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# Saudi Arabia resumes oil exports through key strait

## Coalition takes measures to ensure security • Houthis willing to attend UN talks

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia said yesterday that it was resuming oil shipments through the Bab al-Mandab Strait, ending a 10-day suspension triggered by rebel attacks off the coast of Yemen. The decision came after measures by a Saudi-led military coalition to "ensure the security of navigation in this strait and in the Red Sea", said Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khaled Al-Falih, quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency. Measures had been taken "in coordination with the international community", Falih added, without providing further details.

Bab al-Mandab is a crucial shipping lane between the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa, linking the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. On July 26, Saudi Arabia said it was temporarily suspending oil shipments through Bab al-Mandab after two oil tankers operated

by Saudi shipping group Bahri were attacked, slightly damaging one vessel. Saudi leads a coalition backing Yemen's government in a war against Houthi rebels. The pro-Houthi Al-Masirah television said at the time that the rebels had targeted a Saudi warship named Al-Dammam, without providing further details. The Houthis are backed by Saudi Arabia's regional rival Iran in Yemen's conflict and retain control of the strategic Red Sea port of Hodeida.

On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Iran his country would join military action to stop Tehran if it attempted to block the strait. "If Iran tries to block the Bab al-Mandab, I am convinced that it will find itself facing a determined international coalition to prevent this. This coalition would also include the state of Israel and all its arms,"

Netanyahu said. About 4.8 million barrels of oil and petroleum products pass through the strait every day, according to US government figures.

Separately, a member of the political wing of the Houthi rebels said yesterday the insurgents were willing to attend UN-brokered talks, although they had low expectations of a positive outcome. Salim Meghles said the Ansarullah (Supporters of God) political wing is "not opposed to such consultations" which are aimed at "reaching a general framework for negotiations". "We are not opposed to travelling to any neutral country to take part in such consultations," he told AFP.

The UN envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, on Thursday told the Security Council that the United Nations will invite Yemen's warring sides for talks in Geneva on Sept 6 to discuss a framework for peace

negotiations. Meghles cast doubt over the expected meeting saying he did not sense "any serious or real stance by the aggressors towards reaching a political solution". He was referring to the Saudi-led coalition that has intervened in Yemen since 2015 to restore the internationally recognized government to power, which has been driven out of the capital Sanaa by the rebels.

A government official on Friday said the Saudi-backed government was ready to attend the Geneva talks. The war in the impoverished country has left nearly 10,000 people dead and unleashed what the United Nations describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. UN-brokered political talks on Yemen broke down in 2016 amid demands for a rebel withdrawal from key cities and power-sharing with the Saudi-backed government. — AFP

## Erdogan sanctions US officials in tit-for-tat row

**ANKARA:** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said Turkey would impose sanctions on two US officials as retaliation for a similar move by Washington, hitting back in an unprecedented row between the NATO allies. Turkey's holding of pastor Andrew Brunson on terror-related charges for almost two years has sparked one of the most intense crises between Washington and Ankara since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

But in his first comments on the dispute since Washington imposed the sanctions on Wednesday, Erdogan also appeared keen to ward off any further escalation by saying that neither side had an interest in a "lose-lose"

scenario. "Today I will give our friends instructions to freeze the assets in Turkey of the American justice and interior ministers, if they have any (such assets)," Erdogan said in a televised speech. He did not specify to which members of the US administration he was referring.

The US attorney general is Jeff Sessions and while the United States does not have an interior ministry similar to Turkey, the Secretary of the Interior is Ryan Zinke and Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security is Kirstjen Nielsen. Erdogan's announcement was a response to Washington's decision to impose sanctions on Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu and Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul over Brunson's detention.

The sanctions freeze any property or assets on US soil held by the two ministers, and bar US citizens from doing business with them. Turkish ministers have denied having any assets in the US and it is highly unlikely the American officials would have assets in

Turkey. But analysts say the sanctions are still of critical importance. "Although it is unlikely the sanctions will have much practical effect in either case, it is significant and unprecedented that two NATO allies have sanctioned members of each other's government," Amanda Sloat, a former State Department official and now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, told AFP.

The Turkish lira, which has plunged in value this year, has already reached the five to the dollar mark for the first time in history over the sanctions. "There is a risk of more sanctions to come... which could hit more directly at the heart of Turkish government interests and which have the potential to cause a run on the lira," Anthony Skinner, director of Middle East and North Africa at risk management consultants Verisk Maplecroft, told AFP. He said the "Achilles' heel" of Turkey's fragile economy was its exposure to foreign portfolio investments and credit.

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ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses members of his ruling AK Party during a meeting yesterday. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Coptic pope quits Facebook

**CAIRO:** The head of Egypt's Coptic Church, Pope Tawadros II, has shut down his Facebook page, saying it was a "waste of time", after the church ordered monks off social media. State-run Al-Ahram newspaper said yesterday that Tawadros's decision was in line with a dozen measures announced Thursday by the church relating to the activities of monks. One of the measures gave monks a month "to deactivate and close any social media pages or accounts and voluntarily renounce these behaviors that are not true to monastic life". On Thursday the church also said it will stop accepting any new monks for a year after the mysterious death of a bishop at a monastery northwest of Cairo. In his last posting on Facebook before shutting the page, Tawadros said that using social media is a "waste of time, age and life". According to Al-Ahram, several senior Coptic Church officials have followed Tawadros's example and shut down their Facebook pages. — AFP

#### First niqabi fined in Denmark

**STOCKHOLM:** A 28-year-old woman wearing a niqab on Friday became the first person in Denmark to be fined for violating a new controversial law banning full-face Islamic veils in public places, media reported. Police were called to a shopping center in Horsholm, in the northeastern region of Nordjylland, where the woman had become involved in a scuffle with another woman who had tried to tear her niqab off, police duty officer David Borchersen told the Ritzau news agency. "During the fight her niqab came off, but by the time we arrived she had put it back on again," Borchersen said. Police took a photograph of the woman wearing the niqab, and obtained security camera footage from the shopping center of the incident. The woman was informed she would receive a fine of 1,000 kroner (\$156) in the post, and was told to either remove her veil or leave the public space. "She chose the latter," Borchersen said. — AFP

## Is Rouhani a lame duck president?

**TEHRAN:** Having staked everything on a now-crumbling nuclear deal, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has little to show for his five years in power and is seeing his support evaporate. The fifth anniversary of Rouhani's first inauguration fell on Friday, but with the economy in crisis and US sanctions set to return just four days later, there were no celebrations. Rouhani was supposed to be the centrist who could heal Iran's divisions and build a China-like development model in which economic growth would head off demands for major political reform.

But when the US walked out of the 2015 nuclear deal in May, undoing the centrepiece of Rouhani's strategy, the "diplomatic sheikh" suddenly looked fatally exposed. "The problem with Rouhani is that he had no plan B," a journalist for Iran's state television

told AFP. "In fact, attracting foreign investment was his Plan A, B, C and D. Now, he's a lame duck president." Even when the nuclear deal was intact, it never worked quite as hoped. Rouhani set a target of \$50 billion in foreign investment for its first year, but only \$3.4 billion showed up, according to the World Bank, with foreign firms and banks remaining wary of US penalties.

Moreover, little was done to tackle corruption and the toxic debt poisoning Iran's banking system, or the huge jobless rate, particularly among young people. The "Rouhani-meter", created by a US-based tech group, found the president had achieved only 20 of 100 election pledges by his fifth anniversary, with a further 17 "in progress". His successes included reduced inflation and better Internet, but all the unfulfilled promises had "caused disappointment and alienated many supporters," the report concluded.

For the first time, parliament has summoned Rouhani to appear within the next month to explain his plan for rescuing the economy. "He has friends in the cabinet, but nowhere else," said Mohammad Reza

Behzadian, former head of the Tehran chamber of commerce. For many progressive Iranians, it is Rouhani's civil rights record that has most exposed his weakness. His failure to win the release of political prisoners and prevent the blocking of Iran's most popular messaging app, Telegram, went directly against promises made during his re-election campaign last year.

"Every president has made the same promises to create hope but once elected they don't do anything. If (the election) happened again, I wouldn't vote for Rouhani. I wouldn't vote for anyone," said Arash, a 21-year-old photographer in Tehran, reflecting a typical view among the young. For many, it mirrors the second term of Mohammad Khatami, the reformist president from 1997 to 2005 who tried and failed to weaken the grip of unelected hardline institutions, leaving many progressives deeply disillusioned.

Some question whether Rouhani was even sincere in his promises. "He has chosen not to pick fights and

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## In Lebanon, volunteers speak up to battle suicide

**BEIRUT:** Her trainers beating down on the pavement along Beirut's seafront, Nour Safieddine, 24, cuts past strollers ambling in the evening sun. In her bright pink t-shirt, she is running to survive. "I run to carry on, so life can smile at me even if it made me cry - or in fact, not to die after the thought of suicide crept into my head," the journalist and graduate student wrote recently. In Lebanon, mental health and suicide have long been deeply taboo subjects, with both major religions in the tiny country - Islam and Christianity - condemning the taking of one's own life. But one in three adults in

Lebanon will develop a mental disorder by the age of 75, a 2008 study found.

The small Mediterranean country has been rocked by decades of war, and weathered endless political crises in recent years as it fights to stave off an economic meltdown. To shake the mould and help save lives, Lebanese like Safieddine are speaking up. The sudden deaths of her sister and father around one year ago sent her into crippling depression, but running has helped pull her out. In May, she bravely shared her own struggle with depression in a public social media post.

"I decided I had to give positive energy to these people and remind them that life is worth living and that they deserve to live," the tall, lean athlete told AFP. She was surprised by the positive response. "I felt like my experience was the experience of many people who hadn't dared to speak up about what they were going through," she said. The issue has been getting a wave of attention in

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BEIRUT: Nour Safieddine, 24, warms up ahead of running along the seafront in the Lebanese capital on July 13, 2018. — AFP

## Local

# DGCA chief commends Terminal 4 as strong push to Kuwait Airways

## New terminal allows Kuwait Airways to compete with regional carriers



KUWAIT: Chairman of DGCA Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and other officials pose for a group picture during the launch of Al-Mubarakiya Lounge of first and business class Kuwait Airways' passengers at Terminal 4. — KUNA photos



Chairman of DGCA Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and other officials cut the cake during the ceremony.

KUWAIT: The newly launched passenger Terminal 4 of Kuwait International Airport would give a strong push to Kuwait's main national air carrier, Kuwait Airways, said Chairman of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The new terminal would also enable the Kuwaiti airline to compete with other regional carriers, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud said in a press statement released by Kuwait Airways on Friday, while launching the national airline's Al-Mubarakiya Lounge of first and business class passengers at Terminal 4. He urged the staff of Kuwait Airways to work hard to offer high-quality services to passengers, boasting that the new terminal would further support and promote the company. Al-Mubarakiya Lounge has been magnificently designed and equipped in order to provide passengers with much convenience, he added.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Yousef Al-Jassem said in a press statement that the launching of Al-Mubarakiya Lounge is just part of the new terminal's facilities. It has been built with high efficiency and in a record time, he boasted, revealing that another lounge would be opened soon. The new terminal will start operating on August 8, Jassem pointed out. Al-Mubarakiya Lounge, which covers 426 square meters, has been provided with advanced technology equipment. The two-storey facility contains 113 seats, 10 big TV screens, an integrated business center and a restaurant.

### Hajj season

The preparations for the Hajj season will have new procedures to serve 9,000 pilgrims and to facilitate a smooth flow of passengers at Kuwait International Airport, said DGCA Director Engineer Yousef Al-Fouzan announced yesterday. The administration has put together an integrated plan to simplify the movement of pilgrims from Kuwait to Jeddah, Fouzan said. Special teams are formed around the clock at Kuwait International Airport to serve pilgrims



Chairman of DGCA Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Yousef Al-Jassem launch the national airline's Al-Mubarkiya Lounge at Terminal 4.



### Preparations complete for Hajj season

and ease their travel procedures, adding that special counters were allocated in the passport hall to clear pilgrim's procedures, he added.

Fouzan emphasized that Hajj campaigners should coordinate with Kuwait Airways, Jazeera Airways, Saudi Airlines and Saudi Flynas to finalize baggage-handling procedures and to issue boarding passes 24 hours before departure. He praised Ministry of Interior's efforts in setting a plan to enable traffic leading to the airport and arrival of pilgrims to Kuwait International Airport. Fouzan also commended Kuwait International Airport, ministries of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Health, Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC),

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS), airlines and companies providing land services.

The Saudi Directorate General of Passports had so far arrived to Saudi Arabia for this year's Hajj season. According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the directorate indicated that the number of pilgrims arriving by air reached 647,087, by land 7,969, and by sea 6,995 pilgrims respectively.

Hajj is one of the main pillars of the Islamic faith and believers are expected to make the pilgrimage to Makkah once in their lifetime if they were able mentally, physically and financially. — KUNA

## KFH transforms customer service with Microsoft AI, chatbot technologies

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot built on Microsoft technologies, in a move that promises to drive digital transformation by improving customer engagement and empowering KFH employees.

The chatbot will be available to customers 24/7, on KFH's most popular engagement channels, including the company's website and mobile app. Meanwhile, employees will be empowered to achieve more, as AI will be employed to reduce workloads, allowing customer-service agents to attend to more complex issues and leave standard queries to be resolved by the AI system. The solutions will also incorporate more efficient ways to analyze customer enquiries, and facilitate wider and deeper data insights.

"KFH's digital transformation journey has served as a beacon for the sector region wide," said Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer at KFH, Waleed Khaled Mandani. "We aim to reap the rewards of the Fourth Industrial Revolution through a phased rollout of leading-edge, enterprise-class communication, productivity, business intelligence and analytics tools, as well as building our own data centre by the end of this year. Microsoft has proved to be the perfect partner to help us pursue our digital ambitions, because the company's cloud environment offers the ideal mix of agility and scale."

Mandani added: "KFH's 'Baitak Assistant' chatbot is the latest stepping stone on the phased journey KFH is taking. KFH has already moved to the Microsoft cloud, adopting Office 365 and Dynamics CRM, and adding an advanced layer of security to daily operations through Enterprise Mobility and Security. Dynamics CRM has allowed the automation of multiple service requests at both branch and department level; a more structured sales process, with improved visibility of the pipeline by senior management; and better contact center efficiency."

"Digital transformation helps organizations



Waleed Mandani

Charles Nahas

achieve more through engagement of customers, empowerment of employees, optimization of operations and the reinvention of business models," said Charles Nahas, General Manager- Microsoft Kuwait. "AI chatbots can support and scale business teams in their ability to serve customers. This technology's potential as a mean to increase customer satisfaction and slash costs is grabbing the attention of businesses across sectors and adoption rates are soaring.

"Chatbots can be embedded in social engagement channels including SMS, enterprise mobile apps and websites. This means your customers can reach you how they want, when they want, and with no waiting times - because a single bot instance can deal with thousands of customers simultaneously. And all of this occurs with less of a burden on your own workforce, which is freed up for more innovative tasks," Added Nahas.

KFH also has plans to use the Baitak Assistant chatbot service internally, to assist employees with business processes and operational queries. Other benefits to the chatbots include consistency in customer experience and information received; the ability to adopt new messaging platforms quickly and cost-effectively; and flexibility in marketing options.

## PAAAFR plants 'Martyr's Tree' to remember Iraqi invasion



KUWAIT: Remembering the 28th anniversary of the crime of the Iraq invasion of Kuwait, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has organized an event for planting a 'Martyr's Tree' at Al-Andalus Park in Kalfan. The tree was planted by PAAAFR Board Chairman and Director-General Sheikh Mohammad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah in remembrance of the Kuwaiti martyrs who had sacrificed themselves for the dear nation. — KUNA

## Local

# Amir's life should be source of inspiration to all: UN envoy for Yemen

## No military solution to Yemen crisis: Kuwait's envoy

**NEW YORK:** UN Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's successful efforts in addressing the challenges of ending war and establishing peace. He told the UN Security Council on Thursday that he had met His Highness the Amir in Kuwait earlier last week, saying "His Highness the Amir's life should be a source of inspiration to all of us." On Yemen, he invited the warring parties to talks in Geneva in September aimed at ending the three-year conflict, saying the pace of fighting has increased and "the Red Sea is now a theater of war." He said the time is long past to resume the political process, and after consulting the internationally recognized government and Houthi militias he plans to invite them for consultations in Geneva on September 6, including to discuss a framework for peace negotiations. Griffiths said the UN is still trying to avoid a battle for Hodeida, but while the gap between the Houthis and the coalition has been narrowed considerably, "I am concerned that Hodeida could be a flashpoint." He added that he was confident that a political solution could be reached in Yemen in line with relevant UNSC resolutions, Gulf Initiative and Output of National Dialogue.



### Kuwait affirms support towards Yemen

#### No military solution

Kuwait has anew reiterated that there is no military solution to the crisis in Yemen but a political solution based on the Gulf Initiative and its executive mechanism, outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2216. This came in Kuwait's speech during the Security Council session on the situation in Yemen, which was delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

Otaibi added that any peace plan that is not based on these principles will complicate the situation and prolong the crisis, which will have serious implications on regional and international security and stability. He stressed Kuwait's support for the efforts of UN envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths and the United Nations' efforts to settle the conflict in Yemen peacefully. He pointed out that despite the announcement of the coal-

ition to stop its military operations to restore the city and the port of Hodeidah to be under the authority of the legitimate government of Yemen, however, the Houthi group continued its deliberate targeting of civilian and populated sites in Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, which reached 163 so far, in addition to more than 66,000 explosives fired towards civilian targets, leaving human and material losses.

Otaibi pointed out that the Houthi militias are practicing new forms of challenge and threat to the will of the international community by targeting the safety of international shipping in the Straits of Bab Al-Mandab and the Red Sea, whether by planting sea mines or targeting commercial and oil vessels, the last of which was the targeting of two Saudi ships last week with anti-ship missiles which could have led to an environmental disaster in that region, taking advantage of their control of the port of Hodeidah to carry out these attacks. He renewed Kuwait's condemnation in the strongest terms of these ballistic missile attacks by

the Houthi group on the Kingdom's territory and its threat of neighboring countries as well as its threat to the safety of international traffic in Bab Al-Mandab and the Red Sea, a matter that constitutes a serious violation of international and humanitarian laws. "We support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its measures aimed at preserving its security and stability, and we also commend its decision to grant 25,000 visas to pilgrims from all Yemeni provinces without exception or discrimination," he said.

As for the humanitarian situation, the donor conference on the humanitarian situation in Yemen, which was held in Geneva in April this year, organized by the United Nations, Switzerland and Sweden, which resulted in commitments exceeding \$2 billion, has had a positive impact on tackling the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen, especially in the areas under the control of the Houthi group. He said that the continued control of the city of Hodeidah and its ports and control of the humanitarian aid routes could contribute to the loss of the objectives of the donors' conference and contribute to the consolidation of human suffering in Yemen.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the UN Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths in this archive photo. —KUNA

Otaibi said that "what we pledged in April last year has been fully met. The full amount of the donation of \$250 million has been paid to the international organizations, agencies and funds to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people in all its forms." As for the responsibility of the Security Council, Otaibi said that the Council should continue its unified and firm stance towards the Yemeni file and that the message of the Council be clear to the Yemeni parties, in particular the Houthi group.

#### Humanitarian support

Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN and International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim affirmed Friday Kuwait's keenness to continue humanitarian and political support for Yemen. Ambassador Ghunaim's speech came at a meeting organized by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva to review the efforts of various countries in dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

Ambassador Ghunaim stressed that Kuwait has

been supporting humanitarian, relief and development efforts in Yemen, revealing that the recent visit by Griffiths to Kuwait and his meeting with His Highness the Amir had reflected his country's commitment to the cause. The last of these efforts occurred in the previous month with a number of international humanitarian organizations and funds including the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said Ambassador Ghunaim. He added that this cooperation also included the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Humanitarian Support Fund for Yemen and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In his speech, Ambassador Ghunaim pointed out that Kuwait's role and contributions to these international organizations and funds have garnered global praise and administration. The Kuwaiti Ambassador said that his country will continue to work with partners around the world so that a peaceful solution would be attained for the Yemeni people, bringing an end for their suffering and misery. —KUNA

## Kuwait delivers \$250 million contribution to WFP

**NEW YORK:** Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi delivered Kuwait's donation of \$250 million to the Director of the World Food Program (WFP) office in New York Koko Yoshiyami, where the donation aims to support the activities of the program in Yemen.

Otaibi said that with this contribution, Kuwait has fully fulfilled its commitments made at the donors' conference held in Geneva in April 2018, which is \$250 million, which will be directed to international organizations, agencies and funds. He added that this comes to ease the suffering of the brotherly Yemeni people, which was announced before the Security Council at the special session on Yemen held on Thursday.

Otaibi explained that this contribution to the World Food

Program aims to dispatch food to nearly two million people in Yemen without discrimination. The Kuwaiti support for the UN organizations, funds and programs comes within the humanitarian response launched by the United Nations to Yemen this year, pointing out that Kuwait is one of the main donors to this humanitarian response, along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Otaibi said that Kuwait plays a pivotal role in the international humanitarian efforts, especially those of the United Nations through its specialized agencies, pointing out that the partnership between the State of Kuwait and the United Nations is deeply rooted. The contribution to the World Food Program (WFP) complements the support provided by Kuwait to the UN response to Yemen through the World Health Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organization for Migration, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Population Fund and the Yemen Joint Humanitarian Fund, through the permanent delegations of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations in New York and Geneva during the past month. —KUNA



**NEW YORK:** Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi delivers Kuwait's donation to the Director of the World Food Program's (WFP) office in New York Koko Yoshiyami. —KUNA

## Kuwait's Al-Heis wins Hajj Hackathon award

**JEDDAH:** Kuwait's Ghalia Al-Heis has won the Distinction Award of Saudi Arabia's Hajj Hackathon competitions for a project related to the marching of pilgrims from hajj camps. Heis, who is part of a team named (007 I), was granted a prize worth 150,000 Saudi riyals (\$40,000) following competition with over 3,000 rivals from 25 countries, the organizing committee of Hajj Hackathon said. The event was organized by the Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones in Jeddah. Turjman App has also won a prize valued at one million riyals (\$267,000) for translating street signs into different languages, the committee said at the end of the event. The second position went to Hajj Wallet App which obtained 500,000 riyals (\$133,05).

Meanwhile, the Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones named Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple as ambassador of 'Saudi Tech Hub', where Saudi advisor in the Royal Court, head of the Saudi Federation, Saud Bin Abdullah Al-Kahtani handed the certificate during the final day of Hajj Hackathon competitions which ended Friday in Jeddah. Kahtani said that Wozniak's selection comes within the framework of the Federation's keenness to attract the best minds in the technology sector in Saudi Arabia, in order to make the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the technology hub in the region. On his part, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak expressed happiness at accepting this position from the Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones, pointing out that what prompted him to accept the position of Ambassador of the Saudi Technical Hub, was the remarkable development he noticed in Saudi Arabia's approach to the world of technology. He added that the success of the Hajj Hackathon gives serious indications of the interest among Saudis in programming and emerging technologies.

Meanwhile, Hajj Hackathon has broken the Guinness World Record in terms of the number of participants topping 2,950 from over 100 countries. Saudi Hajj Hackathon broke the previous Guinness World Record for simultaneous Hackathon participants done by India with 2,577 participants back in 2012. This year's Hajj Hackathon, which attracted Tech companies from around the world with support from Google, run many workshops for the participants, encouraged youth to come forward with innovative ideas. —KUNA

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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A general view of Kuwait City taken from the top of Al-Hamra Tower. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# Kuwaiti women granted full political rights in elections, candidacy, leadership positions

## Women stood side by side with men defending Kuwait during Iraqi invasion

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait has given female citizen all their rights in voting and electing after a long journey in order to recognize their constitutional and political right. Kuwaiti women were able to prove, through a history full of achievements, their leading and active role in the development process witnessed by the country in various social, economic, political and other fields. They were able to achieve this success due to several factors, including the development of the legislative and social system which allowed many Kuwaiti talents to occupy the highest positions locally and regionally.

Kuwaiti women were not only concerned with their political rights but exceeded this to spread awareness economically, culturally and socially. A good example of this was during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and her resistance to the occupation when she stood side by side with the Kuwaiti men in defending their country. The

competence of Kuwaiti women and their educational and cultural levels enabled them to win many leadership positions. They have become ministers, undersecretaries, university rectors, ambassadors and directors of large regional and international economic companies and were popularly elected to the National Assembly.

On May 16, 2005, the National Assembly approved a bill submitted by the government to amend the text of article 1 of the election law to allow women to exercise their right to vote and run for election. In June 2005, the cabinet announced the selection of Engineer Fatima Saud Al-Sabah and Engineer Fawzia Mohammed Al-Bahr as members of the Municipal Council, and selected Dr Masouma Al-Mubarak to be as

the Minister of Planning and State Secretary for Administrative Development. In April 2006, Kuwaiti women, exercised for the first time, their political right to vote and run for election when Engineer Janan Boshehri announced her candidacy in the supplementary elections to the Municipal Council.

In 2008, a total of 27 women applied for official candidacy for the 2008 parliamentary elections, but none of them were able to win. However, this actual practice gained her more experience in winning the council elections in 2009 when four candidates won and they were Dr Masouma Al-Mubarak, Dr Aseel Al-Awadhi, Dr Rola Dashti, and Dr Salwa Al-Jassar. Kuwaiti women continued to participate in the political process in the country, since the presence of women in the formation of the ministry was necessary. Dr Masouma Al-Mubarak was appointed as Minister of Transportation in 2006, and in March 2007 she became Health Minister, while Nouriya Al-Sabeeh was chosen as Minister of Education and Higher Education. In 2008, Dr Moudhi Al-Hamoud was appointed as Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of Development Affairs, while Nouriya Al-Sabeeh was

re-appointed as Minister of Education and Higher Education. Both held office in 2009. In May 2011, Dr Amani Bouresli was appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry, and then appointed, in addition to her position, as State minister of Planning and Development. In July 2012, Dr Rola Dashti was selected as Minister of Planning and Development and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, while Dr Thikra Al-Rasheedi was appointed as Minister of Social Affairs and Labor in November 2012.

In August 2013, Hind Barak Al-Sabeeh was appointed Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development, and held office until 2016. In December 2017, Dr Jenan Boushehri joined the new ministerial reshuffle to become the Minister of Housing and Minister of State for Services, along with Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh. Kuwaiti women continued their march to success, leaving their mark and determination in various fields to prove to their society and the world, that women are already half the society that cannot be dispensed with or marginalized. — KUNA



### Suffrage bill approved in May 2005

## NBK organizes fun events for children at its hospital

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continued organizing initiatives for the month of July designed especially for children undergoing therapy at its Hospital and Stem Cell unit. July's plan comprised several fun - educative activities

as coloring mini bags with different shapes and designs that can be used back home. Water color activity including book drawing and coloring. Designing their own monsters where children used glue and shapes to glue them on their pieces and Make Meaning in collaboration with Tamdeen Group. 'Make Meaning' event is a children-friendly hands-on activity that offers children a soap making session with different designs. Children had the opportunity to be creative in creating and designing their own soaps using different shapes, colors and scents.

Due to the success of the slime activity last month, NBK brought it back to the children with different colors, scents and shapes in the month of July too. The fun events come as part of a program designed to engage with children and runs all year long. Children and the Hospital's



team took part in those activities and fun time to engage in during summer. "NBK is keen on being part of the children's happy moments during their treatment," said Joanne Al-Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Officer. "The activities were marked by awareness and intellectual challenges. We are aware of the importance of providing a healthy environment for children to be able to stand for their treatment strong and happy. We are proud seeing our children happy every week we visit them for a new initiative".

"We take great pride today in integrating a program designed to ensure the best care for the patients and their families," noted Abdul Jaleel. "We teamed up with the medical staff to make the children and their families happy. NBK Children's Hospital stands as a landmark for the bank's social initiatives towards children. NBK expanded the hospital's capacity and opened the only Stem Cell Therapy Unit for children in Kuwait, further expanding its hospital's abilities to treat children with cancer and blood diseases. NBK's social initiatives reflect the bank's high sense of duty and responsibility towards the community. It is a well rooted tradition that has been carried out by NBK each year in its efforts to continuously have an active role in Kuwait's society.



Engineer Ghosson Al-Khaled

Local

# Fahaheel Expressway development may begin in April 2021: Minister

## No sterility cases sent for treatment abroad: Health Minister

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Public Works and State Minister for Municipal Affairs Hussam Al-Roumi said work on developing Fahaheel Expressway (Road No 30) may begin on April 2021, adding that the project is still in the early stages of the feasibility study which is expected to be completed in Dec 2019. The minister said in an answer to a parliamentary question that contracts may be introduced after the study and design phases are completed by Aug 2020, then when all procedures are complete and tenders are awarded, work may start in April 2021. He said that among the most important obstacles the project faces re current and future services all along the road, determining the road's path, receiving municipal approval for repossessions and oil pipelines that require continued coordination with Kuwait Oil Company.



Hussam Al-Roumi

### Sterility cases

Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah said the number of sterility cases that were treated in 2016 and 2017 are 1,157, and no cases were sent for treatment abroad. He said the ministry did not take any measure to re-send sterility cases for treatment abroad as well as to private hospitals in Kuwait at state cost because of the opening of a new unit in Jahra that can meet the area's needs. He said it was decided that cases that can be sent abroad are that of cancer, children and critical conditions, and sterility is not among them.

### General asset

Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rasheedhi said the sale and purchase of oil as a general asset is done by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries. He said the oil ministry and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) do not object to issuing the necessary licenses to some private companies if they meet the condition to practice this activity in Kuwait and abroad.

### Work permits

The Public Authority for Manpower issued an administrative decision with regards to issuing work permits for non-Kuwaitis in Kuwaiti companies as 'partners', if an application is submitted according to a special form. Conditions include submission of the company's establishment contract, commerce and industry ministry's certificate stating the partners' names and their shares provided that the non-Kuwaiti partner's share is not less than KD 100,000, in addition to a balance sheet approved by commerce and industry ministry.

### State departments

Statistics by the Civil Service Commission about the distribution of workers in state departments revealed that the number of employees reached 352,197 including 268,101 citizens and 79,573 expats. The stats showed that the number of government employees during the first quarter of this year reached 349,714 including 264,195 citizens and 80,955 expats.

## BBC apologizes for historical allegations about Kuwait's sovereignty

**KUWAIT:** British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Thursday issued a statement apologizing for historical fabrications and false allegations about Kuwait's sovereignty. It said that the question, which was raised by Trending Show presenter Rania Attar over Kuwait's historical sovereignty, appeared to have been asked in a wrong and unclear way that did not meet the BBC's impartiality criteria, and that's why an apology was needed. It added that it cannot be a party in this regard or even adopt a certain view, especially in controversial matters, according to the statement. "BBC would like to confirm that it handles

such matters, which are related to its editorial policy based on balance, objectivity and neutrality, with much seriousness, and to do everything necessary to ensure that these criteria are met," it noted.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information had rebuffed the fabrications and allegations of a BBC Arabic show on Kuwait's sovereignty. The ministry regretted and condemned, in a press statement, that BBC presenter Rania Al-Attar's program "Trending" had fabricated allegations about the historical sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, which violated professional rules and distorted historical facts. "Such false claims and serious mistakes are utterly unacceptable, especially when this comes from an international media outlet, which is supposed to observe professional criteria and to clarify, not distort, facts," the ministry said. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information wondered about the timing of such claims, which coincided with the 28th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Ministry of Information has the right to pursue any entity or institution that deliberately commits this historical distortion, the statement concluded. — KUNA



The Ministry of Information's building.

