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# Amir urges fellow citizens to avoid strife, remain united

## Jahra residents thank Amir for overseeing medical city's completion

### Crown Prince returns home



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is received at the airport by senior sheikhs, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials after he returned to Kuwait yesterday following a private visit. — KUNA

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah advised his fellow compatriots yesterday to remain united and stay away from any forms of communal discord. As he met Jahra Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Fahd Al-Amir and a number of the area's residents, the Amir told them to "keep the value of camaraderie alive". HH the Amir expressed his appreciation over the outpouring of gratitude he has received from the people of Jahra for overseeing the completion of a state-of-the-art hospital in the area known as Jahra Medical City. On the monumental project, he said it is "incumbent upon the Kuwaiti leadership to provide the people of this country with quality healthcare".

The governor took the opportunity to deliver a speech during the meeting, in which he spoke of the guests' collective honor to have met the Amir. He cited the opening of the sprawling medical facility in Jahra as a notable accolade for the area, in addition to other major accomplishments on the national level. Fahd Al-Amir mentioned HH the Amir's recent visit to China to further his vision of an economically developed Kuwait, saying that the people of this country will soon reap the benefits.

"We are here today to sincerely thank His Highness the Amir for overseeing the comple-



KUWAIT: Jahra Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Fahd Al-Amir presents a memento to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA

tion of the Al-Jahra Medical City." Dr Bader Al-Hajraf, a Jahra resident, said. Another resident, Faisal Al-Lafi, echoed Hajraf's words, thanking

the Amir for his contributions towards what he described as a project of grandeur that all Kuwaitis should be proud of. — KUNA

### News in brief

#### Man kills colleague, steals KD 23K

KUWAIT: An Asian was found dead at his workplace with no visible marks on his body. Detectives learned the deceased man worked as a treasurer in a food company and had KD 23,000 before his death, which was missing. When the company's offices were searched, part of the money was found in an office. The Arab man using that office confessed to suffocating the victim, then opening the safe and stealing the money. He led officers to the rest of the money in his house. He was sent to concerned authorities. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

#### Kuwait rejects interference

KUWAIT: Kuwait followed with concern the latest development of relations between Saudi Arabia and Canada, stressing its firm position rejecting interference in the internal affairs of states and respecting their sovereignty in line with international charters and norms, a foreign ministry source said yesterday. Kuwait remains hopeful that the two countries will be able to work out from this position, the source added. Saudi Arabia has suspended diplomatic ties and new trade dealings with Canada in response to Canada's call for the release of whom it called "women's rights activists" in the kingdom. Riyadh has also declared the Canadian ambassador to the Gulf state "persona non grata", ordering the diplomat to leave the country within 24 hours. — KUNA

#### Kuwaitis spent £395m in UK

KUWAIT: British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport said yesterday that Kuwaiti visitors to the UK spent nearly £395 million (about \$500 million) last year, an increase of 78 percent over the previous years. Davenport made his remarks while touring the UK visa application center in Kuwait. The British ambassador added that the number of Kuwaiti students in Britain is 5,500, according to the latest statistics. He expressed his country's welcome to all those wishing to complete their education in the British educational institutions, stressing that educational institutions in the United Kingdom ranked second in the world. He said 97 percent of visa applications for Kuwaiti students submitted to the center are approved, noting that the time required to issue the visa is up to three weeks. He added that the visa center granted valid visas for only 30 days to enter the UK, noting that students will get their residence card upon arrival, which confirms their status as a student resident throughout the study time. — KUNA

## Trump warns against business with Iran as sanctions return

TEHRAN: US President Donald Trump warned the world against doing business with Iran yesterday as he hailed the "most biting sanctions ever imposed", triggering a mix of anger, fear and defiance in Tehran. "The Iran sanctions have officially been cast. These are the most biting sanctions ever imposed, and in November they ratchet up to yet another level," Trump

wrote on Twitter. "Anyone doing business with Iran will NOT be doing business with the United States. I am asking for WORLD PEACE, nothing less."

Within hours of the sanctions taking effect, German carmaker Daimler said it was halting its business activities in Iran. Trump's May withdrawal from a landmark 2015 nuclear agreement had already spooked investors and triggered a run on the Iranian rial long before nuclear-related sanctions went back into force. "I feel like my life is being destroyed. Sanctions are already badly affecting people's lives. I can't afford to buy food, pay the rent," said one construction worker on the streets of the capital.

Continued on Page 24

## Women more likely to die of heart attack if doctor is male: Study

TAMPA: Women suffering heart attacks in hospital emergency rooms in the United States are more likely to die if their doctor is a man than a woman, warned a study Monday. The study was based on more than 500,000 patients admitted to hospital emergency departments for acute myocardial infarction - a medical term for heart attack - in Florida between 1991 and 2010. Researchers at Harvard University found a "stark" difference in survival according to whether the

patient's and doctor's gender matched.

Namely, when women were treated by female doctors, "there was a significant and positive effect" on survival, said the study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Almost 12 percent of patients die when rushed for emergency treatment for a heart attack. Matching female doctors to female patients "reduced the probability of death by 5.4 percent, relative to this baseline," it said.

By another way of looking at the data, "female patients treated by male physicians were 1.52 percent less likely to survive than male patients treated by female physicians". Previous studies have shown that women are more likely than men to die of heart attacks. But why? Some experts have suggested it may be because women's symptoms are different than men's, or that they tend to delay treatment more often than men.

## Revered Indian leader dies at 94

CHENNAI: Thousands mourned in southern India yesterday after the death of revered 94-year-old political leader Muthuvel Karunanidhi. Karunanidhi, a charismatic self-styled champion of the poor, had been in intensive care since July 28 in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state. A big crowd had been thronging the streets outside the hospital since his hospitalization but it swelled to some 6,000 yesterday, an AFP photographer estimated, after doctors said he had suffered a "significant decline". Prakash Duria, a doctor at the Kauvery Hospital, later con-

firmed to AFP that he had died.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately tweeted condolences to Karunanidhi's family, saying "India and particularly Tamil Nadu will miss him immensely". "Deeply saddened by the passing away of Kalaigarn Karunanidhi," Modi said. "He was one of the senior most leaders of India. We have lost a deep-rooted mass leader, prolific thinker, accomplished writer and a stalwart whose life was devoted to the welfare of the poor and the marginalized," he added.

Supporters beat their chests and chanted the leader's name as hundreds of police struggled to contain the surging crowds pressing against barricades. Local channels reported that the numbers of curious onlookers and his party supporters increased around the hospital after news of his death.

Continued on Page 24



TEHRAN: An Iranian woman walks by a mural on the wall of the former US embassy in the Iranian capital yesterday. — AFP



CHENNAI: Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party supporters react in front of the hospital where party president M Karunanidhi died yesterday. — AFP



# Amir meets Jahra governor, residents



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Al-Jahra Governor retired Lieutenant General Fahad Al-Amir, and a number of the area's residents. — Amiri Diwan

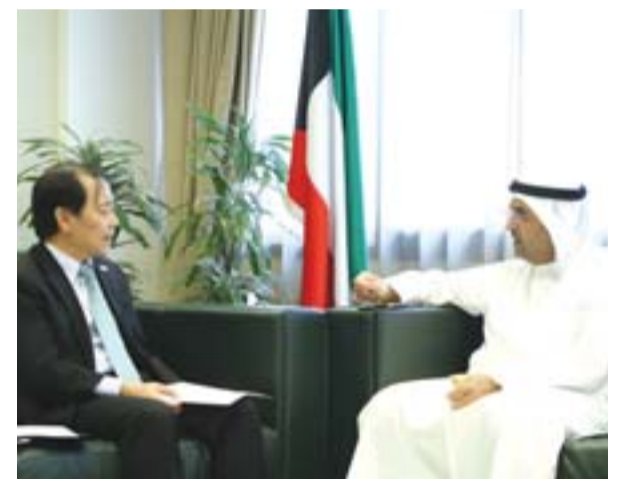
## Deputy FM, Finance Minister meet ambassadors

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met with the US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the ties between both countries and the latest developments regionally and internationally. Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf met separately with Ambassador Silverman, as well as Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Jeeva Sagar and Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki. Hajraf discussed with the ambassadors ways of boosting economic cooperation between Kuwait and their respective countries, as well as the recent economic developments in the region, the Finance Ministry said in a press release yesterday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. — KUNA photos

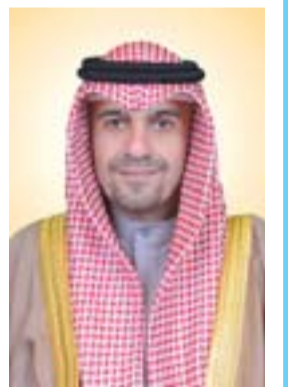


Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki.

## Govt adopts systematic program to fight corruption: Minister

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh yesterday denied a local daily's statement affiliated to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during a cabinet meeting on Monday.

The minister said in a press statement that His Highness the Prime Minister was following up all steps and measures taken by ministers in the fight against terrorism. He added that the government was working in line with a systematic program and was determined to fight administrative and financial corruption at state agencies, and to bring those involved in corruption to accountability. — KUNA



Anas Al-Saleh



Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman.



Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Jeeva Sagar.

## Ports suspend operations due to dust storm



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Ports Authority yesterday suspended maritime navigation at Shuaiba, Shuwaikh and Doha ports due to dusty weather conditions in the country. According to the meteorological department, the country was affected by active northwesterly winds with speeds exceeding 60 km/h, causing visibility to drop under 1,000 m in some areas, as well as rising dust and waves. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



## Local

Legalese

## Change is here



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

A few weeks ago, a social media influencer made the world talk about Kuwait, and as much as I disagree with her, she has inspired me to write this article. Yes we have always had laws that prevent abuse in Kuwait, but the stories of abuse continue and we were labeled internationally as those who practice 'modern day slavery'. I know that is a strong statement to make, but since I have been writing legal articles for Kuwait Times, my inbox has been flooded with thousands and thousands of emails from expats in Kuwait. Good, bad, pretty, ugly, nice, horrible, true and untrue stories. From expats that are domestic workers to expats working as CEOs, one thing the emails have in common though is that the sender wants to see change, and the time is here, change is coming.

For today's article, I have decided to share a very small sample of emails that I get (uncited, except for removing personal information to hide the identity of the senders). If you are Kuwaiti reading this, think of how it would feel if you were in their situation, and if you aren't Kuwaiti and you have seen something similar, I apologize on behalf of all the other Kuwaitis; a large number of us are very grateful to have a diverse community in Kuwait. Your contribution to our society is appreciated. I am sorry if you felt like you would never fit in. I am sorry if you felt you would have to leave eventually and this would never be home. I am sorry if someone hasn't made you feel safe.

And as humans reading this, I urge you to speak up when you can, to share your stories, but more importantly, to share suggestions and make a difference, because change is here. These stories are important to share, to continue a dialogue, for a better Kuwait.

## Tired all the time

**Email:** Salam-Alaykum! Hi, I'm presently working here in Kuwait as a domestic worker. I just want to ask some questions because it's really bothering me. Is it normal to work 15 hours a day? I start working from 9am to 3pm: 3pm-3:30pm is my lunch time, then 3:30pm till 4pm I wash too many dishes. Sometimes I finish at 4:30pm. After I finish washing the dishes, I rest until 5pm. My employer had given me schedules before that provide two hours of rest from 4pm to 6pm, but now she doesn't follow the schedule. Then I work from 5pm till 12 midnight. My dinner time is 10 pm to 10:30pm. The rest of the time, I work. I don't have time to call my family. I wash my clothes at 12 midnight. So I sleep at 1am. Is it good to work every day like this? I feel tired all the time.

**Response:** According to the domestic workers' law that has been effective since 2015, the maximum hours that a domestic worker should be working is 12 hours a day, which should include breaks. The maximum overtime is an additional two hours, which the employer should pay an additional half day salary for those two hours. This means you should be able to get 10 hours of personal time a day. I know that because of the nature of the work, this law might seem difficult to monitor; domestic workers are working inside homes, where no one can assess how many hours they are working, but hopefully people will soon realize the importance of treating other humans with the respect and dignity they deserve.

## Unable to leave

**Email:** My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am working in Kuwait as a domestic worker. Actually, I never asked my employer to leave my job because I am scared to say so. But I don't want to stay here. I found your name and email on Google, so I am messaging you here. Please give me any solution, so I can go without problems. I am waiting for your reply. I want to go back to my country, but the company is not giving me my passport. They are asking for a KD 500 fee to let me go home. Please help me.

**Response:** Everyone should be able to leave when they want to, otherwise public prosecution should really consider implementing laws related to kidnapping. Also, according to the domestic employment law of 2015, all personal documents such as IDs and passports should be kept with the worker.

## Issue with kafeel

**Email:** I have been working in Kuwait for only five months. I have an issue with my kafeel (sponsor). He is not providing food. I always spend my money to buy food and when I asked him to give me money to buy food, he refused and became angry. He said unmannered comments and threatened that he would beat me. Then when I told him I didn't want to work for him anymore, he told me "bring KD 300 then I will release you." I don't have money to pay him. I need to be released. Please help me. Please advise: I need help. My sponsor threw me out of his home, and I now am staying at a masjid. I don't have any other place to sleep. I need help. I am using my friend's account in order to seek help.

**Response:** Domestic Employment law of 2015 also states that food, accommodation, clothing and health care is provided by the employer. I am sorry to hear that you are being treated this way. If you are a domestic worker and you are dealing with similar issues, please call your country's embassy. If you do not have an embassy in Kuwait, please seek help at the shelter.

## Scared for my safety

**Email:** I am currently working as a khadama or a nanny here in Kuwait for about seven months now. My employer doesn't allow us to use a mobile phone and to have possession of our passports and civil IDs. Now they found out that we are using mobile phones secretly, and they took away all our mobiles except for this one. I want to ask if I am in the right position to ask my employer to return me to my agency, or what should I be doing? They are treating us differently now and I'm scared a lot for my safety. I am scared that they will be taking desperate measures in order to hold me in captivity or put me in jail because of their anger. Please send some advice asap.

**Response:** Now there has been a lot of discussion about the 'new law for Filipinos'. It is not a new law, but a treaty signed by the Philippines and Kuwait that mentions a few issues that were not mentioned in the Domestic Employment law such as having the right to own a mobile phone. Of course your passport and ID shall remain with you and if any time you feel unsafe, please call the police.

I will be writing another article in the next few days that speaks more about the rights of domestic workers. I would also be very happy to share stories like this continuously to raise awareness, or to work with governmental institutes to really make Kuwait a better and safer place for everyone. I love Kuwait and I love how diverse this society is, so if you have any suggestions or stories you want to share, please email me on ask@fajerthelawyer.com. This needs to change, I am confident change is here! Also please remember to say 'Thank You Kindly'.

# 280 people sent for deportation following Amghara crackdown

## 744 released out of 1,024 persons inspected

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** A security campaign was carried out at Amghara scrap yard in the presence of the ministry's undersecretary. The area was closed off while security men went around shops to check those present there. The campaign resulted in checking 1,024 persons, 744 of whom were released after bringing their IDs, while 280 were sent for deportation. Those arrested include 43 absconders, 46 visa violators, 80 without IDs, four wanted on civil cases, 45 with expired residency permits, 60 with article 20 visas and two on drugs and liquor charges. Police issued 300 traffic citations and 15 vehicles were impounded.

## Municipality campaign

Jahra Municipality inspection and follow-up department carried out a campaign that resulted in issuing 18 citations. Acting Director of the Department Abdullah Al-Shimmari said 10 citations were for additional signs without licenses, four for non-renewal of licenses, two for not placing signs in a visible place and one for lack of maintenance.

## Duo rob roommate

Two Asian men told police that their need for money made them steal money from their roommate. They were charged with forging bank transactions. A security source said an Indian man had told police that KD 200 were stolen from his bank account and that he suspected his roommates may be the culprits, as he gave them his ATM card to inquire about his salary, then later discovered the theft. Detectives arrested the two, who denied any wrongdoing in the beginning, then confessed to committing the crime.

## 708 approved for South Sabah Al-Ahmad city

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The number of citizens approved for South Sabah Al-Ahmad residential city reached only 708, which is a remarkably low number considering the fact that the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has been accepting allocations dating back to as far as 2010. Furthermore, if no more citizens apply for this project, which has 25,000 residential units of 400 sq m each, then applications will be received without regard of dates.

Meanwhile, PAHW will receive three services projects from contractors in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential city by the end of this month. One is about completing maintenance of public facilities in E area, expected to be received Aug 31, while the other project is a services building in area C, which is scheduled to be received on Aug 19. The third project is fire center number 2, scheduled to be received on Aug 22, which is only 37.9 percent complete although the contract stipulates that 98.94 percent should be completed, which means there is a delay and it cannot be handed over on time.

## Public spending

Deputy Premier and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said the proposed measures to face the fall in oil prices included measures to

control public funds spending, such as fixing cadres, not having new establishments, stop non-Kuwaitis' appointments except for necessary professions and reduction of incentives and subsidies. He said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and all government departments were asked not to expand current organizational structures to avoid any additional burdens on the budget and limit appointment of non-Kuwaitis in the government to doctors, teachers, engineers and some necessary technical jobs such as nursing. Other measures include the reduction of the encouragement allowances and stopping payment of cash for leaves in all government bodies. Furthermore, the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) was asked not to put forward any tender without making sure financial allocations are enough.

## Health centers

Informed sources at the health ministry said the ministry received approval to put forward tenders to build Kabd and Bneid Al-Gar health centers, adding the ministry is working on all conditions related to the two tenders. The sources said the health ministry is keen on developing the facilities and expanding others. They said official working days at the Kabd center are Friday and Saturday mornings and evenings.

## Pilgrimage mission

Vice president of the Kuwait medical team of Kuwait's pilgrimage mission Mugheer Al-Shimmari said medical clinics will start receiving Kuwait pilgrims on Monday, August 13. He said clinics are being prepared for opening on time. He said there are four clinics - two for men and two for women - all fully equipped. He urged pilgrims to take all the necessary vaccinations before leaving the country.



**KUWAIT:** This handout photo shows police round up a number of people during a security campaign at Amghara scrap yard yesterday. —Interior Ministry photos



A police officer checks a vehicle's registration at a checkpoint in Amghara scrap yard yesterday.

## Passenger arrested

A Saudi man and his companion were sent to Nuwaiseeb police station after he beat a customs officer in protest against searching his car. A security source said that the suspect arrived at Nuwaiseeb border outlet and objected to customs officers searching his car. He became very angry and pulled the officer, then beat him before he was controlled by other officers, who handed him to police.

## Physical assault

Fahaheel detectives are looking for a Pakistani man who beat a compatriot, causing various frac-

tures. The victim was taken to Adan Hospital. He told police that he met the suspect to resolve earlier disputes, but was surprised by the man attacking him savagely. The prosecutor considered the case as a felony.

## Reckless driving

Ahmadi police arrested a concrete mixer truck driver for driving erratically, and he was found in an abnormal condition. He was sent to Al-Zour police station charged with driving a vehicle while being in an abnormal condition and endangering others. The Sri Lankan driver faces legal action.

## 12,800 absconding reports filed this year

**KUWAIT:** Director of the Labor Relations Department at the Manpower Authority Abdullah Al-Meri said the department received 12,800 absconding reports filed by employers since the start of this year, Al-Rai reported. He said 244 workers in the private sector cancelled their residency permits and left the country in the same period after lodging labor complaints, while 4,315 individual labor complaints were sent to court as they were not settled at the labor relations department.

Meri further revealed that there are two means to register labor complaints - through units of labor relations departments, and through the authority's website with the username the manpower authority gives when a laborer registers his phone number. Meri said labor complaints are of two types - work permit complaints with regards to transfers or cancellations. The second are individual complaints, whether they are financial, for passport custody or other demands. As for the period of discussing the complaint, he said it is done during a maximum 15-day period from the date of the investigation session.

Meanwhile, Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said that the number of registered expats at the Public Authority for Manpower is 1,697,411 of 165 nationalities, while the number of Kuwaitis is 69,902. She said in an answer to a question by MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei that according to the authority, Indians make up the majority with 560,547 workers, followed by Egyptians with 445,798, Bangladeshis with 174,145, Pakistanis with 81,587 and Filipinos with 76,256. She added that there are 58,409 Syrians, 22,919 Iranians, 19,976 Sri Lankans, 19,270 Lebanese, 11,144 Chinese, 6,762 Americans, 4,538 Iraqis, 261 Germans, 56 Cameroonians, 2,392 Moroccans, 3,519 Ethiopians, 9,873 Afghans, 2,260 Jordanians and 9,811 Sudanese working in Kuwait.

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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An Arabian Red Fox spotted in Al-Khuwaysat Natural Reserve. — Photo by MUSAED AL-GHURAIH (KUNA)

# Panelists reminisce role of volunteering during invasion

## 'Volunteering during the Invasion' discussed at Kuwait Social Association

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait highlighted the importance of volunteering, which was not very popular in the Kuwaiti community before 1990. This was discussed in a panel the Kuwait Social Association held titled 'Volunteering during the Invasion' on Monday at its premises in Adailiya.

Yousef Mustafa, Assistant Undersecretary for Media Services and New Media at the Ministry of Information, spoke about his experience as a reporter during the Iraqi invasion. "The three most significant dates during the invasion were - August 2, 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait; January 17, 1991, the beginning of air operations against Iraq; and February 26, 1991, the liberation day," he noted.

