said his ancestor has become a symbol of racism. "We have made my ancestor an idol of white supremacy, racism and hate," Lee said. "As a pastor, it is my moral duty to speak out against racism, America's original sin."

**RIP old Taylor**

Taylor Swift declared the end of her reputation in her new music video for her first single "Look What You Made Me Do," from her next album. In the video, which premiered during the VMAs first hour, the pop star emerged from the grave as a zombie and sang her accusations in a dark world where previous versions of herself come back to haunt her.



Ed Sheeran, left, and Lil Uzi Vert perform a medley at the MTV Video Music Awards.

With a number of references to her feuding with other celebrities like Kanye West and Kim Kardashian West, the video parodies the media narratives around her career. It concludes with several Swifts arguing amongst themselves, with digs that have often been tossed at her such as "You are so fake," or "There she goes playing the victim again." Finally it ends with her own famous quote referring to Kanye West: "I would very much like to be excluded from this narrative."

**Fire away Kendrick**

With the top-selling album of the year, Kendrick Lamar was the big winner with six awards, including video of the year. He opened the show rapping his single "DNA," in a cage of laser lights. Then as he transitioned to his hit "Humble," a performer is set ablaze just a few feet away from Lamar in a dangerous and somewhat scary moment. The rest of the performance featured ninja-like dancers scaling a wall of fire behind Lamar. — AP



Alessia Cara poses in the press room with the awards for best dance video for "Stay" and for best fight against the system for "Scars To Your Beautiful".



Alessia Cara performs onstage.



Jack Antonoff, left, and Sam Dew accept the award for best collaboration on behalf of Zayn and Taylor Swift for "I Don't Wanna Live Forever (Fifty Shades Darker)".



Gucci Mane, second from left, and from right Dinah Jane, Ally Brooke, Normani Kordei, and Lauren Jauregui of Fifth Harmony, accept the award for best pop video for "Down".



From left, 6ix, Logic and Damian Marley pose with the Best Fight Against The System award for "Black Spiderman".

AWARDS



Lil Uzi Vert performs onstage.



Khalid, winner of Best New Artist, poses in the press room.



Kendrick Lamar (left) and DJ Khaled attend the 2017 MTV Video Music Awards.



Singer Pink, husband Carey Hart and daughter Willow Sage Heart arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Winners

- Video of the year:** "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar
- Artist of the year:** Ed Sheeran
- Collaboration:** "I Don't Wanna Live Forever," Zayn & Taylor Swift
- Pop:** "Down," Fifth Harmony feat. Gucci Mane
- Hip hop:** "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar
- Dance:** "Stay," Alessia Cara & Zedd
- Rock:** "Heavydirtysoul," Twenty One Pilots
- Fight against the system:** "Black SpiderMan," Logic feat. Damian Lemar Hudson
- Song of summer:** "XO Tour Llif3," Lil Uzi Vert
- New artist:** Khalid
- Art direction:** "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Production Designer: Spencer Graves)
- Choreography:** "Fade," Kanye West (Choreographers: Jae Blaze, Guapo, Matthew Pasterisa, Teyana Taylor & Derek Watkins)
- Cinematography:** "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Cinematographer: Scott Cunningham)
- Direction:** "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Directors: Dave Meyers, The Little Homies)
- Editing:** "Wyclef Jean," Young Thug (Editors: Ryan Staake, Eric Degliomini)
- Visual effects:** "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Company: Timber/Lead: Jonah Hall) — AP



Katy Perry (center) performs onstage.



Noah Cyrus speaks onstage.



Pink (left) accepts the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award from Ellen DeGeneres onstage.



Pink performs at the MTV Video Music Awards 2017.



Jared Leto speaks on stage.



Dave Meyers, from left, Kendrick Lamar, and Dave Free pose in the press room with the awards for best direction, best cinematography, best art direction, best visual effects, best hip hop video and video of the year for "HUMBLE."



Taboo, fourth from left, and Native American musicians raise their fists in protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline as they arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards.



Nicki Minaj performs onstage.



Bebe Rexha (center) and The Chainsmokers' Andrew Taggart (left) and Alex Pall (right) speak onstage.



(From left) Andy Hurley, Patrick Stump, Pete Wentz and Joe Trohman of musical group Fall Out Boy arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards 2017.



A dancer on fire appears during a performance by Kendrick Lamar.



Sophia Laurent Abraham, left, and Farrah Abraham arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards.

# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017

VMA artists, speakers call for equality, suicide prevention

# 30



Katy Perry performs onstage during the 2017 MTV Video Music Awards at The Forum on August 27, 2017 in Inglewood, California. — AFP



Katy Perry



Katy Perry

## At MTV VMAs, cleavage, tons of sparkle and Wonder Woman

MTV's Video Music Awards have produced some unforgettable red carpet moments in the past—Lady Gaga's red meat dress, Shakira's furkini top and Madonna's white lace "Like a Virgin" dress with BOY TOY buckle spring to mind. Sunday night's gala in Los Angeles did not produce one of those "wow" moments, but a few stars gave it their all on the red carpet—or the blue carpet, in this case. Here are some highlights:

### Katy Perry, chameleon

Host Katy Perry rocked a number of looks, from her sculptural, low-cut white one-shoulder gown with a chic train by Stephane Rolland to her grand entrance on stage in MTV's iconic "Moonman" costume. "I'm terrified," the 27-year-old pop diva-looking feisty with her short blonde pixie haircut—said before the show. "I'm not very good at speaking."

At one point in the show, she came out with a doll in a baby carrier—a nod to the many stars from Pink to DJ Khaled who attended the ceremony with their children. She finished the show by performing her hit single "Swish Swish" in a short white dress embellished with a sparkling basketball at her waist.

### Bad girls

Music royalty are certainly never afraid to show skin. Rapper Nicki Minaj—who has rocked the VMAs red carpet over the years in everything from a space-age purple jumpsuit to a sexy navy blue gown with tons of cutouts and mesh—did not disappoint this year, showing up in a pink latex jumpsuit. The ensemble showcased her ample curves—and she died her hair pink to match. Tons of bling-diamonds, if you please—finished off the look. Paris Jackson, the daughter of late "King of Pop" Michael Jackson who presented an award, chose a beige Christian Dior dress with a see-through embroidered tulle skirt and hot pants underneath. And Demi Lovato went for a daring black lace Zuhair Murad bodysuit that left little to the imagination, paired with glittering black harem pants.

### A few princesses

On the other end of the sartorial spectrum, New Zealand songstress Lorde went for the princess look with an ethereal strapless lilac Monique Lhuillier gown that tumbled to the floor in a trail of feathers. And Kesha, whose first album in five years came out this month, floated on stage in a gauzy pale pink gown with layers of tulle cascading to the floor. Kesha did not perform on Sunday, but presented an award, and made an impassioned speech about suicide prevention—one of the many social issues tackled during the gala.

### Wonder Woman herself

The final award of the night for Video of the Year, which went to rapper Kendrick Lamar, was presented by none other than Gal Gadot, the star of one of the summer's biggest hit movies, "Wonder Woman." And the Israeli actress looked every bit the warrior princess—a ladylike one-in-a midnight blue Prabal Gurung cocktail dress with delicate, sparkling paillettes and just the right amount of see-through detailing. "Elated & grateful. My childhood dream of dressing #WonderWoman came true," Gurung said on Twitter. — AFP



Katy Perry



Singer Mel B



Paris Jackson



Lorde



Kesha



Gal Gadot



Kesha



Gal Gadot