## Renewable energy

local spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

**K**uwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) will soon name a financial advisor to obtain a KD 700 million loan from local banks for the Al-Dibdibah Solar Power Plant project. According to Kuwait Times, the project's tender will be offered for bidding at an estimated cost of \$1-1.5 billion spread over an area of 32 sq km to the northwest. This new project will generate 1.5 megawatts of solar power, equivalent to 15 percent of the total power expected by 2030.

Kuwait is carrying out ambitious projects related to renewable energy, especially solar and wind power, to reduce dependence on oil for electricity production. The ministry of electricity and water, in cooperation with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, has installed solar panels in the parking lots of several cooperative societies to provide energy for lighting. This project proved to be successful, so the ministry plans to expand its scope to include more locations in the coming period. Perfect move for Kuwait!

I trust that changing the direction of any country by adopting new sources of energy is good, especially in Kuwait, because for many years we didn't have real change in this field, especially as we are a country that does not lack the sun or the wind almost throughout the year. It is about time to use these two powers.

I think the government is aware that the increasing electricity consumption dictates the development of new practical solutions to reduce dependence on oil as a source of energy generation. The best alternative is to rely on renewable energy. Kuwait also started applying new electricity and water tariffs after lifting subsidies from Aug 22, 2017 on investment properties.

In March, the director of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) revealed that 85 percent of the first phase of the Shakaya project for the production of renewable energy from wind and thermal solar systems is complete. He added that the project has several stages - the first is Shakaya, the second is Al-Dibdibah with Kuwait Oil Company, and the third phase will be in partnership with the private sector.

I think we need to overcome obstacles between the local community and the real application of clean energy systems in housing, work and elsewhere. Perhaps the problem is that there is a culture prevalent for years, which relied on oil for power generation and there was no encouragement from governments to institutions to support the work in this future sector. But not anymore. Also, the high financial cost to expand power generation means, whether through the sun or wind, is an obstacle for poor developing countries. But, adoption of this trend seriously now is important to Kuwait, because we really need these projects.

While I was reading about this subject, I saw a study online on the same topic that was carried out in Saudi Arabia. Tests were conducted in some areas of Saudi Arabia in the open air to study the properties of solar cells. Tests have shown that exposure of energy cells to dust for six months without any cleaning leads to a 50 percent reduction in energy production. Many solutions were presented to address this issue, and the easiest way was cleaning the panels manually weekly. This requires maintenance companies on long-term contracts.

I do not know about the dust there, but Kuwait has a high dust rate almost throughout the year, so I think such observations should be taken into account if we really want to adopt the use of solar energy. I think energy production from new sources is an amazing step and the private sector and the youth should be encouraged to enter such projects in a developing country like Kuwait.

## Crimes

### Maid accused of jewelry theft

**KUWAIT:** A domestic helper fled her sponsor's house with jewelry worth KD 2,000 in addition to KD 500 in cash, according to the employer. A complaint was lodged at Jahra police station and the suspect's name was placed on the travel ban list. A security source said the sponsor walked in her bedroom to find it ransacked and the jewelry and cash were missing. When she called the helper, she found out that she was not in the house, so she accused her with the theft. Detectives are working on the case.

### Sheep stolen

A bedoon farm owner lodged a complaint against his friend, a citizen, accusing him of stealing four sheep after beating the guard and threatening him with a knife. Detectives are working on arresting the suspect.

### Drug dealer arrested

Ahmedi police arrested a citizen known for pushing drugs following stiff resistance in Ali Sabah Al-Salem. They found five envelopes containing shabu (methamphetamine) and tablets suspected of being psychoactive drugs.

### Insults and threats

A citizen told Naem police that a man insulted and threatened her by text message due to previous disputes. A security source said that the suspect surprised her with the SMS message containing insults and threats to harm her. A security source said the citizen told Naem police that a dispute occurred between them followed by threats and insults through SMS, copies of which she gave police. Police are looking for the suspect for questioning and he may face legal action.

### Unlicensed clinic

Public Authority for Food and Nutrition inspectors discovered a clinic and a pharmacy, both unlicensed, along with stolen medicine, in a basement in Mahboulah run by Asians. Head of the inspection team Sattam Al-Jalal said a citation was issued and the health ministry was informed in order to close down the facility and take further action.

### Air gun

An investigator at a police station accused detectives there of firing an air gun at her car and damaging its radiator. The investigator said she wanted to resolve the problem under friendly terms, but all detectives denied any involvement. She said she only drives her car from home to work and back, adding that a confiscated air gun at the police station may have been used. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

## Kuwait's humanitarian aid continuous

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait continued aiding countries in need last week, including executing pledges and delivering humanitarian aid. Starting in Yemen, a campaign dubbed 'Kuwait Beside You' of the Kuwait Relief Society mobilized yesterday new aid convoys covering the provinces of Khokha, Tahehta and Heis as well as refugees camps in Aden which included some 2,554 food baskets and more than 4,000 water tankers. Jamal Al-Nouri, head of the Kuwait Relief Society said that the aim of the campaign was to ease the suffering of those living in such camps because of the increasing commodities prices. On his part, Governor of Hodeidah Dr Al-Hasan Taher thanked the generous aid provided by Kuwait to ease the suffering of the Yemeni people. Furthermore, the Kuwait Relief Society also mobilized two flights aboard Yemen airways to and from the island of Socotra. The campaign helped some 300 passengers in needs and those stranded in the island in addition to university students and patients. In Bangladesh, the Kuwait Relief Society last Monday concluded a relief program that included provision of vaccination to children and distribution of school bags to more than 1,500 orphans besides provision of gifts. Mohammad Al-Houli, head of the foreign bureaus in the Kuwait Relief Society praised efforts of Kuwait University students who tolerated the burden of traveling and scorching heat for the sake of distributing Kuwait's aid to the needy people. Houli thanked the Kuwaiti foreign affairs ministry for making the team's mission a success. In Ghana, and in presence of Kuwait's ambassador Mohammad Al-Failakawi, a check of \$546,300 was handed by a number of Kuwaiti good doers which was received by the society's executive director Mansour Abu Zaid in Ghana in presence of First Secretary Humaidi Al-Mutairi and Administrative Attache Naser Al-Dosari.

Back to Yemen, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohammad Al-Saadi discussed with the head of the Kuwait Relief Society Jamal Al-Nouri the possibility of opening a branch for the society in Aden.



Kuwait's Ambassador to Ghana Mohammad Al-Failakawi delivers a cheque from a number of Kuwaiti good doers.

The Yemeni minister expressed readiness to facilitate endeavors of the society to enable extend a helping hand to the Yemeni people. These activities were supported by statements of Kuwaiti officials including deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Anwar Al-Hasawi who asserted last Wednesday that Kuwait was keen on continuing its support to all needy peoples around the world. Hasawi made his remarks after his visit to the headquarters of Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS). Hasawi said that Kuwait's humanitarian efforts in Africa represented by KRCS, especially in Tanzania, are highly appreciated by the Tanzanian leadership, government and people. He added that he discussed with TRCS chief ways to strengthen bilateral relations. He noted that the KRCS's delegation visited the Muhnbili hospital for children with cancer, provided food and medical supplies and toys to the children's center, as well as distributing food and relief supplies to the needy in Kigutuzza governorate. The KRCS delegation concluded its visit in Tanzania after carrying out vital projects, including schools, blood bank system, distribution of handicapped equipment and supporting the vocational rehabilitation center. Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassem Al-Najim said in a similar statement that Kuwait is keen on supporting the good deeds and provide a helping hand to the needy everywhere.

In Zanzibar, its president Ali Mohammad Shein thanked Kuwait on Thursday for its contributions towards agricultural development in the Indian Ocean archipelago. Shein had met Kuwait's ambassador to Tanzania Jassem Al-Najim, where he expressed his gratitude for the Gulf state's comprehensive support, read a statement by the Kuwaiti embassy in Zanzibar. Najim said that the second vice president of Zanzibar Seif Ali Eidi thanked Kuwait for its unlimited support of his country. Kuwait had previously donated an array of farm equipment to Zanzibar, in addition to a loan deal worth \$13.6 million signed last month to fund the refurbishment of a major hospital in Tanzania's semi-autonomous archipelago. Last Tuesday, Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait Moheiddine Salem hailed the tremendous humanitarian contributions of Kuwait Red Crescent Society to his country and around the world. He said following his meeting with KRCS's Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas that the society had carried out numerous projects in his country. — KUNA



Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Anwar Al-Hasawi poses with children at the Muhnbili hospital for children with cancer in Tanzania.

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## Bangladesh teens block roads over road safety

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NICE: Young men leap off rocks into the Mediterranean Sea at Nice, south-eastern France on August 2, 2018, as heatwave conditions prevail over Europe. — AFP

# Shoes for dogs: Europe wilts in heat

## Record high temperatures begin melting asphalt

**MADRID:** Europe sweltered yesterday in intense heat with temperatures due to hit near-record highs of 46 degrees Celsius in Portugal, while elsewhere high temperatures melted the asphalt or saw police dogs fitted with shoes. Here is a roundup:

### Portugal: Peak heat

The heatwave was expected to reach its peak yesterday, said Paula Leitao of the Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), with the city of Setubal not far from Lisbon due to reach highs of 46 C during the day. By way of comparison, this is not far off the 48 C expected in California's notoriously parched and scorching Death Valley, one of the hottest places on earth, according to US forecaster AccuWeather.

This comes a day after 16 weather stations in the country registered record temperatures including in Alcaccer do Sal near Setubal, where the heat climbed to 45.9 C. Authorities in Lisbon have closed playgrounds and called on people to avoid picnics and outdoor activities. Refuges for homeless people have also opened earlier in the day to allow them to take shelter from the crushing heat.

### Spain: Three dead

In southern Spain, the heat continued to pound down with the touristy city of Cordoba expected to reach 45 C. The heat has already claimed the lives of three people this week. A middle-aged man in Barcelona, whom media said appeared to be homeless, was found collapsed on a street Friday and taken to hospital where he later died of heatstroke. Catalonia's civil protection agency said in a statement. Two other men — a roadworker in his 40s and a 78-year-old pensioner tending to his vegetable garden — also died from heatstroke this week.



faces exposed to the sun that could easily go over 50 C, hence the shoes.

### Netherlands: Asphalt melting

In the Netherlands, authorities had closed certain sections of highways where the heat had melted the asphalt. The central city of Zwolle, meanwhile, had started cutting the branches of some 100 poplar trees. Dutch public television NOS explained that branches could break due to the heat and create danger for drivers or passers-by.

### France: Nuclear reactors close

A total of four nuclear reactors in France have been closed due to the heatwave. French power company EDF said the measures were taken to avoid raising too high the temperature of rivers where nuclear plants draw water to cool down reactors and then pour it back in. Yesterday was also the summer's busiest day on the

roads, as July holiday-makers returned home and those who vacation in August departed for their month of farniente. By late morning, 670 kilometers of traffic jams had been reported, according to France's traffic authorities, as the heat pounded down on the asphalt.

### Italy: Health warnings

Italy too faced the summer's busiest day on the roads for the same reason as France. Holiday-makers were expected to face adverse weather conditions wherever they went. In the north, the scorching heat beat down on cars while violent hailstorms were expected in the afternoon in the south. This week, the Legambiente association for the defense of the environment published a report on the negative effects of heatwaves. It revealed that in Lazio, the region where Rome is located, heatwaves had caused around 7,700 deaths since 2000.

### Sweden: Relief

Following its hottest July in 250 years, rain showers gave Sweden cooling relief yesterday across most of the country. The mercury fell to more typical summer temperatures of around 20-25 C, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute said. — AFP

## City of Cordoba expected to reach 45 C

## Iran protesters attack religious school as tensions mount

**TEHRAN:** Iranian protesters have attacked a religious school in Karaj province near Tehran, the conservative Fars news agency reported yesterday, as sporadic protests simmered ahead of the re-imposition of US sanctions.

Iranian authorities have barely mentioned days of protests in the major cities of Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad and Tehran, driven by concerns over water, the economy and wider anger at the political system. During past unrest, conservative outlets have focused on attacks against sensitive symbols such as religious buildings as a way of tarnishing protesters.

"At 9:00 pm (1630 GMT on Friday) they attacked the school and tried to break the doors down and burn things," Fars quoted the head of the school in the town of Ishtehad, Hojatoleslam Hindiani, as saying, giving only his clerical rank and no first name. "They were about 500 people and they chanted against the system but they were dispersed by the riot police and some have been arrested," Hindiani said.

Fars acknowledged protests have taken

place in "five or six cities" since Tuesday over water shortages, rising prices and joblessness, with "about 1,000 or 2,000 people" taking part. But it said these peaceful protests were taken over by people "who come into the crowd with political slogans such as 'Death to the dictator'". It said this was part of a pre-planned plot by the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia to exploit economic tensions inside Iran. Because foreign media are barred from observing "unauthorised" protests, it has been impossible to verify any of these claims or the videos of protests spreading on social media.

### Clerical opposition

With tensions high ahead of the return of US sanctions on Tuesday, the government of President Hassan Rouhani also faces opposition from conservatives and religious leaders, who have long disliked his outreach to the West and accuse him of governing only for the rich. The conservative Qom News published a video of a protest in the holy city of Mashhad after Friday prayers, in which a cleric tells the crowd: "Most of your representatives don't care about people's problems."

"Most have two passports and their families are abroad. The judiciary should find these people and arrest them," the cleric says, to chants of "Allahu akbar" ("God is greater") from the crowd. Former hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has fallen out with the conservative establishment since leaving office in 2013, has tried to ride this wave of anger. In a Wednesday Twitter post,

he called on US President Donald Trump to release a list of "relatives of Iranian government officials that have green cards and bank accounts in the United States", if such a record exists.

### Sanctions return

So far, social media reports suggest the current protests are far from the scale of the unrest seen in December and January, when at least 25 people were killed in demonstrations that spread to dozens of towns and cities. There were allegations at the time that they had been sparked by conservative opponents of Rouhani in Mashhad before quickly spiraling out of hand.

But all Iranians are concerned about the struggling economy, especially since the United States walked out of the nuclear deal in May and announced it would re-impose full sanctions in two stages. The first phase hits on Tuesday with blocks on financial transactions and imports of raw materials, as well as sanctions on Iran's automotive sector and commercial aircraft purchases.

Iran Air announced it would take delivery of five ATR aircraft from the French-Italian firm on Sunday, sneaking under the wire before the sanctions return. Iran says the sanctions are endangering lives by blocking the sale of new planes and spare parts for its ageing fleets. Iran's Aseman Airlines was ordered to ground its fleet of ATR planes in February after one of them crashed in the Zagros mountains, killing all 66 people onboard. — AFP

## Trump aims tweet at LeBron James

**LOS ANGELES:** To the sporting world and largely beyond, he's King James, but to President Trump, LeBron James' is no intellectual genius. In a tweet, Trump took aim at two of his regular critics, James and cable TV news personality Don Lemon. His tweet called Lemon the "the dumbest man on television," and then said Lemon "made LeBron look smart, which isn't easy to do."

Trump finished the tweet with "I like Mike!" an apparent reference to favoring NBA legend Michael Jordan in a comparison with James as perhaps the best NBA player ever. James—who last month announced his decision to leave the Cleveland Cavaliers for a second time, this time to come to Los Angeles and play for the Lakers—gave an interview with Lemon on Monday, in large part to tout a new elementary school in his hometown of Akron, Ohio.

The school, which is a joint effort of the LeBron James Family Foundation and Akron Public Schools, will benefit at-risk children. During the sit-down, James spoke of sports as something that unites people, and added that the president was "using sports to kinda divide us." Trump has repeatedly and strongly criticized the NFL in particular for not punishing players who kneel during the national anthem in a form of protest. "Sports has never been something that divides people," James said during the interview. "It's always been something that brings someone together."

James has previously criticized Trump on several occasions, publicly supporting Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton before the 2016 election and calling Trump a "bum" in September 2017, after the president rescinded an invitation to the Golden State Warriors to visit the White House after winning the NBA title. "Going to the White House was a great honor until you showed up!" James tweeted at the time. Trump's first comments about the NFL and players who protest during the anthem came later that month. — Reuters

International

# Despite tensions, Russia seeks US govt help to rebuild Syria

## US policy only supports efforts when political solution in place

WASHINGTON: Russia has used a closely guarded communications channel with America's top general to propose the two former Cold War foes cooperate to rebuild Syria and repatriate refugees to the war-torn country, according to a US government memo. The proposal was sent in a July 19 letter by Valery Gerasimov, the chief of the Russian military's General Staff, to US Marine General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, according to the memo which was seen by Reuters.

The Russian plan, which has not been previously reported, has received an icy reception in Washington. The memo said the US policy was only to support such efforts if there were a political solution to end Syria's seven-year-old civil war, including steps like UN-supervised elections. The proposal illustrates how Russia, having helped turn the tide of the war in favor of President Bashar Al-Assad, is now pressing Washington and others to aid the reconstruction of areas under his control. Such an effort would likely further cement Assad's hold on power.

"The proposal argues that the Syrian regime lacks the equipment, fuel, other material, and funding needed to rebuild the country in order to accept refugee returns," according to the memo, which specified that the proposal related to Syrian government-held areas of the country. The United States in 2011 adopted a policy that Assad must leave power but then watched as his forces, backed by Iran and then Russia, clawed back territory and secure Assad's position.

### Political transition

The United States has drawn a line on reconstruction assistance, saying it should be tied to a process that includes UN-supervised elections and a political transition in Syria. It blames Assad for Syria's devastation. Dunford's office declined comment on communications with Gerasimov. "In accordance with past practice, both Generals have agreed to keep the details of their conversations private," said spokeswoman Captain Paula Dunn.

The Kremlin and Russia's defense ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Syria conflict has killed an estimated half a million people, driven some 5.6 million people out of the country and displaced around 6.6 million within it. Most of those who have fled are from the Sunni Muslim majority, and it is unclear whether Assad's Alawite-dominated government will allow all to return freely or whether they would want to, Sunnis made up the bulk of the armed opposition to Assad.

"The United States will only support refugee returns when they are safe, voluntary and dignified," said the memo, which is specifically about the Russian plan for Syria. Rebuilding Syria will also be a massive effort, costing at least \$250 billion, according to one UN estimate.

Some US officials believe Syria's dependence on the international community for reconstruction, along with the presence of US and US-backed forces in part of Syria, gives Washington leverage as

diplomats push for a negotiated end to the war.

### Military channel

The exchange offered a rare glimpse into the military communications channel between Moscow and Washington, one that Dunford himself has fiercely sought to keep private. Dunford, who speaks periodically with Gerasimov, has stressed that the two militaries need to be able to have candid, private communications to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to armed confrontation. But it was unclear how reconstruction and refugees fit into military-to-military communications. Gerasimov's letter suggests that channel is also being used by Moscow to broach non-military matters. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed Syria, and the issue of refugees, at their July 16 summit in Helsinki. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the talks focused on "how we might get the refugees back." But US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said last week no policy changes came out of the summit. The US government memo explicitly said the Russian proposal was not "an outcome" of the Trump-Putin talks, but cautioned that Russian officials were trying to present it differently.

"Russian diplomats and other officials have also been engaging in an aggressive campaign to describe the initiative in other capitals and to insinuate that it is an outcome of the US-Russia meeting in Helsinki, which it is not, repeat not," the memo



DARAA: A picture taken on August 2, 2018, shows a man riding a motorcycle past destroyed buildings in the opposition-held southern city of Daraa. — AFP

read. The Russian cover letter for the proposal sent to Dunford recommended the United States, Russia and Jordan repurpose a hub designed to monitor a 2017 ceasefire agreement "to form a joint committee to implement the reconstruction and refugee return

plan," the memo said. Jordan is hosting more than 650,000 Syrian refugees. The Russian letter also suggests that the United States and Russia form a joint group to finance infrastructure renovation in Syria, the US memo says. — Reuters

## Zimbabwe oppn in court over post-vote violence

HARARE: Members of Zimbabwe's defeated opposition party were appearing in court yesterday, accused of staging violent protests against alleged rigging in this week's historic elections. The appearance by 24 people arrested in a police raid at opposition MDC headquarters comes a day after President Emmerson Mnangagwa was declared the winner of Zimbabwe's first polls since autocrat Robert Mugabe was ousted last year.

At least six people died after troops in the

capital Harare opened fire on demonstrators on Wednesday, alleging that Mnangagwa had stolen the election from MDC leader Nelson Chamisa. The crackdown sparked an international outcry, raising grim memories of the violence that marred polls under Mugabe's iron-fisted rule. The 16 men and eight women appearing in court are accused of smashing windows at offices of the ruling ZANU-PF party during the protests, throwing stones and setting fire to vehicles.

Mnangagwa has accused the opposition of fomenting the unrest, but said on Friday that he would set up an independent commission to investigate the killings. "No democratic process is flawless," Mnangagwa said, but he insisted Monday's election was "free, fair and credible", a far cry from the fraud-tainted polls of the Mugabe era.

He also called for unity, telling Chamisa: "You have a crucial role to play in Zimbabwe's present and in its unfolding future." Chamisa,

a 40-year-old pastor and lawyer, has urged his supporters to refrain from violence as he prepares to challenge the results in court. "We won but they declared the opposite. You voted but they cheated," he said on Twitter yesterday. Mnangagwa, 75, has said Chamisa is free to mount a legal challenge, though such a move appears to have little chance of changing the result. Mnangagwa won 50.8 percent against Chamisa's 44.3 percent, according to the Zimbabwe Election Commission—just scraping over the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a presidential run-off.

### 'Army beatings'

A former right-hand man to Mugabe, Mnangagwa was chosen to lead ZANU-PF after the brief military intervention last November that ousted him after 37 years in power. Mnangagwa was allegedly involved in state violence during the 2008 elections when the opposition pulled out of the run-off, fol-

lowing the deaths of at least 200 supporters in attacks.

He has hailed the first post-Mugabe polls as a "new beginning" and pledged to represent all Zimbabweans, including those who did not vote for him. But rights groups have expressed concern that heavy-handed policing to prevent more post-election protests indicate how he intends to govern. Amnesty International said more than 60 people had been "arbitrarily arrested" in a post-election clampdown on the opposition.

Residents said they had seen troops beating up civilians in Chitungwiza, a sprawling satellite town south of Harare, on Friday night. "I don't even know why they were beating those people," said Christine, a retailer of copper products in Harare who witnessed the beatings. "It was the soldiers, they are still out there. We are even scared of going out."

Seeking to lift Zimbabwe's status as an international pariah, Mnangagwa has made a

priority of attracting badly needed foreign investment. He pronounced the country "open for business" on Friday, adding: "We want to leapfrog and catch up with other developing countries." Mugabe, who had ruled since independence from Britain in 1980, left Zimbabwe's economy in tatters, presiding over the seizure of white-owned farms and hyperinflation.

Health and education services are in ruins, while millions of people have fled abroad to seek work. Anthoni Van Nieuwkerk, an international relations professor at Wits University in Johannesburg, said Mnangagwa was well aware that his recovery plan required "goodwill and support" from the international community. "If they roll out the soldiers—beyond what happened on Wednesday—throughout the country to suppress dissent, and if more people are killed, then this will spell no good news for this new incoming president," he told AFP. — AFP



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## Do you want to save the planet? Move to Wales

## One Planet Development Policy' aims to promote sustainable living

**GLANDWR:** Fighting climate change is much more than a day job for Chris Vernon and Erica Thompson. It is their entire way of life. They are part of a groundbreaking Welsh government scheme under which people get to circumvent tight planning rules so long as they build an eco-home in the countryside and go back to working the land on which it sits.

The 'One Planet Development Policy' was adopted by the Welsh government in 2011 and so far, 32 households have signed up. The aim is ambitious: in a small country where people on average use three times their fair share of the world's resources, Wales wants its One Planet people to use only the resources they are due. Which means a simpler smallholding life, spending and travelling less, growing and making more.

A spokesman for the Welsh government said the scheme was an important niche initiative, rather than a model to scale up. "It is intended to provide an opportunity for those wishing to live a highly sustainable lifestyle, project a light touch on the environment, and who will be largely self-sufficient in terms of income, food and energy," said Matthew Morris, a communications officer with the Welsh government. "Numbers of such developments are likely to remain small."

The scheme has mostly attracted digital-era smallholders with a stubborn determination to return to a subsistence lifestyle in the rolling hills and valleys of rural Wales. And not to ruin the planet with a consumerist, throwaway lifestyle. "We've known for 20 or 30 years now what we need to do to address the problem of climate change," Vernon said from his half-built home. "We don't need more data. Whilst I was sitting in my office working on the computer I got the feeling I could be doing something that demonstrates how we can address the problems."

Vernon and his partner Thompson know more about "the problems" than most. She holds a PhD in climate

science, he has one in glaciology and is a climate modeller at Britain's national weather service, the Met office. They decided it was time for action, not academia. Eight months pregnant and elbow-deep in local clay plaster, Thompson said their home had to be zero carbon in construction and use to win government go-ahead. It sits deep in bucolic Pembrokeshire, a lush, coastal county in the southwest of Wales that pioneered the green approach before it was adopted countrywide. Just up the road lies the Llamas community, a pioneering and collective eco-venture where nine smallholdings nestle in the landscape around a central community hub.

## Heatwave

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the leading international group that assesses climate change, estimates that global temperatures could rise 3.4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Amid a European heatwave running from North Africa up to the Arctic Circle, the Welsh initiative is taking root on the Western fringe of the continent in a bid to redress some of the damage.

The policy also aims to address a myriad of problems beyond rising temperatures, from soil degradation to rural de-population, a housing crisis to wasteful global supply chains. It offers people with little money, but plenty of determination, a way out of the rat race and back to the land. With property prices out of reach for many rural workers and tight regulations restricting new builds, the scheme is the only way for many locals to own a home and work nearby, said another One Planet home builder, Cathryn Wyatt.

Dairy farmer Brian Boman sums up the difficulties faced by locals seeking to live and work in the area. "We have two sons both in their 30s, both involved in the business. We have more than enough room here, to



PEMBROKESHIRE, Wales: Chris Vernon and Erica Thompson pose outside the eco-house they are building. —Reuters

build something on the farm for the pair of them, but of course planning is a huge issue," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Housing figures across Wales tell the same story. In the 1980s, it would have taken a typical 20-something household about three years to save for an average deposit, according to the Resolution Trust think tank. The research shows it would now take 19 years. Like

many of her fellow One Planet builders, Jacqui Banks wanted to jettison her old life and be true to her principles. "It's a lot of work, in the early years, but what we're building is hopefully a resilient system that is going to help us have a positive impact on the world," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Living in the city I found it extremely difficult - the consumerist lifestyle and the waste involved." —Reuters

## Eritrean Airlines makes first flight to Ethiopia in 20 years

**ADDIS ABABA:** Eritrea's national airline yesterday made its first commercial flight in two decades to Addis Ababa, the capital of neighboring Ethiopia, the latest step in a surprise peace process between the former foes that began just two months ago. An Eritrean Airlines plane carrying the country's transport and tourism ministers landed at the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, where it was welcomed by senior Ethiopian officials.

Already last month, the Ethiopia's own flag carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, had made its first commercial flight in the other direction, landing in Asmara International Airport on July 18. Once a province of Ethiopia, Eritrea seceded in 1993 after a long independence struggle. A row over the demarcation of the shared border triggered a brutal 1998-2000 conflict which left 80,000 people dead before evolving into a bitter cold war. But in a surprise move in June, Ethiopia's new reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced he would finally accept a 2002 United Nations-backed border demarcation, paving the way for peace between the two nations.

He then paid a historic visit to Eritrea, during which he and President Isaias Afwerki declared an official end to the war. Afwerki reciprocated with a state visit to Ethiopia just days later. Embassies have since been reopened and phone lines between the two countries have also been restored. Eritrean Airlines currently has only one leased airplane. "The new route will expand existing regional flights of the airline to Cairo, Khartoum, Jeddah and Dubai," Eritrea's information minister Yemane Gebre Meskel said on Twitter. —AFP

## 'Real problem' of anti-Semitism in UK Labour party

**LONDON:** Britain's opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn conceded in a newspaper article yesterday that his party had a "real problem" with anti-Semitism as the issue continues to dog the veteran leftist. "I do acknowledge there is a real problem that Labour is working to overcome," he wrote in a guest column in the Guardian. "And I accept that if any part of our national community feels threatened, anxious or vulnerable, not only must that be taken at face value but we must all ensure that those fears are put to rest," he added.

Corbyn, who has accused of being too soft on members of his party who have made anti-Semitic comments, vowed to root out the problem. "People who dish out anti-Semitic poison need to understand: you do not do it in my name," he wrote. "You are not my supporters and have no place in our movement." The issue has dogged Corbyn since he took over as Labour leader in 2015, and resurfaced earlier this week when the party refused to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism. —AFP

## Lula launches presidential candidacy from behind bars

**SAO PAULO:** Even behind bars, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will secure his leftist party's nomination and continue to overshadow more likely candidates in the country's most unpredictable presidential election for decades. Today will see three big party conventions, two months before the first round of voting on October 7 in Latin America's dominant economy.

Center-left environmental campaigner Marina Silva will get the nomination of her Rede party in Brasilia. Also in the capital, former Sao Paulo governor and establishment heavyweight Geraldo Alckmin will secure the nod from the center-right Brazilian Social Democratic Party, or PSDB. But while both Silva and Alckmin are serious contenders in a battle against controversial right-winger Jair Bolsonaro, it's the third convention taking place in Sao Paulo that will suck up much of the attention.

The Workers' Party, founded by Lula, will nominate him in his bid to return to power for a third term. Never mind that he started serving a 12-year sentence for

corruption this year. Never mind that he is likely to be barred from the ballot. Despite the scandals — which he and his supporters believe have been artificially stoked to keep him out of the election — Lula is still unquestionably the biggest beast in Brazilian politics.

Polls show him with near double the support of all other main candidates in a first round, crushing any runner up in the second decisive round two weeks later. Lula and his Workers' Party, which underpinned his domination of Brazil during two terms in 2003-2010, believe he's no yesterday's man. "He's still the leader," rubs in the Workers' Party's latest election ad online, featuring a picture of the smiling 72-year-old, dressed in his trademark black T-shirt and suit jacket.

## Passing the torch?

Lula is waiting for final court judgment on whether he can run. It doesn't look good: under current law anyone losing an appeal of a criminal conviction is not allowed on the ballot. So despite the left's almost cult-like enthusiasm for Lula, there will be close attention to the choice for vice president — a figure who could end up standing in for the imprisoned leader.

One high-profile possibility is former Sao Paulo mayor Fernando Haddad. A powerful politician, he has signed on to Lula's legal team, giving him easy access to the prison, and he would be well placed to inherit Lula's electorate. But analysts say the party could yet choose a



SAO PAULO: A man places masks of former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on chairs, before the national convention of the Workers Party. —AFP

lesser figure, deliberately throwing the election in order to underline the argument that Lula's exit robbed Brazilians of their democratic choice.

Alckmin has already named Senator Ana Amelia, who is expected to help him in the south of the country and eat into conservative support for Bolsonaro. If Alckmin has gone for a female VP, Silva has struck a pact with a man, Eduardo Jorge, from Brazil's Green Party. Bolsonaro, who has positioned himself as a radical right-winger appealing to

Brazilians' fury over crime and corruption, has yet to find his running mate.