Mustafa has terrifying memories of that time. "I remember the Iraqi air raid on Dasman Palace, which led to the martyrdom of Sheikh Fahd Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. I also witnessed vehicles driving on the wrong side on main roads and highways, which was very dangerous. I later went to Saudi Arabia to announce the news from a secret radio station," he said.

### United people

The disaster of the invasion showed Kuwaitis were united. "Our people were united during the invasion and they were volunteering in all fields. Many Kuwaitis wanted to join us at the secret station, but they couldn't as it was forbidden to enter this area - it was only for some journalists. Many Kuwaiti women were sending messages to international radio stations such as the BBC and Monte Carlo. Also, tens of volunteering centers in Saudi Arabia

and other GCC counties allowed volunteers to register with them, and thousands of Kuwaiti did so," Mustafa explained. Documentation is important. "We have a serious problem of not documenting all events. We who lived through the invasion are now telling the stories that we witnessed during that period, but I wonder what will happen after we



### Reporter recalls 'terrifying memories' of invasion

pass away. We should concentrate on documenting all information that we have from that sad period of our history. NGOs, public bodies and even individuals have the responsibility for this documentation," concluded Mustafa.

### Shock and disbelief

Aziza Al-Bassam, member of the Kuwait Social Association and a pioneer in volunteering, narrated her experience during the invasion. "I was shocked when I heard the news on the radio on August 2, 1990 and couldn't believe it. I went to work at Dasma library, and on the way I saw Iraqi soldiers in the streets and I realized it



Yousef Mustafa (center) and the other attendees pose for a group photo with Kuwait's flag.

was true. We lived through horrible experiences, but we were like one family helping each other in buying food, sharing water and so on," she said.

She helped at the elderly house and orphanage. "These institutions were badly affected by the invasion, as many employees left, especially the expats who didn't want to die here. So we tried to take care of the people there, and I along with the neighbors assigned the children to different

families to share in taking care of them as well as the elderly people," noted Bassam.

More attendees of the panel discussion who witnessed the invasion spoke about their experiences. One former Kuwaiti soldier said he survived after an Iraqi soldier let him go along with his colleagues, which shows that many Iraqi soldiers were against the invasion and were forced to participate to avoid being sentenced to death.

## Food Bank to launch 'Adahi' project during Eid Al-Adha

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Food and Relief Bank in cooperation with the General Secretariat of Endowments are due to launch the 'Adahi' (livestock sacrifices) project, which will be implemented during the upcoming Eid Al-Adha and targets more than 3,000 families, or more than 15,000 people. The bank's Director General Salem Al-Hamar said that the bank has signed an agreement with Endowments General Secretariat Monday to implement the project on the first day of Eid Al-Adha, noting that the distribution of livestock sacrifices will be based on a database that belong to the bank.

Hamar added that the General Secretariat has paid great attention to charitable work and is keen to encourage institutions and individuals to do more in the fields of charity and humanitarian work to help those in need in Kuwait and around the world. Hamar explained that their work seeks to find those in need through such projects, and they are keen to distribute to the most needy families, pointing out that the project comes within its charitable pro-



Salem Al-Hamar

grams, which aim to distribute sacrifices to the poor and needy families.

"The project is a form of social solidarity among Muslims and is a good opportunity to bring pleasure to many hearts and to share with them the joy of Eid," he said and stressed that the food bank spares no effort in providing everything that would advance the humanitarian process and strengthen its role as a functional entity. — KUNA

## WFP hails Kuwait's \$50 million grant for Yemen efforts

**KUWAIT:** The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) on Monday welcomed the \$50 million grant it was handed by the Kuwaiti government for emergency food assistance in Yemen. The funds, recently announced by Kuwaiti Permanent Representative to the UN in New York Mansour Al-Otaibi, will help the WFP distribute over two months' worth of wheat flour and oil to more than 2.5 million people, the UN agency said in a statement. Commenting on the contribution, WFP Director in the United Arab Emirates and Gulf Cooperation Council region Representative Magedeh Yahia said it "reflects the generosity of the people and the Government of Kuwait."

"Under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait has again stepped up its support to WFP to help us reach vulnerable families in Yemen," he added. Yemen, which has been pushed to the brink of famine amid an over three-year conflict, is the world's largest humanitarian crisis with 22 million people out of the country's 29 million in need of humanitarian assistance. It has left close to 18 million people in search of food and over eight million depending entirely on



NEW YORK: In this archive photo, Kuwaiti Permanent Representative to the UN in New York Mansour Al-Otaibi hands over a \$50 million grant from Kuwait to the United Nations World Food Program. — KUNA

external food assistance, based on UN estimates.

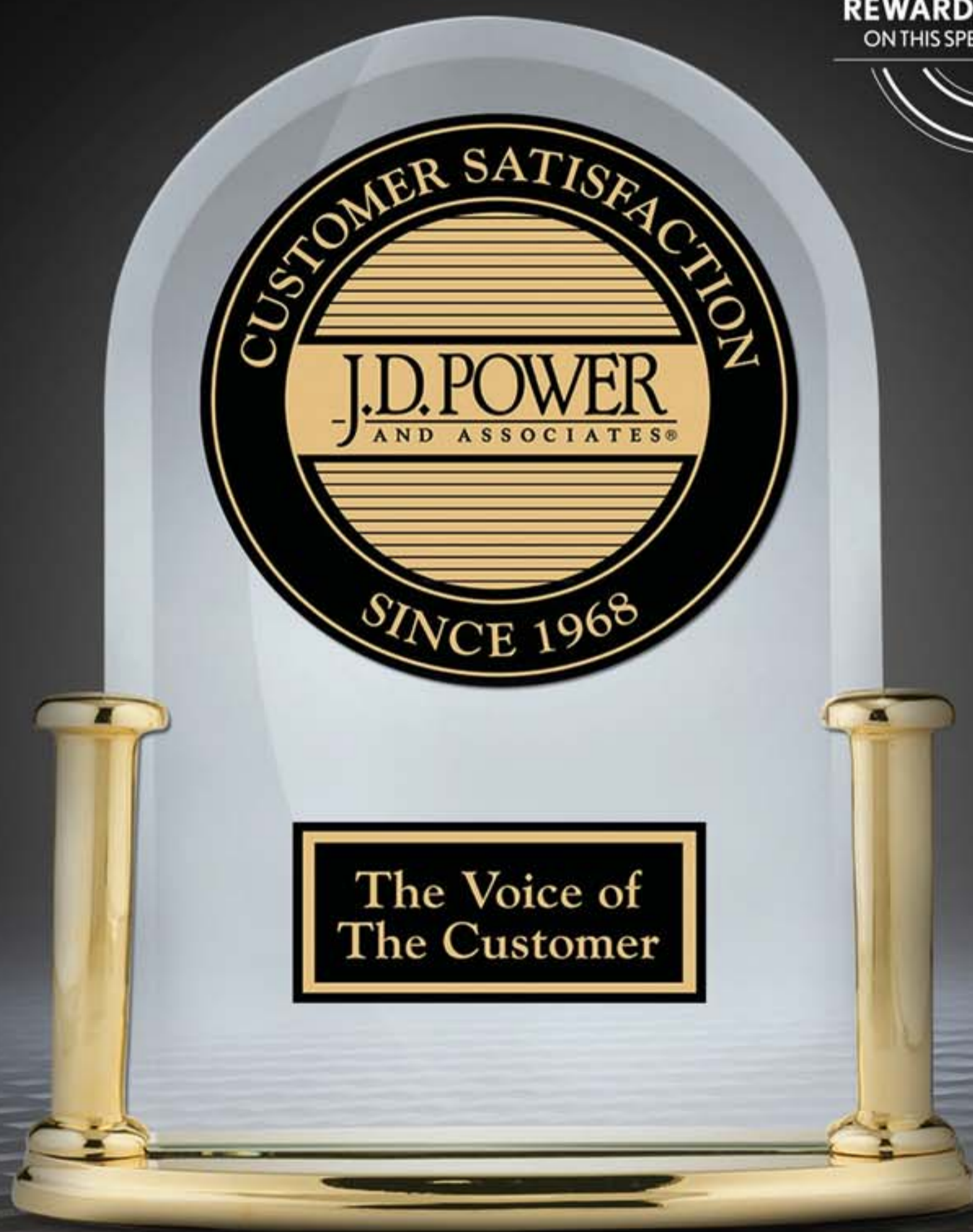
"This significant contribution from the Government of Kuwait could not be more timely, particularly given that the needs of Yemeni people are increasing," WFP Yemen Country Director Stephen Anderson said. It will help the WFP to continue delivering food assistance to Yemenis, he confirmed. The WFP went on to describe Kuwait as a "major supporter" of its humanitarian assistance programs, contributing close to \$190 million to the UN agency's global operations over the last decade. Kuwait has helped "make significant steps towards alleviating hunger for some of the world's most vulnerable people," it added. — KUNA



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Bangladesh safety protests fizzle after days of violence

## Regional push as Australia's population hits 25 million



A man carrying bird cages walks past a damaged house at Pemenang village in northern Lombok in West Nusa Tenggara province. — AFP

# Lombok quake death toll hits 105

## Survivors now forced to live outdoors

**MATARAM:** The death toll from a powerful earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok rose to 105 yesterday as rescuers clawed through the rubble of homes, schools and mosques for survivors and evacuees faced another night in the open. The shallow 6.9-magnitude quake destroyed thousands of buildings and triggered panic among tourists and locals on Lombok Sunday, just a week after a tremor had surged through the holiday island and killed 17.

More than 20,000 people are believed to have been made homeless by the latest quake, with 105 killed and 236 severely injured, officials said yesterday. There were fears the death toll would rise as workers with heavy machinery shifted rubble at a collapsed mosque. Across much of the island, once-bustling villages have been turned into virtual ghost towns, with residents sleeping out in the open — scared to stay near their shattered homes amid hundreds of aftershocks.

"Last night I was on the hill because I was afraid, I heard there would be a tsunami," Din Iqra, from the northern village of Malaka, told AFP. "Only this morning were we brave enough to come down." Many people made homeless by the quake were sleeping in makeshift

shelters in rice fields or on the roadside, according to Silverius Tasman, from Yayasan Sayangi Tunas Cilik, a partner of Save the Children in Indonesia. "They do not have a water supply and not enough food," Tasman told AFP, after visiting Karang Bajo village in the island's north. "Children are the most vulnerable."

The tremor struck as evening prayers were being said across the Muslim-majority island. Crews using heavy equipment to search a collapsed mosque in northern Lombok found three bodies but also managed to pull one man alive from the twisted wreckage. Video posted online by disaster officials showed the man sobbing with relief as one rescuer told him: "You're safe sir, you're safe." Authorities said they feared the mosque — now reduced to a pile of concrete and metal bars, its towering green dome folded in on itself — had been filled with worshippers.

"We estimate there are still more victims because we found many sandals in front of the mosque," national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told reporters. Among other major buildings to collapse were a health clinic, government offices and other public facilities, he said.

### Tourists flee

Some 4,600 tourists have been evacuated from the Gili Islands, three tiny, coral-fringed tropical islands off the northwest coast of Lombok which are popular with backpackers and divers. Hundreds crowded onto its powder-white beaches on Monday, desperately awaiting transport off the normally paradise destination. Two holidaymakers died on the largest of the three, Gili Trawangan, where buildings suffered extensive damage. Authorities said an earlier toll of seven dead was incorrect.

French tourist Laurent Smadja, who had been on Gili Meno, the smallest of the three islands, described scenes of chaos and confusion in the aftermath of the quake as holidaymakers jostled to leave. "We had no electricity and no information about what to do. We saw everybody leaving in boats but no boat came to us," he told AFP. Yesterday he eventually managed to board a boat with locals and head to Lombok. He made his way to the airport, where hundreds of holidaymakers slept on the floor overnight awaiting flights out.

"There's a massive rush of people wanting to get out of Lombok because of unfounded rumours, such as of a tsunami," Muhammad Faozal, the head of the tourism agency in West Nusa Tenggara province, told AFP. "We can help tourists to get to the airport but of course we can't buy them tickets for free," he said, adding that authorities were providing free accommodation, food and transport to those in need. Lombok airport's general manager said airlines had laid on extra flights and his staff had been providing blankets and snacks. Immigration authorities said seven foreigners were injured in the quake and are being treated in hospital. — AFP

“Children are the most vulnerable”

## 'My life is being destroyed': Iranians react to sanctions

**TEHRAN:** Many Iranians blame their own government for the return of US sanctions, but they also fear it could be the "final nail in the coffin" for the floundering economy. Despite days of protests and strikes across the country, there appeared to be less unrest as sanctions returned Tuesday — although that said little about the depth of despair, particularly among poorer sections of society.

"I feel like my life is being destroyed. The economic situation right now means that the working class must die," said Ali Paphi, a construction worker. "Sanctions are already badly affecting people's lives. I can't afford to buy food, pay the rent... No one cares about workers." Much of the damage was already done in the weeks preceding the return of sanctions, as US President Donald Trump's aggressive rhetoric spooked investors and triggered a run on the rial.

That only added to deep-seated problems of corruption, a chaotic banking system and rampant unemployment after decades of mismanagement. "Prices have been increasing for three or four months and everything we need has become so expensive, even before sanctions returned," said Yasaman, a 31-year-old photographer in Tehran. Like many in the capital, he believes Iran's leaders will be forced to return to the negotiating table, as Trump hopes. "I hope it will happen one day. Most people believe the politicians will have to drink 'the poison cup' eventually," said Yasaman.

That was a reference, widely heard in Iran these days, to the famous phrase used by Iran's revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeini who said signing a truce to end the brutal eight-year war with Iraq in 1988 was like drinking "a cup of poison". Most Iranians have tuned out the endless US hostility, with which they have lived for four decades, so their anger is mostly directed at their own leaders.



TEHRAN: Iranians stroll by murals on the wall of the former US embassy in the Iranian capital yesterday. — AFP

"Prices are rising again, but the reason is government corruption, not US sanctions," said Ali, a 35-year-old decorator. Like many, he sees President Hassan Rouhani as powerless to improve things. "He can't solve the problems. It's been shown several times that he is not the decision-maker in this country. Our problem is our representatives and system," he added. Wealthier and educated Iranians have also lost hope, but they have an option to leave — even if it weighs heavy on the heart. Sogand, a young Iranian-American, came to live in Iran for the first time five years ago and had enjoyed the thaw in international tensions that accompanied the nuclear deal. But in recent months, she grew worried about her status as a dual national — several have been arrested on espionage charges in Iran — and decided it was time to get out.

"I feel ashamed for abandoning my colleagues during this economic crisis. I feel guilty for having the resources to leave so quickly in front of my friends," she said. "(But) the economic destabilization and the unraveling of any and all financial prospects in this country was the nail on the coffin." — AFP

## In a Syrian village, Turkish forces seen as shield from attack

**AL-SURMAN VILLAGE:** The red Turkish flag fluttering on the outskirts of the Syrian village of Al-Surman has been seen by residents as a shield against government attack since Turkish troops arrived in February. But their fears of an offensive are growing. The village is situated in rebel-held territory near the frontline with government forces in the northwestern Idlib region, one of the last big strongholds of the opposition to President Bashar Al-Assad.

The seven-year-long conflict may be about to pivot again to the northwest now that Assad, backed by Russia and Iran, has crushed the rebellion across much of the rest of the country. Assad has indicated Idlib could be his next target. The entire population of Al-Surman fled the village in January during the last big government attack in the area.

Some came back when the bombardment stopped. But most only returned once the Turks arrived to set up an observation post at its grain silos under an agreement between Turkey, Russia and Iran. "Protection comes firstly from God, and after that it's up to the Turks," said Mohammad al-Youssef, 33, a resident of the village 40 km southeast of Idlib city. Still, he says the Turkish presence offers only partial reassurance. "There is constant worry because there are no promises the regime won't advance," he said. Displaced Syrians have poured into Idlib from other

parts of the country recovered by Assad. The possibility of an Idlib offensive has drawn warnings of yet another humanitarian catastrophe in a war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and driven 11 million from their homes.

The United Nations has warned that up to 2.5 million people could flee towards the Turkish border in such a scenario. This possibility is sounding alarm bells in Turkey, which is already hosting 3.5 million Syrian refugees and fears a government offensive would drive yet more over its border. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan is pressing his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over the issue, and has said Turkey — with NATO's second-biggest army — cannot accept an offensive in Idlib.

Near Al-Surman, thousands of people uprooted by the January offensive are still living in tents in olive and fig groves. The local economy has ground to a halt in anticipation of an offensive. Factories known for the production of woven plastic mats have shut down and home repairs are being postponed. "People are saying we will keep our money for the days to come, in case we are displaced," Youssef said. Turkish forces have deployed at 12 observation posts in the Idlib region under the agreement reached with Russia and Iran in the Kazakh capital of Astana. Under this agreement, Idlib is considered a "de-escalation" zone. — Reuters



## International

# All eyes on Ohio special election as a test of Trump, Republicans

WASHINGTON: Today's special congressional election in Ohio is the final direct face-off between Republicans and Democrats before the November mid-terms, and President Donald Trump's party is holding its breath. The seat was supposed to remain safely in Republican hands. But Democrats who anticipate their grassroots activism propelling a "blue wave" this year see a genuine shot at flipping a district long held by the GOP, and sending a message that Trump's brand of attack politics is in trouble.

Republicans control both the Senate and House of Representatives, but in a time of swirling frustration with the commander-in-chief, including from within his party, Trump is worried that any dent in the GOP hold on Congress could hurt its ability to push through his agenda, and expose him to Democratic efforts to oust him from power. In recent weeks he has made several campaign appearances ahead of state primaries, endorsing candidates for Congress and governor and imploring his supporters, as he did in Ohio on Saturday night, to get out and vote.

Pollsters rate the Ohio race between Republican state senator Troy Balderson and 31-year-old Democratic lawyer Danny O'Connor as a toss-up. In a swing state that Trump won by eight points in 2016, Balderson's 10-point lead from June has evaporated.

"Ohio, vote today for Troy Balderson for Congress," the president tweeted Tuesday morning, saying that O'Connor "is weak on Crime, the Border, Military, Vets, your 2nd Amendment - and will end your Tax Cuts."

An O'Connor victory in the race to succeed retired GOP congressman Patrick Tiberi in a wealthy suburban district that has voted reliably Republican for decades would be a massive shot in the arm for Democrats seeking to take back the House. "The fact it's a dead heat indicates Republicans all across the country are in trouble," University of Akron professor of political science David Cohen, who has studied elections for two decades, told AFP on Monday. "That Dems are even competitive in Ohio's 12th district is an indication that the blue wave may in fact be coming" in November.

## Blue or red wave?

Experts including those at the nonpartisan Cook Political Report say the Republican challenge of holding their House majority is looking increasingly difficult. Democrats need to flip 23 seats nationally to reclaim the 435-seat House. RealClearPolitics last Friday put the generic ballot — a poll of whether Americans will vote for Democrats or Republicans for Congress — in favor of Democrats by 6.1 percentage points.

Democrats have already shown their muscle in several battleground districts over the past year, winning key special elections and coming unexpectedly close to ousting Republicans in others. Trump is well aware of his need for a victory Tuesday in Ohio, if only to tamp down the sense of panic about the looming mid-terms. "They're talking about this blue wave. I don't think so," Trump told a rally in Ohio, where he sang Balderson's praises. "I think it could be a red wave." Trump also extended an endorsement to a more provocative Republican candidate who is on a primary ballot Tuesday.

Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach — known for his divisive positions on immigration and voting rights, is running for governor against the Republican incumbent. Others in the party had urged Trump not to intervene, warning that nominating such a controversial figure as Kobach, a Trump loyalist, could energize Democrats. But the Republican president made the extraordinary move of supporting a candidate over a sitting Republican governor, tweeting his endorsement of Kobach whom he called a "fantastic guy." Two seats in Kansas's all-Republican congressional delegation are seen as potential Democratic pick-ups. Primary elections are also being held Tuesday in Michigan, Missouri and Washington state. — AFP



WILKES BARRES: In this file photo taken on August 01, 2018, David Reinert holds up a large "Q" sign while awaiting the arrival of US President Donald Trump at a "Make America Great Again" rally at the Mohegan Sun Arena, Casey Plaza. — AFP

## Twin blazes form California's largest ever wildfire

CLEARLAKE OAKS: Two fires mercilessly roaring through northern California have grown so rapidly that they are now the largest ever to ravage the state, authorities said. Collectively dubbed the Mendocino Complex, the wildfires have burned through 283,800 acres (114,850 hectares) — an area nearly the size of the sprawling city of Los Angeles — and are just 30 percent contained, according to state fire authority CalFire.

Two people have died in the inferno, taking to 11 the number of people killed by major fires that broke out last month and are still ongoing. "Today a higher pressure system brought warmer weather, drying, and strong winds to the region," CalFire said in an update. "Tonight fire crews will try to ... increase suppression and hold current containment lines." It was the second fire to break records in the fire-prone, most populous US state in as many years, following the Thomas Fire in December 2017, which destroyed 281,893 acres.

Further north in the state, the deadly Carr Fire has burned through more than 164,400 acres since July 23, and killed another seven people along the way. Its intensity was so great at one point, that it generated a tornado-like fire storm — as well as its own weather system. Authorities say it was triggered by the "mechanical failure of a vehicle" that caused sparks to fly in tinderbox-dry conditions. The fire has razed more than 1,600 buildings, including some 1,000 homes, state officials say.