Names thrown around in Brazilian media reports have included a former astronaut, a member of the royal family and a general. The problem facing all candidates is the level of voter disgust and apathy. Two polls show that 33 or 41 percent of voters are undecided or not participating in an election that doesn't include Lula. If Lula was on the ballot, that number would drop but still account for about a quarter of voters. —AFP

## Tajikistan refutes IS claim of 'terror attack'

**DUSHANBE:** Authoritarian Tajikistan has called for the first time an incident that left four foreign cyclists dead in the Central Asian country a "terror attack" while appearing to refute the Islamic State group's claim of responsibility. In a statement published late on Friday the ex-Soviet country's state prosecutor said the attack initially reported as a hit-and-run road accident was aimed at "creating an atmosphere of fear and panic in society and undermining the international authority of the Republic of Tajikistan".

"The attack on the foreign tourists was a terrorist act," the statement said of the assault by an armed gang on a group of seven foreign cyclists Sunday which left two Americans, one Swiss and one Dutch national dead. On Tuesday IS released a video showing what it said was a pledge of allegiance by the five men accused of murdering the tourists visiting the impoverished ex-Soviet nation.

In a first official mention of the video Friday, however, the country's state prosecutor said the clip had been released "with the aim of deflecting suspicions from another terrorist organization, the Islamic Renaissance Party, which is the main commissioner of this terrorist act". A prior police report pinning responsibility for the attack on the Islamic Renaissance Party (IRPT) — which styled itself as a moderate, faith-based



DUSHANBE: Two women lay flowers and sign a book of condolences at the US Embassy. —AFP

opposition party until it was outlawed by Tajikistan in 2015 — has generated skepticism outside the republic.

The government began a long crackdown on the opposition in 2015 just before the IRPT failed to make parliament in a vote widely viewed as strewn with violations. Tajik police also alleged that a detained suspect viewed as one of the leaders of the attack on the tourists "underwent training" in Iran, a country with whom Tajikistan currently has poor relations. Both Iran and IRPT have denied any links to the attack.

The video released by IS Tuesday shows five men, who resemble pictures of the suspects put out by Tajik police, sitting by a tree

in front of a jihadist flag. The clip shows them swearing allegiance to Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the group's leader. Four of the men were killed resisting arrest, according to Tajik police while a fifth is in police custody.

The victims were killed by being struck by a car and attacked with knives and guns as they cycled along a road off the Pamir Highway — a popular tourist route with spectacular views. They have been named as Lauren Geoghegan and Jay Austin of the United States, Dutch citizen Rene Wokke and Swiss citizen Markus Hummel. One Dutch and one Swiss citizen survived the attack while a French cyclist escaped unscathed. —AFP

## Thai cave boys honor dead rescuer

**MAE SAI:** The Thai boys freed from a flooded cave in a rescue bid that gripped the world left a Buddhist monastery yesterday, 11 days after ordaining as novice monks to honor a diver who died during the mission to save them. The ordeal of the "Wild Boars" football team dominated global headlines as divers worked round the clock to extract the group from the flooded chambers and twisted, narrow passages of the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand.

In a dangerous and unprecedented rescue, the 12 boys and their 25-year-old coach were sedated and carried through the waterlogged chambers by divers, ending a nearly three-week saga. But joy at the rescue was tempered by grief at the death of former Thai Navy SEAL diver Saman Kunan, who died while installing oxygen tanks along the rescue route.

Eleven of the boys and their coach ordained to "make merit" according to Buddhist ritual for "Sergeant Sam", as the diver is now affectionately known across Thailand. One player, Adul Sam-on, was not ordained as he is a Christian. Yesterday the boys, heads shaven and dressed in white to mark Buddhist Lent, left the Pha That Doi Wao temple in northern Thailand's Mae Sai district. —AFP



## International

## N Korea criticizes 'alarming' US impatience on denuclearization

## Pompeo stresses need to maintain full sanctions pressure

**SINGAPORE:** North Korea yesterday said the US was acting with "alarming" impatience on the issue of denuclearization, after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stressed the need to maintain full sanctions pressure on Pyongyang. The contrasting comments at a security forum in Singapore came after a new UN report showed Pyongyang was continuing with its nuclear and missile programs and evading sanctions through ship-to-ship oil transfers.

At historic talks with President Donald Trump in June, North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un signed up to a vague commitment to "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula"—a far cry from long-standing US demands for complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament. While US officials have publicly been optimistic about the agreement, Pyongyang appears to have made little substantial progress and concerns have been growing that some UN member states have been easing sanctions.

At the ASEAN Regional Forum, Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho insisted North Korea stood "firm in its determination and commitment" to implement the June agreement signed in Singapore. But he criticized the US for undermining confidence in the process: "What is alarming, however, is the insistent moves manifested within the US to go back to the old, far from its leader's intention." Since the June agreement, Pyongyang had taken "goodwill measures", including a halt on nuclear and mis-

sile tests and "dismantling a nuclear test ground", he said, according to a statement.

## Sanctions worries

"However, the United States, instead of responding to these measures, is raising its voice louder for maintaining the sanctions against the DPRK," he said, using the initials of the North's official name. "As long as the US does not show in practice its strong will to remove our concerns, there will be no case whereby we will move forward first unilaterally," Ri added.

Ri also accused the US of "extremely inappropriate" behavior by putting pressure on other countries not to send high-level delegations to celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of North Korea in September. It was not the first time the North has appeared unhappy at what it sees as US impatience to push them quickly along the path of denuclearization.

When Pompeo met with North Korean officials in Pyongyang last month to flesh out the regime's commitment, they condemned his "gangster-like" insistence that the North move towards unilateral disarmament. Earlier at the same forum, Pompeo said he was emphasizing to countries "the importance of maintaining diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea" but also said that he was "optimistic" about the prospects for progress when it came to North Korean denuclearization.

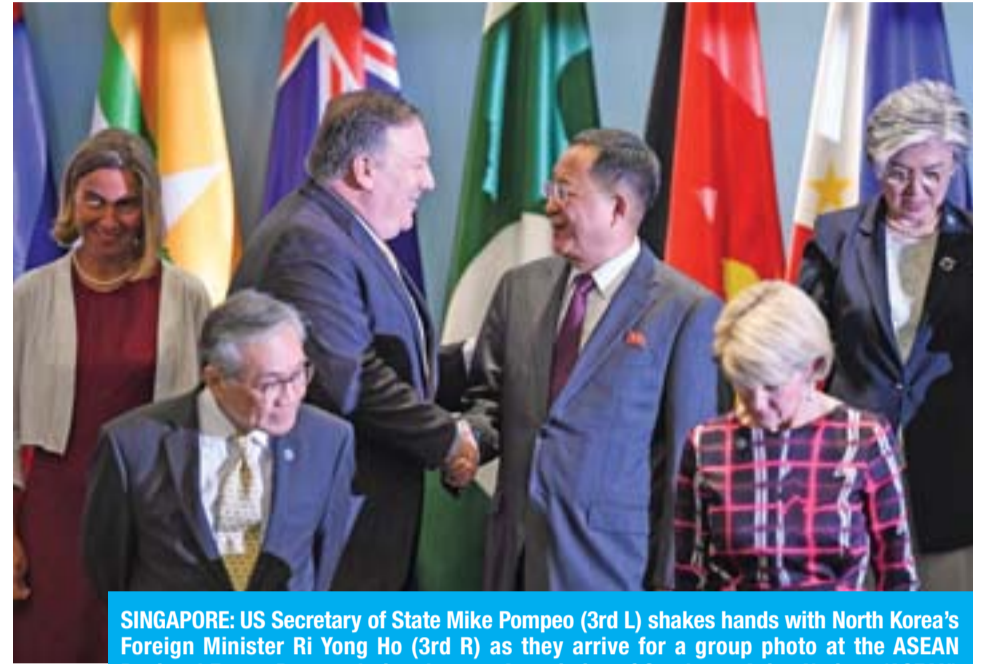
Yesterday's forum, hosted by the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), brings together top diplomats from 26 countries and the European Union for talks on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific. As well as the US and North Korea, it includes foreign ministers from China, Russia, South Korea and Japan, all countries traditionally involved in efforts to curtail the North's nuclear ambition. At the meeting, the US delegation also delivered a letter from Trump intended for Kim, by passing it to Ri, Pompeo said in a tweet. It was Trump's reply to a letter he received from Kim earlier this week, he said.

## All smiles

Pompeo also briefly met the North's foreign minister Saturday. The US top diplomat went over to greet him at a joint photo of ministers ahead of the day's main forum, with the pair shaking hands, smiling and exchanging some words. While the encounter was brief, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert described it as a "step in the right direction" given where US-North Korea relations were a year ago, as tensions soared due to the North's weapons tests.

Pompeo had already left the forum to fly to the next stop on his trip, Indonesia, when Ri delivered his fiery statement, she said. On sanctions, Pompeo singled out Russia after reports suggested Moscow breached the measures by granting work permits to North Korean workers.



**SINGAPORE:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (3rd L) shakes hands with North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho (3rd R) as they arrive for a group photo at the ASEAN Regional Forum Retreat during the 51st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting (AMM). — AFP

During meetings with other foreign ministers in Singapore, Pompeo said he had called specifically for sanctions to be enforced through halting ship-to-ship oil transfers. Cutting off oil and fuel

to the North would require enforcement primarily by China, which supplies most of North Korea's energy needs, but also by Russia, which delivers some oil to Pyongyang. — AFP

## S Korea women hold mass rally against 'spycam porn'

**SEOUL:** Tens of thousands of South Korean women staged a mass rally in Seoul yesterday to protest against spycam porn, urging tougher punishments for peeping Toms as anger over the growing scourge boils over. Since May, the monthly demonstration in Seoul has shattered records to become the biggest-ever women's protest in South Korea where the global #MeToo movement has unleashed an unprecedented wave of female-led activism.

The primary cause of the protests are so-called spycam videos in a tech-savvy country where news of men caught secretly filming women in schools, offices, trains, or even toilets have made headlines on a daily basis. Organisers said yesterday's event drew 70,000 participants, ten thousand more than the previous month's rally, despite an unprecedented summer heatwave that has pushed the mercury above 37 degrees.

"Women's toilets in this country are infested with spycams! Please please crack down on the crimes," the women chanted in unison at the city's Gwanghwamun Plaza which routinely hosts mass rallies. Some waved banners with slogans such as: "We can't live like this anymore" and "South Korea: the nation of spycams." Asia's

fourth-largest economy takes pride in its tech prowess, from ultra-fast Internet to cutting-edge smartphones.

But these advances have also given rise to an army of tech-savvy perverts, with videos widely shared in internet chatrooms and on file-sharing sites, or used as adverts for websites promoting prostitution or gambling. The number of such spycam crimes reported to police has surged from around 1,100 in 2010 to more than 6,500 last year, with the offenders ranging from school teachers and college professors to church pastors and even a court judge.

The protestors are demanding that the government toughen punishments for offenders — most of whom are fined or receive suspended jail terms — and shutter websites hosting the footage. Most participants at yesterday's rally hid their faces with hats, sunglasses or surgical facial masks. Some South Koreans who have previously joined protests in support of women's rights have faced online bullying and harassment. The South remains deeply conservative and patriarchal despite economic and technological advances.

The crimes have become so prevalent that the South's female police officers inspect women's toilets in public venues including subway stations on a regular basis with special detectors for spycam videos that may be hidden inside stalls. Although all manufacturers of smartphones sold in the South are required to ensure their devices make a loud shutter noise when taking photos — a move designed to curb covert filming — many offenders use special apps that mute the sound, or turn to high-tech spy cameras hidden inside eye glasses, lighters, watches, car keys and even neckties. — AFP



**DHAKA:** A Bangladeshi student wave Bangladesh's national flag as they block a road during a student protest yesterday following the deaths of two college students in a road accident. — AFP

## Bangladesh teens block roads over road safety

**DHAKA:** Parts of the Bangladeshi capital ground to a halt for the seventh day running yesterday, as thousands of students staged protests calling for improvements to road safety after two teenagers were killed by a speeding bus. Authorities have pleaded with demonstrators to call off protests that have nearly paralyzed Dhaka and prompted foreign embassies to issue travel alerts.

Thousands of students wearing school uniforms defied rain to block major intersections in the capital from yesterday morning. Teens as young as 13 were seen on Dhaka's notoriously clogged roadways checking whether cars and buses had valid licenses and were in a roadworthy condition. "We want justice," the students chanted as they gathered in some of Dhaka's main public squares. "We won't leave the roads until our demands are met. We want safe roads and safe drivers," said protester Al Miran.

Anger has simmered since a speeding bus killed a boy and girl last weekend. Bangladesh's transport sector is widely seen as corrupt, unregulated and dangerous, and as news of the teenagers' deaths became a catalyst for public anger after spreading rapidly on social media. An insensitive comment by Shajahan Khan, a gov-

ernment minister with ties to powerful transport unions, poured oil onto the fire. Khan questioned why there was such an uproar over the two Dhaka children but no reaction when 33 people were killed in an Indian bus crash the day before.

There have been widespread social media demands for the minister's resignation despite his subsequent apology. The education ministry shut down high schools on Thursday in an effort to quell unrest, promising students their demands for road safety reforms would be considered. Several powerful ministers pleaded with students to return to their classes, amid worries the unprecedented teen outrage could turn into widespread anti-government protests ahead of general elections due later this year.

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ruled Bangladesh since 2009, but in recent months it has been shaken by mass protests demanding an end to a decades-old system of discriminatory civil service recruitment. Dhaka suffers from daily gridlock but congestion has been exacerbated by blockades set up across the city since Sunday. The embassies of the US and Australia warned of significant delays and disruptions as a result of the protests across Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. — AFP

## Nepal moves to ensure 'untouchables' receive forest protection cash

**GORKHA:** When Krishna Maya Sunar received 10,000 rupees (\$91) from a forest protection project in Gorkha in Nepal, it changed her life. That was seven years ago. Until then, she got by selling home-brewed liquor. It did not earn much — about 5,000 rupees a month — and, being illegal, was risky. But having that larger sum, which was given to each member of a community forestry group in Gorkha, which lies about 100 kilometers northwest of the capital Kathmandu, meant Sunar could turn her hand to goat-farming.

"If it weren't for the money, I wouldn't know how I would be able to survive," she said. Sunar's situation is unusual — and not only because she was one of the earliest Nepali recipients of money from a REDD+ project, a UN-backed forestry conservation scheme aimed at combating climate change. It is also because Sunar is a Dalit. In this predominantly Hindu, caste-based society, Dalit people — or "untouchables" — are near the bottom of the rung. They have restricted access to natural resources and are often mired in poverty. And few have benefited as much as other Nepalis from REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) payments, said Nira Jairu, a Dalit and member of parliament. "The REDD+ funds must reach the Dalit," she said.

The government has pledged to come up with an inclusive plan to ensure that such payments benefit all, including the most marginalized. Sindhu Dhungana heads the REDD Implementation Center, a government body tasked with overseeing the development of Nepal's REDD strategy and the benefit-sharing plan. He said the government would include the input of people at the local level when preparing and implementing the plan.

"Principally ... the benefit-sharing will be fair and equitable in principle and at an operational level," he said. The government will this year consult with marginalized sectors of society — including Dalit communities — on the benefit-sharing plan, before the proposal heads to parliament for approval, he said. By next year, he added, the country would be able to sign a deal with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) — a World Bank program of governments, civil society groups and businesses engaged in REDD+ — that sets the price for the carbon credits.

## Afghans bury victims of mosque attack as death toll rises to 35

**KHOST:** Hundreds of mourners yesterday buried the victims of a twin suicide attack on a Shiite mosque in eastern Afghanistan, as the death toll rose to 35, officials said. Two suicide bombers dressed as women struck a Shiite mosque in Gardez, capital of Paktia province, Friday as it was crowded with worshippers for weekly prayers.

The burqa-clad attackers shot at the mosque's security guards before opening fire on worshippers then detonating their explosives. "The death toll from Friday's mosque attack in Gardez has jumped to 35 with 94 wounded," Paktia governor Shamim Khan Katawazi said. Provincial police chief Raz Mohammad Mandozai confirmed the toll. Officials had earlier said 29 people were killed and more than 80 wounded.

"Today, we held funeral ceremony and



**LUDIKHOLA:** Dalits participate in a community meeting as part of forest protection project in Ludikhola. — Reuters photo

Simply put, Nepal must first show that it can distribute the money it will receive to those involved in sustainably managing its forests before the FCPF will make payments, Dhungana said. "The carbon money ... should be trickled down to local people who have contributed to reducing emissions," he said.

## Pilot project

UN-backed REDD+ schemes look to cut emissions linked to deforestation, while giving local communities a financial benefit for conserving and managing forests. Sunar's REDD+ project was part of a pilot program funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) between 2009 and 2013. Forests act as carbon sinks, storing carbon dioxide — a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Cutting trees means carbon dioxide is released. Many experts say protecting forests is one of the least costly ways to reduce climate change.

As part of these programs, industrialized countries and donors — such as NORAD in Sunar's case — pay developing countries to manage their forests sustainably. Forest countries then can sell credits for emissions reductions, for instance to companies looking to offset the carbon they emit. Developing countries also need to implement REDD+ safeguards to minimize the damage the program could have on the livelihoods and cultures of communities that rely on forests, particularly indigenous people.

The REDD+ pilot project in Sunar's district, along with two others funded by NORAD, had provided useful lessons that the government would take on board, Dhungana said, including understanding what the pro-

gram entails. It had also shown that benefit-sharing should include social aspects, he said, and not simply look at the carbon impact.

## Practical steps

Sunar's community learned how to measure carbon to calculate a baseline, and then — by planting trees, preventing fires and cutting less timber — boost the amount of stored carbon in the 1,888-hectare forested Ludikhola watershed where they live.

The Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) — Kathmandu, one of the organizations which managed the project, said community groups in Gorkha had received about \$26,000 from NORAD in 2011. Those groups were able to show they had increased the amount of stored carbon by nearly 28,500 tons, and that they had met the criteria that members must include Dalits, indigenous people and women.

And although they have not received money since 2011, the community still looks after the forest. Manu Paniyan, who is also a Dalit, and who used her 10,000 rupees to buy a sewing machine, is one of the forest guards, known as lauro pulo. Under the lauro pulo system, two persons serve as forest guards for a day, looking out for fires, illegal logging and the theft of other forest resources.

As members of the community forestry user group they also devised ways of monitoring the funds, including monthly public hearings to discuss how to use the money, said Bhuraman Ghimire, who chairs one of the community forestry groups in Gorkha. "Before REDD+, these activities were not conducted," he said. — Reuters

Afghanistan have been rocked by a surge in violence in recent months, with both Islamic State and Taliban insurgents targeting security forces and government installations.

The Taliban have not claimed a major attack in a city for weeks as they come under increased pressure to agree to peace talks with the Afghan government. But IS carried out multiple attacks in the eastern city of Jalalabad and the capital Kabul in recent months, targeting everything from government ministries to a midwife training centre. Last month an IS suicide bomber blew himself up near Kabul international airport, killing 23 people including AFP driver Mohammad Akhtar.

The uptick in violence comes as US and Afghan forces intensify ground and air offensives against IS, and the Taliban step up their turf war with the group. Earlier this week more than 150 IS fighters surrendered in northern Afghanistan — in a move that Afghan security forces and the Taliban hailed as the end of the extremist group in the north of the country. — AFP

## Analysis

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## Washington Watch

The struggle for  
Palestinian rights:  
Then and now

By Dr James J Zogby

Forty years ago this month I left a tenured teaching position and moved to Washington, DC to run the Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC). It wasn't easy doing Palestine work back then, and Washington was an especially inhospitable city in which to pursue my new vocation. Advocating for Palestinian rights can still be difficult, but so much has changed in the past four decades that I thought it might be useful to reflect on where we were in the 1970s and where we are today.

Back then, major pro-Israel and establishment American Jewish organizations threw their full weight behind the effort to marginalize our work. They denounced and defamed us as supporters of terrorism - a disgraceful effort to silence and isolate us because we defended Palestinian rights - including the right to self-determination. The language they used was so harsh and the charges they leveled against us were so inflammatory that they took a toll. We received death threats, hate mail, culminating in violent attacks and even murder.

Their campaign to make "Palestine" taboo also negatively impacted our ability to build alliances. A few hardy Members of Congress supported our defense of Palestinian victims - of torture, Administrative Detention, collective punishment, or illegal expulsion from their homeland. Most Members, however, even those with stellar human rights records, begged off by citing their fear that if they were to defend Palestinians it might damage their political careers.

At one point, we even stopped testifying before Congressional committees since they proved to be largely frustrating and unproductive affairs. Instead of being allowed to make our case, our appearances only provided pro-Israel Members of Congress with the opportunity to badger and insult us with patently false scripted attacks ("Isn't it true that you are supporting terrorists?" and other such nonsense).

Even progressive foreign policy groups were intimidated. On two occasions we were divested from membership in a major left-leaning foreign policy coalition despite having won admission with an overwhelmingly favorable vote. The reasons given for asking us to withdraw were that a few Jewish groups threatened to leave the coalition if we were to join, creating the concern that the coalition might lose support from liberal Members of Congress and financial assistance from liberal donors.

It wasn't all gloom and doom. Despite struggling against great odds, we did win some support for our work. A few prominent Christian denominations provided assistance, as did most of the civil rights leaders who had been in Dr. Martin Luther King's circle. Major peace activists noted for their leadership in the anti-Vietnam war movement also participated in our campaigns and programs. Strengthened by this support, we weathered storms and continued to grow.

Several developments occurring between the late 1970s and the early 1990s contributed to improving our ability to advocate on behalf of Palestinian rights. The first of these were the public releases of two detailed indictments of Israeli torture - the Washington Post's publication of the US Jerusalem Consulate cables that documented Israel's systematic use of torture as a way of forcing prisoners to confess to crimes they did not commit, and the London Times' exhaustive study of Israeli torture of Palestinian prisoners. In the wake of these shockingly disturbing reports, it became difficult for some human rights leaders to remain silent.

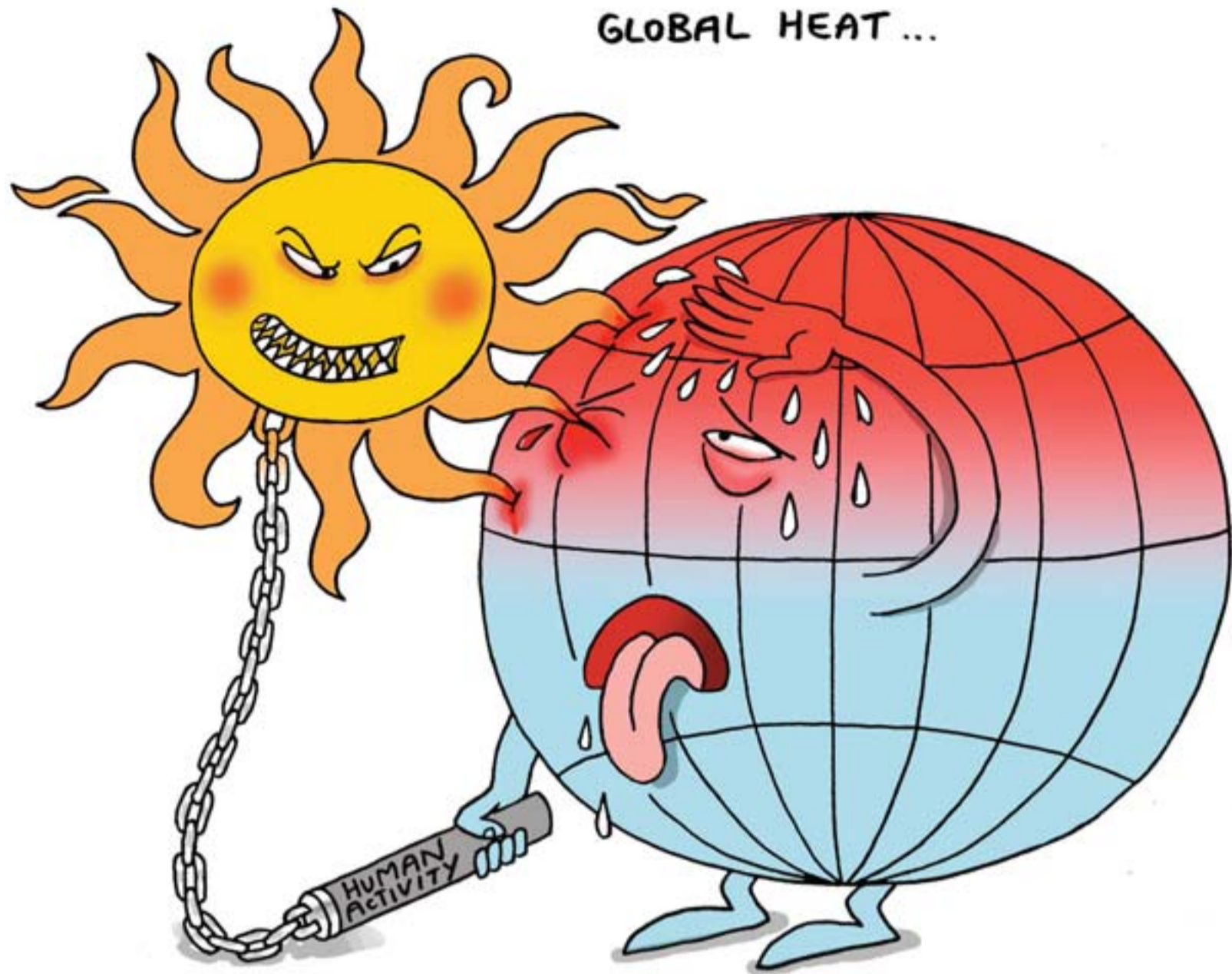
In 1979, there was the "Andrew Young Affair" in which it was revealed that Young, then the US Ambassador to the UN, had met with the PLO's UN representative. In doing so he had broken the taboo that prohibited US officials from having any contact with the PLO. Young lost his job, but African Americans were outraged, leading many respected civil rights leaders to trek to Beirut to meet directly with Yasir Arafat in a direct challenge to the lunacy of the "no talk policy". On their return, these same leaders joined our PHRC.

During the 1980s, many Americans were horrified by Israel's especially brutal and senseless bombardment of and occupation of Beirut, and the excessively cruel and violent tactics Israel used to squash the first intifada - in which stone-throwing Palestinian youths confronted heavily armed Israeli occupation forces. They were shocked by the scenes they saw and reports they read and became more sympathetic to Palestinians and came to support our work.

Two other events, during this period also served to catapult the Palestinian cause to a front and center position in American consciousness and politics. The 1988 Jesse Jackson presidential campaign mobilized Arab Americans, progressive Jews, African Americans, and peace activists in support of Palestinian rights and "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Building on Jackson's leadership and the growing awareness of the plight of the Palestinians, we were able to pass pro-Palestinian planks in 10 state Democratic Party platforms and have the first-ever floor demonstration and debate on Palestinian rights at the Democratic National Convention.

The Oslo Accords of 1993 contributed to significantly altering the US landscape changing the situation from Jews versus Arabs to those who supported a just peace versus those who did not. Despite Oslo's weaknesses, it opened the door to a discussion on Palestinian rights and gave legitimacy to pro-Palestinian advocates who had been long been shunned for their work. It was these developments from this earlier period that helped shape the political environment in which we are now operating. But it didn't end there. Contributing to even greater change are several new factors that must be considered. First and foremost is the growing demographic and partisan divide over Israeli behavior toward Palestinians. Millennials, African Americans and other "minority" communities have been shocked by the crude and heavy-handed policies of an increasingly hardline and overtly racist Israeli government.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



## Lebanon hits political logjam after election

Lebanon faces a political impasse three months after an election produced a parliament tilted in favor of the Iran-backed Shiite group Hezbollah, with no sign of compromises needed to form a unity government. Negotiations have run into a knot of complications, notably how Prime Minister-designate Saad Al-Hariri can form a government that reflects the result while satisfying Western and Gulf Arab concerns over Hezbollah influence. One senior politician said talks were in a state of "stagnation". A senior official from another party said there was no indication of compromises and forecast a period of "meaningless movement".

The heavily armed Hezbollah, with allied parties and independents, won more than 70 of parliament's 128 seats in the May 6 election, a reversal of Lebanon's 2009 vote when groups with Western and Saudi support scored a majority. Hezbollah, designated a terrorist group by the United States, called it a victory for the "choice of the resistance" - a reference to the arsenal it has used in conflicts with Israel and more recently in neighboring Syria's war. Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani later put it more bluntly, saying Hezbollah had won.

The result has spawned new complications for Lebanon's tangled sectarian politics - long an arena for regional and international struggles played out through local allies. Christians, Druze and Sunni Muslims are all jostling for ministries. Additionally, the Shiite Hezbollah aims to move beyond its traditional backseat role in the next cabinet. It wants three instead of two seats in this cabinet, and more influential ministries than it has previously held, to include public service providers. With the group being targeted as part of a US campaign against Iran, wider Hezbollah influence could raise questions about Western aid to a country that hosts around 1 million registered Syrian refugees. US support for Lebanon's army could also be in doubt.

Firas Maksad, director of The Arabia Foundation think tank in Washington, said the election had created a conundrum. "You have election result that produced a more positive outcome for Hezbollah and its allies. These results need

to be taken into consideration as the government is being put together," he said. But "trying to form a government that would prove unwelcome in Riyadh, let alone Washington ... would come at a potentially steep cost for the country. Hariri is taking his time, and in many ways he is stuck."

## The 'worst time' for a delay

Lebanon is used to lengthy cabinet negotiations. But the Western-backed Hariri and others gave reason to hope this time would be different because of a difficult economic situation. Politicians have warned of economic crisis. The IMF wants to see immediate and substantial fiscal adjustment to improve the sustainability of Lebanon's public debt, which stood at over 150 percent of gross domestic

Saudi support accelerated the alliance's decline, as Riyadh's focus switched to confronting Iran in the Gulf, not Lebanon. Saudi ties with Hariri also deteriorated over compromises towards Hezbollah and its allies. These included the 2016 deal that made Christian leader Michel Aoun president and saw Hariri return as premier.

Their relationship hit a low last November when Hariri was detained during a visit to Riyadh and forced to resign. He returned to Beirut and retracted his resignation after French intervention. Iranian support for Hezbollah remained steadfast or grew.

## Deal could be reached tomorrow, or in 'year'

The Hariris had been the dominant Sunni force in Lebanon since the 1975-90 civil war ended. But he lost more than a third of his seats in the last election, held under a new system. Hezbollah allies gained at his expense. They included pro-Damascus politicians, some of whom returned to public office for the first time since Syria withdrew forces from Lebanon in 2005. The one bright spot for Hezbollah opponents was an improved performance by the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) party. It nearly doubled its MPs, closing the gap with the biggest Christian party, Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement.

Reconciling the demands of the LF and the Aounists is one of the main problems. Another is Druze rivalry. Walid Jumblatt, Lebanon's main Druze leader and a former pillar of March 14, wants his party to control three cabinet seats allotted to the Druze. But Talal Arslan, a rival Druze politician and Hezbollah ally, wants one of these. While Saudi Arabia remains less concerned with Lebanon than in years gone by, Maksad said it was probable Riyadh did not want to see the Lebanese Forces and Jumblatt marginalized.

"I don't know if that was explicitly communicated - it might have been - but I think that would be a good assumption on the part of Prime Minister Hariri," he said. Additionally, Hezbollah's newly elected Sunni allies want a slice of government. "The problems could be solved tomorrow, or in a year's time," said a third senior politician. — Reuters

Influence of  
Hezbollah  
worries West,  
Gulf Arabs

product at the end of 2017. A Paris donors conference in April yielded pledges of billions, conditional on reform.

The next government will also have to address relations with Syria, where President Bashar al-Assad is well on top in the seven-and-a-half-year-old civil war there. His Lebanese allies, led by Hezbollah, want full ties restored. Political commentator Rajeh Khoury said it was "difficult to see a government in the foreseeable period, unless some strange surprise occurs". Citing the economy, he said that the delay had come "at the worst time".

The election reflected shifts in Lebanon and the wider region. The Hariri-led March 14 alliance, which won the majority in 2009, disintegrated after that vote. Waning

Ding! Alibaba  
office app fuels  
backlash among  
some workers

In the cramped former home of Jack Ma, founder of the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, about thirty young engineers sit elbow-to-elbow, working to attract the next million users for DingTalk, Alibaba's workplace communication software. Their installation in the hallowed flat where Ma got his start in the eastern city of Hangzhou reflects DingTalk's place in the pecking order of the company's sprawling collection of start-up projects.

Since Dec 2014, DingTalk has grown exponentially to become the world's largest chat service designed for companies, with over 100 million individual users and 7 million employers across China. The company says, without providing numbers, that it also has a growing presence in Europe, the United States and Southeast Asia.

But its rapid rise - propelled by a promise to boost productivity through better monitoring of employee movements and faster responses to important messages - has sparked a backlash from Chinese workers who say the app fuels an unhealthy work culture. That also raises questions about DingTalk's ability to expand into the West, where people are typically guarded about their workplace privacy. In China, surveillance by the authorities and employers is already common.

Like WhatsApp, DingTalk lets senders see if recipients have read messages, but it also has a "ding" feature that can bombard recipients with repeat notifications, text messages and phone-call reminders. On top of this

original feature, the company has added a wide range of functions that include automatic expense claims, a clock-in system to monitor the whereabouts of employees, as well as a "daily report" function that requires workers to list completed tasks.

As DingTalk has grown, many Chinese office workers have vented their frustrations online about the service, saying it is inhumane and destroys trust. On Zhihu.com, a question-and-answer website, a thread entitled "how does it feel like to be forced to use DingTalk at work" has more than a thousand posts and has been viewed over 7.7 million times. An informal Reuters poll of 30 workers using DingTalk showed that about half had negative feelings about the app, while the rest said they were fine with it - often because their companies had not adopted features such as the clock-in function.

"There's a saying in my circle, that you should quit the day your company installs DingTalk," said Robert, who works in luxury retail in the northwestern province of Shaanxi and complains that DingTalk has "fragmented his time into pieces". He declined to provide his surname.

Li Xiaoyang, a former software sales agent in Beijing, said he had to use DingTalk's geo-location function at his previous firm whenever he met a client, and use a face scanner to verify he was attending meetings. "I felt so disgusted by it," he said, adding that he was constantly dinged by managers. "Every level of management thinks their demand is the top priority and should be dealt with first," he said. "Even worse, they will ding you through DingTalk even on holiday and you can't pretend you didn't see it."

A company spokesperson said in response to the poll that DingTalk provided an effective communications tool for the workplace. "DingTalk has many satisfied customers using our tool in Asia, Europe and the US, which points to its success and customer satisfaction." The spokesperson also said that

DingTalk had security technology built into the app to protect the privacy of employees and companies' confidential corporate data. "DingTalk has not only helped companies improve workflow efficiency through a unified communications platform, but also encouraged transparency and accountability within the workplace."

## WeChat Rival

DingTalk sprang from Alibaba's unsuccessful attempt to challenge the WeChat instant messenger of its archrival, Tencent Holdings Ltd, the service's chief executive, Wu Zhao, said in an interview. "We came to understand that we did not understand social media platforms," Wu said at DingTalk's offices in Hangzhou, where Alibaba has its headquarters. Instead, Wu's team sought another niche, tackling a common managerial complaint in China: Workers who fail to reply to messages and later feign ignorance.

The driving force behind DingTalk's growth has been solving the organizational concerns of Chinese firms and providing - for free - a platform that gives companies a level of efficiency similar to Alibaba's, Wu said. "What Jack Ma said to me was: 'Wu Zhao, helping small and medium enterprises is our company's mission. You go do that: don't concern yourself with making money'," he said. Asked about DingTalk's business model, Wu said the company was focusing on helping companies become transparent and efficient, rather than making a profit.

The app's basic features are all free, but users have to pay for hardware and additional cloud storage or conference call minutes, as well as for third party services. Alibaba does not specify DingTalk's revenue in its financial statements.

Wu is aware of the backlash DingTalk is facing, but says the problem is a "toxic work culture at some companies" and misuse by some employers. "The tool itself is not the problem; the way it is used is the problem,"

he said. "DingTalk's goal is to encourage transparent and equal communications among all staff," Wu said. "We believe only by creating an equal, transparent and effective communications environment that bottom-up and real innovation can be realized."

## Frustrations

Records from the app have been used by companies as evidence to fire employees and dock pay, according to labor-related lawsuits seen by Reuters in court filings. But DingTalk also wins praise as a productivity aid. "It saves a lot of time as you no longer need to sit in physical conference calls and make phone calls. For important matters, you just need to ding someone," said Liu Sufen, a spokeswoman at the Chinese bicycle-sharing firm Hellobike. For larger companies, like Dongguan Meishang Clothing, which has a nation-wide client base and more than 3,000 employees, DingTalk has helped reduce costs and increase efficiency, said Peng Xiang, the company's information director. "Before we used DingTalk, it was nearly impossible for employees to communicate directly with the boss; however with DingTalk this becomes possible and easy."

Peng said approval processes that once took a week could now be done in an hour on DingTalk. Despite the grumbling, Wu believes the service will translate across borders and cultures - even in the West. "If you come into Starbucks in the morning and you are told you can't buy coffee because their staff hasn't arrived, will you accept that? Even the Europeans won't accept tardiness." However, Chen Bikui, a partner at Liuhe Ventures who invests in enterprise software startups, said he doubted that DingTalk would succeed abroad, citing issues like privacy concerns in the West. "DingTalk is so much tailored to Chinese companies - it would be hard for it to be adopted by companies from other countries," he said. — Reuters

## Business

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**12** Boursa Kuwait 'bearish' amid selling pressure, profit-booking**14** BBC Studios extends landmark partnership with beIN Group**15** Warba Bank realizes KD 5.198m profit in H1 2018 with a growth rate of 97%

SINGAPORE: Participating foreign ministers pose for a group photograph at the 8th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, during the 51st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

# ASEAN sees 'real threat' from trade war

## Ministers call for talks to speed up Beijing-backed free-trade deal

SINGAPORE: Asian countries have voiced concern about the potentially devastating impact of a US-China trade war, with ministers calling for the acceleration of talks for a gigantic Beijing-backed free-trade deal that excludes the United States.

Fear that a simmering trade spat between the world's top two economies could spiral into a full-blown trade war with painful consequences for China's neighbors was among topics dominating discussion at a regional summit in Singapore yesterday.

Tit-for-tat tariffs have fuelled months of tensions that were notched up Friday as Beijing threatened to impose levies on \$60 billion of American goods, from beef to condoms. The measures, which the White House ridiculed as "weak" but China said were "fully justified", came after Washington said it would increase the rate of additional tariffs on Chinese goods worth \$200 billion.

The prospect of a trade war is a "real threat" to Asian countries, Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah told reporters yesterday on the sidelines of the summit. "The threat is making many countries very concerned and... is becoming more complex," he said. Other top Asian diplomats at Saturday's forum, hosted by the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), spoke out against protectionism, warning that it places the region's development in jeopardy.

"Rising anti-globalization and trade protectionism among major countries is fuelling tensions and threatening our aspirations for sustained economic growth," said South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha.

Countries in the region must "explore creative ways to further deepen and broaden our cooperation", in the face of such challenges, she said. Some ministers have called for the early conclusion of talks for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a 16-nation pact poised to become the world's largest free-trade agreement, covering about half the global population.

The planned RCEP deal would group the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

(ASEAN) plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

### 'Protectionism on the rise'

But it would not include the United States, which had been leading another regional trade pact—the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) — until US President Donald Trump abruptly abandoned it last year.

Even with the lure to access to the world's largest economy withdrawn, the eleven remaining TPP countries, who make up 13.5 percent of the global economy, signed a slimmed-down version of the pact in March. It cuts tariffs and requires members to comply with a high level of regulatory standards in areas like labor law and environmental protection. RCEP also aims to cut tariffs but has far less regulatory standards attached than TPP.

Nonetheless, Washington's abandonment of TPP has

given the RCEP negotiations a fresh shot in the arm. "Given the current global situation where protectionism is on the rise, Japan would like to achieve a swift conclusion of our RCEP negotiations," Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said he hoped the RCEP pact would be complete by the end of the year, while Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan urged countries facing "headwinds against free trade" to rally together.

The US imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese goods in early July, sparking retaliatory measures from China. Days later, Washington unveiled a list of another \$200 billion in Chinese goods from electrical machinery to seafood that would be hit with 10 percent import duties. Trump upped the ante this week by threatening to lift the tariff rate to 25 percent.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended the US position and hit back at China. "President Trump inherited an unfair trade regime where American workers and American companies were not treated reciprocally by the Chinese," he said yesterday. "Efforts of the Trump administration are to right that, to correct it, to adjust that." — AFP



## Protectionism remains a major concern

## Apple breaches \$1 trillion stock market valuation

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple Inc on Thursday became the first \$1 trillion publicly listed US company, crowning a decade-long rise fueled by its ubiquitous iPhone that transformed it from a niche player in personal computers into a global powerhouse spanning entertainment and communications.

The tech company's stock jumped 2.9 percent to end the day at \$207.39, giving it a market capitalization of \$1,002 billion. During the session, Apple's stock market value reached as much as \$1,006 billion. Apple has rallied about 9 percent since Tuesday, when it reported June-quarter results above expectations and said it bought back \$20 billion of its own shares. It was Apple's best two-day run since April 2014. In a memo to Apple's more than 120,000 employees on Thursday that was seen by Reuters, Chief Executive Tim Cook said the \$1 trillion valuation was "a significant milestone" that gave Apple employees "much to be proud of." But he said it was "not the most important measure" of the company's success.

"Financial returns are simply the result of Apple's innovation, putting our products and customers first, and always staying true to our values," Cook said in the memo. Started in the garage of co-founder Steve Jobs in 1976, Apple has pushed its revenue beyond the economic out-



puts of Portugal, New Zealand and other countries. Along the way, it has changed how consumers connect with one another and how businesses conduct daily commerce.

Apple's stock market value is greater than the combined capitalization of Exxon Mobil Corp, Procter & Gamble Co and AT&T Inc. It now accounts for 4 percent of the S&P 500. The Silicon Valley stalwart's stock has surged more than 50,000 percent since its 1980 initial public offering, dwarfing the S&P 500's approximately 2,000 percent increase during the same almost four decades. One of three founders, Jobs was driven out of Apple in the mid-1980s, only to return a decade later and rescue the computer company from near bankruptcy.

He launched the iPhone in 2007, dropping "Computer" from Apple's name and super-charging the cellphone industry, catching Microsoft Corp, Intel Corp, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Nokia off guard. That put Apple on a path to overtake Exxon Mobil in 2011 as the largest US company by market value. During that time, Apple evolved from selling Mac personal computers to becoming an architect of the mobile revolution with a cult-like following.

Jobs, who died in 2011, was succeeded as chief executive by Tim Cook, who has doubled the company's profits but struggled to develop a new product to replicate the society-altering success of the iPhone, which has seen sales taper off in recent years. In 2006, the year before the iPhone launch, Apple generated less than \$20 billion in

sales and net profit just shy of \$2 billion. By last year, its sales had grown more than 11-fold to \$229 billion - the fourth highest in the S&P 500 - and net income had mushroomed at twice that rate to \$48.4 billion, making it the most profitable publicly listed US company.

### 'STILL SEE UPSIDE'

Jeff Carbone, co-founder of Cornerstone Financial Partners in Charlotte, North Carolina, has included Apple in his clients' portfolios for about a decade. Recently, some of his older clients have bought Apple shares for their grandchildren.

"We still see upside from it, and as new money gets deposited we continue to buy, preferably on the dip," Carbone said. Apple's stock has risen over 30 percent in the past year, fueled by optimism about the iPhone X, launched a decade after the original. Also propelling Apple higher in recent months was Apple's announcement that it earmarked \$100 billion for a new share repurchase program. In its report on Tuesday, Apple sales led by the iPhone X, which sells for about \$1,000, pushed quarterly results far beyond Wall Street targets, with subscriptions from App Store, Apple Music and iCloud services bolstering business.

"The markets are starting to recognize the value of its platform and services more and more, and that's what is being reflected in the increase in market capitalization," said Brad Neuman, director of Market Strategy at Alger, a growth equity asset management firm in New York City. Even with its \$1,000,000,000,000 stock market value, many analysts do not view Apple's shares as expensive. — Reuters

## India to impose delayed tariffs on some US goods

NEW DELHI: India said yesterday that delayed higher tariffs against some goods imported from the United States will go into force on September 18.

New Delhi, incensed by Washington's refusal to exempt it from new tariffs, decided in June to raise import tax from August 4 on some US products, including almonds, walnuts and apples, and later delayed the move. Officials from New Delhi and Washington, including US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, are scheduled to hold a series of meetings including strategic talks with their Indian counterparts in September. Trade differences between India and the United States have been rising since President Donald Trump took office. Bilateral trade rose to \$115 billion in 2016, but the Trump administration wants to reduce its \$31 billion deficit with India, and is pressing New Delhi to ease trade barriers. India, the world's biggest buyer of US almonds, in June decided to raise import duties on the commodity by 20 percent, joining the European Union and China in retaliating against Trump's tariff hikes on steel and aluminum. — Reuters



Business

# EQUATE Group reports record-breaking Q2 in 2018, 56% hike in half year profit

Net income for 2Q, 2018 reaches \$427 million

**KUWAIT:** The EQUATE Group, a global producer of petrochemicals, yesterday reported its highest second quarter earnings in its history. Net income for the EQUATE Group for 2Q, 2018 was \$427 million, up 75 per cent compared to the same period in 2017.

Total revenue was \$1.26 billion for 2Q, 2018, up 37.5 per cent compared to Q2, 2017. EBITDA for Q2 was \$570 million in 2018, compared to \$383 million in second quarter of 2017, an increase of 48.7 per cent. For the first half of the year, the EQUATE Group realized a record breaking EBITDA of USD \$1.15 billion, an increase of 34 per cent over the same period last year. First half net income was USD \$862 million, up 56 per cent from 1H of 2017.

Dr Ramesh Ramachandran, President and CEO of EQUATE, said, "EQUATE's higher earnings in second quarter of 2018 were primarily driven by high prices in EG across the globe and a very good pricing environment in the PE and PET businesses. Operational reliability in the second quarter continued to be excellent which enabled us to capitalize on the high prices. Safe operations remain our number one priority globally. Good cost control and the cost and growth synergies from the MEGlobal merger have also enabled EQUATE to deliver an outstanding quarter."

The EQUATE Group is a global producer of petrochemicals and the world's second largest producer of Ethylene Glycol (EG). The Group has industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and Europe that annually produce over 5 million



Dr. Ramesh Ramachandran - President & CEO

tons of Ethylene, EG, Polyethylene (PE) and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET). The products are marketed throughout Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The EQUATE Group's shareholders include Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Qurain Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). The Group is a leading enterprise that pursues sustainability wherever it operates through partnerships in fields that include the environment, economy and society.

## AUB wins 'Most Innovative Strategic Domestic Treasury in Kuwait 2018' award

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced yesterday that it has won the coveted 'Most Innovative Strategic Domestic Treasury in Kuwait 2018' award from International Finance Magazine (IFM), one of the region's top tier publications focusing on financial services across the Middle East. The award reflects the Bank's overall vision in adopting the most innovative practices across the banking sector in Kuwait. Richard Groves, AUB's CEO commented on the award, "We are delighted to win this prestigious award which reaffirms our leadership position in providing the most innovative solutions that have been tailored to our customers in a diversified and competitive marketplace. This award further cements our continued innovation in delivering Treasury solutions for our customers. AUB's Treasury department has been awarded the highest ratings and overall performance in recognition of key core primary competencies along with the Bank's suc-

cess achieved during 2017/2018. Treasury has also provided tailored and specialized financial solutions which have directly contributed to the growth of our customer base and our business generally.

Groves commended the Treasury Department at AUB under the leadership of Abdullah Al-Langawy. He stressed that the team's spirit and strong commitment is a primary element to the department's success.

Abdullah Al-Langawy, AUB's Deputy General Manager Treasury, also noted, "The Treasury Department has strengthened the Bank's core financing capabilities by diversifying and expanding its financial commitments to ensure that it has a solid base for liquidity in line with local regulatory requirements.

Al-Langawy added, "This award reaffirms the Bank's efforts in providing a host of reputable services that are in line with our customers' expectations and needs. It also underscores our excellent team's capabilities in Treasury related services.



Abdullah Al-Langawy

## KFH-Bahrain announces Libshara's grand prize Marassi Al-Bahrain apartment winner

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) announced Fuad Mohamed Ali as the 'Libshara' Grand Prize winner of the luxury apartment in Marassi Al-Bahrain for June 2018. The draw took place at the KFH-Bahrain headquarters located in Bahrain World Trade Centre under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism. The apartment handover ceremony was held at the Marassi Al-Bahrain Sales Office, in Diyar Al-Muharraq, in the presence of representatives from KFH-Bahrain and Marassi Al-Bahrain.

Executive Manager of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, Khalid Rafea said: "We would like to extend our congratulations to Fuad Mohamed Ali for winning the luxury apartment at Marassi Residences located in Marassi Al-Bahrain. We continue to strive to create more opportunities for our loyal customers through our promotional campaigns, which come in line with our annual vision of rewarding our customers with the best campaigns in recognition of their loyalty and support."

On the occasion of his win, The Grand Prize winner Fuad Mohamed Ali said, "This win came as a surprise to me as I invested all of my retirement savings in 'Libshara' account since 2016. I had specifically chosen KFH because of the abundance of prizes offered in comparison to other banks in the local market, in addition to the fact that the account provided monthly returns. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all KFH customers to open the 'Libshara' account for the chance to win the Grand Prize, as I am fully convinced that these draws will reward many with the valuable prizes on offer." For the duration of the 'Libshara' campaign, KFH is awarding significant prizes to the winners, including 9 luxury apartments in the prestigious real estate development 'Marassi Al-Bahrain' located at Diyar Al



Khalid Rafea with the Grand Prize winner, and representatives from KFH-Bahrain and Marassi Al-Bahrain.

Muharraq and cash prizes worth \$140,000 for 85 winners split into two grand prizes worth \$50,000, two prizes worth \$10,000 and 2 additional prizes worth \$5,000. Additionally, 40 winners will receive \$1,000 each and ten winners from Libshara's special categories - namely 'Our ladies', 'Our Children', 'Our Savers' and 'Our Cards' - will receive \$500 each.

KFH has also recently launched their new 'Jazeel' platform which includes a feature which allows all citizens and residents of the Kingdom to open a 'Libshara' account without requiring them to visit the branch.

The 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account is a Sharia'a compliant savings scheme that offers clients valuable monthly prizes. For every BD50 or its equivalent in USD saved for a period of one month prior to the end of the month, clients are entitled to enter the raffle and can increase their chances of winning one of the many exciting prizes. An investment period of three months is equal to one chance at entering the raffle draw, whereas six months gives two chances and nine months to a year will offer three chances.

The 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account is available to citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the GCC who are 18 years and above or by a legal guardian on behalf of a minor. It is also available to establishments and corporations. The account also allows the customers to receive annual profits distributed monthly.

## UPAC records KD 2.85m net profit in Q2 2018

**KUWAIT:** United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a leading commercial real estate and facilities management company, yesterday announced its financial results for the second quarter of 2018. UPAC recorded a net profit of KD 2.85 million, an increase of 24.5 percent over the same period in 2017. UPAC's revenue for Q2 2018 of KD 3.47 million is on par compared with KD 3.46 million in Q2 2017.

Nadia Akil, Chief Executive Officer - UPAC, said, "Our net profits continued to increase steadily during the second quarter of 2018. Operations at our income generating projects at the Kuwait International Airport as well as other prominent projects in the country continue to drive our growth with Reem Mall progressing according to plan. All of these factors indicate a positive year ahead, and I look forward to further milestones to report during the course of the year."

Operations of the commercial space and facilities at the Kuwait International Airport, Sheikh Saad Terminal, and Discovery Mall are operating at almost full capacity, with a continued focus on optimization and efficiency.

Construction of Reem Mall in Abu Dhabi is expected to be complete by the end of 2020. During the first three months of 2018, vast areas of excavation and backfill have been carried out and the first major structural concrete pour has been completed. Currently, 14 cranes are at the site, with construction progressing as scheduled. Once completed, Reem Mall will consist of over 2.9 million square feet of retail, world-class leisure and entertainment facilities, including Snow Park Abu Dhabi.

Kuwait Times

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## Business

# BBC Studios extends landmark partnership with beIN Group

## MoU covers Qatar, MENA and Turkey

**LONDON:** BBC Studios, a global content company and commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group, has yesterday signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with beIN MEDIA GROUP, one of the world's leading entertainment and sports groups and owner of MIRAMAX studios. The MOU establishes a strategic partnership between the two companies to explore opportunities for the co-development, co-production and distribution of content in Qatar, the Middle East and Turkey.

Paul Dempsey, President for Global Markets at BBC Studios, and Yousef Al-Obaidly, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of beIN MEDIA GROUP, placed pen to paper to sign the agreement - which is set to run for an initial three year term from 1 August 2018 - at BBC Studios' London headquarters in Television Centre.

In a symbolic deal for both companies, the partnership continues to extend their creative ties and has been a strategic priority for each organization. As part of the

agreement, BBC Studios and beIN intend to seek opportunities for the development and/or production of content, while exploring the acquisition of additional BBC Studios' digital content by beIN to complement the current BBC programming on beIN's platforms.

Included in the MOU is the agreement by BBC Studios and beIN to explore investment in content production and for the two companies to collaborate on knowledge exchange and media business development opportunities in the State of Qatar.

Paul Dempsey said, "This MOU builds on BBC Studios' successful existing partnership with beIN MEDIA GROUP and stands to bring our expertise in development and production to an even wider international audience. It further demonstrates our commitment to working with partners globally to create world-class programs."

Yousef Al-Obaidly added, "We are incredibly excited about furthering our trusted partnership with BBC Studios. This

memorandum of understanding establishes a new milestone of cultural collaboration between our organizations, bringing together two of the strongest global entertainment brands to deliver stand-out original content, cutting-edge innovation and - ultimately - more value to our customers. We are also delighted to support BBC Studios' intention to explore broader business opportunities together with beIN MEDIA GROUP in Qatar."

Earlier this year, beIN launched BBC Earth, BBC Studios' global factual brand, as a linear channel across the Middle East and North Africa via its direct-to-home service. BBC Earth joined BBC Studios' preschool brand, CBeebies, which has been on the beIN platform since 2016. BBC Earth and CBeebies are also available as bespoke channels in Turkey via pay-tv operator Digiturk, which - along with MIRAMAX studios - is also part of beIN MEDIA GROUP's rapidly-growing and market-leading global and entertainment and sports business.



Paul Dempsey, President for Global Markets at BBC Studios and Yousef Al-Obaidly, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of beIN MEDIA GROUP

## Nissan Al-Rai showroom welcomes you on Fridays

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, announced the opening of Al-Rai showroom, which is open on Fridays from 4 pm to 8 pm. Nissan Al-Babtain aims to extend working hours to satisfy all customers and serve them over the weekends to provide the best services and offers through the whole week.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its showrooms located in Al Rai to benefit from the exclusive offers on Nissan vehicles and discover the latest models of family cars, sports and modern sedans. 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands



stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East. For 70 years Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision.

These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information, industrial and Finance. The automotive sector is the main structure of the Al Babtain Group's business, which owns some of the best-selling and demanded brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipment.

diversity of travellers onboard Air Arabia flights across the world. Bringing passengers together, the video demonstrates fun interaction among multicultural travellers and presents jetsetters sharing new experiences. The film juxtaposes animated art with live actors in a sequential format that takes passengers through the entire flight safety drill.

The new video leaves a lasting impression on passengers by further engaging customers and keep them entertained while having their full attention on the important on-board safety tips and instructions.

Air Arabia continues its mission to create an ever-expanding network of diverse destinations, allowing for high-quality and cost-effective travel.

### Key findings The basics

- The SamSam ransomware first appeared in the wild in December, 2015
- Some victims reported a widespread ransomware event that significantly impacted operations of some large organizations, including hospitals, schools and cities
- The attack details took some time to obtain because the attacker(s) responsible took great care to obfuscate their methods and delete any evidence that could be revealing
- Many victims found that they could not recover sufficiently or quickly enough to ensure business continuity on their own, and reluctantly paid the ransom

### The statistics

- By tracking Bitcoin addresses supplied on ransom notes and sample files and by working with the firm Neutrino, Sophos has calculated that SamSam has earned its creator(s) more than US\$5.9 million since late, 2015
- Sophos has determined that 74% of the known victims are based in the United States. Other regions known to have suffered attacks include Canada, the UK, and the Middle East
- The SamSam attacker has received ransom payments as high as \$64,000, based on analysis of ransom payments to the Bitcoin wallets tracked
- Unlike most other ransomware, SamSam encrypts not only document files, images, and other personal or work data, but also configuration and data files required to run applications (e.g., Microsoft Office). Victims whose backup strategy only protects the user's documents and files won't be able to recover a machine without reimaging it, first
- Every subsequent attack shows a progression in sophistication and an increasing awareness of how to evade operational security
- The cost victims are charged in ransom has increased dramatically, and the tempo of attacks shows no sign of slowdown

### The balance sheet

- Sophos estimates that the SamSam attacker earned an average of a hair under US\$300,000\*

per month in 2018

- From tracking Bitcoin payments made to known wallet addresses owned by the attacker, Sophos has calculated the SamSam take as exceeding US\$5.9 million\*
- The largest single ransom received by the SamSam attacker was valued at \$64,478\* (at the time of payment)
- Payment is made by victims in bitcoin via a custom "payment site" on the dark web that is at a unique address for each victim organization
- The payment site lets the SamSam attacker interact directly with victims, who use a message board-like interface to communicate
- The ransom amount varies widely by the organization, but has steadily increased over the time the ransomware has been in active use
- After full payment has been received, the SamSam attacker moves the cryptocurrency into a system of tumblers and mixers which attempt to launder the source of the Bitcoin through myriad micro transactions
- Note: In order to accurately estimate costs, due to wildly fluctuating exchange rates, we calculate the value of a given quantity of Bitcoin as its worth on the day it was acquired by the SamSam attacker, if the SamSam attacker were immediately to cash it out

### Recommended security practices

- There is no silver bullet to security; an active and layered security model is the best practice
- If you study the methodology, there are several points at which basic security measures can stop the SamSam attacker
- Sophos recommends implementing these top four security practices right now:
  - Restricted access to port 3389 (RDP) by only allowing staff who use a VPN to be able to remotely access any systems. Utilize multi-factor authentication for VPN access
  - Complete, regular vulnerability scans and penetration tests across the network; if you haven't followed through on recent pen-testing reports, do it now
  - Multi-factor authentication for sensitive internal systems, even for employees on the LAN or VPN

## Huawei surpasses Apple to grab number two spot globally

**KUWAIT:** Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG), the global smartphone giant, overtook Apple in second quarter of 2018 to become number two smartphone vendor globally for the first time. According to International Data Corporation (IDC) Worldwide, Huawei earned 15.8 per cent market share ahead of Apple at 12.1 per cent.

The entry of Huawei in the second position marks a turning point for the smartphone industry as it delivered shipments of 54.2 million units with a record high market share of 15.8 percent. Huawei has recorded 41 percent year-on-year growth leaping ahead of the other two brands globally during the same period last year.

It is also important to highlight that Huawei has also grabbed the second spot ahead of Apple in the Middle East and Africa. According to the GFK May 2018 report Huawei CBG market share in the Middle East and Africa was 21 percent, an increase of 31.25 percent when compared with the brand's market share in December 2017. Huawei's market share across countries in the MEA region exceeds 20 percent, including Levant at 37.4 percent, Oman at 30 percent, Saudi Arabia at 27 percent, Iraq at 25 percent, Egypt at 24 percent, Pakistan at 22.2 percent and the UAE at 20 percent.

Huawei is leading the innovation space in the smartphone industry. It is important to highlight that the company is the 6th biggest spender in R&D globally, with \$45 billion spent over the last 10 years and a whopping \$12 billion last year only.

The company's efforts have clearly paid off as its latest products have received several accolades globally. Huawei leads Artificial Intelligence (AI) chipsets in smartphone industry and had launched the world's first processor with built-in AI chipset - Kirin 970 in its smartphones. Its breakthrough flagship phone HUAWEI P20 Pro introduced an unprecedented 40-megapixel



AI triple camera with stunning night shot photography features. Huawei P20 Pro received strong demand in the premium phone segment as P20 Series exceeded 6 million phones shipped worldwide; just a few months after its launch.

Its recently launched nova 3 series is also a testament of Huawei's strength in the premium mid-range market. HUAWEI nova 3 and HUAWEI nova 3i feature a revolutionary 24MP + 2MP dual AI front camera that is designed to provide a new AI Selfie experience, by distinguishing people from backgrounds and apply AI beautification for optimum results.

Huawei continues to showcase its commitment to innovation and customer service with the release of its "GPU Turbo" technology that allows users to effortlessly upgrade their devices and enjoy much-improved devices for an ultimate gaming experience at no cost.

The company recently announced that it was placed in Forbes' Most Valuable Brands for the second year in the row and is the only Chinese company on the list for 2018. It is safe to say that Huawei has not ceased to amaze us as the company and is close to leading the smartphone industry.

## Air Arabia rolls out new flight safety video

**SHARJAH:** Air Arabia has rolled out a new vibrant and creative flight safety video across its 53-strong fleet featuring people from multiple cultures and ethnicities performing safety instructions. The video was conceived and developed by the airline's communications team.

The theme of the safety video reflects the strong

## Sophos whitepaper reveals SamSam: Six million dollar ransomware

**KUWAIT:** Ransomware is universal and one of the greatest threats in cybersecurity currently. Extensive research by Sophos has uncovered a trove of new information on the notorious SamSam ransomware that has affected far more victims than previously thought, and raised vastly more in ransom demands - almost \$6 million.

Most ransomware is spread in large, noisy and untargeted spam campaigns sent to thousands, or even hundreds of thousands, of people. They use simple techniques to infect victims and aim to raise money through large numbers of relatively small ransoms of perhaps a few hundred dollars each.

What sets SamSam apart from most other ransomware is that its use in targeted attacks by a skilled team or individual, who breaks into a victim's network, surveils it and then runs the malware manually. The attacks are tailored to cause maximum damage and ransom demands are measured in the tens of thousands of dollars. The attack method is surprisingly manual, and more cat burglar than smash-and-grab. As a result, the attacker can employ countermeasures (if needed), and is surprisingly adept at evading many security tools. If the process of encrypting data is interrupted, then the malware comprehensively deletes all trace of itself immediately, to hinder investigation.