More than 14,000 firefighters were battling the blazes across the state. Several thousand people have been evacuated, although some have been given permission in recent days to return to their homes. The wildfires are "extremely fast, extremely aggressive, extremely dangerous," said Scott McLean, a deputy

chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. "Look how big it got, just in a matter of days... Look how fast this Mendocino Complex went up in ranking. That doesn't happen. That just doesn't happen."

## Evacuations will continue

Firefighters were battling the Mendocino Complex blaze supported by helicopters and airplanes — including two gigantic DC-10s and a 747 jumbo jet — that doused the flames with water. The objective of the firefighters is to protect surrounding communities, which have been evacuated. Some 9,300 structures are threatened by fire, while 75 homes have already been destroyed. "Evacuations are going to continue until it is safe," Sheriff Brian Martin said Sunday, without specifying the number of people who had left their homes.

Another major fire, Ferguson, has left two dead and forced the closure of part of the Yosemite national park, and is currently only 38 percent contained. The weather forecast for the week ahead is not encouraging: very hot and very dry, the perfect conditions for the fires to expand. The Pentagon announced on Monday it would send 200 soldiers to help firefighters to fight the fires, many of which reached federal lands.

## Trump tweet raises eyebrows

President Donald Trump raised eyebrows by tweeting about the wildfires inaccurately, claiming there was not enough water to fight them and appearing to place the blame on environmental laws, not climate change. "California wildfires are being magnified & made so much worse by the bad environmental laws which aren't allowing massive amounts of readily available water to be properly utilized," Trump said.

"It is being diverted into the Pacific Ocean. Must also tree clear to stop fire from spreading!" "We have plenty of water to fight these wildfires, but let's be clear: It's our changing climate that is leading to more severe and destructive fires," Daniel Berlant, CalFire assistant deputy director, told The New York Times. — AFP

## Spain's new conservative leader in degree scandal

MADRID: Spain's conservative Popular Party (PP), freshly ousted from power over a series of corruption cases, has been hit by another scandal as new leader Pablo Casado stands accused of getting a Masters degree as a "gift." The 37-year-old promised "regeneration" when he replaced Mariano Rajoy on July 21 as PP chief following the latter's ouster as prime minister in a no-confidence vote called over the corruption scandals affecting his party.

But a judge at a Madrid court believes he may be guilty of "bribery and misfeasance" for getting his diploma in regional law from the Spanish capital's King Juan Carlos University in 2009 without going to lectures or passing exams. In a court document seen by AFP yesterday, Judge Carmen Rodriguez-Medel says she found possible evidence of wrongdoing as she investigated the university and other students over degree irregularities. She has asked the Supreme Court to probe Casado, the only tribunal able to do so given his special status as a lawmaker.

Casado has already admitted to not attending lectures to get his Masters, and according to the court document, said he got his diploma based on "work" he submitted. But Rodriguez-Medel, who was unable to question Casado, said her investigations had found no trace at the

university of any work. She believes he received the Masters as a "gift," one of several to have allegedly benefited from this special favour.

The King Juan Carlos University is where Casado's fellow party colleague Cristina Cifuentes obtained the same diploma in dubious circumstances in what became known as the "masterygate" scandal. Under fire for weeks, Cifuentes eventually resigned as president of the Madrid region in April when footage emerged of her allegedly shoplifting 40 euros (\$46) worth of cosmetics. Casado on Monday ruled out resigning and the PP leapt to his defense.

"Innocent people must never resign," the PP's secretary general Teodoro Garcia told reporters yesterday. He said that Casado had "many of the documents that he later submitted," adding that under its regulations, the university destroys student paperwork after seven years. Garcia also said he was "surprised" that members of the ruling Socialist party who had "faked" their CV were not being probed. He pointed to Jose Manuel Franco, secretary-general of the Socialist party in Madrid, who in April admitted an "irregularity" in his CV, having written he had a degree in maths when he never did. — AFP

## Afghan amputee marchers embark on harsh peace trek

HERAT: Twenty Afghan amputees, some in wheelchairs and others on crutches, began a grueling trek of hundreds of kilometers across Afghanistan yesterday, demanding an end to the war that cost them their limbs. The "peace convoy" began its journey in the western city of Herat and will finish on the other side of the country in the capital Kabul, running the gauntlet of militants, roadside bombs and blistering temperatures.

"We are taking this journey of more than

1,000 kilometers to Kabul to tell the world to stop the war," Mohammad Musa, 40, who lost both legs in a landmine explosion, told AFP. "The war has brought nothing except destruction." Abubaker Qaderi, whose right leg was blown off by a roadside bomb 15 years ago, called for a "permanent ceasefire" in the latest conflict, which began with the 2001 US-led invasion. "War must stop, we want peace," the 50-year-old told AFP before setting off towards Kabul. "For the sake of the next generation, they

should stop fighting," another protester called Khan Zai told AFP. The march comes weeks after another group demanding peace walked 700 kilometers from the southern city of Lashkar Gah to Kabul, much of it during the fasting month of Ramadan. That march, believed to be the first of its kind in Afghanistan, arrived in the city on June 18 as the Taliban ended an unprecedented three-day ceasefire and resumed fighting. The Afghan government is expected to announce a second truce for the next Eid holiday this month.

Afghanistan's largest militant group has not agreed to the protesters' demands and has ignored President Ashraf Ghani's offer of unconditional peace talks. The Taliban has long insisted on direct talks with the United States. — AFP

## Venezuela vows to eradicate plots

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Monday renewed his accusation against his Colombian counterpart, blaming him for what Caracas has called a drone "assassination" attempt on the Socialist leader over the weekend.

In a video posted on Twitter shortly before midnight, the 55-year-old said police and the military had captured some of the conspirators and were now hunting the masterminds. "There is sufficient evidence of the participation of the outgoing Colombian government of President Juan Manuel Santos," he added, promising to release proof "in the next few hours." The allegation has worsened already fraught ties between Caracas and Bogota. Santos, who hands over power to elected successor Ivan Duque on Tuesday, has categorically denied it. A live broadcast of Saturday's incident on Venezuelan state television showed Maduro interrupted in mid-speech by an explosion and looking up in confusion.

Dozens of soldiers on parade are then seen breaking ranks and running away in panic. Maduro and his government said the president had been targeted by two flying drones carrying explosives. But details of the incident remain unclear, with conflicting information coming from various sources. The Maduro administration said Colombia had collaborated on the attack with the "ultra far-right" Venezuelan opposition, and it was financed by unnamed figures in the US state of Florida. No evidence was given to support the allegations. Thousands of exiled Venezuelans live in Colombia and in Florida. Maduro had been expected to address his supporters — most of them workers — who marched through Caracas in what would have been his first public appearance since Saturday's incident. But he failed to show. The communications ministry did not explain his absence. "We had hoped to see him today. But we imagine he didn't come out for security reasons," said one supporter, 36-year-old Margot Sivira.



CARACAS: Members of Venezuela's Bolivarian militia and pro-government activists demonstrate their support for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro during a rally, outside the Miraflores presidential palace. — AFP

Linda Estrada, 48, added: "They aren't going to give them the pleasure of killing him."

## Suspects 'identified'

Maduro's critics said they feared the Venezuelan government would use the attack to step up repression of the opposition and dissidents. Venezuelan Attorney General Tarek William Saab told a news conference on Monday that several suspects were in custody and authorities would track down all those who conspire against public peace.

He called the drone attack, in which seven soldiers were said to be wounded, "an attempted massacre." The attorney general added that two of the suspects were "caught in the act" guiding one of the drones from a car close to the parade.

Interior Minister Nicolas Reverol said Sunday that six suspects had been arrested. He said two drones had been used, each carrying a

kilogram of C4 explosive. No drones could be seen in the broadcast of the event, which was cut moments after the soldiers were seen scattering away from where Maduro was standing flanked by military chiefs and his wife. An unauthenticated statement from a rebel group calling itself the "National Movement of Soldiers in T-Shirts" claimed it was a drone assassination bid. Bolivia, Cuba, Iran, Russia, Syria and Turkey condemned the incident.

Maduro, a former bus driver who took over the reins from his mentor Hugo Chavez upon the latter's death to cancer in 2013, has been ruling in increasingly autocratic fashion with military support. He controls almost all the country's institutions, and has used the supreme court, electoral authorities and a new super-legislative body, the Constitutional Assembly, to sideline the opposition-run parliament, the National Assembly. — AFP

## Israeli strike kills 2 Hamas militants in Gaza: Officials

GAZA CITY: An Israeli strike yesterday killed two militants of the Gaza Strip's ruling Hamas movement after shots were fired at soldiers, Gazan and Israeli officials said. Hamas's military wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, confirmed in a statement that the dead men were its fighters and named them as Ahmed Murjan and Abdel-Hafez Al-Silawi. An Israeli military statement, apparently referring to the same incident, said that the army returned fire after shots were fired at its soldiers from a Hamas post in the northern Gaza Strip, next to the border with Israel.

Palestinian sources said that the Israeli attack was in the north of the strip but they said it was a drone strike, while the Israeli statement said that it was tank fire. A video distributed by the Israeli army appeared to show a tank striking a military post in the Gaza Strip. The military said it was prepared "to target any aggression against Israel and holds Hamas responsible for everything happening in and from the Gaza Strip." It added that no Israeli troops were injured in the exchange.

Hamas warned Israel that it would pay for the attack, without elaborating. "The resist-



JABALIA: Palestinian relatives of Ahmad Murjan, the young Hamas fighter killed by Israeli fire, mourn over his death during the funeral. — AFP

ance cannot allow the occupation to impose a policy of bombing sites and targeting fighters without paying the price," it said in a statement. Since Palestinian protests and clashes along the Gaza border erupted at the end of March, at least 160 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire. One Israeli soldier has been shot dead by a Palestinian sniper.

The protests call for Palestinians to be able

to return to the land they or their families fled or were expelled from in the 1948 war surrounding the creation of Israel. Israel says any such return would mean the end of it as a Jewish state. Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas have fought three wars with Israel since 2008. The United Nations and Egypt are currently trying to secure a deal between Israel and Hamas for a lasting truce. — AFP



## International

# Bangladesh safety protests fizzle after days of violence

## Eight buses were torched and hundreds of vehicles vandalized

**DHAKA:** Days of protests over road safety in Bangladesh looked to be fizzling out yesterday after around 150 people were injured in clashes with riot police and pro-government thugs wielding iron bars. Nine days of protests saw tens of thousands of teenagers and students paralyze traffic in the capital Dhaka and beyond. Eight buses were torched and hundreds of vehicles vandalized.

Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets while allegedly pro-government mobs attacked demonstrators, photographers and even the US ambassador's car. Students said yesterday that many went back to school as they fear further government repression if the protests continued. "We are panicked. We hear that some of the students who took part in yesterday's protests have been arrested," a private university student told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another student, Ratul Abdullah, said four of his friends have been missing since yesterday. "Today everything is normal. Students have returned to their classes," Mahbubur Rahman, head of Bangladesh's secondary and higher education authority, told AFP. "So far no news of protests from any university," he said, adding that the authorities have shut down two universities in an effort to quell the protests.

Some 200 students at a state-run university in western city of Rajshahi however joined a march and rally, a student activist of the university said. The protests, initially by highschoolers and then students, were to

demand better safety on Bangladesh's chaotic and corruption-riddled transport network after a bus killed two teens on July 29.

At least 7,397 people—around 20 a day—died in road accidents last year, up nearly a quarter from 2016, according to the private Passengers Welfare Association. At the height of the protests, hundreds of students were seen managing Dhaka's notorious traffic and checking whether cars and buses had valid licenses and proof of roadworthiness. The lengthy standoff attracted major foreign media interest and criticism of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government from the United Nations, Washington and rights groups. On Monday, as students threw bricks at police using tear gas and rubber bullets, the government sought to quell the anger with promises of tougher sentences for dangerous driving.

“Today everything is normal. Students have returned to their classes”

'We want justice'

Analyst Ali Riaz, a professor of Illinois State University, said the protests reflected broader issues including "the absence of accountability in governance and the absence of rule of law". "Simmering discontent among the younger population about the direction of the country has surfaced through this movement. Their slogan, 'We want justice' is quite telling in this regard," he said.

"Whatever happens to the movement in the coming days, however it ends, the younger generation has demonstrated that they can challenge the prevailing



**KOLKATA:** Indian students burn an effigy of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed during a rally in support of the students movement in Bangladesh near the Deputy High Commission Of Bangladesh office. —AFP

culture of fear; their courage will have an indelible mark on the Bangladeshi society and politics," he said. Rights groups have also called for the immediate release of Shahidul Alam, a renowned Bangladeshi photographer detained on Sunday night after comments on Al Jazeera and on Facebook about the

demonstrations. Alam, who authorities said was being questioned for "giving false information" and "provocative comments", said on Monday that he was beaten in custody. "(They) washed my bloodstained punjabi (tunic) and made me wear it again," he said as he was taken into a Dhaka court. —AFP

## India asks telcos to find ways to block Facebook, WhatsApp

**NEW DELHI:** India has asked its telecom operators to find ways of blocking applications such as Facebook and messaging app WhatsApp in the case of misuse, according to a document seen by Reuters. India has in recent months intensified efforts to crack down on mass message forwards after it found that people were using social media and messaging apps to spread rumors and stoke public anger.

WhatsApp in particular has faced the wrath of Indian regulators after false messages circulated on the messaging platform led to a series of lynchings and mob beatings across the country. The department of telecommunications in July asked Indian telecom service providers, as well as mobile and internet industry bodies, to "explore various possible options" to block such apps. "You are ... requested to explore various possible options and confirm how the Instagram/Facebook/Whatsapp/Telegram and such other mobile apps can be blocked on internet," according to the government letter dated July 18 and seen by Reuters.

Facebook Inc, which owns both WhatsApp and photo-sharing platform Instagram, declined to comment. Telegram did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A source at India's department of telecommunication said the letter was aimed at finding ways to block such apps during "emergency situations. There is a need for a reasonable good solution to protect national security," said the official, who declined to be named. —Reuters

## Germany jails couple for selling young son online

**FREIBURG:** A German court handed down lengthy jail sentences yesterday to a couple for repeatedly sexually abusing their young son and selling him to pedophiles online, in a shocking case that raised pointed questions about the competence of child protection services. Following a criminal probe that even seasoned investigators said pushed them to the emotional limit, the regional court in Freiburg sentenced the boy's mother, Berrin Taha, to 12 and a half years in prison.

Her partner Christian Lais, the boy's stepfather whom he called "papa", received a 12-year sentence followed by preventive detention. Lais, 39, was allowed to live in their home despite a previous conviction for child abuse and a court order to stay away from minors. The judges found that the unemployed couple had sexually assaulted the boy, now 10, numerous times and pimped him on the so-called darknet between May 2015 and August 2017.

They were convicted of rape, aggravated sexual assault of children, forced prostitution and distribution of child pornography, judge Stefan Buergelein said. The couple was also ordered to pay a total of 42,500 euros (\$49,200) in damages to the boy and another victim, a girl who was temporarily in their care. Taha, 48, said through her lawyer that she would not appeal, in order to spare her son an even longer legal ordeal. —AFP

## Simone Gbagbo: 'Iron Lady' of Ivory Coast

**ABIDJAN:** Ivory Coast's "Iron Lady" Simone Gbagbo—soon to be released from prison in an amnesty—basked in her role as the power behind the throne during her husband's regime, but to foes she was a pitiless killer. The wife of former president Laurent Gbagbo, who lost power in 2010 after a turbulent decade in office, is one of some 800 people who are being freed by President Alassane Ouattara.

Laurent Gbagbo has been in detention at the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague for seven years. His wife is three years into a 20-year sentence for "endangering state security" for her role in political violence that claimed some 3,000 lives after a bitter 2010 presidential election. The couple were arrested in April 2011 by forces loyal to Ouattara during a French-backed military operation, after five months of fighting. She was accused of actively supporting Laurent Gbagbo in his bid to keep power after his electoral defeat.

Her 2015 conviction revolved around her alleged involvement in a 2011 shelling of a market in a district of the capital Abidjan that supported Ouattara and for being a member of a "crisis cell" that

allegedly coordinated attacks by the armed forces and militias in support of her husband. Fervently Christian but ruthless by reputation, Simone Gbagbo never sought to deny exercising political influence after her husband rose to power in 2000 elections in which former prime minister Ouattara was barred from standing on the grounds he was a foreigner.

"All the ministers respect me, and they often consider me above them. I've got what it takes to be a minister," she told the French newsweekly L'Express in 2001, justifying her stance after a life she said had been dedicated to activism. "I engaged in political struggle against the former regime alongside men. I spent six months in prison, I was beaten, molested, left for dead. After all those trials, it's logical that people don't mess with me."

'Blood Lady'

Born in the predominantly Christian south in 1949 as one of 18 children of a policeman, she studied linguistics and history before becoming a trade union activist. Her militancy led to a jail term in the 1970s for openly criticizing then president Felix Houphouet-Boigny—Ivory Coast's first leader after independence from France in 1960—when he rejected opposition calls for multi-party elections.

She and Laurent Gbagbo married in 1989 after founding the opposition socialist Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), and she was later elected to parliament in the world's leading cocoa producer. Her hus-



**ABIDJAN:** In this file photo taken on May 9, 2016 Ivory Coast's former first lady Simone Gbagbo waves at her supporters as she arrives at Abidjan's courthouse prior to the opening hearing of her trial over charges of crimes against humanity for her alleged role in the 2010 electoral violence. —AFP

band sought to change relations with former colonial master Paris, arguing that previous regimes had been servile, and the first lady proved a fierce critic of "neo-colonialism", once famously describing France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy—a main mover in her husband's downfall—as "the devil".

Supporters of Simone Gbagbo's commitment to political causes hailed her as "the Hillary Clinton of the tropics". But for detractors, the "Iron Lady" became the

"Blood Lady", amid allegations by human rights activists that the regime used teams of killers to deal with opponents. Those concerns were reinforced when she was implicated by a French judicial inquiry into the sinister disappearance of French-Canadian journalist Guy-Andre Kieffer in Ivory Coast in 2004. Gbagbo frequently mingled politics with the evangelical faith she practiced after "miraculously" surviving a car crash and starting prayer meetings at the presidential palace. —AFP

## Regional push as Australia's population hits 25 million

**SYDNEY:** Australia's population was due to hit 25 million today, renewing debate about overcrowding and infrastructure pressures in major cities as the government explores ways to encourage migrants into regional areas. The Australian Bureau of Statistics projects that the population is growing by one person every 83 seconds and is due to reach the milestone figure at 1300 GMT.

It will mark a doubling of the number of people since 1970 who call Australia home. The population rose by 388,000 last year and about 60 percent of this was due to immigration by people with special skills or family visas. Despite Australia's huge size, about 90 percent of new arrivals settle in Melbourne and Sydney, the government said, prompting a fresh debate on its approach to migration as cities fill up.

"There are some areas that are feeling population pressures but there's other regions in Australia that are actually cry-

ing out for more people." Citizenship Minister Alan Tudge told broadcaster ABC. "We need a better distribution of migration across Australia because nearly all the migration is going to Melbourne and Sydney at the moment."

Tudge wants migrants to look outside the country's two largest cities to state capitals and regional hubs where he said there were better chances of finding jobs. The minister added the government was considering levers in its visa allocation to promote regional migration, but did not go into detail. "We do have an ability to provide additional encouragement, indeed conditions, on people as to where they go," he said. "So that is what we are exploring, and that is why we are having discussions with the South Australian premier and elsewhere."

Overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure is a major issue in Australia, as state governments jostle with Canberra



**SYDNEY:** People cross a road in the central business district. —AFP

over planning priorities and funding. The 25 million milestone has provided fodder for all sides of the political debate, with experts warning that a lack of coherent planning is limiting potential. "Many individual towns and cities across the country are trying, best they can, to cope with

population growth, stimulate population growth, or, for some, curb population loss," said Curtin University geographer Amanda Davies. "Without a national framework to bring this knowledge and effort together, opportunities are being missed." —AFP

## Sandals point to victims in mosque shattered by Indonesia quake

**LADING-LADING:** A shattered mosque in quake-hit northern Lombok, where sandals remain scattered outside its entrance, has become a focal point of the rescue effort after one weeping man was hauled out

of the wreckage. An unknown number of worshippers were performing evening prayers at the Jabal Nur mosque in the village of Lading-Lading on Sunday when the 6.9-magnitude quake sent deadly tremors coursing through the ground.

Congregants described chaotic scenes as the shallow quake hit, bringing down walls and bending the minaret. Some got out before the roof came down, others did not. "We were praying when suddenly an extremely strong shaking occurred," Tara, who like many Indonesians only has one name, told AFP. "I immediately grabbed my grandson, who is

three years old, everyone was then scrambling to get out," he added.

As many as 50 people may have been in the mosque at the time of the quake, another witness named Kelana told AFP. "Our imam ran, so the others followed," the 53-year-old said, adding he couldn't tell how many people managed to escape. Police, soldiers and volunteers have worked frantically to remove debris from the site in scenes repeated across the picturesque volcanic island, which draws holidaymakers from around the world. —AFP



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## Analysis

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## Will investors be tempted back to 'new' Zimbabwe?

Newly-elected President Emmerson Mnangagwa has declared Zimbabwe "open for business" - but analysts say that reversing the disastrous investor exodus of the Mugabe years will require more than words of encouragement. Considered one of southern Africa's most promising economies when Robert Mugabe took over in 1980, it was one of the most isolated economies in the world by the time his 37-year rule ended last year. Agricultural output plummeted after his regime started seizing white-owned farms in 2000, and he presided over hyperinflation so drastic it prompted the printing of a 100-trillion-dollar note.