SamSam is a particularly thorough encryption tool, rendering not only work data files unusable but any program that isn't essential to the operation of a Windows computer, most of which are not routinely backed up. Recovery may require reimaging and/or reinstalling software as well as restoring backups. The attacker is very good at covering their tracks and appears to be growing increasingly paranoid (or experienced) as time passes, gradually adding more security features into his tools and websites.

## NBK announces monthly Al-Jawhara winner of KD 125,000

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the KD 125,000 monthly Al-Jawhara draw for July 2018. The name of the winner, Rasmeyah Nahar Farea Al-Mutairi, was announced live on FM 88.8 Kuwait Pulse, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and NBK representatives.

NBK rewards its most loyal customers through Al-Jawhara draw with weekly, monthly and quarterly prizes totaling KD 2.2 million annually. Customers qualify for a chance in the draw for every KD 50 in their Al-Jawhara account.

"When you open an Al-Jawhara account you automatically enter a draw to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and KD 250,000 quarterly," said Suresh Varadarajan, Head of Liabilities & Insurance, Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "To open Al-Jawhara account, customer can simply visit NBK Online or Mobile banking services and deposit KD 400 (minimum opening balance) or they can visit the nearest branch. Each KD 50 deposited during the required period equals one chance to enter the draw. Customers can double their chances in case no withdrawals or transfers occur during the required period."

Varadarajan add: "We always look to reward our customers with unique and valuable prizes and we encourage everyone to benefit from this opportunity."

Benefits of Al-Jawhara Account include a free Visa debit card with access to more than 650,000 ATM machines around the world; access to NBK Online Banking and NBK Mobile Banking for viewing and managing your account wherever you are in the world. Customers always have access to NBK's 24 hour, seven day a week call center and SMS notice service by request. Al-Jawhara account holders also have unlimited withdrawals (terms and conditions apply).



Suresh Varadarajan



Business

# Warba Bank realizes KD 5.198m profit in H1 2018 with a growth rate of 97%

## Warba's financing solutions meet business environment ambitions

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, the Best Corporate and Investment Bank in Kuwait, has announced its financial results for the first half 2018. The Bank has achieved excellent financial results reflected in a net profit increase of 97 percent reaching KD 5.198 million compared to KD 2.645 million for the same period in 2017. These profits are the outcome of total revenue growth that was achieved by the bank thanks to the strong performance of all business areas. Total revenue amounted to KD 40.073 million achieving a growth rate of 52 percent compared to the first half of 2017. Moreover, the Bank's operating revenues increased by 35 percent to reach KD 22.837 million by the end of the first half of 2018 compared to KD 16.937 million in the same period in 2017.

Thanks to the Bank's expansion strategy in the local and regional markets and investing in high-quality, low-risk assets, the Bank's total assets reached KD 1.945 billion. Meanwhile, the Bank's financing portfolio witnessed a remarkable growth to reach KD 1.386 billion with an increase of 22 percent compared to the first half of 2017. Thanks to the quality of its financing portfolio, the Bank's ratio of non-performing loans (financing) is 1.45 percent as at the end of the first half of 2018.

Commenting on the bank's results in the first half of 2018, the Chairman of the Board, Abdul-Wahhab Abdullah Al-Houti said, "in the first half of 2018, thankfully, Warba Bank achieved excellent results that confirms the Bank's position as the customers' first choice in terms of all banking and financing transactions. These results were achieved thanks to the Bank's implementation of its strategic development plan that aims to establish the Bank as a champion in the Islamic banking sector for corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait, with digitally enabled retail banking business. Based on this strategy, thankfully all the profitability indicators have grown significantly. The Bank's first half results illustrate promising growth for year end, as the Bank continues to make achievements in providing Islamic banking innovative solutions for both corporate and retail customers. Today, the Bank provides exclusive range of financing solutions and digital services that contribute significantly in keeping pace with the technological age in terms of banking services and meeting the aspirations of our customers and their quest for excellence. Warba Bank continues to develop its operations and keeps injecting investments in innovative services and products that enrich the Islamic banking sector and promote its geographical expansion to get closer to its customers.

He added: "We cannot afford but appreciate the efforts of all the members of the Bank's Management and all staff for their really work hard in line with the bank's strategy to support and enhance banking and finance operations targeting corporates and individuals. Their efforts do help us make such achievements and enhance our customers' confidence in our performance."

Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanim, the Bank's Chief Executive Officer, said that the Bank is now equipped with the state of the art technology that enable it to become a leading institution in the Islamic banking industry and authority champion in this sector. The Bank is on its way to achieve this pioneering position thanks to wide range of almost peerless quality banking services and products in the local market. Thus, increasing customers' confidence, and, as a result, to the Bank has more responsibilities Bank in terms of committing itself to providing new and sophisticated services and products. There is no doubt that the Bank excels in launching feasible services in finance and investment sector based on deep understanding of the corporate, retail and investment needs. Al-Ghanim pointed out that the beginning of the year witnessed intensive operations Bank as the Bank launched new digital services and financing solutions that are added to Warba Bank's digital services portfolio, as per international standards in the Islamic banking industry.

### A robust digital infrastructure

Al-Ghanim said that during the first half of 2018, the Bank doubled its efforts to enhance its digital infrastructure and develop digital banking in Kuwait, which is witnessing a globally-rising trend. He added that during this period the Bank strengthened its portfolio of digital services by adding a number of quality banking services and solutions that are based on state-of-art digital technologies saving customers' time and effort. Those include: "Express Salary" service, which is added to its Express range of digital services. It is used by the Bank's customers holders of its Bank credit cards. This unique service provides customers with the opportunity to withdraw their monthly salary in whole or in part. This helps customers when they need immediate cash. Whenever they need cash to cover their purchases etc. customers can simply withdraw money from any ATM machine. This service adds more value to customers' banking transactions and enhances the banking services and the Islamic banking sector in Kuwait as it increases the number and quality of the unprecedented services added to its matrix. Furthermore, it helps the Bank's customers to face their financial burdens. If a customer wishes to use this new service, he only needs to visit Warba Online Website or use Warba App on his smartphones.

In order to facilitate banking operations for the corporate sector, the Bank has updated its new website, giving it a new look and providing customers with many exclusive new features. The fully up-to-date website offers effective facilities, including system access management, which enables corporate customers to manage their employees' access to the online banking portal. Moreover, they can add or remove authorities granted to their employees registered on the system. Through the user privileges



Abdul-Wahhab Abdullah Al-Houti

**Al-Houti:** "The results for the first half of 2018 are an achievement that we are proud of. They support the Bank's drive to be the first choice for the corporate sector in terms of financing and digital banking."



Shaheen Al-Ghanim

**Al-Ghanim:** "The Bank's capital increase strengthens its financial base and its real estate investments in global markets confirms investors' confidence in its performance."

management feature, the authorized persons in those companies can define specific roles for their employees based on their respective responsibilities in the company according to their different roles as per the internal authority matrix.

In addition, the Bank is distinguished by providing a unique digital banking solution, that is "Family Account", which stems from the Bank's endeavor to provide a leading banking solution to meet the needs of parents who wish to follow up their children transactions especially minors, in terms of transfers, saving accounts, and prepaid cards. Through this account, parents can use Warba Online to carry out many transactions, including: Following up with withdrawals, making Bank transfers to their children's accounts and savings accounts, as well as prepaid cards, checking deposit balances, and transferring money from their personal accounts to their children's accounts and vice versa.

One of the most advanced technological banking solutions is opening Al-Sunbula Account "new customer onboarding". A new customer can open Al-Sunbula Account through the Bank's website without having to visit any of its physical branches. Within two hours, the bank, through the new automated system used to implement this service, being a unique in the Kuwaiti banking sector, will have received, processed and passed the application for approval. The Bank's staff will then contact the customer to determine the appropriate time to receive the Sunbula Account card, sign the required documents and the Bank verifies the customer's identity before activating the account.

The Bank's achievements in the field of digital solutions were topped by FayeZ App that was launched in the first half of 2018. FayeZ App used on smartphones is designed to inspire people to adopt a healthy lifestyle and go walking. It is based on a system of accumulating points that will be redeemed with rewarding prizes from Bank's partners including spas and diving centers just to name a few.

Participants in the applications are winners as

- Net profits grew by 97% to KD 5.198 million
- Total revenues grew by 52% to KD 40.073 million
- Total Assets grew by 30%, reaching KD 1.945 billion
- Total deposits grew by 33%, reaching KD 1.737 billion

they improve their health through walking, in addition they are given rewards and offers from the bank's strategic partners, let alone a special reward for by Sunbula Account holders in the form of annual incentive profit rate of up to 5 percent on the daily balance.

### Financing solutions

For the past few years, the Bank has been developing its retail and corporate finance solutions, offering a wide range of solutions to its customers. These have been widely welcomed by customers. In terms of individual financing, the Bank has launched a unique financing solution to help customers meet their financial obligations throughout the financing period. It allows the customer to select a specific month of the year to skip installment. The customer

can beforehand determines the month to skip each year. The system automatically calculates the value of the monthly installment and skips the installment of that month. However, the finance term remains the same.

In terms of the financing solutions in the business sector and as part of its commitment to supporting Kuwait economy, the Bank has partnered with Ahli United Bank and Kuwait International Bank under joint Sharia-compliant Murabaha financing agreement in the amount of KD 140 million with a tenure of ten years for Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. (S.A.K) to support tanker fleet renewal program. Moreover, Warba Bank succeeded in concluding a Sharia-compliant, joint, multi-currency, financial deal of \$236 million for the Ziraat Participation Bank of Turkey. In partnership with a range of other global and regional banks, Warba Bank acted as the Lead Arranger and Subscription Manager of the deal, which was initially

launched at \$160 million. Due oversubscription, which surpassed the expectations, the deal was increased to \$246 million. This Murabaha-based financing includes both US dollars and euros.

The Bank has also launched a dedicated retail financing solution for the small and medium-sized business segment. This step is a major development in

this unique financing product that is offered only by Warba Bank. By launching this product, vendors can apply to the Bank to request immediate financing within a few days in exchange for endorsing the invoice of the goods supplied to the sales centers in favor of the Bank. The Bank would collect the invoices from the sales centers on their due dates. The term of the same may take months.

### Financing solutions for auto purchases

In 2017 Warba Bank intensified its efforts to develop financing solutions for auto purchases. Those efforts were fruitful as they met the need of both the Bank's customers and non-customers to acquire luxury cars of their choice that suit their aspirations and meanwhile do not increase their

March, 2018 with the participation of leading global car dealerships that will be keen to showcase their latest and most luxurious brands.

### Charity and social development program

The first half of 2018 featured many social events initiated by the Bank targeting different segments of society let alone its own staff. Perhaps its activities during the holy month of Ramadan were the most influential in terms of the Bank's touching social message which urged target audience to donate for charity and communicate with others at all times and serve Kuwaiti society welfare and wellbeing. The Bank ensured that its Ramadan activities play a pivotal role in educating society about the teachings of Islam, which calls for giving, tolerance and helping the needy. The Bank has used several platforms for the implementation of these activities, including social media, its own digital platform and direct communication. Among these events was the launching of the FayeZ App, which is one of the latest digital and social banking solutions. It encourages members of the society to maintain their health and physical fitness and reward them for achieving their goals. This definitely contributes to solving the problem of obesity in the Kuwaiti society.

The exclusive application runs on Android and IOS smartphones. It motivates participants to practice walking in accordance with a number of goals they set and a range of physical activities. When participants achieves their goal, they are awarded quality prizes. Both Warba Bank's customers and non-customers can participate in FayeZ App, by following simple steps, where they are required to enter their personal data. Then the participant determines the number of daily, weekly or monthly points they want to earn when they carry out the number of steps required to win a prize. Prizes are either cash ones offered by Warba Bank or electronic vouchers offered by its partners in this program, including fitness clubs, retail shops, spas, dental clinics and many more. On the occasion of launching of the new application, the Bank organized a walking event in Al-Raya Complex which lasted for a week and included many sport activities, daily competitions and a briefing about the importance of exercise and its benefits. Warba Bank also launched a campaign under the slogan "With Warba, Charity Donation is never easier!" in cooperation with the Kuwait Food Bank. It is a unique initiative that enables customers who hold credit and pre-paid cards to make donations to the Kuwait Food Bank so as to help needy families in Kuwait. The Bank also communicated with various social groups. Its volunteer Team visited various institutions during the Holy Month of Ramadan, including the Children's Section at the Amiri Hospital, and a number of Elderly Homes in Kuwait. Furthermore, the Bank launched a campaign in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Food Bank under the slogan "Meals for Fasting People!" aiming to distribute breakfasts to fasting people in a number of areas throughout Kuwait.

Also Warba Bank and Kuwait Food Bank launched another campaign under the slogan "Free night meals for fasting people!" During the last ten days of Ramadan, the Bank's Volunteering Team distributed about 23,000 meals to worshippers in Al-Masjid Al-Kabeer (Grand Mosque). That Team also served worshippers during the Taraweeh prayers. During the holy month of Ramadan, Warba Bank also held activities for staff such as football tournament and a holy Quran memorization competition in which staff's children took part.

In addition, the Bank intensified its religious competitions on its Instagram Account, which contributed to the promotion of Islamic information among the account followers, who interacted intensively and won quality prizes. Warba Bank's activities on its Instagram Account during the holy month of Ramadan made it in direct contact with customers and managed to involve them in its Ramadan activities. That interaction was reflected positively on Kuwait society and played a pivotal role in helping the needy and spreading the teachings of Islam.

### Warba Bank ... the Awards-winner!

Warba Bank also won prestigious awards from CPI Financial, as the best Corporate Bank in Kuwait and Best Investment Bank in Kuwait for the third year in row in addition to the Fastest Growing Bank in the Middle East, in recognition of its excellence in the corporate banking sector and achieving outstanding results and thanks to its innovative services reflected positively on its Performance indicators during 2017. Warba Bank was selected by the Islamic Finance News (IFN), the leading magazine which is one of the most credible banking ratings providers. The prestigious magazine's decisions were based on the Banks' performance and recent quality transactions. In addition, Warba Bank was awarded two remarkable Awards, namely Middle East's Fastest Growing Bank and Best Investment Bank in the Middle East.

### Bank's credit rating (Baa2 / Prime-2)

Al-Ghanim said: "Thankfully, the Bank's continued success in winning the awards is a clear indication that our strategy effectiveness and growth are highly recognized by the international awards committees. These awards are a reward for the Bank's efforts in creating unprecedented financing solutions and enriching Islamic banking industry while providing full support for the development of the growth of institutions."

Al-Ghanim concluded: "The Bank is currently designing and innovating more banking solutions based on the principles of flexibility and creativity in accordance with the terms of its ambitious strategy resulting in unrivaled successes."

# CLINIC PAGE



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Consultant interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

**Specialized in:**

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

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**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist

- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the Eurpean Laryngological Society

**Specialized in:**

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- ◆ Vocal cord augmentation.
- ◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
- ◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- ◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

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**IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC**  
American Board Certified in General Surgery  
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation  
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant

http://www.international-clinic.com Tel: 1886677 ic\_kwt

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

- ◆ American Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of American College of Surgery
- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- ◆ American Board of Colo - Rectal Surgery
- ◆ American Board of Surgical Critical Care

**Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad**  
Surgery Department  
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

daralshifa  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

**DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM**  
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

**Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368**  
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

**DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
Laprosopic and Bariatric Surgery

**Academic Certificates - Training**

- ◆ Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- ◆ (IFSO) member .
- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
- ◆ Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228 Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building



What's On

# Al-Ahmadi Governor opens 1st entertainment summer festival



Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah inaugurated Friday the first summer entertainment festival at Kuwait Magic Complex, which includes a range of recreational, sports and cultural activities and events. The festival features rafting, tournaments and mental games, as well as shows by a local folk band.

## Al-Shaheed Park organizes exhibition

Al-Shaheed Park organized an exhibition called "Mirrors of Our Souls" where two students from the architecture department at Kuwait University Eng Lulua Al-Roumi and Eng Nouf bin Nasser displayed their artwork at "The Green Belt" Bridge. Al-Shaheed Park deals with engineers and artists from various sectors, as well as students who graduate from Kuwait University to present special works that immortalize our martyrs on August 2 of each year.

The Park's Director Yousuf Al-Baijan said the park along with Loyac's management supports the youth and encourages them to present their ideas and creativities in all fields. Baijian added saying that the mirrors used by the two students reflects the souls of the Kuwaiti martyrs and the solidarity of the society throughout the years and how it managed to overcome the crises during the invasion.

The artwork included 28 columns of mirrors that represented each year since the invasion. Roumi expressed her happiness by displaying her work of art at Al-Shaheed Park calling it a national piece of art inspired by the tales of the Kuwaiti martyrs.



## ASSP Kuwait Chapter holds orientation meeting for new committee

American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), Kuwait Chapter conducted an orientation meeting on July 29, 2018 at Kuwait Hilton Resort, Mangaf for the newly nominated Heads and Deputies of the committees for the term 2018-19. Chapter Secretary Jahid Thakor kick started the meeting with the opening remarks wherein he briefed the objective of the orientation meeting.

He thanked all the Committee Heads and Deputies for accepting the volunteer positions to serve the Chapter voluntarily, as per the chapter procedures and protocols voluntary honorary appointment letters and the name badges were handed over to the heads /

Deputies by the core committee of ASSP Kuwait Chapter. The meet was headed by Eng. Fadhil Al Ali, Chairman, ASSP Kuwait Chapter who has been the pioneer of the Kuwait Chapter. Aamir Rasheed, President welcomed the participants and emphasized on the important role on hands that included the major milestones to be achieved during the term 2018-2019.

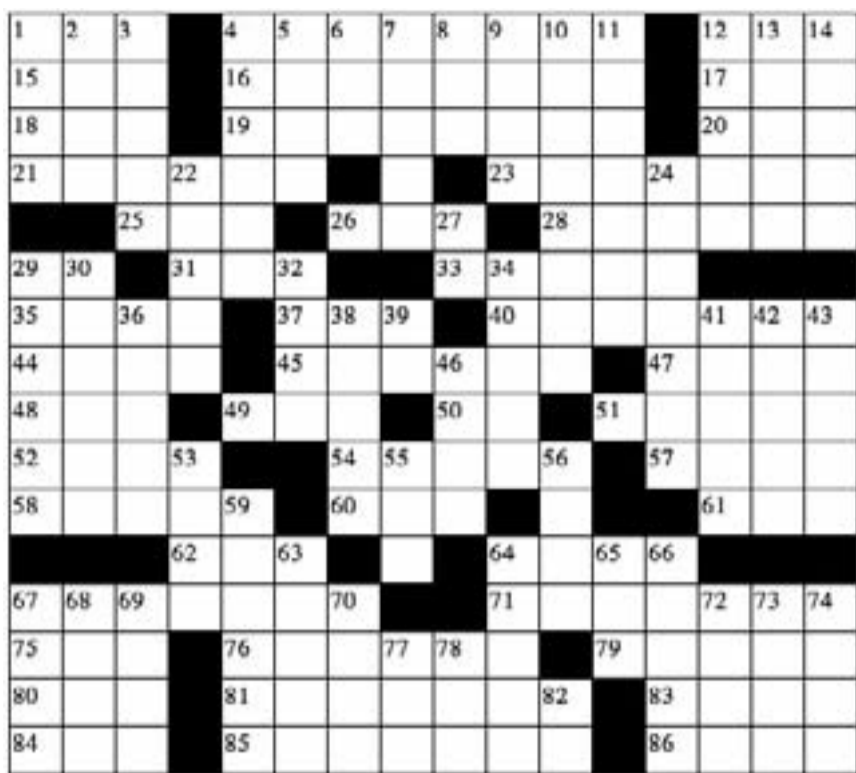
Further Jahid Thakor, Secretary, ASSP Kuwait Chapter delivered a presentation which featured the roles and responsibilities of each Committee, expectations, organization structure of the Chapter, Chapter protocols and other upcoming major events like ASSP GCC ISE Excellence Award 2019 and 10th ASSP HSSE International Professional Development Conference and Exhibition.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Chapter Vice President Sunil Sadanandan, and other senior members of the chapter, who wished all the committees for a successful year ahead. The participants included the Elected Members, Committee Heads, Deputy Heads the Chapter Term 2018-2019 and Chapter Administration Executives.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1977



ACROSS

- (folklore) Fairies that are somewhat mischievous.
- A person who performs in the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan.
- A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
- Something or someone that causes anxiety.
- Feline mammal usually having thick soft fur and being unable to roar.
- A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- Any of various small mollusks.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- Radish of Japan with a long hard durable root eaten raw or cooked.
- Any of several baleen whales of the family Balenopteridae having longitudinal grooves on the throat and a small pointed dorsal fin.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
- True lizards.
- A ductile malleable reddish-brown corrosion-resistant diamagnetic metallic element.
- A metric unit of length equal to ten meters.
- Usually paved outdoor area adjoining a residence.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
- A dress worn primarily by Hindu women.
- A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
- Dearly loved.
- (Babylonian) The sky god.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Wood of a larch tree.
- One of the jointed appendages of an animal used for locomotion or grasping.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Any of various minerals consisting of hydrous silicates of aluminum or potassium etc. that crystallize in forms that allow perfect cleavage into very thin leaves.
- A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Take in solid food.
- The cry made by sheep.
- A successful ending of a struggle or contest.
- A polygon with 10 sides and 10 angles.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- To or from every one of two or more (considered individually).
- (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- A member of a North American Indian people of southwestern Oregon.
- A notable achievement.
- Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
- Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

DOWN

- A town in north central Oklahoma.
- The basic unit of money on Malta.
- An implement consisting of handle with a free swinging stick at the end.
- (slang) Merchandise that is shoddy or inferior.
- (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
- A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
- State of disgrace resulting from detestable behavior.
- Noisy talk.
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- Resistor for regulating current.
- Leave a train.
- A place that is scoured (especially by running water) v 1.
- An island of central Hawaii.
- An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
- A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
- Belonging to some prior time.
- A person forced to flee from home or country.
- (Greek mythology) The Muse of astronomy.
- An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
- Jordan's port.
- A person who is deemed to be despicable or contemptible.
- A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
- A unit of information equal to one million (1,048,576) bytes.
- The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
- A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
- A dry cold north wind in SE France.
- The wrist bone in line with the 4th and 5th fingers.
- Strike with disgust or revulsion.
- Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
- South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
- A genus of Ploceidae.
- Type genus of the Ranidae.
- A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- A long walk usually for exercise or pleasure.
- A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A quantity of no importance.
- A graphical record of electrical activity of the brain.
- A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.

Friday's Solution

P	A	V	O	P	E	C	K	I	S	H	B	S	E	
A	R	A	K	L	E	P	A	N	T	O	R	A	D	
C	A	L	A	B	A	A	T	L	A	S	A	G	E	
A	B	M	E	T	A	M	A	R	T	A	G	O	N	
Y	R	A	T	L	A	N	T	I	C					
I	C	O	E	M	E	N	D	L	O	A	S	A		
M	A	L	T	H	A	D	G	E	L	D	E	D		
P	R	O	L	E	N	G	U	N	I	D	A	L	I	
E	V	E	B	L	A	H	A	B	C	N	E	T		
D	E	S	C	R	I	B	E	P	R	I	V	A	C	Y
E	N	S	U	E	G	A	E	A	E	T	A			
B	W	C	D	A	N	A	I	D						
B	A	B	A	B	A	Y	A	F	L	A	S	K		
A	G	A	G	A	N	A	P	A	T	I	G	C	A	
T	H	B	U	N	I	F	I	L	A	R	D	A	M	
H	A	Y	R	E	S	O	N	A	T	E	A	B	A	

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find this to be one of those days you are in true admiration of the beauty that surrounds you. You may see beauty in everything and everyone you encounter today. This brings a sense of peace and harmony into your world and you may find this to be a delightful day. Be careful not to overspend today because this mood tends to make you want to bring home every beautiful treasure you find. Not the best day for a trip to the mall. You will want everything you see! Take a stroll in the park and enjoy the beauty of the nature that surrounds you. This will keep your money in your wallet and a sense of peace in your heart.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This may be a great day to enjoy a good book or catch a movie. An escape from reality may be just what you need. This could clear your mind and leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. You feel your most secure when surrounded by friends. You may be feeling a real need for a change in your life. You may feel as if you want to throw out the old and bring in the new. You have had this on your mind for a while and today seems the day you really begin to act on it. It seems a change in the right direction may bring great reward into your life. You will send enjoy world you have no desire to escape from.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It may seem if your sexual needs are coming to mind quite frequently. You crave power and control. The great mysteries of life and death seem are subjects you find intriguing. This is a time you long to mend fences and let by gones be by gones. This is a time you crave peace and lasting friendships.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It you could snap your fingers and disappear that is just what you would do today. You need an escape from reality. Always being responsible is starting to wear you down. You work hard and never take any time for yourself. A massage, a good book, even a night out at a quiet restaurant would be a welcome break for you. You work hard and need to always remember to take a break. Take to reward yourself for all you do. You will find spoiling yourself a little will help you be much more productive in the long run.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have always had that strong shoulder that others seem to lean on. Today is no exception. You may find your phone ringing off of the hook with friends in need. Your advice is in high demand. The level of respect your friends have for you is to be envied. You are the friend others wish to have. Being the one everyone turns to in their time of need can be exhausting. Who is there when you need a friend to confide in? You may find someone older or in authority can offer you the support you need today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Variety is the spice of life. This seems to be your motto at this time. You may find yourself drawn in different directions or drawn to new experiences. You can't seem to sit still. You are finding you are happiest when on the go. You have a desire for knowledge and you are gathering it from all new experiences. You may find others being drawn to you and expressing admiration toward your desire for knowledge and for the wisdom you possess. This day could bring a variety of emotions as well. You may go from feeling on top of the world to feeling misunderstood. Remember, Virgo, this day is about your pursuit knowledge and it is ok to do just what makes you happy.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Get ready to turn those stumbling blocks into stepping stones. No obstacle is too great for you. You are full of positive energy and refuse to be defeated. Your positive outlook on life has been a driving force for you. You have accomplished so much in this life. You are a fighter and a winner. Your high energy is to be envied. Know that nothing will stand in your way today. You will be able to truly laugh in the face of adversity.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It seems the more independent you become the more you face conflict with those close to you. This is a time you may be trying too hard to be different. This could be met with disapproval from your peers. Not everyone is fond of the changes they see you making. This could cause a great deal of pressure in your life. You well know when making decisions under pressure you seem to freeze and never seem to do the right thing. Take your time. Relax and wait until some of the stress passes. Save the decision making for later. These issues are not matters of life and death.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Communication is important. When it is put in writing, what you thought was a compliment could be interpreted as criticism. Something you thought was completely innocent or innocuous may be seen as derogatory. Misunderstandings that are in writing are difficult to overcome. They can result in a lifetime of hard feelings. Be thoughtful about what you put on social media. Consider the possible reactions before you send a text, a tweet, or an email.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

After much thought and reflection you may come to realize how much you truly appreciate where you are in life. Through many challenging situations, and past you may not be very proud of, you have successfully been able to turn the stumbling blocks you have encountered into stepping stones. Seeing others go through some of the same hard times you have draws you to them and gives you a desire to reach out and help. You may feel especially kind to a close friend in need. This is a person you are led to take under your wing. You may find this person looks up to you. Your kind words will have more of an impact than you can ever imagine.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Sexual needs seem to be a major focus for you now. There are just some things and some one you can not seem to get off of your mind. This is a great desire for some special time to be spent with a special someone. You desire power and control. These thoughts have your mind racing and you start focusing on a plan to accomplish your goals and satisfy your desires. The great mysteries of life and death fascinate you and you have a desire to live each day to the fullest. You may appear to be at ease and loose today. Everything seems to be working together, and you will be able to communicate and express yourself well.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is day you may feel as if you are spinning your wheels. It seems to be a very superficial day for you. Everything and everyone seems fake to you. It seems as if you are going through the motions, it is a very repetitive and senseless day for you. You find no depth nor meaning in your actions nor the ones around you. You can not seem to get beneath the surface. It may seem as if your feelings are going against what you value. You could find this difficult for you to deal with.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Winter

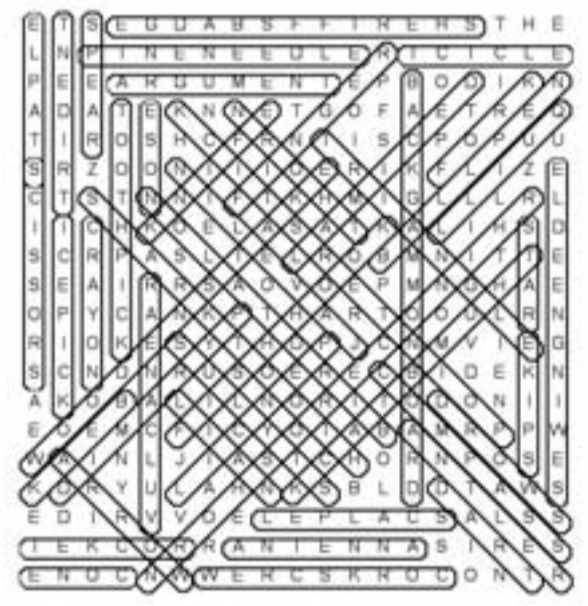
Find and circle all of the Winter related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Japanese proverb.



- |           |                |             |            |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| BLACK ICE | HAIL           | SEASON      | SNOWBOARD  |
| BLIZZARD  | HEADBAND       | SKATES      | SNOWFLAKE  |
| BOOTS     | HIBERNATION    | SKI DOO     | SNOWMAN    |
| CARNIVAL  | HOCKEY         | SKI PANTS   | SNOWSHOES  |
| CHRISTMAS | HOLIDAYS       | SKIING      | SOLSTICE   |
| COLD      | ICE FISHING    | SLED        | SOUP       |
| EGGS NOG  | ICICLES        | SLEET       | STEW       |
| FIREPLACE | KNIT CAP       | SLIPPERY    | STORM      |
| FIREWOOD  | LONG UNDERWEAR | SNOW CASTLE | SWEATSHIRT |
| FOG       | MITTENS        | SNOW FLOW   | TOBOGGAN   |
| FREEZE    | OLYMPICS       | SNOW SHOVEL | VACATION   |
| FROST     | PARKA          | SNOW TIRES  | WIND CHILL |
| GLOVES    | SCARF          | SNOWBALL    | WOOL SOCKS |

Friday's Solution

What's the Point?



The hidden message is: THE POINT OF THIS PUZZLE IS TO PROVIDE AN ENJOYABLE DIVERSION.

Daily SuDoku

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

Friday's Solution

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

# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018



People sit on a bench while people parasail on the beach as a heat wave is sweeping across northern Europe in Nice, on the French Riviera. — AFP

## Rappers in Paris airport brawl to remain in custody for a month

Two of France's biggest rap stars were on Friday ordered to spend a month in custody after a brawl between them and their entourages delayed flights and forced a partial shutdown of a Paris airport. The beef between Booba and Kaaris at Orly airport kicked off on Wednesday in a departures hall packed with holidaymakers, some of whom filmed the incident on their phones as the rivals fought across shelves of perfume and souvenirs at a duty-free store. A French judge on Friday said "persistent animosity between the two groups" and the risk of further altercations meant the rappers and nine others should remain in detention until the next hearing on September 6.