But Mnangagwa, the former Mugabe ally who replaced him with army backing in November, has made Zimbabwe's biggest overtures towards the West in years. "We want to leapfrog and catch up with other developing countries," he said Friday after winning an election marred by deadly violence and opposition claims of fraud. Despite the havoc Mugabe wreaked on the economy - overseeing the sharpest peacetime contraction of GDP in world history - some investors see rich potential.

"Zimbabwe's has had such a tarnished reputation over the past few generations that very few people have looked at it, but the interest has always been there," said Robert Besseling, executive director of risk consultancy EXX Africa. Some are eyeing its bounteous natural resources - the second-biggest platinum reserves in the world, as well as other minerals, coal and diamonds. Others are hunting for opportunities in the recovering agriculture sector, notably tobacco, or predicting a consumer boom in its 16 million-strong population.

Hafez Ghanem, the World Bank's vice-president for Africa, told Bloomberg last week that Zimbabwe could become "an upper middle-income country" in a decade. Jack Ma, the billionaire founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, visited last week - apparently on vacation, though it did not stop state media speculating he was scouting for opportunities.

### Mnangagwa, an unknown quantity

Yet even keen investors are daunted by the array of economic problems Zimbabwe faces as well as the possibility of more Mugabe-style repression, despite Mnangagwa's insistence that the country has turned a page. Millions have fled abroad in search of work, and those who stayed still face mass unemployment. Public services are in ruins, corruption is endemic, and infrastructure crumbling. Charles Laurie of analysts Verisk Maplecroft said that until the election, Mnangagwa was progressing well in his efforts to woo investors. He reversed much of a law forcing foreign firms to cede 51 percent stakes to locals, and offered compensation to white farmers stripped of their land.

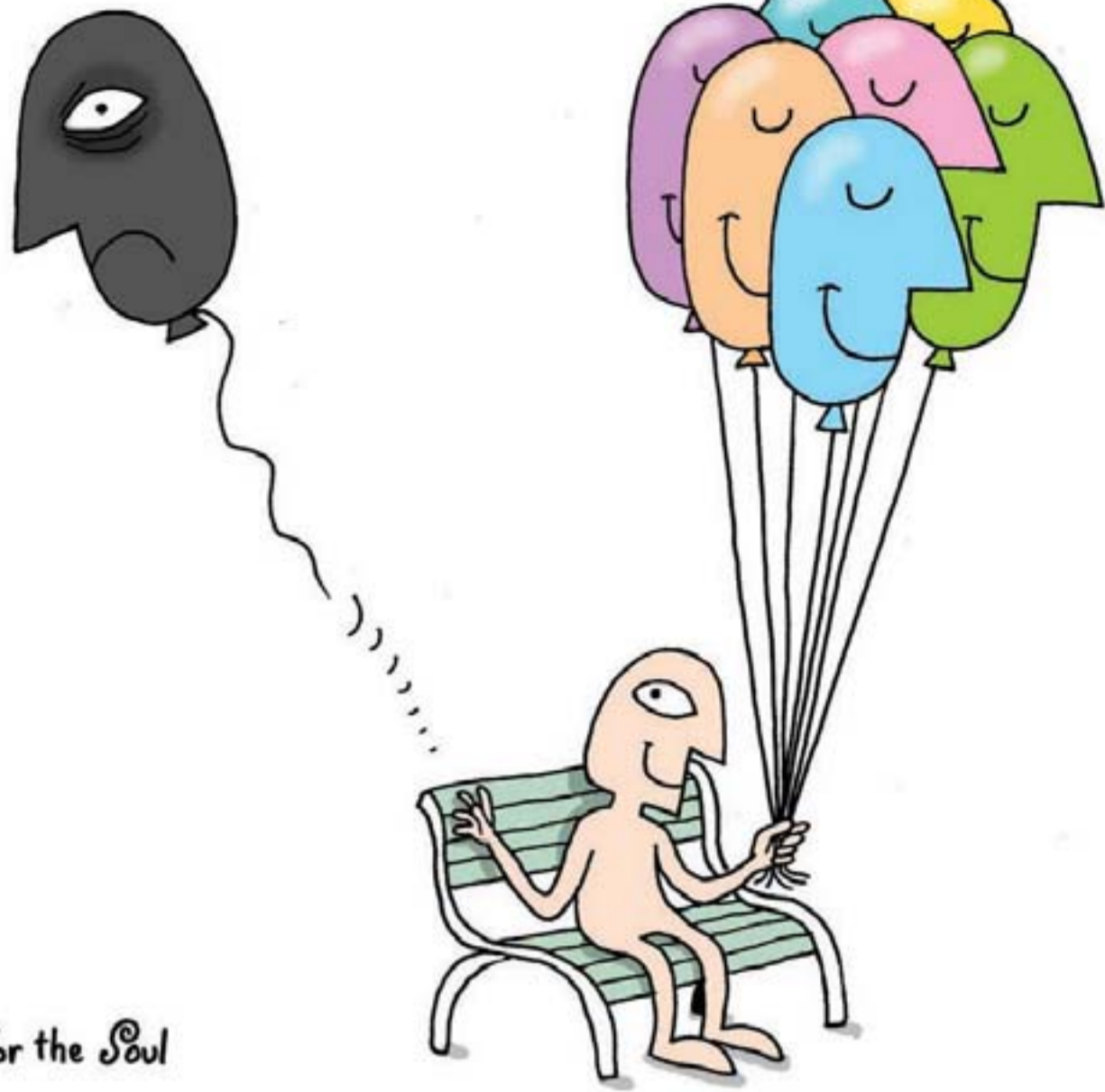
But that was before troops opened fire in Harare last Wednesday on demonstrators alleging the election had been rigged, leaving six people dead. The opposition MDC party, which disputes the vote results, has since complained that its members are being targeted with abductions and criminal charges. "For investors who are low on trust with Mnangagwa and searching for signs of his true colors, this rapid return to violent means to achieve his objectives is going to shake investor confidence," Laurie said. "It conjures up images that if the tables were slightly turned, indeed it could be these investors who are the target of the Zimbabwe government."

### Tough decisions ahead

Beyond politics, Mnangagwa has major money problems. His cash-strapped government owes some \$1.7 billion in arrears to the World Bank and African Development Bank, and cannot get new loans until they are paid off. Companies hoping for lucrative contracts to rebuild the transport, water and power infrastructure Mugabe left in ruins face a government that, for now, will struggle to pay them. The currency crisis is another major issue. Zimbabwe has mainly used the US dollar since scrapping its own currency in 2009 to halt hyperinflation under which prices doubled every day.

But dollars remain scarce, and a little-trusted token currency known as "bond notes", introduced two years ago, has done little to improve the situation. Analysts say the government will at some point have to bring in a proper currency again - and that this could prove messy, a prospect not lost on investors. To get new loans from the multilateral banks it will likely also have to agree to tough structural changes, such as tax hikes or cuts to the massive public sector.

"For risk-wary investors, neighboring countries offer a safer and more attractive investment environment," said Laurie. Besseling added that progress is likely to be slow. "The one-year outlook: we could potentially still be where we are today," he said. "But considering the huge potential, you're going to see great successes in Zimbabwe over a 10-year outlook," he predicted. — AFP



## China could yet win Trump trade war

By David A Andelman

If you want to know why Donald Trump shouldn't expect to win a trade war against China, look no further than Alibaba, the country's giant e-commerce version of Amazon. Last month, I had two in-depth conversations with Ming Zeng, the e-commerce giant's head of strategic planning and among the smartest minds in business and finance in China. Ming made it clear that China has little real need for America any more - not US products, but especially not US ideas. When thwarted, China has shown it can think up its own.

At the same time, the Trump administration seems to be doing its level best to run a competition calculated from the starting gate to lose the race, or the war, whichever it turns out to be. The US president's latest effort was to threaten a rise in tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods - from 10 percent to 25 percent. Within 24 hours, China quickly reciprocated with a list of 5,207 American products, worth \$60 billion, on which it pledged to exact new tariffs ranging from 5 to 25 percent if Trump implements his threats. And there we'll have a full-blown trade war.

Fortunately, Trump has extended a comment period before implementation until September. Meanwhile, markets on both sides of the Pacific continue unsettled - at times balancing on the edge of panic. While the Chinese stock market has taken more of a beating than the American, Trump seems to think that the United States can stand the pain longer than China and that tightening the screws will bring Beijing to the negotiating table. But that reflects little understanding of either the Chinese mindset or the underlying strength of the Chinese economy which, though weaker than a year ago, is still growing nearly twice as fast as the American.

And this by no means reflects how bad it could get as individuals with little understanding of either the stakes or the mechanisms plunge into this pending maelstrom. Last week, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo unveiled with some fanfare another way of dealing with, even isolating China, that approaches the ridiculous in its scale and futility.

Dubbed the "Indo Pacific Economic Vision Program" it was widely viewed as a counter to China's long-standing Belt and Road development initiative that has ensnared nations across Asia and onward to Europe. But a decidedly skinflint counter.

Trump has committed a derisory \$113 million to his



### China to do all it can to keep control of its trading strategy

program - a rounding error compared with the \$900 billion estimated for Beijing's Belt and Road, which China bankrolled at \$82 billion three years ago. This hardly even seems to be a competition. Yet as the South China Morning Post put it, the US initiative is "likely to fuel suspicions from Beijing... and could in turn worsen relations that are already fraught with trade tensions."

Moreover, China seems prepared to do all it can to keep control of its global trading strategy, offering Britain talks leading to a post-Brexit free trade deal on Monday, while continuing to hold the United States at bay. For Washington to win any trade war with China - or even arrive at some mutually satisfactory conclusion, the most desirable outcome in the long run - there must be an understanding of the forces it will be facing. My takeaway from my interviews with Ming, which ran in full in Forbes Asia, is that large swaths of China's rapidly advancing economy, especially the domestically-focused areas, are either largely immune from any trade imbroglios or will manage to circumvent them.

In January, the United States barred a takeover by Alibaba's Ant Financial of Moneygram, the money transfer

agency. So Alibaba created a different, in many respects more innovative, product using blockchain-based technology. "Any new business, while growing up, always encounters obstacles. We understand that. It is part of the cost of doing business," Ming said. "So we might be frustrated. But because the value we create is so overwhelming, we will find some way to overcome that barrier." That doesn't mean that many Chinese companies and state-run enterprises in China aren't still poised to appropriate innovations from Silicon Valley. But the more America tries to block them, the more likely the Chinese are to come up with their own solutions.

Another example: Last year, the US Committee on Foreign Investment failed to approve an effort by Navinfo, the Chinese provider of digital maps for autos, to buy a stake in HERE, an Amsterdam-based mapping company that operates in the United States and is 15 percent owned by US chipmaker Intel. So Navinfo, ranked by Forbes as of the world's top 100 innovative growth companies, simply withdrew its offer and continued its expanding cooperation with HERE and its German-owned car company partners, BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen.

To be sure, while China may have a leadership role in markets like the auto market and appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines, it does still lag in fields like artificial intelligence. But, as Ming suggests, "it's not about our size, it's about our innovation experience and our understanding of where the future goes." It is this profound understanding and acceptance of the long game that may ultimately leave China the winner in any trade war.

The Chinese, and especially its leadership, have quite a strong and evolved sense of self. Their ability to withstand external forces dates back not just to Mao Zedong and the communist revolution that brought them to power after World War Two. It's more useful to look back to the Zhou dynasty a thousand years before Christ, which based the legitimacy of its emperor on whether he was sufficiently virtuous to rule - and receive the Mandate from Heaven to do so. A people with such an evolved sense of destiny and self-worth is unlikely to see a secular leader like Donald Trump as a major obstacle.

## The odd-job volunteers 'fixing' Hong Kong politics

As attendance at Hong Kong's traditional protest rallies wanes, one pro-democracy group is trying to win hearts and minds in a more pragmatic way - through plumbing, electricians and household repairs. Calling themselves Fixing Hong Kong, the group's volunteers mend broken appliances, furniture, pipes and wiring, hoping that forging community spirit will lead to greater political awareness. The novel approach comes as semi-autonomous Hong Kong's freedoms are under threat from an increasingly assertive Beijing and the city's splintered democracy movement struggles for momentum.

Volunteers visit homes in the To Kwa Wan neighborhood each week, making appointments for DIY jobs and offering repair services for free, with residents usually paying for their own replacement materials. They work in pairs, one fixing, the other chatting. Sometimes the conversation will turn to politics, other times not. "We hope to gather more energy bit by bit through these most simple contacts and bonding," Fixing Hong Kong member Max Leung told AFP.

Resident Mr Wong said volunteers from the group had fixed his television. They also helped him and others write letters to officials over concerns local people were being rehoused in poor conditions to make way for new development projects. "Just

one person's power is not enough. We need neighbors joining forces for results," Wong said. Another resident Mr Cheng, a wall painter originally from southern mainland China, said he had not discussed politics with the group, but appreciated their help.

A volunteer was fixing a broken strip light in his apartment when AFP visited. Cheng's flat is housed in one of numerous rundown blocks in To Kwa Wan, home to low to middle income families and refugees. He told AFP he was too preoccupied with daily struggles to join any of the group's activities, which range from barbecues to political campaigns, but did not mind the volunteers' pro-democracy ideas. "As long as it doesn't hurt me, that's fine," Cheng said.

### Community breakdown

Fixing Hong Kong was formed by activists who ran a recycling operation at protest camps set up during the massive 2014 Umbrella Movement rallies, which called for free and fair leadership elections in Hong Kong. The rallies failed to win reform and since then activists have been prosecuted on protest-related charges and disqualified from the legislature, denting the democracy campaign. At the same time, pro-democracy politicians have been criticized for losing touch with the grassroots while some pro-Beijing candidates have become more strategically focused on working-class voters and livelihood issues.

Small groups like Fixing Hong Kong believe going back to neighborhood level is the best way to rebuild support. The approach is a legacy of the rallies, says researcher Klavier Wong, who says the protests gave a rare opportunity for young Hong Kongers to "become aware of how to communicate and interact with strangers, and to do something together". Although



This picture taken on July 19, 2018 shows a volunteer plumber (left) explaining repairs to a resident who requested help from Fixing Hong Kong, a pro-democracy community group, in the neighborhood of To Kwa Wan in Hong Kong. — AFP

the protest camps that sprawled over junctions and roadways in major commercial areas angered some residents, others embraced the spontaneous tent communities which included homework areas for students and art installations.

Fixing Hong Kong is one of the best-known community groups to have grown out of the rallies. Other small-scale projects, from urban rooftop gardens to rural farms, have been set up by activists too. The trend also taps into young people's desire to reconnect with their surroundings as private housing estates and shopping malls erode a sense of community living, adds Wong, who researches social movements and identity in Hong Kong.

Fixing Hong Kong member Leung says group activities such as reclaiming public spaces for community events may not be directly related to the wider political system, but are still "everyday politics". "This is to regain control in our lives. Ultimately democracy is like that too, to regain control of the place we live in," he told AFP. And while volunteer fixer Leung Chan, an electrician, admits it can be hard to engage residents in politics when they have a host of daily struggles, he believes the group should persevere. "If we don't make the first step, then nothing is possible," he told AFP. "First there needs to be trust between people." — AFP



## Business

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LONDON: Bank of England Governor Mark Carney speaks during the central bank's quarterly Inflation Report press conference in London. — AFP

# No-deal Brexit? What it might mean for UK

## BoE chief Carney says possibility of a no-deal 'uncomfortably high'

LONDON/GENEVA: The prospect of a "no-deal Brexit" appears to have grown after the European Union's negotiator rejected last month central elements of Prime Minister Theresa May's proposals for a new trade agreement. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said on Friday the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without striking any deal with Brussels was "uncomfortably high". Trade minister Liam Fox has put the chances at 60-40.

May's office repeated on Monday she believed Britain would negotiate a good agreement but that "no deal is better than a bad deal". The pound hit an 11-month low against the dollar on Monday with traders linking this partly to the possibility of no deal. It rose modestly yesterday.

Following are some questions and answers about what a no-deal Brexit might mean. What will happen if Britain and the EU fail to get a deal? Britain is a member of the World Trade Organization so tariffs and other terms governing its trade with the EU would be set under WTO rules.

EU tariffs are quite low, averaging about 5 percent, but they are higher for some important British exports including cars which would face a 10 percent tariff. Exporters could face other barriers including complying with EU standards for goods such as food and electrical products. British exports might get stuck at the EU border.

Many British services firms, especially in the giant financial industry, would probably face more restrictions on doing business in the bloc than under May's preferred deal.

Under WTO rules Britain and the EU could not offer each

other low tariffs, quick border checks, or close cooperation on services, unless they offered these to all WTO member states. What's the downside of a no-deal Brexit? Most economists say the higher the barriers are to trade with the EU, the bigger the hit for Britain.

The National Institute for Economic and Social Research says a no-deal Brexit would cost each person in Britain 800 pounds (\$1,030) a year more than the effect of a "soft Brexit" under which Britain had ties to the EU similar to Norway. May's plan would cost 500 pounds per person a year more than a soft Brexit. The impact on Britain's economy could be bigger still if business investment falls, aggravating slow productivity growth, or a fall in migration causes labor shortages.

What's the upside to a no-deal Brexit? Brexit supporters argue that WTO rules would help Britain's economy by making it easier for London to strike its own trade deals with faster-growing countries and regions beyond Europe.

However, this would take years and Britain on its own might struggle to secure favorable terms from the likes of the United States and China. Ruth Lea, a pro-Brexit economist, said the concerns about border delays were overblown,

because countries outside the EU typically declare their exports online to speed their passage. Brexit backers also say Britain could save its estimated EU divorce bill of around 39 billion pounds and spend this on public services instead.

Will a no-deal Brexit mean chaos? With less than eight months until Britain leaves the EU, time is short to negotiate an agreement or prepare

both sides for the possibility of no deal. Any disorderly Brexit risks delays at borders as officials struggle with a sudden introduction of new customs rules. Britain's government is drawing up plans to stockpile medicines and blood products before a possible no-deal Brexit.

In the worst-case scenario, Britain would fall out of EU arrangements such as the US-EU aviation Open Skies agreement, possibly causing transport chaos.

Financial derivatives trading would face legal uncertainty. EU citizens in Britain and British citizens in the EU would risk losing residency and other rights. Given the potential for disruption, the EU might offer to extend the Brexit negotiation period if there were some prospect of a deal, Malcolm Barr, a JP Morgan economist, said. "The EU knows that a no-deal Brexit would hurt all involved and would be an enormously complex problem to manage," he said.



### Sterling stumbles to five-month low versus euro

## Chinese daily mocks Trump's claim of trade war as 'wishful thinking'

SHANGHAI: Chinese state media kept up their criticism of US President Donald Trump's trade policies, with a newspaper yesterday describing as "wishful thinking" Trump's belief that a fall in Chinese stocks was a sign of his winning the trade war.

As the world's two biggest economies remained locked in a heated tariff dispute, Beijing and Washington have kept up a blistering rhetoric with threats and counter-threats of more punitive trade measures. The editorial in the official China Daily underscored an increasingly aggressive stance adopted by Chinese state media against Trump, a shift from their previous approach of tempering any direct criticism against the US president.

On Monday, the overseas edition of the

Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper singled out Trump, saying he was starring in his own "street fighter-style deceitful drama of extortion and intimidation". China proposed retaliatory tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US goods ranging from liquefied natural gas (LNG) to some aircraft on Friday, following the Trump administration's plan for a higher 25 percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports. The China Daily referred to a Saturday Tweet by Trump which said "Tariffs are working far better than anyone anticipated. China market has dropped 27 percent in last four months." China's stock market was performing poorly before the US administration imposed tariffs, said the English-language newspaper, asserting that the downturn was partly due to Beijing's attempts to cut corporate debt.

The paper said Trump's claim that "tariffs are working big time" was undermined by data showing the US trade deficit climbed \$3 billion to \$46.3 billion in June, the first increase in four months.

The China Daily is often used by the government to communicate its message to an international audience. Trump has repeatedly criticized China for its trade deficit with the

United States, saying it showed Beijing was engaging in unfair trade practices.

Chinese state media has also been promoting the message that the country's economy is strong enough to ride out the trade war. In a separate commentary, in the People's Daily overseas edition, a researcher at the Commerce Ministry reiterated this stance, saying China was strong and resilient enough to weather the trade dispute.

"We absolutely have reason to believe that during this complex trade friction, and relying on the domestic market, China can continue to enhance its leading position in the global economic and industrial system," researcher Mei Xinyu wrote. Despite the US tariffs, a Reuters poll of economists forecast China's exports to have grown in July, though many see a deteriorating outlook for shipments especially if Trump goes ahead with his threats to slap more punitive duties on Chinese imports.

Recent data showed growth in the world's second largest economy has already started to cool. The government has responded by releasing more liquidity into the banking system, encouraging lending and promising a more "active" fiscal policy. — Reuters



HUAIBEI: A woman works on socks that will be exported to the US at a factory in Huaibei in China's eastern Anhui province yesterday. — AFP



Business

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

# Turkey's lira, bonds drop on US trade threat, CB worries

## Sell-off raises speculation of central bank move

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's lira slipped in and out of negative territory yesterday, staying close to the previous day's record low as concerns deepened about a rift with the United States and President Tayyip Erdogan's influence over the central bank.

On Monday, the currency fell as much as 5.5 percent to 5.4250 against the dollar, an all-time low and its biggest intraday drop in nearly a decade, after Washington said it was reviewing access to the US market for Turkey's exports.

It was trading at 5.3035 to the dollar at 1201 GMT and at 6.1535 per euro. Turkey's 10-year benchmark bond yield hit 20.09 percent, the highest on record. The depth of the sell-off reflects growing unease about the direction of monetary policy under Erdogan, a self-described "enemy of interest rates", and the impact of worsening ties with the United States, a NATO ally and major trading partner.

The lira's chronic weakness—it is down 27 percent on the dollar and 26 percent against the euro year-to-date—has driven inflation to nearly 16 percent and fuelled expectations that an emergency rate hike may be needed to prop it up. "The plunge in the currency over the past few weeks is now on a scale which has, in the past, prompted the central bank to hike interest rates aggressively," William Jackson of Capital Economics said in a note to clients.

"The lira's fall is being amplified by concerns that the central bank will not act to shore up the currency." The central bank raised interest rates to support the lira in an emergency move in May, before a re-elected Erdogan assumed new executive powers that investors fear will compromise its independence.

The president wants lower borrowing costs to fuel credit growth and economic expansion. Economists say the economy is overheated and needs higher rates.

The central bank's apparent reluctance to hike has heightened concerns about its ability to act independently of Erdogan, who appointed his son-in-law Berat Albayrak as treasury and finance minister last month.

**US row**

The row with the United States has only served to further undermine sentiment among foreign investors, upon whom Turkey relies to fund its widening current account deficit. Broadcaster CNN Turk reported overnight, citing

diplomatic sources, that a Turkish delegation will head to Washington in two days to discuss the row between the NATO allies.

Relations have been strained by differences over Syria, and the trial in Turkey of US evangelical Christian pastor Andrew Brunson for allegedly supporting the group Ankara blames for an attempted coup in 2016. Brunson denies the charge. Over the weekend, the US Trade Representative said the United States was reviewing Turkey's duty-free access to its markets, after Ankara imposed retaliatory tariffs on US goods in response to American tariffs on steel and aluminum. The move could affect \$1.7 billion of Turkish exports.

The spat has further hammered the lira, which lost near-



**Lira down 27% against dollar this year**

ly a quarter of its value last year, even after a cut to the upper limit of banks' reserve requirements that the central bank said on Monday would provide lenders with \$2.2 billion of liquidity. "In an environment where the market expects an interest rate hike, the central bank only changed reserve requirements," said economist Mahfi Egitmez on Twitter. "The lira plunged as markets got the impression that the central bank has problems hiking rates. It would have been better if they did not change the reserve requirements at all."

**No headlines**

Erdogan, who has previously cast lira selling as the work of Western financiers attempting to bring Turkey to its knees, has been notably quiet about the crisis this time around. Last week, he called on Turks to convert hard cur-



**ISTANBUL:** People change their money at a counter on the Istiklal avenue in Istanbul next to a panel indicating foreign exchange and Turkish lira rates. — AFP

rency and gold into lira and said Turkey would turn to Chinese markets for financing. Local media made little mention of the currency crisis yesterday, with almost none of more than 20 mainstream newspapers mentioning the sell-off. It made headlines of some opposition newspapers and the main business paper.

The lira's plunge has sharpened investor concern about the outlook for Turkish companies. They have for years borrowed in hard currency, drawn by lower interest rates, but the lira crisis has made it more expensive to repay that debt. Credit ratings agency Moody's has predicted problem loans will rise to well above 4 percent in the next 12-18

months, from 2.9 percent from May, which would also be costly for banks.

Goldman Sachs meanwhile warned that a further drop in the lira could wipe out Turkish banks' capital buffers. As of May, Turkish companies had \$222.8 billion in long-term loans from abroad, almost all in dollars or euros, central bank data shows.

Turkish stocks were up half a percent. The BIST index of blue-chip stocks is down 40 percent in dollar terms this year, according to Thomson Reuters data—second only to Venezuela as the worst performer among some 30 emerging market stock indices. — Reuters

## India doubles import tax on textile products, may hit China

**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI:** India doubled the import tax on more than 300 textile products to 20 percent yesterday as the world's biggest producer of cotton tries to curb rising imports from China.

It was the second tax hike on textiles in as many months after an increase on other products including fiber and apparels last month. The moves are expected to provide relief to the domestic textile industry, which has been hit by cheaper imports. India's total textile imports jumped by 16 percent to a record \$7 billion in the fiscal year to March 2018. Of this, about \$3 billion were from China.

The government did not disclose details of the 328 textile products that will be subject to the duty increase announced yesterday.

Rising imports sent India's trade deficit with China in textile products to a record high \$1.54 billion in 2017/18, alarming industry officials as India had been until recently a net exporter of textile products to China. Sanjay Jain, president of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, told Reuters he did not expect China to retaliate to the Indian duty increases as it still has a trade

surplus with India. He said India's textile product imports could fall to \$6 billion in 2018/19 as a result of the tax hike to 20 percent.

India's imports of textile products from Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia also jumped in the last few years as they are not subject to any duty under free trade agreements (FTA) signed by India with these countries. The 20 percent duty will not be applicable to products sourced from those countries due to the FTA, Jain said.

Industry officials say in the last few months Chinese fiber has been shipped to Bangladesh and processed and exported to India with zero duty. "Rules of origin need to be implemented for textile products. Otherwise Chinese products will land from other countries," said a Mumbai-based garment exporter, who declined to be named. Jain said India's textile and garment exports could rise 8 percent to \$40 billion in 2018/19 due to a weak rupee and as the government is expected to introduce incentives to boost overseas sales.

India's trade differences with the United States have also been rising since President Donald Trump took office. India, the world's biggest buyer of US almonds, in June decided to raise import duties on almonds and some other US imports by 20 percent, joining the European Union and China in retaliating against Trump's tariff hikes on steel and aluminum. The increased tariff on US goods will be applicable from Sept 18. — Reuters

## Commerzbank beats earnings expectations

**BERLIN:** Germany's second biggest lender Commerzbank yesterday posted better than expected earnings for the second quarter, although it expects slightly higher costs for the full year as it pushes on with restructuring. In the three months ending June, the bank recorded net profit reaching 272 million euros, well above the 213 million euros forecasted by analysts.

The result was a sharp improvement from a loss of 640 million euros during the same period a year ago when the bank was forced to book significant charges due to a restructuring plan that included redundancies for 9,600 posts. However, the bank now sees costs rising slightly to 7.1 billion euros for the full year from 7.0 billion forecasted previously, due mainly to investments in its digitalization drive.

"Given the intense competition, particularly in corporate clients, we have slightly adjusted our outlook. Our growth initiatives are already working. Of course, it will take some time for them to take full effect," said Commerzbank's board chairman Martin Zielke.

The bank still believes that it can pay out a dividend to shareholders for the financial year. Since the global financial crisis in 2008, it has only paid a dividend once to shareholders, for the 2015 financial year. Commerzbank had been struggling since it had to be bailed out by the German government, which is still a shareholder with a stake of about 16 percent.

Shares in Commerzbank shed 1.6 percent to 8.80 euros at 1125 GMT, underperforming the DAX blue-chip index that was up nearly one percent. Commerzbank's stock has lost 30 percent of its value since the start of the year, giving it a market capitalization of just over 11 billion euros—lower even than some of the companies listed on Frankfurt's mid-size MDAX index. — AFP

## Australia marks two years of rates on hold by standing pat

**SYDNEY:** Australia marked two years since it last moved interest rates by keeping them on hold again yesterday, with stubborn wage growth and high household debt acting as a drag on spending.

The Reserve Bank of Australia slashed the cash rate from November 2011 to August 2016 to a record low of 1.50 percent to boost the economy as it transitioned away from a mining investment boom.

Governor Philip Lowe said low rates were providing support to the economy, with growth forecast to average "a bit above" three percent this year and in 2019. "Further progress in reducing unemployment and having inflation return to target is expected, although this progress is likely to be gradual," he added.

"Taking account of the available information, the board judged that holding the stance of monetary policy unchanged at this meeting would be consistent with sustainable growth in the economy and achieving the inflation target over time."

Inflation, which came in at 2.1 percent over the past year, should push higher over the next two years, the bank said, although it may first slip in the September quarter. "Once-off declines in some administered prices in the September quarter are expected to result in headline inflation in 2018 being a little lower than earlier expected, at 1.75 percent," it said. The



**MELBOURNE:** A crane works next to an apartment building in Melbourne yesterday. Australia marked two years since it last moved interest rates by keeping them on hold again yesterday with stubborn wage growth and high household debt continuing to weigh on sentiment. — AFP

bank has an inflation target of 2-3 percent. Controlling consumer prices helps preserves the value of money and in turn encourages strong and sustainable growth in the economy.

High household debt, sparked by a booming property market that sent prices soaring, and slow wages growth, continue to affect consumer spending even as business conditions and investment improve. Lowe noted that while debt levels remained high "the rate of wages growth appears to have troughed". Westpac chief economist Bill Evans said it was likely rates would remain steady for at least another 12 months. "Inflation remains low, the housing market is looking quite tenuous and we expect there to be some dislocation in the labor market as we move into an uncertain period next year when we have an election, expected to be in May," he said. — AFP

## Rosneft profit quadruples as oil prices rise

**MOSCOW:** Russian oil giant Rosneft announced yesterday its net profit almost quadrupled in the first half of the year thanks to rising oil prices and said it wants to focus on organic growth.

Between January and June, the state-controlled group reported a net profit of 309 billion rubles (around 4.2 billion euros, \$4.9 at current exchange rates). Operating profit rose by nearly 50 percent to 950 billion rubles, as revenue rose by 35 percent to 3.8 billion.

Rosneft's chairman Igor Sechin, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, said the rosy results were due to a "significant improvement in macro conditions" where the global economy continues to grow even as oil prices have risen considerably since the start of the year, as well as "efforts to

improve the efficiency of the company".

After starting the year at just over \$66.50 per barrel, the price of the main international crude has risen to fluctuate around \$75 per barrel in recent weeks on worries about supplies as the United States moves to reimpose sanctions on Iranian oil exports.

The average price for Urals crude in the first six months was up by 35 percent compared to the same period last year, according to the company. "The key strategic acquisitions made in the period of low oil prices have been completed. The company focuses on organic growth and monetization of synergies from the acquisitions," Sechin said in a statement. Targeted by Western sanctions over the Ukraine crisis, Rosneft recently announced measures to support to support its share price, which has been undervalued compared to its output and reserves.

On Monday, the company said its board approved a share buyback program of up to \$2 billion.

The group's average output in the second quarter of this year amounted to a stable 5.7 million barrels of oil per day. — AFP

### EXCHANGE RATES

**BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL**

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.389349	0.403249
Czech Korune	0.005735	0.015035
Danish Krone	0.043226	0.048226
Euro	0.344899	0.358599
Georgian Lari	0.137773	0.137773
Hungarian	0.001145	0.001335
Norwegian Krone	0.032912	0.038112
Romanian Leu	0.065069	0.081919
Russian ruble	0.004815	0.004815
Slovakia	0.009071	0.019071
Swedish Krona	0.030141	0.035141
Swiss Franc	0.299698	0.310698
Australian Dollar	0.217203	0.229203
New Zealand Dollar	0.199199	0.208699
Canada Dollar	0.228873	0.237873
US Dollars	0.299700	0.305000
US Dollars Mint	0.300200	0.306000
Bangladesh Taka	0.003000	0.003801

Chinese Yuan	0.043139	0.046639
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036959	0.039708
Indian Rupee	0.003856	0.004628
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002649	0.002829
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071398	0.077398
Nepalese Rupee	0.002627	0.002967
Pakistan Rupee	0.001897	0.002667
Philippine Peso	0.005665	0.005966
Singapore Dollar	0.217247	0.227247
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001590	0.002170
Taiwan	0.010424	0.010604
Thai Baht	0.008792	0.009342

Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.790733
Egyptian Pound	0.014347
Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000197
Jordanian Dinar	0.424190
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020591
Omani Riyal	0.782773
Qatar Riyal	0.079156
Saudi Riyal	0.079927
Syrian Pound	0.001288
Tunisian Dinar	0.108097
Bahraini Dinar	0.807233
Egyptian Pound	0.020065
Iranian Riyal	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000257
Jordanian Dinar	0.433190
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.044591
Omani Riyal	0.788453
Qatar Riyal	0.084096
Saudi Riyal	0.081227
Syrian Pound	0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.116097

**Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd**

US Dollar	303.440
Canadian Dollar	234.250
Sterling Pound	396.055
Euro	352.600
Swiss Frank	304.225
Bahrain Dinar	806.960
UAE Dirhams	83.020
Qatari Riyals	84.255
Saudi Riyals	81.815
Jordanian Dinar	429.265
Egyptian Pound	16.969
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.898
Indian Rupees	4.429
Pakistani Rupees	2.447
Bangladesh Taka	3.630
Philippines Peso	5.710
Cyprus pound	18.055
Japanese Yen	3.725
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.765
Malaysian Ringgit	75.275
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.870
Thai Baht	10.125
Turkish Lira	60.155



Business

# In forgotten 'rust belt', voters show little sign of Brexit regret

## Siemens warns of the dangers of leaving EU without a deal with Brussels

**KNOTTINGLEY, England:** To Paul Green, a club steward in northern England's 'rust belt', Britain is so broken that he would vote for Brexit again were he to get another chance.

Green, who runs a Miners' Welfare Club in an area where there are no longer any working miners, says both of Britain's main political parties have shown no interest in the Yorkshire town of Knottingley for generations. "It's desperate really - I feel that Knottingley is a forgotten community, and all the surrounding areas are forgotten communities as well, through lack of investment and red tape," he said, standing in a youth boxing gym at the club.

The 55-year-old former railwayman is not alone. Such anger drove many Britons to vote to leave the European Union in 2016, though tumult in the Brexit process has prompted some supporters of EU membership to call for a rerun of the referendum.

With Britain due to leave on March 29, 2019, the country, its politicians and its business leaders remain deeply divided over Brexit. Recent opinion polls show voters think Prime Minister Theresa May is handling the process badly and there may be a slight move towards support for staying in the EU.

May, who has ruled out another referendum, is trying to clinch a Brexit divorce deal with Brussels that pleases both sides of her divided Conservative Party as well as the Northern Irish kingmakers who prop up her minority government.

### "Shambolic joke"

Local people complain there are few jobs in Knottingley. Like many areas in northern England, it has been left behind by a global economy that has brought cheaper coal imports from the likes of Colombia and Russia, and a push towards generating power from cleaner gas and wind turbines.

Unemployment in Yorkshire and neighboring Humberside is 4.5 percent, only slightly more than the national rate. But while the county includes the vibrant city of Leeds and the prosperous spa town of Harrogate, life is tougher in the old mining areas.

Green's club originally catered for workers at Kellingley Colliery just outside the town, which was Britain's last deep coal mine. It closed in 2015, leaving only open cast operations as a remnant of the country's once dominant coal industry. Kellingley stands chained shut behind rusting metal fences. Giant slag heaps and

chimneys remain, with signs proclaiming regeneration initiatives.

Green casts the wider United Kingdom as crumbling: a London-focused media, bureaucrats who ignore the wishes of the people, and police and health services stretched to breaking point.

Politicians live in a bubble, he said. "We are just totally let down aren't we and they are not listening."

Green, who voted "leave" in 2016 because he wanted money paid to Europe reinvested in his community, is dismayed by the chaos in both the Conservative and Labor parties and by May's Brexit negotiation. "It is just a shambolic joke now - every time you put telly on there is inhouse fighting," Green said. "I would still vote to go out."

What would he tell May about Brexit? "Just get on with it. We are a nation of fighters - we are not going to crumble. Let's crack on, get out and get some investment back into this country," he said.

### Regrexit?

Goole port, 30 km (20 miles) to the east, once shipped British coal out. Now it imports bricks, vegetable oil and timber from Europe and beyond.

However, Siemens plans to build a train



BRITAIN: The boarded up former Conservative Club is seen in Goole, Britain. — Reuters

factory in Goole, investing up to 200 million pounds (\$260 million) and employing up to 700 people. The German engineering group is just one of a number of companies to warn of the dangers of leaving the EU

without a deal with Brussels. Others say Brexit could hurt communities like Knottingley or Goole much more than London or Leeds, which voted to remain in the EU. — Reuters

## Germany considers tightening controls on buying strategic firms

**BERLIN:** Germany is considering tighter controls on foreign investments as concerns over Chinese takeovers of strategically important technology firms mount.

Berlin wants the power to investigate if an investor outside the European Union buys at least 15 percent of certain German defense-related or security-linked technology firms, an Economy Ministry source said yesterday. Germany tightened controls on foreign investments last year after a series of high-profile takeovers by Chinese companies, making it possible for the government to intervene if a buyer amassed a shareholding of 25 percent.

And the German government last week signalled it was prepared to use a new power to veto foreign takeovers of German companies in the case of a Chinese bid for toolmaker Leifeld.

This came after Leifeld's majority owner Georg Koffler said China's Yantai Taihai had dropped its attempt to buy the company ahead of an expected veto by the German government. The source did not name specific companies but said sensitive sectors included operators of critical infrastructure like cloud computing, drinking water suppliers and sewage disposal systems, systems of cash supply, hospital information systems, air traffic systems and local public transport.

Last month, a German state bank bought a stake in

high-voltage grid operator 50Hertz to prevent China's state grid acquiring the shareholding and promised to consider ways of better protecting companies from foreign acquisition.

The Economy Ministry should now be able to investigate if a non-EU investor acquires a shareholding of at least 15 percent of voting rights in the companies concerned, the source said. German newspaper Die Welt first reported the proposal to change the German Foreign Trade Ordinance, said it was being coordinated with other ministries and added that a law that provides for more control could come into effect this year.

"Until now we've only been able to make checks when at least 25 percent of a company's shares have been acquired. Now we want to lower this threshold so we can review more acquisitions in sensitive economic sectors," Die Welt quoted German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier as saying.

In Germany and other countries including the United States, France, Australia and Britain, there are concerns that China and other rivals are gaining access to key technologies via takeovers.

Members of the European Parliament are nearing agreement on a proposal that would broaden the powers of the European Commission to scrutinize foreign investments amid rising concern about Chinese acquisitions on the continent.

Joachim Lang, managing director of Germany's BDI industry association, sounded cautious about the plans, saying foreign investment was important for Germany and the investment climate needed to remain open. He said the government needed to proceed in a "measured" way in amending the German Foreign Trade Ordinance but it was good that the government wanted to make conditions clear because investors needed legal certainty.

"Lowering the investigation threshold must be limited to sensitive security-related areas and must be strictly oriented towards protecting national security," Lang added. — Reuters

## In Mogadishu, imported dairy cows jumpstart local milk industry

**MOGADISHU:** Four Somali brothers have imported dozens of Holstein Friesian cows, the world's top milk producing breed, hoping the high-risk strategy can build the war-torn country's dairy industry from scratch. Parts of the country are still plagued by Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab, but a degree of stability in the capital in recent years has begun to attract investment from locals and Somalis living abroad.

Some businessmen see opportunities in the livestock industry, whose mainstay is traditional breeds of cattle, reared by pastoralists, which produce little milk. A devastating drought last year killed off thousands of cows and camels.

Yusuf Abdirahman Dahir, 49, who manages Som Dairy and owns it with his brothers, said they have so far spent \$370,000 importing the cattle and infrastructure for milk production, processing and distribution. "We want to revive the Somali dairy industry that got destroyed in the violence," he said in an interview at the dairy facility, a high stone-walled compound where a couple dozen workers tended to the cattle. The dairy, two kilometers outside the capital, produces 600 liters of milk daily

from 35 cows that are being milked. There are 54 dairy cows in total on the property but some are not being milked due to calving. Dahir, who sports hair dyed with red henna, said the new venture is not for the faint-hearted.

The first batch of Holstein Friesian cows, which are native to the Netherlands and Germany, died due to the heat in the Horn of Africa region, where temperatures average above 30 degrees Celsius.

### Fresh milk

Som Dairy imported its first cows in 2016 and has become profitable, Dahir said, without providing figures. Local farmers have been impressed by the new breed of cows in town and several have brought their herds to crossbreed them with the imported bulls, Dahir said.

The venture is one of two by local dairies in the country of 14 million people, said Mohamed Omar, the government's director of livestock. He said his office is preparing a proposal to present to cabinet on how government can support expanding the market for local dairy producers.

Residents of the Red Sea capital of Mogadishu are developing a taste for fresh milk, after years of drinking powdered milk imported from the Gulf that is mixed with water. Shopkeeper Nuradin Haji Omar is buying 20 litres of milk daily from Som Dairy, up from 15 when he began buying from them last year. "We are very thankful to the dairy company for the good business."

Som sells a litre of milk to retailers at \$1.20 and shopkeepers like Omar mark it up to \$1.50 per litre, cheaper than the camel milk sold by several farms just outside Mogadishu for \$2 per litre. — Reuters



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## Business

# German factory, jobs figures point to modest Q2 growth

## Job vacancies hit record-high in Q2

**BERLIN:** The German economy is set for modest growth in the second quarter after industrial output edged up and job vacancies hit a record high, underlining labor market strength that is fuelling a consumer-led upswing.

Europe's biggest economy saw vacancies surge by 25,000 on the quarter and 115,000 on the year to reach 1.21 million in the April-June period, a survey by the IAB labor office research institute found.

Asked for the main reasons that are complicating recruitment, most employers pointed to a shortage of applicants and insufficient job qualifications. Separate data yesterday from the Economy Ministry showed industrial output rose 0.4 percent on the quarter in the April-June period despite a weaker-than-expected reading for June.