"What happened is inexcusable, regrettable," Booba said during the hearing, making reference to the travelling

families, working people and children who were there at the time. Kaaris said that "everything is over, everything is calm" now. The two rappers, who had been due to perform Wednesday evening in Barcelona, have waged a feud over social media where some users mocked the duo and called on them to settle differences through fighting. Booba, 41, has reportedly fallen out with Kaaris, 38, in the past after failing to support him in a dispute with fellow French artist Rohff.

Rohff was sentenced in November to five years in jail for aggravated assault in a clothes boutique owned by Booba. Kaaris' lawyers Arash Derambarsh and Yacine Yakouti claim the rapper was "taken aside by Booba, who insulted his child and his wife", before several people "jumped on him". He added the assailants used perfume

and glass bottles as weapons. Booba's lawyer Yann Le Bras responded by telling BFM TV the video footage showed it was Kaaris and his group whose behavior had been "very aggressive".

Orly airport said the fight had damaged Orly's image, "endangered the lives of others", and it was lodging a public order complaint after the ruckus forced officials to temporarily shut down the departures hall. Air France has also made a complaint. Fourteen people were initially placed in police custody on Wednesday afternoon, with two released on Thursday morning. The detainees face up to seven years in prison and a fine of 100,000 euros. — AFP



French police stand by as supporters wait outside the courtroom of Creteil, near Paris two days after rappers Booba and Kaaris were arrested at Orly Airport after a fight that also involved members of their entourage.



French rapper Kaaris (right) is led by police officers at a courthouse in Creteil, near Paris, late on August 3, 2018, two days after he and rapper Booba were arrested at Orly Airport after a fight. — AFP photos



## Ariana Grande, Mendes among performers at MTV awards

Pop stars Ariana Grande and Shawn Mendes will be among the performers at the MTV Video Music Awards on August 20, the network announced Thursday. Announcing the first batch of appearances for the live broadcast from New York, MTV said Grande would sing "God Is a Woman," the 25-year-old former child star's newly mature track about the delights of sex. The awards will come three days after Grande releases her fourth album, "Sweetener." MTV also said that rapper Logic would perform live for the first time his new song "One Day" alongside featured artist Ryan Tedder, the singer of pop group OneRepublic.

MTV earlier announced that Jennifer Lopez would receive an award named after Michael Jackson for her lifetime contributions to pop culture. The bilingual New York-born diva will appear at the awards for the first time since 2001. Rapper Cardi B is the frontrunner at the latest VMAs, narrowly taking more nominations than Jay-Z and Beyonce for their Louvre-shot video "Apesthit" and Childish Gambino for his politically charged "This Is America." But unlike the industry-led Grammys, the VMAs prides itself on outrageous made-for-television moments with less focus on who wins the awards. — AFP

## Weinstein seeks to toss sex crimes case over 'warm' emails

Harvey Weinstein's defense lawyer on Friday demanded that a New York court dismiss the sex crimes charges against him, explosively disclosing "warm" emails between the disgraced Hollywood tycoon and his alleged rape victim, in which she said "I love you." Ben Brafman, one of America's most celebrated defense attorneys who helped former IMF boss Dominique Strauss-Kahn escape criminal prosecution for alleged sexual assault in 2011, called for the entire indictment against Weinstein to be dismissed, based on the emails and a barrage of technicalities.

The 66-year-old former Tinseltown titan is out on bail and has pleaded not guilty to six counts allegedly committed against three women in 2004, 2006 and 2013. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for September 20. His arrest and arraignments have led #MeToo campaigners to hope that the twice-married father of five-whom nearly 100 women have publicly accused of sexual misconduct—will be put on trial, convicted and sent to prison. But

Brafman's filing demanded that the indictment "be dismissed at the pre-trial stage," saying that the district attorney's failure to present the emails had tainted the grand jury's indictment process.

Messages sent from weeks to four years after the alleged 2013 rape showed that Weinstein and the woman were in a "long-term, consensual, intimate relationship" that never once referred to an assault, Brafman claimed. The lawyer described the dozens of messages as "warm, complimentary and solicitous" and as reflecting "the true nature of this consensual intimate friendship, which never at any time included a forcible rape".

"Hope you are well and call me anytime, always good to hear your voice," she allegedly wrote to him in August 2013, five months after the claimed assault. In January 2014, the defense quoted her as writing: "Your [sic] the one who makes it look good with your smile and beautiful eyes!!" "There is no one else I would enjoy catching up with that understands me quite like you," she purportedly wrote to Weinstein in July 2014. In another exchange, she wrote to say: "Just had u cross my mind and thought u would send a hello." When Weinstein apparently replied: "Love to cross your mind it's my favorite exercise," she answered: "Lol that made me laugh so hard."

### 'Booty call'

"I love you, always do. But I hate feeling like a booty call. :)," she apparently emailed Weinstein in February 2017. Messages appeared to show her arranging to meet

up with Weinstein, looking forward to introducing him to her mother, making contact when she needed help securing a job and seeking comfort when her father was ill, Brafman said.

The defense accused Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance of acting in haste, caving under "unprecedented" pressure to indict Weinstein, having been criticized for failing to prosecute him for an alleged groping incident in 2015. Vance's office declined to comment Friday.

Brafman also sought to undermine the allegation of forced oral sex 14 years ago, saying that the alleged victim in that instance does not remember when it happened, only "sometime" between June and September of that



year. "Mr Weinstein categorically denies that he had non-consensual sex with any person, and specifically the three accusers in the pending indictment," he wrote in the 159-page filing, that included 30 exhibits of emails.

He sought the dismissal citing failure to provide the emails to the grand jury, prosecutors not giving "adequate" notice about more serious charges filed last month, not saying exactly when the alleged 2004 assault took place, not prosecuting within statute of limitations, not providing evidence about the element of "force" and what he summed up as "other grand jury deficiencies." Weinstein is facing two counts of predatory sexual assault and two counts of criminal sexual act, as well as rape in the first and third degree.

He risks being jailed for life if put on trial and convicted of the most serious charge against him, predatory sexual assault. His career imploded in October in a blaze of accusations of sexual misconduct and abuse from dozens of women that triggered a major reckoning about harassment in the workplace and the #MeToo movement. — AFP

In this file photo Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein enters Manhattan criminal court in New York. — AFP

## Lifestyle | Features



A movie plays in the basement of Abdel Qader Al-Ayoubi in Iraq's northern multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk. — AFP photos



Movie paraphernalia is pictured in the basement of Abdel Qader Al-Ayoubi in Iraq's northern multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk.



A movie plays in the basement of Abdel Qader Al-Ayoubi in Iraq's northern multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk.



Abdel Qader Al-Ayoubi works on a recorder in his basement in Iraq's northern multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk.



Abdel Qader Al-Ayoubi works on a recorder in his basement in Iraq's northern multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk.

## ART OF CINEMA COMES ALIVE IN BASEMENT OF IRAQ AFICIONADO

From black-and-white musicals to action movies, Abdel Qader Al-Ayoubi screens films and exhibits paraphernalia of the art form in his basement in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk, a cinema-free zone. Ayoubi has scoured the country to collect 8 mm, 16 mm and 35-mm reels of old films, projectors, screens and archive materials from second-hand dealers, sometimes at exorbitant prices. Back in the 1970s, the city of Kirkuk was home to five cinemas: the Khayyam, Hamra, Alamein, Atlas and the Salaheddin, the educational advisor and longtime movie enthusiast told AFP.

The silver screen pulled in audiences in towns across Iraq, until 1980 when war broke out with Iran, marking the start of decades of conflict. It was only in December that Baghdad declared victory after a three-year battle against the Islamic State group. While the level of violence has declined sharply, the rich cultural life long associated with Iraq has struggled to make a return. More than a decade of sanctions following Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, as well as long periods of militia and jihadist dominance after the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled the dictator, have ensured an end to the golden age of cinema in Iraq.

The cinema experience in the country is now restricted to multi-screen theatres in shopping malls of Baghdad and the main southern city of Basra. In oil-rich Kirkuk, which is home to Kurdish, Arab and Turkmen communities, "all the movie theatres have closed, for different reasons but mainly because of security concerns", said 59-year-old Ayoubi.

### Purring projector

Only in the basement of his home can a Kirkuk cinema goer experience the whirring of the film reel and the purring of the projector's fan. Ghassan Hawwa, an oil sector worker who remembers the days of the Atlas and Hamra cinemas, is a regular in the audience on leatherette seats at the weekly rendezvous in the basement. "Today, everybody watches DVDs or goes on the internet," sighed Hawwa, who along with a cluster of co-enthusi-



A projector is seen in the basement of Abdel Qader Al-Ayoubi in Iraq's northern multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk.

asts aim to bring cinema back to life in Kirkuk. Action and horror flicks are a hit at Ayoubi's cinema but his personal favorites are the Arabic movies, the musical comedies of the 1950s and 1960s, or the good old-fashioned love stories.

Foreign films are also on the program, such as the Spaghetti Westerns whose posters plaster the walls of his small museum that is open to the public on weekends and public holidays. Ayoubi guides visitors around his museum, giving the history of the reels, projectors and other cinema paraphernalia to a new generation "who know nothing of the cinema world of old". — AFP

## Broken art: Ai Weiwei's Beijing studio faces wrecking ball

An excavator shattered the windows of Ai Weiwei's largest studio while workers hustled away his art on Friday, preparing to demolish the old Beijing factory three years after the artist and government critic left China. As dusk descended on the old car parts factory on the outskirts of the capital, shirtless, sweating laborers packed large wooden crates filled with artworks onto a truck bed.

Hours earlier, Ai, who now lives in Berlin, had posted videos on Instagram showing several men looking on from inside the hollowed-out brick and concrete building as a backhoe went to work. "Farewell," Ai wrote in English, saying the demolition had begun without notice. Ai helped design the Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium for the 2008 Beijing Games, but fell out of favor following his criticism of Chinese leadership. The artist was detained for 81 days in 2011 amid a crackdown on government critics. His passport was confiscated and he moved to Berlin after it was returned to him in 2015.

Ai wasn't overly angry about the demolition, as the

rental contract for the space had expired last autumn, said Ga Rang, an assistant who has worked for 10 years alongside the artist. But it "simply wasn't possible" to move out at the time due to the vast quantity of things stored in the space, Ga said. Ga managed the hangar-sized space in the Left Right Art District, where Ai had worked since 2006. "They came and started knocking down the windows today without telling us beforehand. There's still so much stuff inside," said Ga, wiping his brow in the extreme summer humidity as he directed a crew of movers.

They had been warned that the move needed to happen within days, but had not been told when the wrecking machines would appear. "The authorities say they want to develop things here, build malls and commercial buildings. But it's a shame—you won't ever find a place in Beijing like this again," he said.

### Ghostly retrospective

Around the back of the building lay a cemetery-like collection of different parts from Ai's various works, a

ghostly outdoor retrospective. Tall ceramic pillars in green, yellow and blue, like those from his 2006 "Pillar" series, stood next to twisted metal rebar reclaimed from schools destroyed in the devastating 2008 Sichuan earthquake, all encircled by a silent chorus of enormous, gnarled tree roots resembling those from his 2009 work "Rooted Upon"—an abstract meditation on encroaching modernity and displacement. It was going to be impossible to find another space to house such large-scale works in Beijing, Ga lamented, and they were considering simply storing the works outside somewhere.

"Mr Ai made countless works in this space—a lot of his iconic works were all made here." Work from Ai's first solo show in his home country—a reconstructed Ming dynasty temple, rebuilt with all its 1,500 parts in a Beijing gallery in 2015 — stood packed up in boxes in the middle of the window-lined studio amid broken glass and timber.

### Changing district

Far beyond Beijing's city center, the Left Right Art

District is an old factory converted into artist studios and office spaces. It lies next to the "Big Wealthy Regal Industrial Park"—an area full of tractors, dirty low-lying buildings and roadside watermelon vendors selling their wares for 20 cents a kilo. Ai's studio dominates the complex, where many of the other buildings dating back to the 1960s and 70s have already been reduced to rubble.

Demolitions began three months ago, said De Aihua, a longtime resident who moved into the factory in her early teens. Ai's studio used to be the state-owned factory's meeting hall, she explained. At its peak, the complex was home to 1,000 residents, but numbers began to drop after China's reform in the 1980s shifted the economy away from rigid state-controlled planning. In recent years, only 20 or so residents remained.

She expected the government to allot her an apartment in a high-rise complex somewhere to compensate her for having to move, but deeply mourned the change. "It was a wonderful life here. It was the way a life should be—with neighbors, trees, closer to nature," she said, pulling her puppy Miaomiao through a leafy boulevard now overgrown with weeds and hedged on either side by debris. She would speak with artists when they crossed her path, but didn't know much of Ai Weiwei's international renown, referring to him as "Ai Qing's son". His father was a famous Chinese poet.

As he prepared a jackhammer for the next morning, the young construction worker who would drive the demolition vehicle said he had no particular feelings about tearing down the historic building, but still preferred low houses to towering commercial malls. "But even if I don't like it, I'm just an ant, what say do I have?" he said. "And anyway, I don't really know what you mean by art." — AFP



The exterior of Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei's "Left and Right Art Studio" is seen in Beijing.



Art works are seen at Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei's "Left and Right Art Studio" in Beijing. — AFP photos

Lifestyle | Features



A combination of pictures shows Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex wearing outfits while attending events and engagements in the months before her marriage to Prince Harry: (From left to right) at Kensington Palace on November 27, 2017 when the couple formally announced their engagement; on a visit to Nottingham Academy on December 1, 2017; at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh on February 13, 2018; attending the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey on March 12, 2018; at a reception at the Royal Aeronautical Society during CHOGM on April 19, 2018 and in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, on March 23, 2018.

# Glamour girl turned duchess: *Meghan* tones down

Muted colors, long dresses and chaste necklines: Meghan has had to tone down her fashion choices since marrying Prince Harry in May but still occasionally displays some of her past style. It was a question that many asked ahead of the wedding: would the chilled-out Los Angeles actress frequently seen in short skirts and sandals fit into the British royal family mold? Would the newly-minted Duchess of Sussex imitate the typically English conservative style associated with Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, wife of her brother-in-law Prince William?

Would Meghan, who turns 37 on Saturday, have to become demure? "Before the wedding, Meghan cultivated a casual Californian look that was a nod to her L.A. upbringing," Elizabeth Vollman, who manages the website Meghan's Fashion, told AFP. "Since becoming a duchess,



In this file photo Meghan, Duchess of Sussex greets well-wishers from the balcony of the Chester Town Hall during her visit, with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, to Chester, Cheshire on June 14, 2018.



In this file photo taken Prince Harry (right) and Meghan Markle (left) attend a Wheelchair Tennis match during the Invictus Games 2017 at Nathan Phillips Square on September 25, 2017 in Toronto, Canada.



A combination of pictures shows Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex wearing outfits while attending events and engagements in the months following her wedding to Prince Harry: (From left to right) at the Southbank Centre in London on July 17, 2018; in Dublin on July 10, 2018; observing a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster during a visit to Chester on June 14, 2018; at the Prince of Wales's 70th Birthday Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on her first official engagement as the Duchess of Sussex on May 22, 2018 and at Marlborough House in London on July 5, 2018.

her style has had to evolve to befit her new royal role and she has dropped the effortless chic look in favor of a tailored and demure style, opting for French designers and neutral shades," she said.

Meghan, who starred in the hit US television legal drama "Suits" before giving up acting, told the website Outnet.com last year that she felt most comfortable in "jeans, cut-offs and flip-flops". In one of her first public appearances alongside Harry in Toronto in September last year, she wore a pair of ripped jeans and a loose-fitting boyfriend shirt. It was less than a year ago but an age ago in terms of her personal fashion evolution.

### 'Last moment' of joy

By marrying Queen Elizabeth II's grandson, Meghan has joined the royal family—an institution whose traditions dominate the lives of its members, including their clothing choices. "The role she's taken on, it's very austere, it's very sort of serious," fashion designer Stella McCartney, who created Meghan's wedding evening reception dress, told the BBC in a recent interview. Of the wedding day itself, McCartney said: "I think it was the last moment that she could reflect sort of the other side to her: the joy and the human within her."

Belonging to Britain's House of Windsor means representing the monarchy at closely-watched public events—

where any sign of fashion extravagance is duly noted. At her first public engagement on May 22, three days after her wedding, Meghan wore a long pale pink dress by Goat, a British designer, along with a hat, a handbag and stockings. She has shown signs of at least some originality, however.

"Meghan has occasionally pushed the boundaries of the royal dress code," said Vollman, pointing to a "daring" shoulder-baring sleeveless outfit by Carolina Herrera she wore at the Trooping of the Color military parade in June. Meghan also frequently wears French designers such as Dior or Givenchy—a sign that she will not only wear British designers. "Meghan is more attuned to trends and has more freedom to take fashion risks compared to the Duchess of Cambridge," said Vollman.

"It's exciting following Meghan's style because you can never predict who or what she will wear for an event." The Daily Mail newspaper said Meghan wore boat neck dresses in order to "respect protocol, while still looking a little sexy". But the tabloid went on to say that her fashion choices had led to "friction" and were "barely tolerated by royal aides". Harry himself, the report said, had stepped in to ask her not to wear a tuxedo suit on an upcoming royal visit. — AFP



In this file photo The newly married Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, (right) and Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, (left) leave Windsor Castle in Windsor after their wedding to attend an evening reception at Frogmore House.



A combination of pictures created in London shows a Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex with Prince Harry attending a Wheelchair Tennis match during the Invictus Games 2017 at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto (left) and at the Prince of Wales's 70th Birthday Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Meghan's first official engagement as the Duchess of Sussex (right). — AFP photos

## Canada's Zombie Boy dead of apparent suicide at 32

Canadian model and artist Zombie Boy—who was found dead of an apparent suicide at his home in Montreal—used his head-to-toe tattoos to earn international notice, from the catwalks of Paris to a video for pop superstar Lady Gaga. Zombie Boy, whose real name was Rick Genest, died this week in his hometown of Montreal, his agent Dulcedo Management said. He was 32. The cause of death was not officially announced, but several Canadian media and Lady Gaga said he took his own life.



Lady Gaga, with whom he appeared in the clip "Born This Way" (2011), said news of her friend's suicide was "beyond devastating." "The suicide of friend Rick Genest, Zombie Boy is beyond devastating," she said in a Twitter message. "We have to work harder to change the culture, bring Mental Health to the forefront and erase the stigma that we can't talk about it."

Dulcedo Management called him an "icon of the artistic scene and the world of fashion." "The whole Dulcedo family is shocked and pained by this tragedy," the talent agency said in a Facebook post. Genest was born and grew up in a suburb of Montreal. At the age of 15, he had a brain tumor, according to Canadian media. A year later, he got his first tattoo and took the street alias Zombie while living in mostly abandoned buildings and immersing himself in Montreal's underground punk scene.

Within a few years, his tattoos had grown to cover 90 percent of his body, earning him two mentions in the Guinness Book of Records. He held world records for having the most bones tattooed on his body, and the most insect tattoos. Montreal tattoo artist Frank Lewis was "responsible for inking the majority (of) the designs," according to Dulcedo Management.

These were generally morbid tattoos: a skull on his face, a brain on his head, and various bones and flesh-eating insects. His signature look gradually attracted the attention of the world of advertising, fashion and showbusiness. On his website, Genest described himself as "part gentle warrior, part anti-establishment artful dodger," who has "serendipitously become the 'it' muse for anyone who believes in a brave new world without judgment." "Zombies, to many, represent a pervasive xenophobia. As in my life, I was often out-casted, hated or misunderstood," he said in an interview with Wonderland magazine in 2012.



In these file photos taken on January 19, 2011 Canadian tattooed model Rick Genest aka Zombie boy present creations by French designer Thierry Mugler during the Men's fall-winter 2011-2012 ready-to-wear collection show in Paris. — AFP

In 2011, his appearance in the Lady Gaga video launched his international fame. From Paris to Milan, Berlin and New York, the model appeared in a growing number of fashion shows, notably for Thierry Mugler and for singer Jay-Z's ready-to-wear collection. In 2012, he appeared in a L'Oréal advertisement that went viral on social media, and increased his number of followers worldwide (nearly one million subscribers to his Facebook page). The next year, he also appeared in the movie "47 Ronin" with Keanu Reeves.

His wax double is on display at the Musee Grevin in Montreal, which sent condolences to relatives and fans, saying: "We had so much fun occasionally hanging out with Zombie Boy since the opening of the museum." British artist Marc Quinn is crafting a 3.5-meter (11.5-foot) bronze sculpture of Genest set to be shown at the London Science Museum's new Medicine Galleries late next year. "I don't find him scary at all," Quinn told the Guardian for a story published earlier this year. "I find him rather amazing. He is an artist. His artwork is himself and let's face it, he does look pretty cool." — AFP



Yemenis hammer metal salvaged from fallen rockets in air strikes to create blades for new daggers, in the northern district of Yemen's Hajjah province. — AFP photos



Yemenis hammer blades reformed from metal salvaged from fallen rockets in air strikes to create blades for new daggers.

## Yemeni blacksmiths transform shrapnel into heirlooms



A Yemeni man carves a wooden handle for new daggers made from metal salvaged from fallen rockets in air strikes.



A Yemeni man holds newly-formed daggers, created by recycling scrap metal of fallen rockets.

In his war-torn city, a Yemeni artisan is transforming shrapnel which litters the streets into the country's celebrated traditional daggers. For 45 years, blacksmith Mohammed Haradhi has crafted swords for his clients' loved ones and built custom locks. But after more than three years of war, he and so many other Yemenis have been left struggling to find work. Haradhi has turned to the conflict's debris in Hajjah, his home city in western Yemen, and repurposes the metal to make traditional jambiyya daggers. A short, curved dagger, the jambiyya is worn by Yemeni men in an ornate sheath tucked into an embroidered belt.

They are often gifted to boys during a coming of age celebration that brings the whole family together. With steel now hard to come by, Haradhi said shrapnel is a "cheap, high-quality metal" to make the daggers. "Necessity is the mother of invention," Haradhi said at his workshop, as he hammered a blade still red from the heat of the furnace. Shrapnel is particularly abundant in Hajjah, which has witnessed intense military operations aimed at driving rebel fighters out. The city is controlled by the Iran-backed Huthi rebels, who since 2015 have been battling a coalition backing the Yemeni government which is led by Saudi Arabia.

### 'To remember the war'

The war has killed nearly 10,000 Yemenis and pushed the country to the brink of famine. Port blockades have prevented humanitarian aid and other supplies, including steel, entering the country. But the conflict has not put an end to the craftsmanship which dates back hundreds—some historians say even thousands—of years, which has also seen Yemen famed for its hand-embroidered shawls and skilled silversmiths. Jambiyas have been handed down from generation to generation, across all socio-economic backgrounds.

The daggers range from lower-end models made in China to daggers with handles carved from rhinoceros horn, tucked into diamond-encrusted sheaths, worth close to \$1 million. Those made from repurposed shrapnel sell



for up to 20,000 Yemeni riyals (\$79, 68 euros). "We pick up the debris on the spot, or sometimes buy it by the kilogram," said Yahya Hussein, another blacksmith in Hajjah. Despite the ongoing conflict, residents say demand for the daggers remains high. "Some buy jambiyas made from shrapnel and actually wear them," one Hajjah local told AFP. "But some buy them as keepsakes, or to remember the war." — AFP

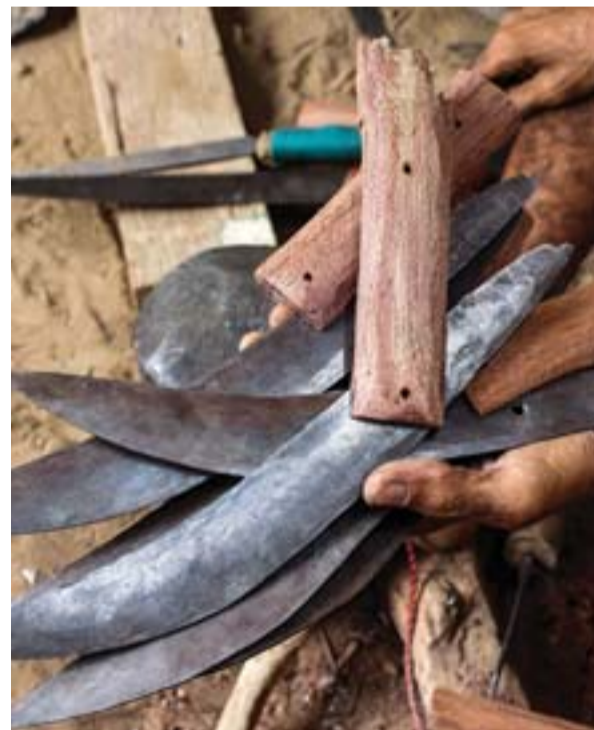
Yemenis burn wood to create a fire to reform metal salvaged from fallen rockets.



Yemenis hammer metal salvaged from fallen rockets.



Yemenis hammer metal salvaged from fallen rockets.



A Yemeni man holds newly-formed blades and handles of daggers created by recycling scrap metal of fallen rockets.

## Cereus: A cactus that blooms just a few nights a year



I recently had the honor of being invited to what sounded like a "serious" little party. Actually, it was a "cereus" party, named for a night-blooming cactus. This party was called at the spur of the moment to coincide with the plant's blooming, which occurs for just a few nights each year.

### An ugly duckling most of the year

A cereus cactus is not much to look at when it's not in bloom. The spineless cactus being honored at the party I attended had pods of flat, shiny leaves jointed together. Through winter, I was told, it looked downright unhappy. And cereus is no small plant that can be spirited away into some quiet corner when it's looking its worst. It quickly grows to enormous proportions. The plant I saw was in a hanging basket with the tips of its stems dangling on one side 5 feet across from those on the other side. Cereus will survive pruning, but must be allowed to grow large if it's going to make flowers.

It also demands prime real estate in and around the home. For best growth, cereus needs a prominent spot in a sunny window through the cold months, then a partially sunny spot outdoors once the weather warms. In winter, this cactus needs to be kept on the dry side. It's more able to recover from stems shriveled by under watering than from stems rotted by overwatering. Because growth occurs mostly in the warm months, summer is also when the plant wants to be fed.

### Fragrant and beautiful when blooming

For all of night-blooming cereus' gawkiness, is it worth growing for just a few days of glory? Correction: a few nights of glory. The blossoms turn flaccid by daybreak, lingering a bit longer into morning only if temperatures are very cool. As I stepped out onto the terrace to meet the plant, I immediately was swept up in its sweet, musky aroma. The creamy white blossoms, each 5 inches across and comprised of layer upon layer of strappy petals, were as

breath-taking to the eyes as to the nose. Pouring out of the center of each blossom was a filagree of stamens, also creamy white. Fat, spiny, expectant buds foretold more blossoms to come later that evening.

Some types of night-blooming cereus can be even more dramatic: there's one with even larger blooms, up to a foot across. The plant of this species, botanically not really cereus, but *hylocereus*, is commensurately larger, and its stems have sharp, three-cornered edges. By comparison, the night-blooming cereus that I saw is easy to accommodate. And if truth be told, not only was the little party in its honor not very serious, but neither is the plant, really. Botanically, its real name is *epiphyllum*. A number of cacti parade under the common name "night-blooming cereus." — AP

# Classifieds

Sunday, August 5, 2018

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

**BY DAY:** Very hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 04/08/2018 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	31 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	29 °C		
ABDALY	47 °C	28 °C		
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C		
JAHRA	47 °C	31 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	43 °C	28 °C		
SALMIYAH	38 °C	31 °C		
AHMADI	41 °C	34 °C		
NUWAISIB	45 °C	29 °C		
WAFRA	48 °C	28 °C		
SALMY	44 °C	30 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	08/05	Very hot	48 °C	29 °C	NW	10 - 30 km/h
Monday	08/06	Very hot + rising dust	49 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Tuesday	08/07	Very hot + rising dust and some high clouds will appear	49 °C	35 °C	NW	22 - 50 km/h
Wednesday	08/08	Very hot + rising dust over open areas and some scattered clouds will appear	49 °C	34 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:42
Sunrise	05:10
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:37
Isha	20:02

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	30 °C
MAX. RH	38 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	S 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

**NOTICE**  
 Hon'ble Addl. Judge  
**BEFORE THE FAMILY COURT AT CHENNAI**  
 O.S. NO. 109 OF 2018  
**Amreen Imtiaz - Plaintiff**  
 --VS--  
**Mohamed Aslum Sheik Ahmed**  
 @ Mohamed Aslam - Defendant

To,  
**Mohamed Aslum Sheik Ahmed**  
 @ Mohamed Aslam,  
 No. 57, Balaji Nagar, 45 Feet Road,  
 New Saram, Pondicherry - 605013

Sir,  
 In the above suit, filed by the plaintiff against the defendant for a) declaring the marriage between the plaintiff and the defendant dated 17-07-2016 which took place at Masjid Anjuman-E-Himayat E Islam, T. Nagar, Chennai 17, is dissolved by way of Khula dated 01-12-2017. b) To cancel the registration of marriage of plaintiff and defendant dated 04-08-2017 on "Dulgerai Municipality" Pondicherry, in O.S. No.109 of 2018, before the Hon'ble Jnd Addl. Judge, Family Court at Chennai, the Hon'ble Judge has ordered notice to you on 03-07-2018 returnable by 24-08-2018, at 10.30 AM.  
 Please be present, failing the matter will be heard and decided ex parte.  
 Thanking You,  
 Yours faithfully,  
 [Amreen Imtiaz]  
 Plaintiff-in-person

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, SUBBARAJU**  
 BURLAKUNTA, R/o  
 D.No: 3/105 Pulapathuru  
 (V&P) Rajampet (M.D)  
 Kadapa (DL) A.P. India,  
 Passport No. R7701669,  
 Aadhaar no.  
 261881686499, have  
 changed my name to  
**SINGARAJU SUBBARAJU**,  
 Balaraju, Mother name  
 Singaraju Roshamma,  
 name of spouse Singaraju  
 Krishna Veni. (C 5410)

**I, BURLAKUNTA**  
 KRISHNA VENI, R/o  
 D.No: 3/105 Pulapathuru  
 (V&P) Rajampet (M.D)  
 Kadapa (DL) A.P. India,  
 Passport No. L678008,  
 Aadhaar no.  
 935022351849, have  
 changed my name to  
**SINGARAJU KRISHNA**  
 VENI, Father name G.  
 Subbaraju, Mother name  
 G. Ragamma, name of  
 spouse Singaraju  
 Subbaraju. (C 5411)  
 2-8-2018

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**Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)**  
**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Sunday 5/8/2018				Departure Flights on Sunday 5/8/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Ataturk, Istanbul	00:15	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
WAN	136D	Doha	00:25	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:15
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	417	Manila	00:25
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	JZR	154D	Cairo	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSR	2615	Sohag	00:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	WAN	337D	Alexandria	01:25
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KKK	1269	Addis Ababa	02:55
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
WAN	416D	Beirut	02:45	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
WAN	714	AGP	02:45	AEE	957	ATH	03:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	WAN	351	Luxor	03:30
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JZR	902	Baku	05:30
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	103	London	05:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	530	Asyut	06:45
QTR	8511	Doha	05:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	RJA	649	Amman	07:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	QTR	8512	Doha	07:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	153	Istanbul	07:00
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:55
JZR	154D	Cairo	06:55	JZR	238	Amman	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	MSR	2617	Cairo	08:05
MSR	2616	Sohag	07:05	WAN	713	AGP	08:10
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	165	Rome	08:25
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	177	Vienna	08:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:00	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
WAN	338D	Alexandria	08:10	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	WAN	133	Doha	09:10
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
WAN	352	Luxor	09:30	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
WAN	312	Asyut	10:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	101	London	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	KAC	617	Doha	10:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	11:20



Palestinian protesters gather as teargas canisters are launched by Israeli forces during a demonstration along the border between Israel and the Gaza strip on Friday. — AFP

## Frontline of India's human-elephant war

**HEGGOVE, India:** On the day Yogesh became another of the dozens of Indians trampled to death each year, the coffee plantation worker knew from the fire crackers set off nearby that danger was at hand. "Everything happened so fast. The elephant suddenly emerged from behind the bushes, trampled him and disappeared," his younger brother Girish - thin, bearded and wearing a Nike baseball cap - told AFP. The 48-year-old from the southern state of Karnataka, home to India's largest elephant population with more than 6,000 jumbos, 20 percent of the country's total, left behind a wife and two children.