That release followed data on Monday that showed German industrial orders dropped in June by the most in nearly 1-1/2 years, suggesting that trade tensions caused by US President Donald Trump could limit growth. "June's industrial production and trade figures suggest that the previously booming German economy is already feeling the effects of trade tensions," said Jennifer McKeown at London-based Capital Economics.

"But with the domestic economy in good shape and given the recent ceasefire in the tariff war, we expect only a modest slowdown in German growth."

In June alone, industrial output fell 0.9 percent, missing a Reuters forecast for a drop on the month of 0.5 percent. That came after a downwardly revised rise of 2.4 percent in May.

"That's not a great result, but it could have been worse," Bankhaus Lampe economist Alexander Krueger said. "In contrast to the first quarter, industrial production supported growth in the second quarter."

### Growth expected

The Federal Statistics Office will publish preliminary gross domestic product growth data for the second quarter next Tuesday.

Analysts polled by Reuters on average expect the quarterly growth rate to edge up to 0.4 percent from 0.3 percent in January-March, driven by private consumption and construction. The

## Economy seen shifting into higher gear



German economy expanded by a robust 2.5 percent in 2017 and most analysts expect only a moderate slowdown to around 2 percent this year.

The Federal Statistics Office said in a separate statement that seasonally adjusted exports were unchanged on the month in June while imports rose by 1.2 percent.

The seasonally adjusted trade surplus narrowed to 19.3 billion euros from an upwardly revised 20.4 billion euros (\$23.60 billion) in May. Trump has agreed to refrain from imposing tariffs on cars imported from



**MUNICH:** Ralf P. Thomas (left), CFO of German industrial conglomerate Siemens, and Joe Kaeser, CEO (right) pose during a press and analyst conference focused on the future of the German engineering giant. —AFP

the EU while the two sides negotiate to cut other trade barriers.

The decision, reached in talks between Trump and

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in Washington last month, eased fears of a transatlantic trade war. —Reuters

## Exclusive offers for NBK Al-Shabab customers with Eureka

**KUWAIT:** Once again National Bank of Kuwait provided Al-Shabab customers with new and exclusive offer in collaboration with Eureka. The offer entitled Al-Shabab customers to benefit from more than 50 percent discount on a range of electronic accessories and gadgets, when making the purchase through Eureka's website and using Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card.



Dalal Al-Mulla

Ideal to prepare them for their travels during the summer season, the offer lasted for 3 days (From 26 to 28 July 2018) and included over 15 items such as the latest AirPods, portable speakers, cameras and earphones amongst others that were available in various colors.

"NBK continues to provide Al-Shabab customers with new and unique offers that are tailored to the needs of the youth," said Dalal Al-Mulla, from Marketing Department, National Bank of Kuwait. "We work closely in partnership with Eureka to customize our ongoing offers and our latest offer was a direct response to the request of our Al-Shabab customers."

Al-Mulla added: "We have a solid partnership with Eureka, and we promise Al-Shabab Customers with new and existing offers. Customers of Al-Shabab account do not only benefit of ongoing offers but also of technologically-advanced services that provide them with the convenience and ease of a safe banking experience."

Commenting on the offer Tareq Bou Fakhreddine, Sales Manager at Eureka said: "We are very pleased to collaborate on these unique offers with NBK, especially that they are tailored to the needs of our young generation. The last offer was very successful and the items were sold out in a short period of time."

Al-Shabab Account offers a range of services and rewards that suit the young generation's needs and lifestyle. The account offers advanced and easy to use services. Al-Shabab account holders receive a free Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card when they transfer their student allowances, offering them numerous benefits and rewards. Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card provides exciting and important features that allow customers to transfer money from the Prepaid Card to their account. Customers can also now withdraw cash from Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card without paying a fee using any NBK ATM. They also enjoy many great offers and benefits including special discount on talabat.com on selected days and 50 percent exclusive discount on weekend movie tickets at Cinescape.

Al-Shabab Account benefits include easy and convenient banking transactions, direct contact with customer care staff through online live video chat, Whatsapp service and the 24 hours, seven days a week call center. Also, Customers can utilize a newly launched service, 'Quick Pay' to receive funds in just a few clicks.

## Benefit from Honda Alghanim's most exclusive summer deals while they last!

**KUWAIT:** Keen to provide its loyal shoppers with exceptional offers as per their specific needs, Honda Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Honda cars, motorcycles and marine equipment in Kuwait, launched its summer special deals on the 2018 Civic, Pilot, Odyssey, Odyssey-J, and CR-V vehicles. Customers who wish to take advantage of this unique saving opportunity can now acquire their favorite Honda car at irresistible prices and benefit as well from Honda Alghanim's exclusive warranty and after-sales services. Over and above that, Honda City's enthusiasts will be able to land their hand on the car synonymous of practicality with minimum installments as low as KD 79 per month.

Honda Alghanim today offers its customers the chance to own one of its internationally admired cars thanks to their durability and modernly fresh design, yet at unmatched prices. This summer campaign brings exclusive offers on latest models, including the all-new Civic, acclaimed as the city's ideal car, setting new standards with its superior performance and sporty design. Equipped with a 1.5, 1.6 or 2.0 liters engine, the Honda Civic 2018 displays automatic side mirrors, a 7-inch touch screen, as well as a luxurious cabin for maximum comfort.

Customers who are looking for a family vehicle can count on the Odyssey (starting at KD 9999) or Odyssey-J (starting at KD 7,777) being the best in their class in terms of spaciousness, high-performance, and fuel efficiency. Known as the absolute vehicle for families, the Odyssey series provides safe performance and enjoys state-of-the-art technology owing to the rear-seat DVD entertainment system. Furthermore, a child safety car seat can be easily placed in the Odyssey and Odyssey-J, making of it the ultimate car for children's daily trip to school, housewives' daily shopping routine, and weekend trips. Honda Alghanim is offering its customers as well the chance to own the compact crossover CR-V at a very unique price (starting at KD 6,999 only).

Honda Alghanim's summer offer additionally includes the Pilot, the largest car in Honda's fleet with seating for as many as eight persons. Promoting sophisticated qualities along a unique interior and



exterior features, this four-wheel-drive modern SUV has sold nearly 1.4 million vehicles since first released, making this stylish, practical, and comfortable car the perfect choice for families looking to embark on fulfilled journeys.

Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services. Customers can take advantage of this offer by visiting any of Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al-Rai, Shuwaikh, and Al-Ahmedi.

## Ooredoo offers Dodge Challenger draw with Shamel Mobile

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, in collaboration with Al Baktain, the distributor of Samsung in Kuwait, announced a special offer for Shamel Mobile customers when purchasing Samsung Galaxy 9 plans in the new blue color available exclusively from Ooredoo. Customers subscribing to plans with the new device are automatically enrolled to enter a draw on one of four Dodge Challenger cars. The winner of the first car, Barrak Mohsen Ali Mohammad, was announced in a draw held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Three more draws are scheduled to take place on August 13, August 27, and September 17.

Shamel Mobile plans boast a number of exclusive and unique features, such as free calls to Ooredoo customers, high-speed mobile internet with the ability to carry unused internet to the

following month, and the ability to freeze contracts without fees during travel in addition to transferring contract ownership easily. Some Shamel Mobile plans also include unlimited local calls on all networks, in addition to unlimited high-speed internet.

This offer comes in line with Ooredoo's commitment to enriching the experiences of customers with their different needs and lifestyles, in addition to providing the best in class mobile devices. Customers can track their usage of Ooredoo's services on the My Ooredoo app, available for free on iOS AppStore and Android's Google Play Store, giving customers real-time updates on plan usage.

Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides



mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo Kuwait - which is an enlisted company in the Kuwait Stock Exchange Market - operates a number of telecom

service providers in the region, such as Ooredoo Algeria, Ooredoo Tunis, Ooredoo Maldives, and Wataniya Palestine. Ooredoo Kuwait is a member of the international Ooredoo Group based in Doha, Qatar.



Technology & Science

# Chinese tech 'wolf' Huawei stalks Apple and Samsung

## Huawei surpasses Apple, becomes world's number two smartphone maker

SHANGHAI: Ren Zhengfei, the founder of Chinese telecoms behemoth Huawei, likens the company to a ruthless "wolf" tirelessly running down its prey, an ethos that could soon make it the apex predator of the smartphone world. Despite being essentially barred from the critical US market, Huawei surpassed Apple to become the world's number two smartphone maker in the second quarter of this year and has market leader Samsung in its sights.

Huawei has achieved this in part by refocusing away from the futile fight for US access and toward gobbling up market share in developing nations with its moderately priced but increasingly sophisticated phones, analysts say. "Huawei's image and brand recognition across markets and regions is getting better and better," said Tarun Pathak of global market analysis firm Counterpoint. "They've differentiated and positioned their products across price segments, which makes an interesting conversation in terms of competing with Apple and Samsung." Founded by Ren, now 73, with a few thousand dollars in 1987, Huawei focused initially on the backbone hardware for telecommunications networks, growing to become the world leader. Fifteen years after introducing its first phone, Huawei surpassed Apple in the April-June quarter to take second place globally, International Data Corporation (IDC) said last week, the first time since 2010 that Apple was not in the top two.

“ Huawei's image is getting better and better ”

pressure-peaking this year with President Donald Trump's China trade war-effectively slammed the US door shut. Huawei's exclusion stems in part from US distrust over Ren's earlier career as a Chinese military technologist and fears that Beijing could strong-arm its tech champions into aiding with espionage abroad. Huawei denies any government links.

In the meantime, Huawei has built up its business in more price-conscious markets, from Indonesia to Saudi Arabia, South Africa and even Europe. Analysts note that as those markets mature and customers graduate to higher end phones, they will already be in Huawei's ecosystem. "If Apple and Samsung want to maintain their market position, they must make their portfolios more competitive," said Canalsys's Stanton.

Samsung shipped 71.5 million handsets for a 20.9 percent global market share in the second quarter, compared with Huawei's 54.2 million phones and 15.8 percent share. Apple sold 41.3 million iPhones for a 12.1 percent slice. Huawei shipped 95 million units in the first half and is targeting 2018 sales of 200 million, a threshold crossed previously only by Samsung and Apple. Further growth will keep Huawei firmly on the US security radar. The Trump administration nearly killed Huawei's Chinese rival ZTE this year, imposing tough penalties for violating US sanctions by selling goods to Iran and North Korea.

**Raising the ante**

Huawei's consumer products chief Richard Yu raised the ante Friday, saying the company could overtake South Korean giant Samsung by late 2019. "The importance of Huawei overtaking Apple this quarter cannot be overstated," senior analyst Ben Stanton of Canalsys wrote in a report on the latest sales data. "Huawei's exclusion from the US has forced it to work harder in Asia and Europe to achieve its goals."

Based in the southern China tech hub of Shenzhen, Huawei had already been pushing into developing markets even before political

**The 5G challenge**

The penalties, since lifted, would have deprived ZTE of US electronics components it desperately needs. Huawei, however, produces its own key components, giving the US less leverage. But an industry sales slowdown and market saturation could limit its growth. IDC said 342 million smartphones were shipped worldwide in the second quarter, down 18 percent year-on-year and the third consecutive quarterly decline.



BEIJING: A man uses his mobile phone outside a Huawei store in Beijing. —AFP

In the long term, the lack of a US foothold will be an Achilles heel for Huawei, analysts said, and some market studies project Apple reclaiming the number two spot when new iPhone models are released later this year. And as Huawei customers graduate to higher end gadgets above \$600, the Chinese company will have to compete head-to-head with Apple on quality and features. "As you move upward, there are fewer competitors but the features, the challenges, the innovation, and the expectations grow," said Counterpoint's Pathak. "That is something that Huawei, Apple and Samsung all need to capitalise on." A critical test looms in the next

two years, when 5G systems are expected to roll out and manufacturers will be judged on how their smartphones handle the enhanced capabilities. Huawei is already gearing up for the challenge. Its R&D spending grew 17 percent last year to \$13.8 billion, putting the company in the same league as Samsung, Amazon and Google's parent Alphabet, while recent product launches in Europe have been increasingly glitzy. "Things like camera capabilities and how Huawei rises overall to that (5G) challenge will decide if it is among the Apples and Samsungs, but I think they belong," Pathak said. —AFP

### Are tech titans teetering atop the market?

NEW YORK: Silicon Valley giants have become a gargantuan force on Wall Street, as demonstrated by Apple recently topping \$1 trillion in stock-market valuation. But should we fear that a new tech bubble is ready to burst? Here are some questions and answers about the sector:

**What does the tech sector represent on Wall Street?**

Apple ended the formal trading week worth a history-making \$1 trillion. Meanwhile, four other tech firms rounded out a list of the five most valuable companies based on share prices. Amazon was worth \$889 billion; Google-parent Alphabet was valued at \$856 billion; Microsoft weighed in at \$828 billion, and Facebook was valued at \$513 billion. Together, these companies account for about 20 percent of US GDP, and more than Germany's GDP. Combined, the tech stocks account for more than 25 percent of the value of the Standard & Poor's 500, the index that includes the 500 largest companies listed in the United States.

**Is this market domination troubling?**

At the end of 1999, a few months before the infamous dot.com internet bubble burst, the five biggest companies on the stock market (Microsoft, General Electric, Cisco, Walmart and Intel) accounted for 15.5 percent of US GDP. AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould recalled in a note. "Anyone who owned those stocks at the market top suffered some serious portfolio pain," Mould said. "They lost money on those five names for the next decade."

He made it clear he was not predicting market woes for "FAANG" stocks—those of Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google. "However, it does warn against the dangers of blindly assuming that what is working now will work forever and that paying any price for a stock will be rewarded," Mould said. Nate Thooft of Manulife Asset Management told AFP that there was "no shortage of arguments" on why shares in those companies would continue to do well, but he saw wisdom in reducing "exposure a bit" to reduce risk.

What is different from the bubble 20 years ago? Investors at that time hurled money at just about any startup with a website, even if it wasn't clear exactly how a given company was going to make money. "Most of those companies had no earnings, a lot of them had no sales; they were still selling at huge valuation levels," said Tower Bridge Advisors portfolio manager Maris Ogg. "Everyone was anticipating what the internet and the tech would do. They were about 20 years too early."

Since the dot.com crash, venture capitalists have shied away from startups that don't have convincing plans to become profitable. The crash also gave rise to "a lot of healthy skepticism" about big tech companies, according to Ogg. There is also a renewed focus on the ratio between share price and company profit, a key investing consideration that was neglected in the early 2000s. Amazon appears to be an exception, but it has a winning record of taking on new markets, and spending heavily up front to "disrupt" the status quo in the long run.

**What are the main risks threatening the sector?**

Tech titans such as Google and Facebook have become such formidable forces that they are prime targets for regulation or fines, which could slow growth or hurt profits. Maris said investors should be mindful to routinely rebalance their portfolios to avoid them becoming too heavy with fast-growing tech firm shares. After all, any internet firm can be eclipsed by a young startup.

"Every technology company remains vulnerable to being disrupted by a slightly more clever version of itself," BlackRock Global Allocation Team portfolio manager Russ Koesterich said in a blog post. For example, he noted, at the time of the financial crisis Nokia had a 45 percent share of the smartphone market, the iPhone was just a year old and Facebook was a baby. "The overall sector continues to be extraordinarily profitable, and, despite rumors to the contrary, reasonably valued," Koesterich said. —AFP

### Huawei Consumer Business Group announces 2018 H1 business results

DUBAI: Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) yesterday announced its business results for the first half of 2018. The company reported solid growth, with global smartphone shipments at 95+ million units. According to IDC, Huawei rises to become the world's second largest smartphone manufacturer in Q2 with the global market share of 15.8 percent.

Richard Yu, CEO of Huawei Consumer Business Group said, "The past six months have been incredible for Huawei CBG, marked by robust growth of our business across all markets and product lines. Our success is owed to our commitment to innovation and, most importantly, our customers. Moving forward, Huawei will remain focused on continually improving our offerings with an emphasis on on-device AI, cloud and the wider Huawei ecosystem."

**Business performance highlights**

**HUAWEI P20 Series:** Fusing art and technology, the P20 Series has been very well received among the fashion-forward consumers. The global shipments of the HUAWEI P20 Series surpassed 9 million units;

**HUAWEI Mate 10 Series:** The latest HUAWEI Mate Series set the trend for mobile AI and strengthened the company's position in the high-end market with global shipments of over 10 million units;

**HUAWEI nova Series:** Globally, the number of nova smartphone users exceeded 50 million, contributing to growth of the overall mid-range smartphone market. Total shipments of the nova Series increased by 60 percent year-over-year.

**Brand recognition sees upward momentum**

Huawei wearables achieved a remarkable 147 percent increase year-over-year; Retail business has grown and now Huawei operates over 53,000 Huawei stores and 3,500 Huawei Experience Stores globally. The company plans to bolster its retail network by adding another 10,000 retail stores and 700 Experience Stores around the world before the end of 2018.



Richard Yu

The impressive performances of Huawei's flagship and mid-market smartphones have greatly improved the value of the Huawei brand: Huawei was named number 25 on Brand Finance's Global 500 2018 list, number 48 on BrandZ's Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands list, and number 79 on Forbes' Most Valuable Brands list. Of note, Huawei was the only Chinese company that managed to secure a spot on Forbes' 2018 top 100 list.



### 'Domestication' genes found in foxes

PARIS: A six-decade breeding experiment with foxes designed to shed light on how wolves became dogs has led to the discovery of genes that favor tame or aggressive behavior, scientists said Monday. Comparing the sequenced genomes of foxes selected across 50 generations for their friendliness towards people with another group bred for hostility uncovered dozens of telltale differences, including one gene in particular, they reported in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution.

"We were able to show that a specific gene"—known as SorCS1 — "does have an effect on behavior, making foxes more tame," lead author Anna Kukekova, an assistant professor at the University of Illinois, told AFP. "That's a big result—it's hard to make that connection," she said. The findings are also relevant to human behavior. Some of the genetic regions identified, for example, correspond to autism and bipolar disorders, while others are associated with William-Beuren syndrome, which causes pathologically outgoing, friendly behavior.

The backstory to the fox study begins more than half a century ago, when the origins of animal domestication were poorly understood and hotly contested. In 1959, Russian biologist Dmitri Belyaev decided to test his theory that genes played a more important role than human interaction in the gradual metamorphosis of wolves into the man's-best-friend subspecies we call dogs.

At the same time, Nobel laureate Konrad Lorenz, a pioneer in the study of aggression in animals and humans, argued that new-born wolf puppies raised with tender loving human care would become docile and domesticated. Belyaev suspected otherwise, and chose *Vulpes vulpes*—a.k.a. the red or silver fox—to make his case. Russia was full of fox farms which raised and har-

vested the animals for their fur, offering the perfect opportunity for a large-scale experiment, he reasoned.

"Farm-bred foxes were not domesticated," said Kukekova, an evolutionary geneticist who began studying the animals 16 years ago. "If you try to touch them, they show fear and aggression," much as in the wild.

**Foxes wagging their tails**

Belyaev found a large farm willing to cooperate, and began to systematically select foxes that exhibited the least stress and fear around people, repeating the process with each new generation. "After only 10 generations, they got a few puppies that wagged their tail just like dogs when they saw people, even when there was no food," Kukekova said. "They were just happy to see humans." Today, all of the 500 breeding pairs in the tame group are at ease in the presence of humans, even if they are not as domesticated as dogs.

Around 1970, Belyaev's team at the Russian Institute of Cytology and Genetics added a group of foxes, selected for their aggressiveness, and a third control group with a random mix. For the new study, Kukekova and two dozen colleagues sequenced the genomes of 10 foxes from each of the three groups. "The game changer for us was the development of next-generation sequencing technology," she said. Earlier genetic sweeps yielded chunks of code with dozens or hundreds of genes, making it impossible to isolate those that mattered.

This time, the researchers pinpointed 103 relevant genetic regions. Significantly, more than 60 percent of the tame animals—including those in the control group—shared the same variant of SorCS1. Among the aggressive foxes, that variant was entirely absent. The study also revealed that different genes are responsible for very specific behaviors.

"For example, when foxes greet people by wagging their tail, it seems to be determined by different genes than those responsible for allowing a human to touch a fox's belly," Kukekova said. And whether a fox wants to prolong an interaction with a human is governed by yet another bit of genetic code. —AFP

### Tokyo 2020 to deploy facial recognition

TOKYO: Hundreds of thousands of Tokyo 2020 athletes, staff and reporters will be scanned by cutting-edge facial recognition technology in an Olympic Games first, organizers said Tuesday. About 300,000 athletes, staff members, volunteers and reporters will be required to use their ID card and be verified with the facial recognition system to access venues. The security overhaul will prevent fraudulent entry by people borrowing, stealing or faking an ID card, said electronics giant NEC, which developed the technology.

It will be rolled out across all facilities—including the 43 competition venues, athlete lodgings and media centers—but would not be used for spectators, organizers said. "It is the first time facial recognition will be deployed for all people involved in the Olympics at all venues," Olympic security chief Tsuyoshi Iwashita told reporters. "Higher security is needed for people involved in Olympics as they enter important areas. They also go in and out of venues so we decided to introduce the system for smooth entry," he added.