As India's 1.3-billion population grows, people are encroaching into habitats where until now the elephant, not man, has been king, with painful effects for both parties. The Indian government told parliament last year that 1,100 people had been killed in the previous three years. The elephants too are paying a heavy price with around 700 fatalities in the last eight years across the country. Most were killed by electric fences, poisoned or shot by locals angry at family members being killed or crops being destroyed, and accidents on railway cutting through ancient migratory routes.

And Karnataka, which is also part of the wider southern region crisscrossed by over 10,000 of the mighty tusked beasts weighing up to five tonnes, is on the frontline. "At present we have an annual death rate of around 30 to 40 people in the state," C Jayaram,

Karnataka's chief wildlife warden, told AFP.

### Pachyderm prison

The Indian government, like many other stakeholders in the complex and tragic situation, appears undecided about what best to do. "It is very difficult to escape our population or development pressure," a senior government official told AFP on anonymity. "Unless it's addressed, all of us just have to learn to live with the reality of such encounters." In Karnataka, forest rangers, mounted on elephants themselves, capture problem pachyderms, of which there are more and more, and take them to the Dubare Elephant Camp. J C Bhaskar, an employee at the camp, describes it "like a jail" but it is more of a rehabilitation and training center.

"We get the place ready before they are captured, we spread hay and leaves beforehand," he told AFP. "After the resting period, we start taming and training the elephant." One of the inmates is none other than Surya, who killed Yogesh and another man, the lumbering animal wearing chains loosely around one ankle to discourage him from running. The 28 jumbos at the camp also draw tourists, with thousands visiting the lush, riverside camp each year, stroking the animals and enjoying being squirted with water.

### Broken fences

However, while such relocations may assuage local

families abroad". But despite all the opposition, analysts say Rouhani is unlikely to be impeached given the lack of an obvious replacement.

Many in the conservative establishment have rallied to his side, fearing broader unrest. Even the ultra-conservative Kayhan newspaper, a relentless Rouhani critic, said this month: "We must put to one side our differences because, at present the national interest and the survival of the nation are at stake." Everyone knows Rouhani has "a massive popularity problem", said Adnan Tabatabai, Iran analyst for the CARPO think tank in Germany. To survive his last three years in office, he is he is already working on his appeal towards more conservative forces. "He will likely adjust his foreign policy. He can no longer afford to maintain his conciliatory approach to the US... though he must also keep an eye on Europe to salvage what's left of the JCPOA (nuclear deal)," said Tabatabai. "I don't think the supreme leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) wants him to fail... but he needs to introduce a hell of a lot of economic measures to bring back people's support." — AFP

shares Brunson's evangelical Christian faith, have made his release and return back to his family in the United States a priority. The US Treasury implemented the sanctions against the Turkish ministers under the 2016 Global Magnitsky Act named after Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died in a Moscow jail, and which allows the US to sanction foreign officials implicated in rights abuses.

The dispute is just one of a long list of problems in relations between Ankara and Washington, including Turkey's cosy ties with Russia and the failure of the US to extradite the alleged mastermind of the 2016 failed coup Fethullah Gulen. Two Turkish employees of US consulates in Turkey are also currently in jail on terror charges and another is under house arrest. "Given the high economic stakes for Turkey, some kind of agreement is more likely than not," said Skinner. "Erdogan has an unrivalled track-record of playing with fire, but he too knows when he has tracked too far across the coals." Sloat argued "quiet diplomatic negotiations" were the best solution since "Trump will not back down until Brunson is home, while Erdogan does not want to look like he capitulated to the Americans". — AFP

anger, officials and activists acknowledge it is only a stopgap solution. The only effective method, according to Vinod Krishnan, an activist with NGO Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) working with local communities, is better information-sharing. "Everything else has already been tried unsuccessfully. This includes deep trenches, normal or solar-powered fences and even fire crackers," Krishnan told AFP. "As you can see, no physical barrier can stop them," he added, pointing to the little of what remains of a section of fence at a coffee estate.

His group has developed a simple yet effective system around local villages allowing sightings of ele-

phants to be immediately verified and passed on. "We set up display boards around key elephant routes and set up SMS services for early warnings about an elephant's presence, which has significantly reduced such chance encounters," he added. This is helped by the exponential jump in the use of mobile phones in India over the past decade, including in remote areas. But Girish, half a year after losing his brother and fearing for his own life, still regularly sees herds of elephants around the coffee estates where he works. "Nothing has changed," he shrugs. "Locals can only keep chasing them away till they return as, they, like us, have nowhere else to go." — AFP



This photo taken on May 11, 2018 shows Indian mahouts sitting on tamed elephants with a wild bull elephant in the middle at the Dubare Elephant Camp in Kodagu District, about 250 km west of Bangalore. — AFP

## Is Rouhani a lame duck president?...

Continued from Page 1

stand up when he could have," a Western diplomat said. "He could have used his office to push hard on issues such as Telegram, but didn't. He limply spoke in favor of the hijab protests... he limply supported environmental activists when they were arrested. But none of it has looked like Khatami, who was willing to stand up and go crashing down in flames."

Meanwhile, Rouhani was already unpopular with conservatives who accused him of ignoring the poor and selling out to the West. In the holy city of Mashhad on Friday, clerics accused the president of surrounding himself with those who "don't care about people's problems", who have "two passports and send their

## Erdogan sanctions US officials in...

Continued from Page 1

And Erdogan appeared to indicate that he did not want the crisis to escalate further to full-scale economic sanctions. "We don't want to be a party to lose-lose games. Moving political and judicial disputes into an economic dimension will be harmful for both sides," Erdogan said. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who discussed the issue with Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu on Friday, said he was "hopeful" of progress in the "days and weeks to come". Erdogan said diplomatic channels were working "very intensely" and added he thought "a significant part of the issues of discord can soon be left behind".

Brunson was moved to house arrest last week following nearly two years in jail on terror-related charges but the change only increased tensions. President Donald Trump and his Vice President Mike Pence, who

## In Lebanon, volunteers...

Continued from Page 1

Lebanon in recent weeks amid concern over rising suicides. The first seven months of this year alone have seen 89 suicides in Lebanon, compared with 143 for all of 2017, according to Lebanon's security forces. This year's rate amounts to roughly one suicide every two and a half days, but social norms in Lebanon may mean suicides are underreported. "You have families who said, because of stigma, that he fell," said Nour Kik, of the health ministry's mental health program. To fight rising numbers, a group of mental health professionals and volunteers launched Lebanon's first suicide prevention hotline in late 2017.

The Embrace Lifeline has received around 600 calls since November, said Omar Ghosn, a psychiatrist and board member of the Embrace association behind it. In a small, bright office in downtown Beirut, around 45 volunteers work in shifts to receive phone calls from people in distress, but also worried relatives or friends. "Callers are women and men of all ages," but teenagers especially rely on the service, said Sally, who like other hotline volunteers did not give her second name. "I've had a lot of calls from elderly men," said the 22-year-old psychology student. Without work or a pension, "most call upset because they're struggling to provide themselves with food, drink - or even a home".

But vulnerable groups in Lebanon also include around one million Syrian refugees who fled the seven-

year war in their neighboring homeland. A 2014 World Health Organization report found that 41 percent of Syrian youth in Lebanon have sometimes or often contemplated suicide. Fadi, a 37-year-old Syrian volunteer at the hotline, said he often feels callers have never had anyone empathize with them. He talks them through their problems, trying to highlight their achievements, he said. Though "sometimes, they just need someone to listen to them cry".

Fadi is determined to speak out, especially after witnessing a crowd egg on a suicidal Syrian man threatening to throw himself off a Beirut cliff in April. "They were eating sunflower seeds and watching the scene as if they were watching a movie at the cinema," he said. Fadi gained the man's trust by throwing him his coat, and managed to coax him off the edge. He is also trying to raise awareness individually. His gym coach, who initially did not want to talk about the taboo topic, is now helping spread the word. "Now he's the one telling everybody: By the way, there's a suicide hotline in Lebanon. The number is 1564," said Fadi.

Authorities say they are working on preventing suicides, including through better access to mental health-care. "Ninety percent of persons who attempt suicide have a mental disorder that can be treated," said Kik, of the health ministry's mental health program launched in 2014. "We are working on making services more available, accessible and affordable," she said. But Safieddine's coping mechanism is still running. She has completed a half-marathon and is working on improving her time. "I run for freedom, I run for life, I run for myself, I run for my pain, and I run for those like me," she said. — AFP



Sports

# Red Sox top Yankees again behind Rick Porcello's gem

## Thames' walk-off blast vaults Brewers over Rockies

**BOSTON:** Rick Porcello retired the last 21 batters he faced en route to a one-hitter, and Steve Pearce hit a two-run homer in an explosive three-run first inning Friday night as the host Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees 4-1 in a game that featured Alex Cora's first ejection as Red Sox manager. Porcello (14-4) hit Brett Gardner with his third pitch of the game and served up a home run to Miguel Andujar leading off the third inning. But he did not give up another baserunner the rest of the way in his 10th career complete game and first of the season. The right-hander struck out nine and did not walk a batter. He faced just one batter over the minimum, with Gardner having been erased on a double play in the first inning. The win was Boston's sixth in its last seven games, and gave the Red Sox a 6-5 lead over the Yankees in the season series. The Red Sox increased their lead in the American League East to 7 1/2 games over the Yankees, who lost their third straight.

### A's 1, Tigers 0 (13 innings)

Ramon Laureano's first major league hit, a 13th-inning single that one-hopped the fence in right field, drove in Nick Martini with the only run of the game, as Oakland outlasted visiting Detroit in one of the season's best pitching duels. Well after left-handers Brett Anderson of the A's and Blaine Hardy of the Tigers had taken no-hitters past the midpoint of the contest and left a scoreless tie, Martini led off the 13th with a walk off the fifth Tigers pitcher, right-hander Buck Farmer (3-4). Two outs later, Jonathan Lucroy singled Martini to second, from where he coasted home on Laureano's walk-off hit to the opposite field. The 24-year-old Laureano had been promoted from Triple-A earlier in the day. He'd gone 0-for-4 with two strikeouts before the game-winner.

### Brewers 5, Rockies 3

Eric Thames hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth as Milwaukee rallied to beat visiting Colorado. Christian Yelich also homered for the Brewers, who kept pace with the Chicago Cubs in the National League Central. Milwaukee trails Chicago by a game for first place. The Brewers trailed 3-2 entering the ninth when Colorado closer Wade Davis (1-5) blew a save for the second day in a row. He got the first out before issuing two walks. He got Jonathan Schoop to pop up for the second out before Thames hit a 1-1 fastball into the right field seats. It was Thames' 15th homer of the season and Davis' sixth blown save in 37 chances.

### Astros 2, Dodgers 1

Justin Verlander struck out 14 over 7 2/3 innings and George Springer had a two-run double as Houston won at Los Angeles in the first game between the clubs since last fall's World Series. Springer owned the 2017 Fall Classic with five home runs, including homers in four consecutive games. On Friday it was as if the series never ended, as he walked in the first inning and gave the Astros a pair of runs in the second. Verlander was in complete control, striking out five consecutive batters between the first and second innings and striking out the side in both the second and the fourth. Other than a home run by Joc Pederson, Verlander (11-6) gave up just three singles, and Hector Rondon got the final four outs for his 11th save.

### Angels 7, Indians 4

Shohei Ohtani had four hits, including two homers, and David Fletcher's RBI double in the eighth inning snapped a 3-3 tie to help Los Angeles win at Cleveland. The victory not only ended a four-game Angels losing streak but also snapped a 10-game losing streak to the Indians at Progressive Field, dating to September of 2014. The Angels were without center fielder Mike Trout for the second

game in a row because of a right wrist contusion. Batting third for the first time in his career, Ohtani had his first career four-hit game in the majors, including his first two home runs away from Angel Stadium. He also singled twice, scored three runs and stole a base.

### Cubs 5, Padres 4

Javier Baez and David Bote each threw out a runner at the plate over the final two innings as Chicago turned back two San Diego rallies to score a victory at Wrigley Field. Baez beat the Padres with his bat, arm and legs as the Cubs bounced back from Thursday night's 6-1 loss. In the top of the eighth, he threw a runner out at the plate to help stop a Padres rally. And he tripled to open the eighth and scored what proved to be the winning run on Ian Happ's sacrifice fly to center. In the ninth, third baseman Bote threw out Cory Spangenberg at the plate with the tying run after the Padres had scored twice to pull to within a run. Right-hander Pedro Strop then struck out pinch hitter Austin Hedges to get his sixth save.

### Braves 2, Mets 1

Ace Jacob deGrom suffered another hard-luck loss, when Ronald Acuna Jr and Ozzie Albies doubled on consecutive pitches in the fifth inning to snap a tie and lift Atlanta to a win at New York. Johan Camargo gave the Braves the lead with a solo homer in the second off deGrom, who helped his own cause by delivering a game-tying RBI single in the third. But with two outs in the fifth, Acuna doubled to right-center for his second hit of the game and trotted home on Albies' double, which landed just fair down the left field line. That was enough for Anibal Sanchez and a trio relievers, who combined to two-hit the Mets on another night in which they provided meager support to their All-Star right-hander. New York has scored just 55 runs with deGrom on the mound this season, including 29 in his last 15 starts and nine in his last seven outings.

### Pirates 7, Cardinals 6

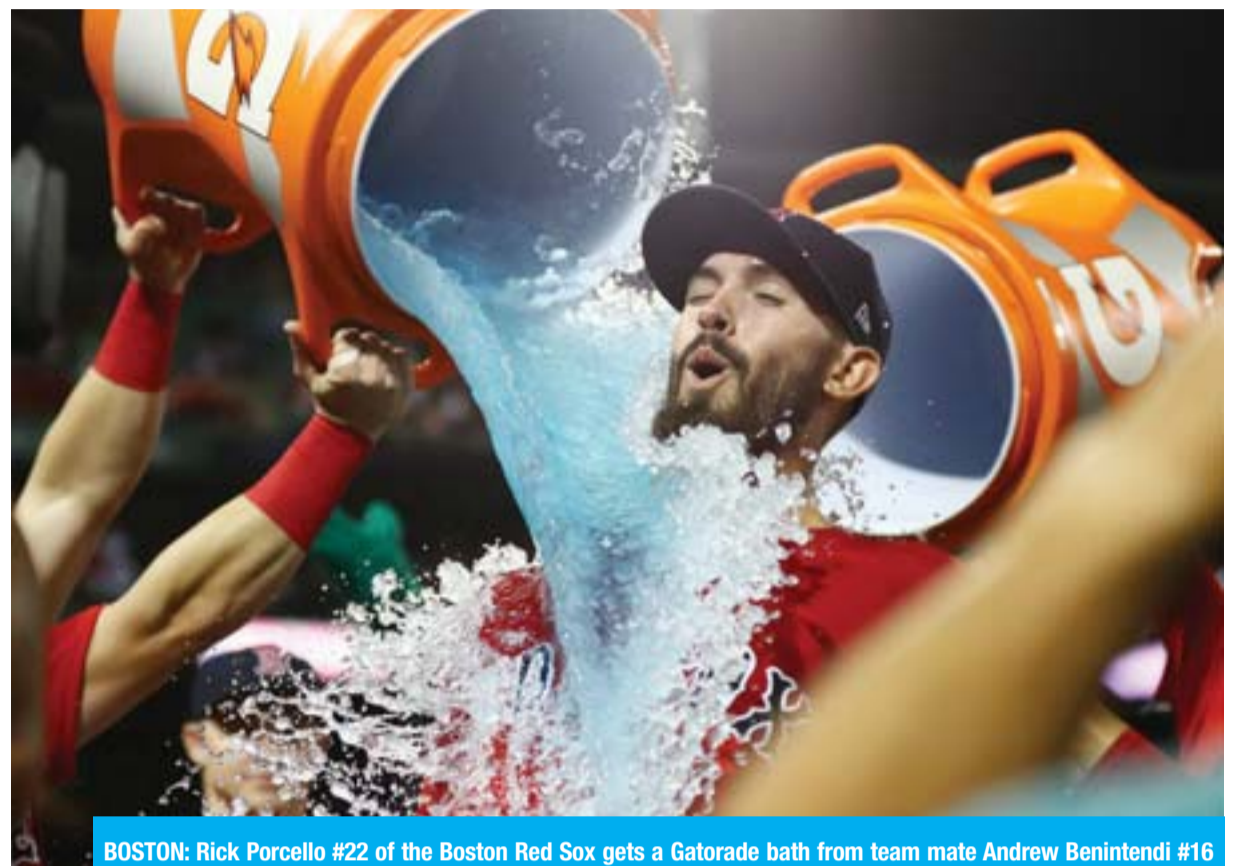
Adam Frazier's two-out RBI single in the eighth inning, his third hit, gave Pittsburgh a win over visiting St. Louis. It was 6-6 entering the bottom of the eighth after the Pirates blew a four-run lead. Josh Harrison got a one-out infield single against Jordan Hicks (3-3), and Jordy Mercer walked. An out later, Frazier ripped the ball up the middle to bring Harrison home. Gregory Polanco tripled and had three RBIs for Pittsburgh, which moved into third place alone in the National League Central after the clubs entered the game with identical records. Right-hander Chris Archer, making his Pirates debut, allowed five runs, four earned, and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings, with six strikeouts and four walks.

### White Sox 3, Rays 2 (10 innings)

Yoan Moncada doubled home Adam Engel with two out in the top of the 10th inning to lift Chicago to a win at Tampa Bay in the opener of the three-game series. Nicky Delmonico doubled off Rays reliever Jose Alvarado with two out and none on in the 10th. Engel was sent in to pinch run for Delmonico and easily scored the winning run when Moncada, who is hitting under .230, doubled into the left-field corner. Chicago's extra-inning heroics made a winner out of Tyler Danish (1-0), the fifth of six pitchers for the White Sox. Hector Santiago walked one but survived the bottom of the 10th to earn his first save of the year.

### Diamondbacks 6, Giants 3

Paul Goldschmidt and David Peralta homered and left-hander Patrick Corbin made his fourth quality start against San Francisco this season in Arizona's home victory. Goldschmidt hit his 200th career homer to open a five-run



**BOSTON:** Rick Porcello #22 of the Boston Red Sox gets a Gatorade bath from team mate Andrew Benintendi #16 of the Boston Red Sox after the win over the New York Yankees at Fenway Park on August 3, 2018. — AFP

first inning, Peralta had three hits and reached base four times and Eduardo Escobar had two hits, including an RBI single as the Diamondbacks evened the four-game series at one game apiece.

Buster Posey, Evan Longoria and Austin Slater had two hits apiece for San Francisco, which had a four-game winning streak broken. Posey left after singling in the third inning to be watched for concussion symptoms. He took a foul ball to the mask in the Diamondbacks' first inning.

### Phillies 5, Marlins 1

Roman Quinn had a two-run double, Rhys Hoskins and Jorge Alfaro each added two hits including RBI singles and Philadelphia defeated visiting Miami. Phillies starter Vince Velasquez (8-8) allowed no runs, two hits and one walk while striking out seven in 6 1/3 innings. Seranthony Dominguez pitched around a double in 1 1/3 innings to earn his 12th save. Miami starter Trevor Richards (3-6) allowed one run, four hits and two walks and struck out seven in five innings.

### Blue Jays 7, Mariners 2

Ryan Borucki pitched eight innings to earn his first major league victory as Toronto won at Seattle. Devon Travis and Russell Martin hit home runs for the Blue Jays, who have won the first two games of the series. Borucki (1-2), a rookie left-hander making his seventh start, allowed one unearned run on four hits. He didn't walk a batter and struck out two. Closer Ken Giles made his Blue Jays debut after being acquired from Houston, allowing a run in the ninth. It was the second consecutive night a Blue Jays pitcher got his first big-league win, after Mike Hauschild accomplished the feat Thursday with six scoreless innings of relief.

### Twins 6, Royals 4

Miguel Sano had two hits and two RBIs, and reliever

Gabriel Moya picked up his first major league victory as Minnesota snapped a two-game losing streak with a soggy victory over visiting Kansas City. Eddie Rosario and Jorge Polanco each had two hits for the Twins in a contest that featured two rain delays totaling two hours and 24 minutes. Moya (1-0) got the win despite allowing two runs on four hits in 1 2/3 innings of relief. Fernando Rodney pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to earn his 23rd save in a contest that ended at 12:56 on Saturday morning. Whit Merrifield had three hits and scored two runs. Salvador Perez had a two-run homer and Alex Gordon added two hits and an RBI for Kansas City. Brian Flynn (2-3), who allowed three runs on five hits in 2 1/3 innings of relief, took the loss.

### Rangers 11, Orioles 3

Rougned Odor hit a grand slam, and Joey Gallo and Robinson Chirinos also homered during a seven-run fourth inning as Texas beat visiting Baltimore. Odor's third career slam was the caper to the big fourth inning and propelled the Rangers to an eight-run lead. He scored twice and had two hits, and Texas had 10 hits overall while winning for the sixth time in its past seven games. The Rangers have slugged six homers and scored 28 runs while winning the first two contests of the four-game series. Jonathan Villar went 3-for-5 with an RBI for Baltimore, which is a major league-worst 13-42 on the road. The Orioles have dropped 13 of their past 14 away games.

### Reds-Nationals PPD

Cincinnati's game at Washington was postponed because of weather. The game will be made up as part of a split doubleheader, with Game 1 slated for a 1:05 pm ET start. The regularly scheduled game is slated for 7:05 pm. The Nationals defeated the Reds 10-4 in the series opener on Thursday.— Reuters

## Semenya speeds to 400m victory

**ASABA:** Caster Semenya won the women's 400 meters in a South African record time of 49.96 seconds, while Nijel Amos of Botswana retained his 800m title by beating Kenya's Emmanuel Korir at the African Championships on Friday. Semenya, the Olympic and world 800m champion, clipped 0.09 seconds off the 18-year-old national record. She now holds the South African 400, 800, 1,000 and 1,500 metres records. "It is all about having fun, wait for the right moment to execute so you can have a good race," said the 27-year-old, who will run at her more familiar 800m distance later this week. "I can't say I am still new in this event (the 400m). I have run the 400 previously but not really in a competitive level."

A new International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) hyperandrogenism rule that she is challenging at the Court of Arbitration for Sport could prevent Semenya competing in the 800m and 1500m races after November. But she said her career plans are far from done. "My goal is to run till 40 years (old), probably three more Olympics to come," she said. Amos, meanwhile, claimed his third consecutive African title in the 800, clocking 1:45.20 to defeat Korir, the year's fastest, who ran 1:45.65. "My decision to go to America has paid off," said Amos, who trains in Oregon. Baboloki Thebe gave Botswana a second gold when he won the 400 in 44.81. Nigeria claimed the women's 4x100m relay in 43.77 and also won the women's long jump (Brume Ese, 6.83m) and the women's discus (Onyekwere Chioma, 58.09). South Africa beat the Nigerians in the men's 4x100m, winning in 38.25 to 38.74. Kenya also had three more golds with Olympic champion Conseslus Kipruto winning the 3,000m steeplechase in 8:26.38, Winnie Chebet claiming the women's 1,500 in 4:14.02 and Matthew Sawa the men's high jump with 2.30m. — Reuters

## Woods and McIlroy toil but finish within a striking distance

**OHIO:** Tiger Woods teased his fans with a hot start to his second round at the Bridgestone Invitational on Friday but could not maintain the run in a slightly disappointing day at a venue he has all but owned. Rory McIlroy also had his issues, misjudging several wedge shots but at day's end both he and Woods were within striking distance at the World Golf Championships event in Akron, Ohio. Woods, an eight-times winner at Firestone Country Club, has not won anywhere since his 2013 victory on the course, which is hosting the event for a final time before it moves to Memphis next year.

After a bad drive led to a bogey at the first hole, he fired up a large gallery with three birdies in the next four holes. But he picked up only one birdie the rest of the way, at the par-three 12th, where he hit an exquisite draw with a seven-iron that nestled within two feet of the cup. He blamed his underwhelming round on struggling to adjust to the pace of the greens. "I'm really putting well," the 42-year-old told Golf Channel after a two-under-par 68 to trail halfway leaders Tommy Fleetwood, Ian Poulter and Justin Thomas by five shots.

"Just didn't quite hit the putts hard enough today but when I did I made them." Two weeks ago, Woods charged into the lead halfway through the final round at the British Open at Carnoustie, until a double-bogey at the 11th hole unraveled him. He eventually finished three shots behind winner Francesco Molinari.

McIlroy also contended at Carnoustie, charging even later than Woods but coming up two shots short.

The Northern Irishman was frustrated on Friday by a series of poor approach shots, until a holed bunker shot at the 17th lifted him. With another birdie at the last, a 67 left him three of the pace. "I was getting frustrated on the back nine," he said. "I was putting it in position where I should have been giving myself birdie chances and I was having to hole five-and-six-footers for par so I think my patience was rewarded." "Not that I hit bad wedge shots. My distances were a little bit off. "I started hitting some better wedge shots coming in and it



**OHIO:** Tiger Woods looks over a putt on the 18th hole during the second round of the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club South Course on August 3, 2018. — AFP

added up to three-under somehow so still right there going into the weekend."

### Barracuda Championship

In another development, Aaron Baddeley leaped in front of first round leader Ollie Schniederjans to take the edge after the second round of the Barracuda Championship in Reno on Friday. Baddeley made six birdies, including one on the 18th hole, to reach 26 points in the modified Stableford scoring event. "That's a good day," Baddeley told reporters of his round. "Played solid. Didn't get in any trouble. Putted nicely. Did everything nicely."

"Definitely exciting to be in that spot. And hopefully we can stay there the rest of the weekend." The format awards eight points for an albatross, five for eagle, two for birdie, zero for par, and subtracts a point for bogey

and three for double-bogey or worse. Schniederjans, who scored during his opening round, is one point behind at 25. His second round included a bogey and a double bogey. Three players are tied at 23 including Andrew Putnam who blazed his way to a field-best 17 points on Friday, making on an eagle and six birdies.

"I've been talking with my caddie and some of my coaches and (I have to) figure out how to play a little more aggressive," Putnam said. "That's the name of the game on this kind of format. So it's good for me." Ireland's Shane Lowry and Hudson Swafford are tied for sixth with 22 points each. Derek Fathauer and Australia's Matt Jones are tied for eighth at 20, and three more players have 19 points. Lowry is a former winner of the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio, which is running concurrently to the alternate-field event in Reno. — Agencies

## Sports

# Reigning eWorld Cup champ 'Gorilla' fails to make semis

## Elite gamers battle for glory at FIFA eWorld Cup

**LONDON:** England's reigning FIFA eWorld Cup champion Spencer 'Gorilla' Ealing failed to make the final four of the 2018 tournament on Friday after losing to Malta's Kurt 'Kurt0411' Fenech. The Xbox One semi-final will see Fenech take on Saudi Arabia's Group B winner Mosaad 'Msdossary' Aldossary. Manchester City's Danish gamer Marcus 'Marcuzo' Joergensen, who beat Argentine favorite Nicolas 'Nicolas99fc' Villalba, will play Belgian Stefano 'StefanoPinna' Pinna in the PlayStation4 semi.

The winner of the cross-console Grand final at London's O2 Arena will take home \$250,000 and an invitation to the world soccer body's Best FIFA Football awards in September and a gleaming new trophy. The runner-up will win \$50,000 while quarter-finalists get \$10,000 each and the knock-out stage qualifiers \$2,500. Fenech topped Group A with 59 goals, six wins and one defeat before despatching Ealing 5-3. "I'm expecting everything when I get back; red carpet, I can even run for President," joked the Maltese. None of the countries represented in the eWorld Cup semi-finals have ever won the real soccer World Cup, although Belgium finished third in Russia last month. The virtual finals kicked off on Thursday with 32 elite players who qualified out of a global pool of 20 million starters.

### Elite gamers battle

Just weeks after France celebrated their World Cup victory in Russia, "Gorilla", "Crafty" and "Honey Badger" were competing for the right to call themselves FIFA 18 world champion. A total of 32 players - 16 PlayStation and 16 Xbox stars - are competing at the 2018 FIFA eWorld Cup Grand Final at London's O2 Arena for a top prize of \$250,000. More than 20 million players entered the competition dreaming of glory-with 128 players making it through to the Global Series Playoffs in Amsterdam at the end of May and the beginning of June.

The fresh-faced finalists in London, with their eye on World Cup glory, come from as far afield as Argentina, New Zealand and Malta. English-born Harry "Honey Badger" Blackmore, who moved to New Zealand with his parents six years ago, relishes the chance to play in the O2. "I watched many boxing fights here and backstage there are posters of those who appeared here like Anthony Joshua and rapper Jay-Z," the 23-year-old said. "Maybe one day they will say Robbie Williams and Harry Blackmore performed at the O2 and my mum will be very proud," he added, laughing. The engaging Blackmore, who stands out with his shock of red hair

and jokes he is "getting old", says he keeps fit by playing semi-professional football but also looks after himself because he is aware he is potentially appearing in front of millions of viewers. He has already seen his profile soar ahead of the tournament-appearing on the national morning news in New Zealand-in a sign of the increasing profile of eSports.

"It is going to get bigger and bigger," said Blackmore, who started playing the game aged six. "The prize pots are going up and it is becoming a more viable career where you can make not just a living but a very comfortable living. "I am very privileged to be in this position." For football's world governing body FIFA, the move to London's O2 this year underlines the growing profile of the game. "The O2 is a bit of a statement," said Jean-Francois Pathy, FIFA's director of marketing services. "It is a growing tournament, the biggest tournament using the FIFA franchise and we want the O2 or the equivalent in future years to be a sell-out."

### 'Ronaldo work ethic'

Stars such as Blackmore will help to sell tickets but Pathy says in order for the game to grow, the players have to sell themselves and become stars in their own right. "The profile of players has to develop and get

them to become more recognizable," he said. "They have to have a clearer profile and personalities. That is part of developing the game and the franchise."

The road to becoming a part of the sports family-"the normalization and professionalization" stage as Pathy puts it-also includes drug testing and monitoring of betting patterns, while the players are increasingly taking on coaches. Blackmore has no problem with the introduction of dope-testing-there was a draw on stage after the first round of matches to select who would be tested. "Principally it is to look for drugs that slow down your heart like beta blockers," said Blackmore. "It is a good measure as everyone should be on a level playing field."