This will be especially practical for the Tokyo Olympics as the venues are scattered widely around the massive Japanese capital, Iwashita added. The technology takes only 0.3 seconds to match up a face with a pre-registered photo, said Masaaki Suganuma, an official at NEC, which claims this is the world's fastest such system. —AFP



# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

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# LOYAC organizes volunteering program



LOYAC organized the "Volunteering is my happiness" program wherein volunteers aged between 16-27 are registered in order to help others through volunteering in social service centers such as Catch, Brandi's Institute, Abeer 2, Kuwait Handicapped Society, other activities include first aid training at KRC society.



## Chef Frank Noack bags award from Marriott International

It is a matter of great pride for Sheraton Kuwait Hotel that its Chef Frank Noack has bagged the prestigious "Award of Culinary Excellence" ACE, as the Continent Winner for the Premium Luxury Brand Segment, for the Middle East and Africa region. In its annual practice since 1998, Marriott International has honored top executive chefs with the ACE Culinary Excellence Award.

Through the nomination selection from hotels across the wide range of international brands, the criteria for this award depends on the professional achievements and passion of chefs who are doing their best to improve the quality of the cuisine and create a unique taste in addition to leading through innovation in this field.

Chef Frank is highly experienced with more than thirty-five years of culinary career which he started from his home country Germany and continued in West Africa and the Middle East. From the year 1982, when Chef Frank started his career, he worked in a variety of kitchens to master his skills including German, French and American. With his extensive experience in preparing and supervising the finest cuisines and the best international cuisine, Chef Frank has achieved many successes and achievements in his career with many awards, most notably the selection by The Hotelier



Awards as the Best Executive Chef in 2013.

Ever since he has joined the family of Sheraton Kuwait Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait four years ago, Chef Frank has brought with him the rich experience he has refined in his motherland Germany and the expertise he has gained where he worked in international hotels in several countries, to ultimately enhance his mastery with the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel team with his journey of creativity and excellence in presenting everything that is modern with an exceptional taste.

On this occasion, Fahed Abushaar, General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait Hotel, expressed his pride with the outstanding performance of Chef Frank who has added laurels to the team's performance. He also praised the great efforts put in by his team who are always striving to achieve the desired results on a highly professional level, to set new standards of excellence.



## Shrimp Biryani



**Ingredients:**  
2 cups basmati rice or 400 g  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
2 medium onion or 250 g, finely sliced  
2 medium onion or 250 g, finely chopped & de-veined  
500 g shrimp, peeled, raw, de-shelled & de-veined  
2 tablespoons tomato paste  
4 cloves garlic, crushed  
1 cup fresh dill or 50 g, finely chopped  
3 tablespoons curry powder  
2 cinnamon sticks  
5 whole cardamom pods  
3 cubes Maggi Chicken Stock Bouillon Cube or 30 g  
1/2 cup water or 125 ml, hot  
2 cups coriander leaves or 100 g, roughly chopped  
6 cups water or 1 1/2 liters  
2 tablespoons ghee  
1 tablespoon saffron, powder  
Pinch of salt  
Pinch of ground pepper

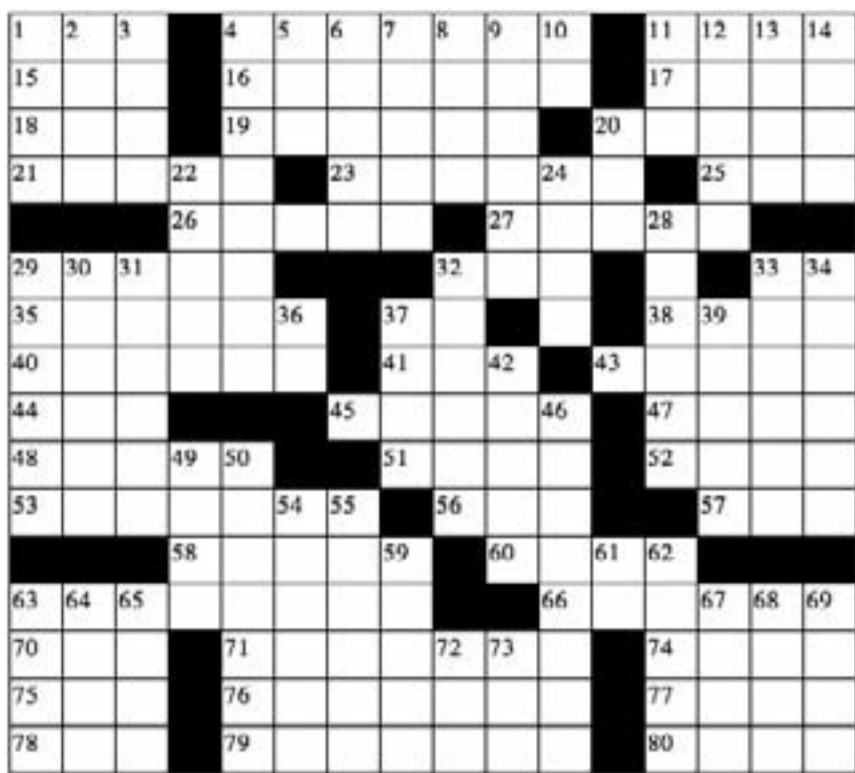
**Method:**  
Wash and Soak rice in cold water and set

aside for 30 min.  
In a large pot, heat vegetable oil, fry sliced onions till golden brown, remove and set aside.  
In the same pot on medium high heat fry chopped onions till golden, add shrimp and saute till pink (about 4-5 minutes), add tomato paste, Garlic, Dill, Spices, Cinnamon sticks, Cardamom pods, MAGGI Chicken stock, and Water and bring to a simmer. Add chopped fresh coriander leaves and remove from pot and set aside.  
In the same pot, bring to boil 1.5 liters of water, place rice and cook until rice is 3/4 cooked (andante).  
Drain rice in a colander and discard excess water.  
Melt Ghee on the bottom of the same pot; add a layer of strained rice, followed by a layer of shrimp and onion mixture and a sprinkle of Saffron powder. Follow this step until all the rice and shrimp sauce is used.  
Steam rice and shrimp on med-low heat until rice is fully cooked (about 20 minute).  
Gently fluff cooked rice ensuring even distribution of rice and shrimp.  
Serve on a large plate, and garnished with fried sliced onions.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1980



ACROSS

1. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
4. A windlass rotated in a horizontal plane.
11. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
15. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
16. French philosopher and theologian.
17. A fleshy fruit (apple or pear or related fruits) having seed chambers and an outer fleshy part.
18. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
19. An official at a baseball game.
21. A United States youth subculture of the 1950s.
23. Used of locations.
25. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
26. Suggestive of the supernatural.
27. A cushion on a throne for a prince in India.
29. Someone who rouses others from sleep.
35. Of or relating to located near the iris of the eye.
38. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
40. A musical stringed instrument with strings stretch over a flat sounding box.
41. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
43. (Old Testament) The wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac.
44. An easy return of a tennis ball in a high arc.
45. Elevated open grassland in southern Africa.
47. A small restaurant where drinks and snacks are sold.
48. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
51. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
52. At any time.
53. Headlight that provides strong beam for use in foggy weather.
56. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
57. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
58. Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
60. Type genus of the Anatidae.
63. Reprehensible acquisitiveness.
66. Atlantic coast round clams with hard shells.
70. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
71. A city in southwestern Poland on the Oder.
74. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
75. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
76. Italian composer remembered for his operas (1792-1868).
77. On or toward the lee.
78. Used of a single unit or thing.
79. Of or relating to the enteron.
80. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

2. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
3. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
4. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
5. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
6. Pepsi Cola is a trademarked cola.
7. A share of something.
8. Any of several weedy vetches grown for forage.
9. A genus of tropical Asian and Malaysian palm trees.
10. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
11. An accountant certified by the state.
12. (voodooism) A spirit or supernatural force that reanimates a dead body.
13. Type genus of the Amidae.
14. Having been read.
20. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
22. The kind and number and arrangement of teeth (collectively) in a person or animal.
24. The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murdering his wife.
28. Mar or spoil the appearance of.
30. (music) A short recitative that is melodic but is not an aria.
31. A knapsack (usually for a soldier).
32. A narrative song with a recurrent refrain.
33. Painful from having the skin abraded.
34. Be compatible or in accordance with.
36. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.
37. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
39. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
42. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
46. Characterized by absence of emotional agitation.
49. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
50. A degree or grade of excellence or worth.
54. A married woman (usually middle-aged with children) who is staid and dignified.
55. A clergyman in many Christian churches who has the authority to perform or administer various religious rites.
59. A shot in billiards made by hitting the cue ball with the cue held nearly vertically.
61. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
62. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
64. Characteristic of false pride.
65. A French abbot.
67. An interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open.
68. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
69. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
72. (Irish) The sea personified.
73. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

1. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You seem to have developed a greater appreciation for things of value. The idea of value itself is in order now. You may find this to be a time of great material gain for you. Material things seem to take center stage in your world. You are not by nature a very materialistic person but you place much value on your possessions now. You feel as though you have worked hard and deserve to spoil yourself and be surrounded by the very best this world has to offer. This is a time of reflection for you. You are able to look back and admire your self for your hard work and determination. You truly appreciate the position you find yourself in now.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today finds you extremely sympathetic and understanding. You love hard. You are wise beyond your years. You know that wisdom rather than knowledge is what has been guiding your life decisions. You may find that you are thankful the hardships you have experienced. You have been able to rid your life of any bitterness from the past. You know now to appreciate the trouble you experienced as you learned some wonderful lessons about life. You have come to grips with your past. You are now ready to face all the future has to bring with your arms wide open.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time of change for you that has you examining your foundations, responsibility, and your security. You seem to rid your life of all that is superficial. Only that which contributes to your well being and the strength of your foundation. This is a social cleansing in sense. As this new time in your life begins, romance and friendships seem to mean more to you than previously. You yearn for peace and harmony. You strive for the perfect balance between home life and your career. You are on the right path for a life filled with love and happiness.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is time where a cycle of nostalgia begins in your life. You are focused on your home life. Security and stability are both major needs in your life. You are uneasy and nervous if you do not have these. This may be a time you choose to keep to yourself and reflect on your life. The stumbling blocks you have turned into stepping stones are looked at as lessons. You are able to look back with pride at how far you have come.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Even though your mind is in overdrive, you may find others have difficulty understanding just what you have to say. Being unable to express yourself is not a common problem for you and this could be a frustrating situation for you. You want to belong and feel as if you know your purpose in this world. Family is where you will be most comfortable now. You will find much support. Your ambition drives you and you will not stop until you feel secure and stable in your close relationships.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Emotionally, you may find this day to be quite frustrating. Your feelings and values seem to be at odds. Buckle up. You may find this could lead to some difficulty in your world today. You may feel if something or someone is standing in the way of your happiness. Emotional differences with others could arise. Keep your cool and focus on your goals. Sometimes it is better to happy than to insist on being right.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There is no room for a foggy mind nor jumbled thoughts. Do whatever it takes to clear your mind. This is not the time to let things get out of hand, as your imagination may run away with you and cause you to lose touch with what is real. This is not the time to see things as you wish them to be. Wake up and realize what you see is what you get now. This could be a dangerous situation but you may not realize that now. Make sure you have all the facts. This is not a time for assumptions nor is it a time to follow your intuition. What you think you know and what is fact are worlds apart at this time. Use not only caution but knowledge that is obtained from thorough research.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Having friendships and acquaintances is great. This is not what you crave. You crave relationships with foundations so strong they will stand the test of time. You have a strong need for emotional security. You may find others turn to you for advice today. You are admired and looked at as someone who seems to have it all together. You will handle this with ease and may have all the answers this person is seeking. You are the friend others want to have.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The tendency is to fantasize about tomorrow. The truth is that "free beer tomorrow" sign means exactly what it says. The same sign will be there tomorrow, and you will still be looking forward to the future. If you decide to make this a good day, you are likely to have a good day tomorrow. Your future begins now. Start living it.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

To love and be loved. Is this too much to ask for? You care deeply for others and you love hard. You have needs and are able to easily sense the needs of others. You may find that you say what others want to hear. This is not always the best approach for attracting the right people in your life. This approach tends to attract any and everyone. Be more selective and keep your circle tight. Not everyone has your best interest at heart. We live in a world full of selfish people. Do not let others take advantage of your kindness.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You crave a sense of belonging. You have a desire to be needed. You desire a relationship that can withstand the test of time. Till death do you part has a special and significant meaning to you and that is what you strive for. Emotional security is your goal and you are willing to pour your soul into a relationship to achieve it. You attach more importance to friendships and surrounding yourself with like minded individuals with like minded goals. You are on the right track, Aquarius. Stay devoted and determined.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today finds you very sensitive. Your heart is filled with love for others. This is a great time of bonding with you and those closest to you. You are not only loving but very understanding. Others are drawn to this side of you. Close relationships and strong bonds seem to satisfy deep desires you have. You crave a sense of intimate connection. You want to attach yourself to those relationships you know will stand the test of time.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Newspaper

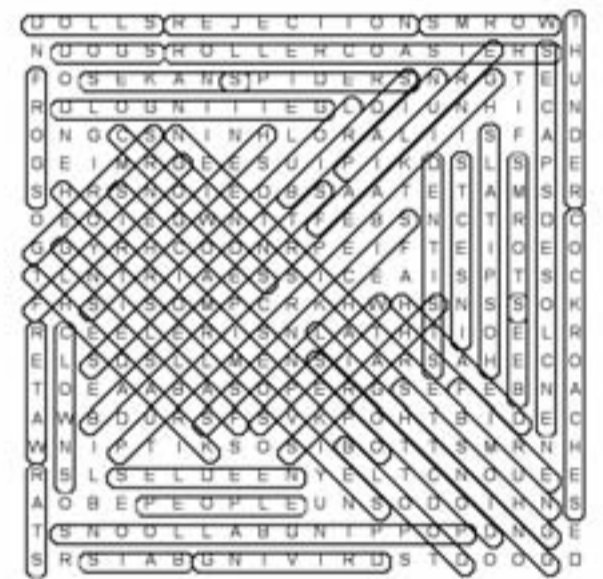
Find and circle all of the Newspaper words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- |                |               |               |                  |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| ADVERTISEMENTS | CULTURE       | INTERNATIONAL | PUZZLES          |
| ARTS           | EDITORIAL     | INTERVIEWS    | RACK             |
| BOOKS          | ENTERTAINMENT | LETTERS       | REPORTER         |
| BUSINESS       | EVENTS        | LIFESTYLE     | REVIEWS          |
| CIRCULATION    | EXTRA         | LOCAL         | SECTIONS         |
| CLASSIFIEDS    | FAMILY        | MOVIES        | SPORTS           |
| COLUMNISTS     | FASHION       | NEWSSTAND     | SUBSCRIPTION     |
| COLUMNS        | FINANCE       | OBITUARIES    | TECHNOLOGY       |
| COMICS         | HEADLINES     | OPINION       | TELEVISION GUIDE |
| COMPUTERS      | HEALTH        | PEOPLE        | TRAVEL           |
| COOKING        | HOME          | POLITICS      | WEATHER          |
| CROSSWORD      | INSERTS       | PUBLISHER     |                  |

Yesterday's Solution

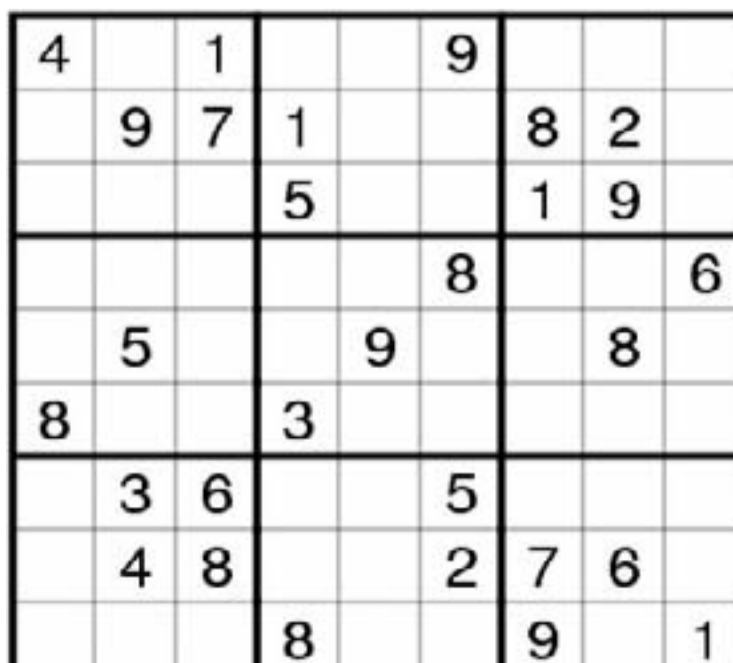
Fears and Phobias



- |             |                 |                  |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| BASEMENTS   | DRIVING         | HOSPITALS        | REJECTION       |
| BATS        | ENCLOSED SPACES | INSECTS          | ROLLER COASTERS |
| BEES        | FALLING         | LIGHTNING        | SHARKS          |
| BIRDS       | FALLING         | LOUD NOISES      | SICKNESS        |
| BLOOD       | FIRE            | NEEDLES          | SNAKES          |
| CLOWNS      | FLYING          | NUMBER THIRTEEN  | SPIKES          |
| COCKROACHES | FROGS           | OPEN SPACES      | STORMS          |
| CROWDS      | GERMS           | PAIN             | THE DARK        |
| DEATH       | GETTING OLD     | PEOPLE           | THUNDER         |
| DENTISTS    | GHOSTS          | POPPING BALLOONS | WASPS           |
| DOCTORS     | HEIGHTS         | PUBLIC SPEAKING  | WATER           |
| DOGS        | HORROR MOVIES   | RATS             | WORMS           |
| DOLLS       |                 |                  |                 |

The hidden message is: NOTHING IN LIFE IS TO BE FEARED, IT IS ONLY TO BE UNDERSTOOD.

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018



Indian women wear traditional Punjabi dress as they dance the 'giddha' during Teej festival celebrations in Amritsar. The Teej festival heralds the rainy season. — AFP

## HUNTING FOR 'BLACK GOLD' IN ALBANIA'S LAWLESS TRUFFLE TRADE

**T**hreats, poisoned dogs and massacred trees: Albania's forests are gripped by a war over truffles, the prized and pricey fungi known in this poor European country as "black gold". Evgjani Pano, a 28-year-old truffle hunter, sets off every morning into Albania's southern mountains with her husband and woolly-haired dogs, Lajka and Boss, who are trained to track down the pungent culinary delights and gently unearth them from beneath the soil. Pano sells most of the bounty to foreign traders from Italy and France—the traditional provenance of the knobby, subterranean delicacy relished by the world's gourmands.

land they claimed as their own. She reported the incident to police and returned the following morning to prove that she would not be easily deterred from work she describes as a "deep and emotional passion". But others have been forced to give up the trade, such as Besmi Lami, who used to spend his days scouring the forest floor on Dajti mountain, which looms above Tirana.

That came to a tragic end late last year after suspected competitors poisoned his two dachshunds. "They followed me, found the place (where I foraged) and to make me flee they killed my two dogs," he told AFP, struggling to hold back tears as his hands trembled.

### Ravaged tree roots

A lack of regulations has also put Albania's trees—and therefore the truffles themselves—in peril, with reckless hunters attacking the land with pickaxes and sharp spades. The truffle trade took root in Albania a decade ago, when Italians came to search for the mushrooms on the other side of the Adriatic Sea. Once plentiful in Albania, truffles are now becoming increasingly difficult to find, said Pano, blaming the use of axes that damage the tree roots on which the fungus grows. "A ruined tree does not produce (truffles) anymore," she said, adding that she would like authorities to introduce strict licensing and taxes to control the trade. "In Albania... truffles are not cultivated or protected, and there is no prevention or awareness to avoid damaging them," explained her husband Panajot Pano, 39, who returned to Albania to truffle-hunt after nearly two decades living and working abroad.

In some parts of the country, such as Divjake-Karavasta National Park in the west, the situation has become "disastrous for the mushroom," said Adrian Koci, the park's director. In June, he brought two men to the police for using a pickaxe in the forest. But, with no laws on the books banning the practice, they were quietly released.

### Cultivating a local appetite

"We are worried as well... but without clear rules" we cannot act against unscrupulous pickers, said Agim Hoxha, a forestry official in the town of Fier, south of Divjake-Karavasta park. "That would be like entering someone's house without the search warrant," he told AFP. An official from the environment ministry, Ylli Hoxha, said work is under way to develop a more "precise legal framework" for harvesting truffles. In the meantime, the market is in "chaos", said Enea Ristani, a 27-year-old who forages for the fungus with his father. The business draws "many foreigners, such as Italians,

'A ruined tree does not produce (truffles) anymore'

Greeks, Romanians, French", he added. Most of the truffles go abroad too, often for western Europe, where they can fetch 10 times the price.

Eager to keep more of the profits on Albanian soil, Ristani and his father recently opened a gourmet truffle shop in Tirana, with hopes of cultivating a local appetite for the expensive treat. They already sell homemade truffle sauce, crisps and brandy. "Soon also beer," says Ristani. — AP



Truffle hunters Evgjani Pano (left), Panajot Pano (right) and their dogs Boss and Lajka search for truffles.

The way of life may sound idyllic: a day's haul of one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of black truffles can bring home 50 euros (\$58). White truffles, a rare and even more highly treasured variety, can be sold for up to 140 euros. Those are enviable sums in a country where the average monthly salary is below 400 euros, and even lower in rural areas. But the work is no walk in the park. Pano and other Albanian truffle hunters describe dicey turf wars in the country's forests, with competitors bullying rivals and ruthlessly targeting their expensive dogs.