Those performing at the O2 do not just treat the stars in their teams as tools for winning but adopt them as role models. "Cristiano Ronaldo, his work ethic is insane, definitely someone you want to look up to," 19-year-old American Alexander "Aleksandur" Garcia Betancourt said. Betancourt, who got into the game through his father and is attached to MLS franchise Sporting Kansas City, says it is an honor to be the sole American competing in London. "It would be awesome being 19 and winning \$250,000 but I don't want my head going into the clouds," he said.—Agencies

## Wild sprint and Kenny gold lights up Euro cycling

**GLASGOW:** Kirsten Wild, a cycling sprint colossus on the road and track, added to her glittering palmares by winning the first cycling title of the new multi-sport European Championships in Glasgow on Friday. On a night which saw one of Britain's great Olympians, Laura Kenny, return to golden ways in the team pursuit-rather fittingly in the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome-it was flying Dutchwoman Wild who provided the individual tour de force. The 35-year-old, who had won the RideLondon Classique on Saturday to scoop the richest one-day race prize in women's professional road cycling, continued her successful British jaunt with a victory in the women's scratch race.

Wild, whose late-blooming career has this year also been adorned by three world track titles in front of her Dutch fans as well as five international road race wins, hit the front of the 10km track test with over two laps to go. And although rising British talent Emily Kay pushed her all the way to the line, Wild just held on. It was so close, though, that Wild admitted: "On the finish line, she (Kay) was so close to me that I was not even sure. I had to wait and see from the replay on the big screen. "She came in with a lot of speed that she eventually passed me." Then she added with a laugh: "Apparently, after the finish line..."

Later, a consummate team triumph

made up for this near-miss in the eyes of the home fans with Kenny, Elinor Barker, Katie Archibald and Neah Evans landing the team pursuit after belatedly cracking stubborn Italian opponents. It had been close until the final kilometer when the British quartet forged away to win in 4 minutes 16.896 seconds, with the broken Italians eventually limping home in 4:25.384. It marked a triumphant return to the top of the podium for four-time Olympic champion Kenny, the most successful woman track cyclist in history.

The 26-year-old, formerly Laura Trott, took time out of the sport after Rio de Janeiro, marrying fellow multi-gold medalist Jason Kenny and giving birth to their first child. "It's great. For me, having a year out, I never knew whether I'd actually make it back to the top table," said Kenny. "I'm still a bit away from the form where I left off. "I want to go to Tokyo (2020 Olympic Games) in the form of my life and I am still chasing it, but right now it's the best that I've felt in a long time. "I absolutely love being a mum. Sometimes, it sounds like I'm moaning about a lack of sleep, but I wouldn't change anything."

The chances of Jason Kenny emulating his wife's golden return disappeared when the British men's sprint team suffered a mishap at the start of their heat. The Dutch team of Jeffrey Hoogland, Harrie Lavreysen, Roy Van Den Berg and Nilsol Van't Hoenderdaal eventually struck gold. Russia's Anastasiia Voinova and Daria Shmeleva successfully defended their women's team sprint title, while Italy's quartet of Francesco Lamon, Filippo Ganna, Elia Viviani and Liam Bertazzo took the men's team pursuit. The first individual men's champion was Ukraine's Roman Gladyshev, who dethroned France's reigning scratch race champion Adrien Garel with a finely-timed sprint. — Reuters

## Nishikori nemesis Zverev reaches semis, Murray withdraws

**CINCINNATI:** Top seed and defending champion Alexander Zverev overcame Kei Nishikori to win their rain-delayed Citi Open quarter-final in three sets on Friday, after Andy Murray withdrew from the tournament citing fatigue. Zverev bounced back after dropping the opening set to overhaul the seventh-seeded Japanese 3-6 6-1 6-4, eliminating him from the tournament for the second consecutive year.

German Zverev will meet Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semi-finals yesterday after the up-and-coming Greek upset third seed David Goffin 6-3 6-4. Murray's withdrawal, announced earlier on Friday, gave

Australia's Alex de Minaur a free pass to the semi-finals where he will meet the winner of Andrey Rublev and American Denis Kudler. The Zverev-Nishikori result was delayed for more than two hours by rain with Zverev leading 3-2 with a break in the third set. When play resumed, Zverev took a second break thanks to a series of errors by Nishikori and closed out the match.

Nishikori had earlier controlled play as Zverev stayed largely behind the baseline but that changed in the second set, when the German became far more aggressive, especially on return. The teenager Tsitsipas took advantage of an uncharacteristic slew of unforced errors by Goffin to topple the world number 11. He saved all three break points he faced and fired seven aces to Goffin's four in the upset. He also won 86 per cent of his first serve points. De Minaur moved into his third ATP semi-final, after reaching his first two in January at Brisbane and Sydney. The 19-year-old is projected to soar past his previous career-best world ranking of 68 and could make the top 50. —Agencies

## Clubs, cold weather: How Denmark took on Asia badminton

**NANJING:** Take a look at badminton's world rankings and it immediately strikes you-Asian teams and players dominate, but one European country is holding its own: Denmark. The country of less than six million people is punching way above its weight, boasting men's number one Viktor Axelsen and some of the best doubles pairs in the sport.

Not bad for a country whose badminton tradition started in the 1920s with four men playing in their garden. So bearing in mind their rivals include China-population 1.4 billion-just how does Denmark do it? It is a question that Jens Meibom, director of elite sports at Badminton Denmark, relishes answering. Meibom told AFP in the Chinese city of Nanjing, where the World Championships are taking place, that there are two main reasons. "First of all we have a club structure, which is unusual even in a European context," he said.

"There are a lot of local badminton clubs all over Denmark so it's very easy to play as a young kid and we have a feeder of kids who want to play." Denmark's wintry weather helps because freezing temperatures force sports indoors for a chunk of the year, he said. "The second thing is that we managed to establish a national training centre in Copenhagen where all the best players meet for daily training under four coaches. "Unlike something like swimming, in which you could be good in your local pool, badminton is a sparring sport and you need to have someone to play against."

"So that means that if you don't bring the best players together, they don't have this elite environment and best sparring." Other European countries have looked at the Danish model with envy, even setting up their



**NANJING:** Viktor Axelsen of Denmark hits a shot against Chen Long of China in their men's singles quarter-final match during the badminton World Championships in Nanjing. — AFP

own national training centers. "But you can't copy culture," said Meibom. "Culture is inside your head and it is about knowledge, one thing is that we are very clever," he added with a laugh. With the support of the Danish government, the training centre was set up about 30 years ago and comprises six courts and 30 of the country's best players.

### Cautionary tale

Danish badminton is said to date back to 1925, when a sports shop owner brought back four racquets from England and played with three friends, before introducing it to a club in Copenhagen. Meibom said Denmark has a proud tradition in the sport, comparing it to Sweden in tennis with greats such as Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg.

But he warned that the Sweden example also makes for a cautionary tale-they have been on the slide in tennis since the 1990s. "Who would have expected Swedish tennis

to deteriorate like it did? So we are not taking it (success) lightly," said Meibom. Like in many countries, football is the most popular sport in Denmark. Surprisingly, given their success and the fact they have reigning world champion in Axelsen, badminton is not even as popular in Denmark as gymnastics, golf or handball if judged in terms of participation numbers, said Meibom.

This is a cause for concern and numbers have been steadily falling-until a reverse last year. According to Meibom, the Danish badminton federation has about 90,000 members, compared to 160,000 some 20 years ago. "Having a world champion increases the interest in badminton but if the regular, day-to-day training isn't very good, no good coaches, it will stop immediately," he said. "It is not enough to have idols because if the local training at the club isn't good enough, they will go off and play something else like football. "We are depending on kids to play the sport." —AFP

## Belgian cyclist wins inaugural France to China solar bike race

**BEIJING:** A Belgian cyclist rode 12,000 kilometers from the French city of Lyon to the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou in just 49 days to win an inaugural solar-powered electric bike race aimed at promoting renewable energy. Raf van Hulle's journey took him through Germany, Ukraine, Russia, then Kazakhstan before riding into China, cycling an average of 270 kilometers daily.

He struggled through 3,000 kilometers of slopes amid scorching heat in the Gobi desert, which saw him pedaling unassisted in temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) to avoid overheating his bicycle's battery. "I am very happy to have won, but also not to have damaged my bike, which is quite expensive," van Hulle told AFP. The bicycle, which has a solar panel in the front and another on a trailer behind, is used for his daily commute, added the architect, who arrived in Guangzhou on Friday. The race started in mid-June with 39 participants-they were given 100 days to get from Lyon to



**GUANGZHOU:** Raf van Hulle of Belgium celebrates as he arrives in Guangzhou, in China's southern Guangdong province, after riding 12,000 kms from Lyon. — AFP

Guangzhou without a fixed route-with about 30 competitors remaining.

French organizers Sun Trip started such races in 2013 to promote renewable energy. Previous editions saw participants racing from Lyon to Kazakhstan and Turkey. "This performance of solar (energy) applied to mobility and cycling is a success for the development of renewable

energy," Sun Trip founder Florian Bailly told AFP. This edition of the race picked China because of its position as the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, but also as the first country to invest in solar energy. Bailly added. With the support of the French and Chinese governments, he believes the race could become a regular affair. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** Kei Nishikori of Japan returns a shot from Alexander Zverev of Germany during Day Seven of the Citi Open at the Rock Creek Tennis Center on August 3, 2018. — AFP

## Sports

# Mo'unga instrumental as Crusaders win ninth title

## Crusaders resolute on defense, clinical on attack

CHRISTCHURCH: Richie Mo'unga drove a resolute and clinical Canterbury Crusaders around the field as they beat South Africa's Lions 37-18 to clinch their ninth Super Rugby title in front of a sold-out crowd at Rugby League Park in Christchurch yesterday. The Crusaders flyhalf, who was named man-of-the-match, slotted 17 points with the boot and provided the attacking spark for the Crusaders, who defended for much of the match and seized what scoring chances they had. Not even a late yellow card to Ryan Crotty was able to stop the Crusaders, who scored tries to outside backs Seta Tamanivalu and David Havili, lock Scott Barrett and replacement scrumhalf Mitchell Drummond.

Flanker Cyle Brink and hooker Malcolm Marx scored tries for the Lions, who suffered their third successive final defeat, having lost to the Wellington Hurricanes in 2016 and Crusaders last year. The Lions dominated territory and possession for much of the match but were unable to turn that into points, while the Crusaders efficiently struck when they had their opportunities to build scoreboard pressure. "The boys were so calm under the pressure. How many phases did we defend for on our line," Crusaders coach Scott Robertson said.

"I think we have made more tackles than we made all year, so it shows the quality of the game was high. Defense shows how much you care. Defense won it for us last year and it did again this year." Elton Jantjies

and Mo'unga traded penalties before some hard, straight running and quick ball by the Crusaders set up space for Tamanivalu to cross in the right corner four minutes after Mo'unga's penalty. The home side repeated the dose when Mo'unga extended the lead to 13-3 before Havili crossed after a searing counter attack from the flyhalf following a poor Jantjies kick had opened the field up.

Jantjies reduced the deficit to 20-6 shortly before the break but Mo'unga extended it again when he slotted his third penalty in the 43rd minute. The Lions continued to hammer at the Crusaders to the point that by the time Brink had smashed his way through two tackles and ran 25 metres to reduce the deficit to 23-13 the tide appeared to have turned. The Crusaders, however, regrouped and swept back downfield with some superb interplay that put Drummond over to give them a 30-13 lead with little under 20 minutes remaining.

While Marx scored his 12th try of the season shortly after Crotty was sinbinned for a cynical professional foul, the Crusaders ensured there was no chance of a fightback when a searing run from winger George Bridge following a quick lineout on halfway set up Barrett's try. "A bit gutted, but I'm just proud of every individual who gave it everything out there," Lions captain Warren Whiteley said. "Credit to Sam and his team. They were unbelievable. Everything we threw at them they stopped. We tried everything, threw the kitchen sink at them and they deserve this win." — Reuters



CHRISTCHURCH: In this July 28, 2018 file photo, Hurricanes' Wes Goosen (left) is tackled by Crusaders' David Havili during the Super Rugby semi-final match between New Zealand's Canterbury Crusaders and Wellington Hurricanes at the AMI Stadium. — AFP

## Man City 'will only hunt for special talent'

LONDON: Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola said Friday he will only dip into the transfer market for a "special" talent after a relatively quiet summer of business for the Premier League champions. City's only high-profile signing so far has been Riyad Mahrez from Leicester in a club-record £60 million (\$78 million) deal but Italy international midfielder Jorginho plumped for Chelsea. "We will see," Guardiola said of the club's transfer business ahead of today's Community Shield match against FA Cup winners Chelsea.

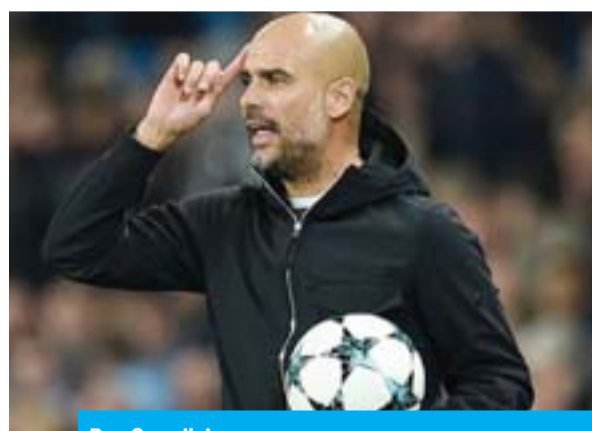
"If at the end we decide to bring another one, it is because he's a special player, can be a special player for the future, not to have one more player for the number. "So, I'm so satisfied-all my period here, even the first year-with the squad we have. Now from Monday we'll be all together. We are going to start to think what we have to do to this season to maintain the level of last season." Several players are likely to move on before the window closes on Thursday, with goalkeeper Joe Hart

looking to make a permanent exit after difficult loan spells at Torino and West Ham.

Guardiola said he was delighted that Brazil forward Gabriel Jesus, 21, had signed a contract extension. "Gabriel has improved a lot since he came," the City boss said. "His courage, his fight to put every effort for the team is incredible." Jesus is one of a number of players back in the City reckoning after the World Cup, with Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling the only squad members yet to return to the fold. Summer signing Mahrez has been given the green light to feature at Wembley today after an ankle complaint but Guardiola is unable to call upon midfielder Douglas Luiz as he waits on a work permit.

### Jorginho swoop

New Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri swooped in at the last minute to bring Jorginho to Stamford Bridge from Napoli. "We were close but, in the end, Jorginho decided to stay with (former Napoli boss) Maurizio," Guardiola said. "Despite missing out on the Italy international, Guardiola spoke positively about Sarri. "The team already in a short time plays like he wants," the City boss said. "Of course, he needs more time to work but his ideas are already there, so I think it'll be a good game (on Sunday). "Always Chelsea is a big rival. Antonio (Conte) was. I am delighted that players with this style of play will be perfect for English football. I am so happy he



Pep Guardiola

came here." Guardiola said his team wanted to win the Community Shield to get their season off to a flying start but admitted they would not better last season's results in the Premier League. "In terms of results, in the Premier League I cannot overcome the results, the numbers of last season, but in the way we play, yes," he said. "And in other competitions, the FA Cup and Champions League, always we can do better. If I felt it's done and we cannot improve I would not be here. I stay here because I think we can improve, but to get more than 100 points-no." — AFP

## Impossible goal? Startup to stream soccer to Net-wary Italians

MILAN: Sports-streaming start-up DAZN has an ambitious business goal in Italy: sign up 3-5 million customers, as many as the country's largest pay-TV group, in a market with one of the worst broadband take-up rates in Europe. DAZN, whose British parent Perform Group is backed by billionaire investor Leonard Blavatnik, starts streaming Italy's top soccer league to home fans this month, having paid 600 million euros (\$695 million) for the rights to show almost a third of Serie A matches for three years.

"We are trying to change and disrupt things," DAZN Chief Executive James Rushton told Reuters after launching the new 10 euros-a-month streaming service at a glitzy event in Milan. "We are trying to build a business (in Italy) that's as big as Sky," he added, referring to broadcaster Sky Italia, a unit of UK group Sky Plc, which is Italy's biggest pay-TV operator with almost 5 million subscribers. "Three to five million customers is something we are looking for over the medium term," he said.

Sky's satellite service is well entrenched in Italy, 15 years after it entered the market, but take-up of broadband services is notoriously poor in a country which has the worst usage of fixed broadband in the European Union. Though 99 percent of Italian households have access to fixed broadband, only 57 percent actually use it, according to EU data. It ranks better for mobile broadband take-up, at 17 among 28 EU nations, but for connectivity overall, it ranks 26th. "It's not that low," Rushton said of Italian broadband usage, adding that broadband coverage was high and that fans just needed a compelling offer to switch to streaming.

DAZN bills itself as the Netflix of sports and Rushton said the two-year-old business would spend more than \$1 billion in capital this year as it buys up rights to various sports worldwide. It is also entering the U.S. market this year, where it will stream boxing, and plans to enter six new markets in 2019. It is not the only streaming service targeting sports fans. In Britain, Eleven Sports will make its two new online channels available for 5.99 pounds (\$7.78) per month, stepping up the challenge to Sky and BT with its increasing range of European soccer and golf.

Media industry expert, Augusto Preta, head of Itmedia Consulting, said that despite the broadband challenge, he believed DAZN could reach around 3 million subscribers thanks to distribution agreements signed with the main pay TV operators. DAZN has deals with Sky and number-two pay-TV firm Mediaset Premium, a terrestrial service controlled by former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, to make its streaming service available-for an additional subscriber fee-to Sky and Mediaset's combined subscriber base of almost 7 million. —Reuters

## Toyota Prius clinches podium finish in 2018 AUTOBACS SUPER GT

BANGKOK: Toyota has continued to amass podium finishes in the 2018 AUTOBACS SUPER GT Series, coming up through the ranks to grab second place in a tightly fought race that was held recently at the Chang International Circuit in Thailand. The No 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT, driven by Koki Saga and Kohei Hirate, achieved the impressive feat despite starting out from 18th position on the grid, maintaining Toyota's momentum in the SUPER GT300 class.

"I would like to extend my congratulations to the team for giving Toyota a great performance in Thailand. Participating and excelling in such racing activities lays the foundations in our journey towards building impressive, 'ever-better' cars that bring satisfaction and a smile on our customers' faces," said Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative of Middle East & North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "We are grateful to our fans for their unfading enthusiasm, which remains a source of inspiration for Toyota to keep creating exciting driving experiences."

The Chang SUPER GT race is the only event of the 2018 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series that is held outside

Japan. The morning of the race started with clear skies, and conditions remained fair throughout the day. The No 21 competitor vehicle got off to a good start from second place on the grid and succeeded in passing the pole-starting No 65 competitor vehicle on the first turn. The early stages of the race saw a three-way battle for the lead, while the No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT, which had started out from 18th position, was steadily gaining ground.

With the race approaching its middle stages, the frontrunners became deadlocked, until an upset occurred at the end of the 21st lap, when the leading vehicle returned to the pit after sustaining damage in a collision. Following this incident, the race ran smoothly with little variation in the order of the vehicles; however, in the final stages, there was a closing charge by the No 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT driven by Kohei Hirate. After passing the No 60 competitor vehicle during the 58th lap, Kohei Hirate pulled up on the No 55 competitor vehicle, which was running in second place at the time.

The two vehicles clipped each other, causing damage to the left rear tire of the No 55 competitor vehicle and forcing it to return to the pit and lose its position in the race. This left the No 11 competitor vehicle with an unchallenged lead, and it went on to take the chequered flag. The No 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT finished in second place, thanks to its remarkable engineering and impressive display of driving from Koki Saga and Kohei Hirate, who claimed their second, and Toyota's fourth, podium finish of the season.



## Chelsea, Man City lock horns in Community Shield

LONDON: Manchester City take on Chelsea in today's Community Shield – the traditional curtain-raiser to the English season – but the Wembley showpiece will offer few clues as to the destination of the Premier League title. The glorified friendly between the league champions and the FA Cup winners has been a notoriously poor predictor of success in recent years — no winner has gone on to be crowned champions in the same season since Manchester United in 2010-11.

The game, likely to be played in sizzling summer temperatures in London, is set to feature various youngsters and fringe players as World Cup stars ease their way back into club action. But whatever the line-ups, there are plenty of talking points and the game will be closely watched for clues as domestic football reclaims centre stage just three weeks after the World Cup final in Russia. Can Manchester City pick up where they left off last season or will they have a serious challenger?

Will new manager Maurizio Sarri be able to revive FA Cup winners Chelsea, who finished fifth last season after winning the title the previous year under Antonio Conte? One question for City fans is how manager Pep Guardiola will deploy Riyad Mahrez — the only significant addition to their already-impressive list of forward options during the summer transfer window. The manager has confirmed his record £60 million (\$78 million) signing is in contention to start the match after he was forced off during last weekend's final match of the US pre-season tour against Bayern Munich. "Mahrez is good. He had a little bit of pain but he trained day before yesterday — I think so (he can play on Sunday)," said Guardiola, who twice outwitted Sarri in the Champions League last season when the Italian was managing Napoli. Most of the players who were on duty at the World Cup have now returned to training but Raheem Sterling and Kevin De Bruyne are still on their post-Russia breaks. The City manager also revealed how much he was looking forward to locking horns with Sarri, who replaced Conte last month.

"I am happy that he is here in the Premier League," Guardiola said. "I will learn a lot to see his team every weekend. I saw three games — he gets it, the team in a short time plays like he wants. "I think it will be a good game, always Chelsea is a big rival. Antonio was, Maurizio will be too. The style of play will be perfect for English football." Guardiola admitted the match comes at a tricky time without his full complement of players but said City were prepared and would target their fifth Community Shield win. Both sides have four victories apiece in the fixture.

### Courtois speculation

For Chelsea, Cesc Fabregas is a doubt with a minor knee injury. And France World Cup winners N'Golo Kante and Olivier Giroud, Belgium trio Eden Hazard, Thibaut Courtois and Michy Batshuayi, plus England's Gary Cahill, are yet to return following the World Cup. Sarri suggested a similar side to the one that featured in pre-season would play at Wembley, meaning 17-year-old Callum Hudson-Odoi could be included. The 59-year-old is eager to do well but he acknowledges the size of the task against the Premier League champions. Sarri, who has not won a trophy in his career, said: "The match for us is very difficult for one reason: they have worked all together for two years. We started two and a half weeks ago." —AFP



Match on TV  
(Local Timings)

FA COMMUNITY SHIELD 2018  
Chelsea v Manchester City 17:00  
beIN SPORTS HD 1

**25** Red Sox top Yankees again behind Rick Porcello's gem



**26** Nishikori nemesis reaches semis, Murray withdraws



**27** Man City will only hunt for 'special talent': Guardiola



## England record 1,000th Test, beat India

Stokes treble sees England to thrilling win over India



**BIRMINGHAM:** England's bowler Ben Stokes (right) celebrates taking the wicket of India's Mohammed Shami during play on the fourth day of the first Test cricket match between England and India at Edgbaston in Birmingham yesterday. — AFP

**BIRMINGHAM:** Ben Stokes took three wickets yesterday, including the prize scalp of India captain Virat Kohli, as England won the first Test by 31 runs in a thrilling finish at Edgbaston. The all-rounder, who could miss next week's second Test of a five-match series at Lord's because of a court trial on a charge of affray starting tomorrow, took two wickets in an over including that of Kohli.

Stokes ended the match, England's 1,000th Test, when he had Hardik Pandya (31) caught at first slip by Alastair Cook, with India bowled out for 162, having been set 194 to win. Stokes finished with innings figures of four for 40 in 14.2 overs. However, fellow England all-rounder Sam Curran was named man-of-the-match after starring with both bat and ball.

That England had a target of 194 to defend was largely down to the 20-year-old Curran's 63, his maiden Test fifty in just his second match at this level rescuing the hosts from the depths of 87 for seven. Curran's innings came just a day after the Surrey left-arm swing

bowler's Test-best haul of four for 74 during India's first innings of 274 that featured a brilliant 149 by Kohli—his maiden Test century in England. An elated Stokes told Sky Sports: "Virat played a brilliant knock in the first innings but moments like that (getting him out) change games."

"I am proud to be part of his group. I thought we were a bit behind yesterday (Friday) but for Sam Curran to play the way he did was a real turning point." A stunned Curran added: "I can't take it all in, it is all very special." For England captain Joe Root there was the relief of seeing his side win the first Test of a series after a run of three straight defeats in campaign openers against Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan. "I am thrilled, it was a fantastic team performance," said Root. "I asked the guys to play with passion and show belief. If we did that, we would give ourselves a chance."

**'Fearless'**  
Meanwhile Kohli urged India to remain

"positive and fearless" during the rest of the series. "It was a great game of cricket and I was glad to be involved in such a fantastic Test match," said Kohli. "We showed character at times but England were relentless in the areas they hit. "Our bowlers were outstanding in the second innings. Hopefully we will build on that. There is no hiding from this game. We have to play positive and fearless." Yesterday's play started with the match on a knife edge. India were 110 for five—still 84 runs shy of victory—with England needing five wickets. Given the sunny conditions in Birmingham, the only certainty then was the match would finish with more than a day to spare. Kohli was 43 not out and wicket-keeper Dinesh Karthik unbeaten on 18.

England knew they needed early strikes and James Anderson, their all-time leading Test wicket-taker, duly obliged when he had Karthik (20) caught low down by Dawid Malan at second slip off just the sixth ball of the day. It was a morale-boosting moment for Malan, who had dropped three slip catches

### SCOREBOARD

**BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom:** Scoreboard on the fourth day of the first Test between England and India at Edgbaston yesterday:

<b>England 1st Innings</b> 287 (J Root 80, J Bairstow 70; R Ashwin 4-62, M Shami 3-64)	I. Sharma lbw b Rashid	11
<b>India 1st Innings</b> 274 (V Kohli 149; S Curran 4-74)	U. Yadav not out	0
<b>England 2nd Innings</b> 180 (S Curran 63; I Sharma 5-51, R Ashwin 3-59)	Extras (b1, lb2)	2
<b>India 2nd Innings (target 194, overnight: 110-5)</b>	Total (all out, 54.2 overs, 264 mins)	162
M. Vijay lbw b Broad 6	Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Vijay), 2-22 (Dhawan), 3-46 (Rahul), 4-63 (Rahane), 5-78 (Ashwin), 6-112 (Karthik), 7-141 (Kohli), 8-141 (Shami), 9-154 (Sharma), 10-162 (Pandya)	
S. Dhawan c Bairstow b Broad	Bowling: Anderson 16-2-50-2; Broad 14-2-43-2; Stokes 14.2-40-4; Curran 6-0-18-1; Rashid 4-1-9-1	
KL Rahul c Bairstow b Stokes	England: Alastair Cook, Keaton Jennings, Joe Root (capt), Dawid Malan, Jonny Bairstow (wkt), Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Adil Rashid, Stuart Broad, James Anderson.	
V. Kohli lbw b Stokes	Result: England won by 31 runs.	
A. Rahane c Bairstow b Curran		
R. Ashwin c Bairstow b Anderson		
D. Karthik c Malan b Anderson		
H. Pandya c Cook b Stokes		
M. Shami c Bairstow b Stokes		

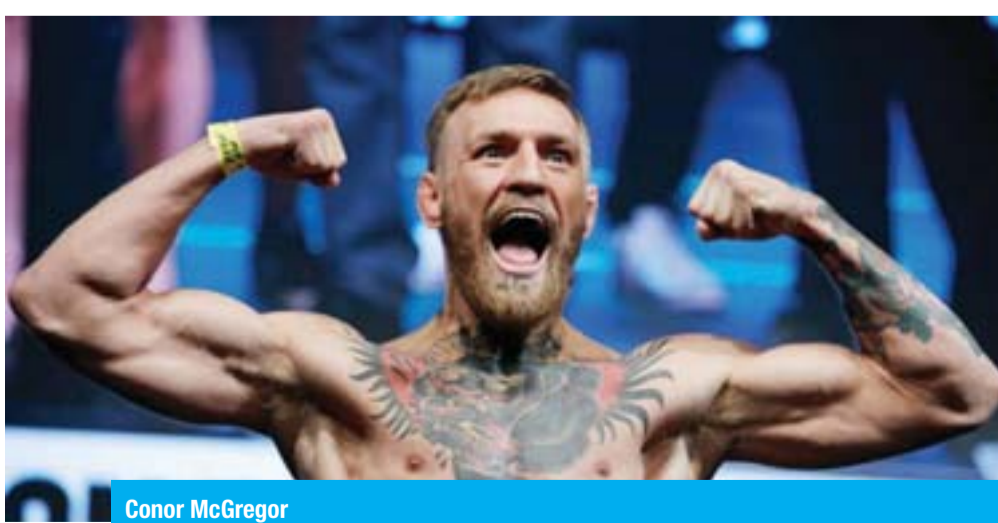
this match, including flooring Kohli on 21 and 51 during the star batsman's first-innings century. New batsman Pandya played several solid defensive shots before driving Stuart Broad

down the ground for a textbook four. Kohli then completed an 88-ball fifty when he glanced Anderson down to fine leg, the fourth of his innings. —AFP

## McGregor faces Nurmagomedov in his UFC return

**LAS VEGAS:** Mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor will meet Russian lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov in Las Vegas in October on his return to the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). The Oct 6 bout will be Irishman McGregor's first since the former two-time division champion pleaded guilty in New York last month to a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge for throwing a hand truck at a bus full of fighters in Brooklyn in April.

The Nurmagomedov fight, part of UFC 229, is tipped to be the biggest in the championship's short history and could become the first MMA match to hit two million in pay-per-view sales. McGregor, 30, has not fought in the octagon since he knocked out Eddie Alvarez in Nov. 2016 to win the lightweight



Conor McGregor

title and become the first fighter to hold two UFC belts at the same time. Since then, his only prize fight has been a lucrative boxing bout against Floyd Mayweather which he lost. McGregor was eventually stripped of both his UFC belts, and in his absence the lightweight division has become one of the most exciting

in the UFC. The unbeaten Nurmagomedov is currently at the top of the pile, having secured the belt in an unanimous decision win over Al Iaquinta in Brooklyn in April. Ever since, fans have wanted to see how his smothering style would fare against McGregor's punching and quick movement. — Reuters

## Venus falls in quarter-final

**CALIFORNIA:** Venus Williams suffered an upset 6-4 7-6(2) defeat at the hands of Greece's Maria Sakkari on Friday in the quarter-final of the Silicon Valley Classic. The 38-year-old Williams held a 3-0 lead in the opening set and was up 5-3 in the second but could not hold off a relentless opponent 15 years her junior.

Williams has not advanced past the third round of a tournament since March and has yet to find the form that helped her reach two Grand Slam finals in 2017. World No 49 Sakkari has moved through her first three matches without dropping a set. She needed one hour and 43 minutes to beat Williams, and saved two set points in

the second set in the process. Sakkari will now face American Danielle Collins who moved into the semis after former world number one Victoria Azarenka retired injured when trailing 3-0 in the second set after claiming the first in a tiebreaker.

It will be the second semi-final of the year for Collins. Johanna Konta was also sent packing after a 7-6(4) 6-3 quarter-final loss to fourth seed Elise Mertens. The Briton had opened the tournament with a bang on Tuesday when she shocked 23-times grand slam champion Serena Williams 6-1 6-0, the worst loss of the American great's career. Konta was unable to recreate the magic, however, instead squandering a 5-2 lead in the opening set against the Belgian before bowing out meekly. Mertens, bidding for her fourth title of the year, moves into a semi-final against fifth seeded Romanian Mihaela Buzarnescu. — Reuters