Pano recounted how, one day, a group of men "blocked her on the road and threatened" her if she continued to search on a tract of wild



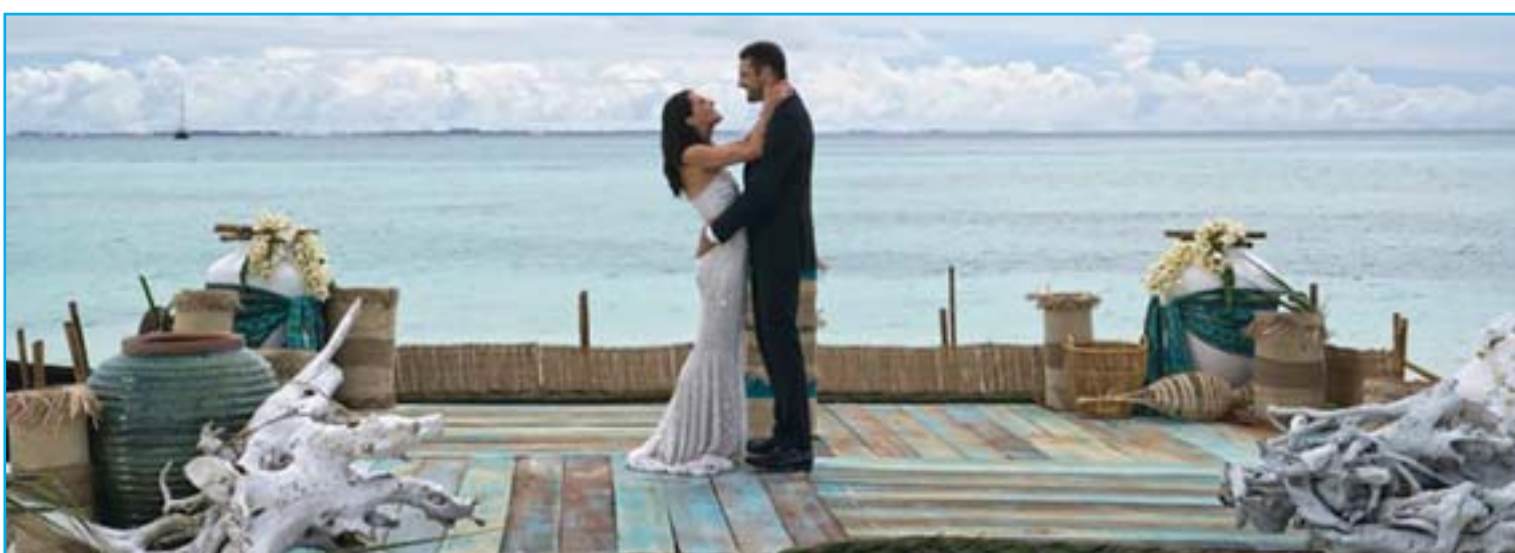
Truffle hunter Evgjani Pano shows truffles (tuber aestivum) to her dogs in the countryside of Peshtan near the city of Fier.



Truffle hunter Evgjani Pano shows truffles (tuber aestivum) in the countryside of Peshtan near the city of Fier.



Truffle hunter Evgjani Pano and her dog Lajka search for truffles. — AFP photos



## 'The Bachelorette' makes choice, and its Garrett Yrigoyen

**T**he Bachelorette has chosen. Becca Kufirin celebrated her engagement to Garrett Yrigoyen, capping Monday's finale on ABC following the usual tears and drama. It came down to Yrigoyen and Blake Hortsman. She told Hortsman he made her "hopeful again" and knew he'd be a partner and teammate. But she thought there was "just a better fit for us out there."

She told Yrigoyen he was the first guy who she wrote about in her journal and that he reminded her of her dad. The couple discussed a controversy over Yrigoyen apologizing and deleting his Instagram account after liking posts that mocked transgender people and feminists. Kufirin said she didn't condone the situation, but she said Yrigoyen stands by his apology. — AP



## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

## ROBERT REDFORD RETIRING FROM ACTING AT 81

Robert Redford, the screen legend and Oscar winner, has announced that he's retiring from acting at the grand old age of 81, with upcoming movie "The Old Man & The Gun" his last gig in front of the camera. The actor, director and founder of the Sundance Institute and its film festival, began his career on stage 60 years ago, before moving into television and film, and eventually into directing. "Never say never, but I pretty well concluded that this would be it for me in terms of acting," he told Entertainment Weekly. "(I'll) move toward retirement after this 'cause I've been doing it since I was 21," he said. "I thought, well, that's enough. And why not go out with something that's very upbeat and positive?"

His publicist Cindi Berger confirmed the article was accurate. When asked if his prospective retirement would extend to directing, his agent did not elaborate. "We'll see about that," Redford told Entertainment Weekly.



In this file photo US actor Robert Redford attends a photo call during the 74th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido.

He had indicated to his grandson in a 2016 interview that his roles in "Our Souls at Night" opposite Jane Fonda and "Old Man & The Gun" would be his last. "I'm going to say, 'Okay, that's goodbye to all that,' and then just focus on directing," he said. "The Old Man & The Gun" sees the California native play Forrest Tucker, the real-life bank robber whose criminal career and multiple escapes from prison spanned more than 60 years.

## Bittersweet

"That was a wonderful character to play at this point in my life," Redford told Entertainment Weekly. The film, set for release in the United States on September 28, also stars Oscar winners Sissy Spacek and Casey Affleck. Director David Lowery told Empire magazine that he felt the "weight" of directing Redford in his final screen role. "I think the movie is as much about (Redford) as it is about this character. It's about someone in the twilight of their life, doing something they love," Lowery said.

"There's an inevitability to the character that is impossible to separate from Mr Redford himself, and an inherently bittersweet quality." Born Charles Robert Redford, Jr. on August 18, 1936, in Santa Monica, California, he was the son of an accountant. His mother died in 1955, a year after he finished high school.

He went to the University of Colorado, but dropped out a year later and subsequently moved to Europe to study art in Paris and in Italy, a formative experience that transformed his political and social awareness. After returning to the United States, he moved to New York, where he enrolled at the American Academy of Dramatic Art and made his debut as a stage actor.

After a variety of television roles, he moved on to the silver screen, where he found success with romantic comedy "Barefoot In The Park" opposite Fonda, before his major breakthrough in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" in 1969.

## Sundance

Subsequent hits as an actor came in "The Sting" (1973), which won him an Oscar nomination, "The Great Gatsby" the following year, "Three Days of the Condor" (1975) and the critically acclaimed "All the President's Men" (1976) — his sun-kissed all-American good looks turning him into a household name. Other major acting credits were baseball classic "The Natural" and epic romance "Out of Africa" (1985) alongside Meryl Streep that won seven Oscars, including best picture.

In 1981, he won an Academy Award for his directorial debut on "Ordinary People" and has a string of other directing credits, including "A River Runs Through It," in which he starred alongside a young Brad Pitt, and "Quiz Show." He founded the Sundance Institute in Utah for aspiring filmmakers, disaffected with Hollywood's commercialism and lack of diversity.

The annual Sundance Film Festival is one of the most influential in the world and has fostered more than a generation of independent directors. Despite his fame, Redford steers clear of many award shows and public film festivals, and is a passionate conservationist and environmentalist.

In 2002, he won an honorary Oscar as an actor, director, producer and creator of Sundance. To date, he has also won six Golden Globes and one BAFTA. In 2016, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian award.

He married his first wife, Lola Van Wagenen, in 1958. They had four children, one of whom died as an infant. They divorced in 1985 and he married his second wife, German artist and longtime girlfriend Sibylle Szaggars in 2009. — AFP



In this file photo founder of the Sundance Institute, Robert Redford, attends the opening day press conference to kick-off the 2018 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. — AFP photos

## Six Robert Redford movie roles for the ages

The legendary Robert Redford—who has said he intends to retire from acting—has done it all: from romantic leads to Westerns to playing the Great Gatsby. The 81-year-old heartthrob may yet continue his impressive career behind the camera but his days in front of it appear to be over. From Barbra Streisand's lover in "The Way We Were" to a renegade cowboy in "The Electric Horseman" to a 70-something voyager adrift at sea in "All is Lost," Redford has had dozens of memorable turns. Here is a look at the classic performances that made Redford an American classic:

## Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)

"Don't tell me how to rob a bank. I know how to rob a bank!" Redford uttered that key phrase as the Sundance Kid to Paul Newman as Butch Cassidy—the pair played affable outlaws in perhaps the granddaddy of all buddy films.

Tracked by a posse, the handsome, quick-witted and quick-drawing leaders of the Hole-in-the-Wall gang split to Bolivia, where their illicit antics ultimately prove their demise. The glib humor did not sit well with critics, but the hippy Western was a huge hit with moviegoers and it made Redford a bankable star.

## The Sting (1973)

Redford and Newman reunite, this time as con artists in 1930s Chicago where they seek revenge on a big-league mobster by setting up an ambitious scam. Redford plays a charming but novice grifter in a blockbuster film.

His memorable performance as Johnny Hooker is optimistic and believable as he tries to pull off the big con, and it led to the only best actor Oscar nomination of his career. He lost to Jack Lemmon, but the crime caper won seven other Academy Awards, including best picture.

## The Great Gatsby (1974)

This Francis Ford Coppola adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's masterful 1925 novel was intended to cement Redford's role as a leading man in Hollywood romantic dramas. The film earned mixed reviews though it was a financial success.

He played the mysterious and decadent Jay Gatsby opposite Mia Farrow's Daisy Buchanan. The sparks between the two were muted at best, and Redford caught flak for being too dull in a role critics said he should have nailed. The film nevertheless won two Oscars for costume design and best original score.

## All the President's Men (1976)

Redford bounced back in full force in a stunning portrayal of a presidency in turmoil. He took on the role of Bob Woodward and Dustin Hoffman played Carl Bernstein in the adaptation of the Washington Post journalists' book about how the pair uncovered Watergate, which proved to be the biggest political scandal of the 20th Century.

Many critics point to this classic as one of Redford's most important roles. It was not his first foray into politics though. His satirical turn as a hapless US Senate

hopeful in "The Candidate" in 1972 raised eyebrows, and Redford had contemplated a run for Senate in the 1970s.

## The Natural (1984)

Redford emerged as a sporting star in this classic hero's story about a rising baseball phenomenon whose lifelong love of the game helps him overcome tragedy and mount a spectacular comeback. The big-budget spectacle is overindulgent at times, but Redford shines in his scenes in the ballpark.

And while the feel-good Hollywood ending—a Redford home run to win the pennant gives the actor almost mythic status—is the stuff of dreams, author Bernard Malamud's novel that is the movie's source material has a far darker ending: the slugger strikes out.

## Out of Africa (1985)

Redford portrays untamable and aloof hunter/adventurer Denys Finch Hatton, who engages in a steamy, ill-fated affair with plantation-owning baroness Karen Blixen (Meryl Streep). The film, which draws from the writings of Denmark's Isak Dinesen, was a sweeping cinematic spectacle, scooping up seven Oscars including best picture.

Redford and Streep play headstrong, independent spirits contending with a changing Africa and Blixen's dissolving personal life. When Streep's character asks Redford what is wrong with marriage, his answer is devastating: "Have you ever seen one you admire?" — AFP



This file photo shows Cardi B attending the Warner Music Group's annual Grammy celebration in association with V magazine in New York. — AFP photos

## Jackson, Cardi B to play festival for foreign aid

Pop legend Janet Jackson and fast-rising rapper Cardi B will headline the Global Citizen festival in New York to rally support for preserving international aid to eradicate extreme poverty. The critically acclaimed experimentalist Janelle Monae, R&B sensation The Weeknd, activist songwriter John Legend and young pop star Shawn Mendes will also play the September 29 festival in Central Park, organizers announced yesterday.

Taking place each year since 2012 as world leaders gather in New York for the UN General Assembly, Global Citizen distributes tickets for free to supporters who pledge to take actions such as sending letters to their governments in support of development aid. Global Citizen has gradually broadened its reach with international editions and panel discussions and is planning a major festival in Johannesburg on December 2 led by Beyonce and Jay-Z to mark the centennial of the birth of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela.

The latest Central Park edition aims in part to build opinion in support of US foreign aid, which President



File photo shows singer/songwriter Janet Jackson attends the 2018 Billboard Music Awards 2018 at the MGM Grand Resort International in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Donald Trump has proposed slashing by one-third as part of his "America First" platform, although he has met resistance in Congress. Hugh Evans, the CEO of Global Citizen, said that the festival was expected to draw more than 60,000 people and would also demand that world leaders fight to improve maternal health, end child marriage and reduce the use of plastics.

"It's essential that we speak out—and continue to vote—so that our voices are heard," he said. Global Citizen set a goal of pressing the Group of Seven major industrialized democracies to commit \$2 billion to addressing maternal health, pointing out that more than five million mothers and children die each year of preventable diseases.

One performer familiar with motherhood is Cardi B, with the festival marking her first scheduled show since she gave birth in July. The Bronx native, who has quickly become one of the highest profile women in the male-dominated world of hip-hop, recently bowed out of a September tour with Bruno Mars, saying she underestimated how long she needed at home with her newborn daughter Kulture.

The September 29 festival will be hosted by Australian acting couple Hugh Jackman and Deborah-lee Furness, with co-hosts to include Forest Whitaker and Naomi Campbell. Global Citizen has been pushing to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which call for an end to the world's worst poverty by 2030. — AFP

## Ellie Goulding announces engagement to Caspar Jopling

Singer Ellie Goulding and art dealer Caspar Jopling have announced their engagement. A notice in yesterday's Times of London newspaper announces the engagement of "Caspar, son of The Hon. Nicholas Jopling of Yorkshire and Mrs Jayne Warde-Aldam of Yorkshire, and Elena, daughter of Mr Arthur Goulding of Herefordshire and Mrs Tracey Sumner of West Midlands."

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Goulding, who has had UK hits with "Starry Eyed," "Burn" and "Your Song," has been dating Jopling for more than a year. The 31-year-old singer previously dated DJ/producer Skrillex and Dougie Poynter of the band McFly. — AP



In this file photo British singer Ellie Goulding arrives at Stella McCartney's Spring-Summer 2018 ready to wear fashion collection in Paris. — AP

## Pink cancels Sydney shows after being hospitalized

American pop star Pink has been forced to cancel several Sydney shows on her Australia tour after being hospitalized with a virus and dehydration. The singer of "Just Give Me a Reason" and "Get the Party Started" cancelled a performance on Friday due to illness but battled through a Saturday show before her trip to the emergency room the next day.

"Pink was admitted to hospital in Sydney on Sunday night, suffering from dehydration. She was treated and discharged. She was readmitted to hospital (Monday) and diagnosed with a gastric virus," her promoter Live Nation said. "Pink will remain in hospital overnight, continuing her treatment and recovery." The statement gave no indication of when the singer would return to the stage.

Monday and Tuesday concerts were "postponed" but tickets for the next concert slated for Thursday are still on sale, according to the Live Nation website. While some fans were disappointed, most sent their well-wishes.

"Get well soon Miss Pink! I have tickets for Sunday's concert and want you to know we'll totally understand if it's postponed—you've got to look after yourself!" one fan said to Pink's tour Facebook page. The pop sensation took to social media on Friday to defend that night's cancellation after she was snapped by photographers relaxing on an Australian beach with her family.

"I scheduled this tour meticulously, trying to do what was best for my children, while also putting on the best and most physically demanding and beautiful show of my life," she said in an Instagram post. Pink said her children had also both been ill, and that "parasite paparazzi" had failed to capture her multiple visits to the doctor. "You can think whatever you want, it's your right, but I have never taken advantage of any one in my entire life," she said, defending the Friday postponement while she was at the beach.

It prompted fellow star Justin Timberlake to come to her defense. "I'm here to tell you that you won't find a harder working, more authentically talented, and more thankful for her place on that stage and her fans than that woman," he said on Instagram. — AFP



This file photo shows US pop singer Pink arriving for the traditional Clive Davis party on the eve of the 60th Annual Grammy Awards in New York. — AFP



In this file photo Beyonce performs as she is pregnant with twins during the 59th Annual Grammy music Awards in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

## Beyonce wants acceptance of curvier bodies

Beyonce has called for a greater acceptance of naturally curvy figures, saying she was listening more to her body after giving birth to twins by Caesarean section last year. The 36-year-old pop superstar, one of the most photographed women in the world, posed for the latest issue of Vogue magazine without makeup, hair extensions or wigs. "I think it's important for women and men to see and appreciate the beauty in their natural bodies," she said in an accompanying essay. Beyonce, who is married to rap mogul Jay-Z, recalled that she had quickly tried to slim down after giving birth to her first child, Blue Ivy, in January 2012.

But revealing details for the first time about giving birth in June 2017 to twins Rumi and Sir, Beyonce said she had needed a month of bed rest and that her health had been at risk before undergoing an emergency C-section. After giving birth, Beyonce—who said she weighed 99 kilograms (218 pounds) — felt that she "needed time to heal" from the effects of the surgery.

"During my recovery, I gave myself self-love and self-care, and I embraced being curvier. I accepted what my body wanted to be," she said. Beyonce made a triumphant return to the stage at the Coachella festival in April, dazzling fans with a nearly two-hour set of non-stop choreography with some 100 back-up dancers.

The singer said she had prepared for Coachella by going vegan and eliminating alcohol, coffee and fruit drinks from her diet. But she added: "I was patient with myself and enjoyed my fuller curves." The feminist-minded singer also reflected on raising a son, Sir, and said that she wanted him "to know that he can be strong and brave but that he can also be sensitive and kind." "I want my son to have a high emotional IQ where he is free to be caring, truthful and honest. 'It's everything a woman wants in a man, and yet we don't teach it to our boys.'" — AFP



Lifestyle | Features

# 'CHARMED' MAKERS DEFEND REBOOT, TOUT ITS ETHNIC DIVERSITY

A roundup of news Monday from the Television Critics Association summer meeting, at which TV networks and streaming services are presenting details on upcoming programs.

### Give 'charmed' a chance, creators say

The cast and producer of CW's new "Charmed" are defending the reboot as a story for its time. The drama series about three young half-sisters who are witches will confront modern issues including the #MeToo movement, executive producer Jennie Snyder Urman told a TV critics' meeting Monday. The varied ethnicity of the sisterly trio - white, Latina and African-American - also gives the reboot more currency, Urman said. The women have the same mother but different fathers.

Most people she's talked to are in favor of the switch to characters of color, said Urman. She also produces CW's Latino family comedy "Jane The Virgin," which will end after its

agent Rich Paul. Gotham Chopra, who directed Showtime's "Kobe Bryant's Muse" in 2015, helmed the project.

The series traces the modern history of the league and its players starting with the 1976 merger of the freewheeling American Basketball Association and the National Basketball Association, how the top players have expanded their notoriety off the court in fields such as business and fashion while becoming icons in the process. James has another show, "The Shop" debuting Aug. 28 on HBO in which he leads conversation and debate among his guests in barbershops around the country.

James found himself drawn into politics last week when President Donald Trump unleashed a withering attack on him in a tweet after an interview aired with CNN anchor Don Lemon in which he deemed Trump divisive. Although James has long been a Trump critic, calling the president "U bum" in a 2017 tweet, the tweet was Trump's first attack on the player, who just opened up a school for underprivileged chil-

to uncover an international conspiracy trying to harm America's democratic institutions. The first season of "Homeland" will debut in June 2019.

### Paysinger's inspiration

Former NFL player Spencer Paysinger is drawing on his high school days living between two worlds for his first major Hollywood project. Paysinger grew up in economically depressed South Los Angeles, but he attended Beverly Hills High School, where he captained the football team in the wealthy enclave. The culture shock he experienced is the basis for "All American," debuting Oct 10 on the CW.

"I definitely had a gang influence with friends and family growing up in South Central, and people might think that Beverly Hills definitely shielded me from some problems. But in actuality, it only opened up a whole new can of worms," Paysinger told a TV critics' meeting on Monday.

"Just dealing with kids with affluence, kids with drug problems and having their parents not be there for weeks on end because they're vacationing or they're doing big business. Just dealing with that contrast was probably the biggest thing that I had to go through." Paysinger commuted daily to high school as part of a program that brought students from other areas to Beverly Hills, where he had two uncles and an aunt who coached and taught there.

Spencer eventually attended the University of Oregon and won a Super Bowl title with the New York Giants, one of four NFL teams he played for before achieving his goal of retiring from the league no later than age 30.

The series shoots in some of Paysinger's old haunts in South L.A. like a local park and the barbershop he has patronized since he was a kid. "South Central's been portrayed so many different ways in the media for however long," Paysinger said. "But with this show, I definitely want to implant that family aspect of the community." Producers hired a consulting firm that designs all of the football plays in the show, and consulting producer Paysinger wants to make sure the action is authentic.

"I don't want friends, I don't want family texting, emailing me saying, 'That's not it. They couldn't have converted on that,'" he said. Paysinger isn't the only one with pro sports ties involved in the show. One of the writers is Jon Alston, who played five years in the NFL, and retired Major League Soccer player Robbie Rogers is a producer.

### Presidency vs The FBI

Showtime will air a new documentary series from award-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney examining the history of clashes between US presidents and the FBI. The four-part series inspired by the book "Enemies: A History of the FBI" by Tim Weiner will debut Nov 18, Showtime Networks chief David Nevins told TV critics on Monday. The program, with the working title "Enemies: The President, Justice & the FBI," will explore what Showtime called "epic confrontations" between presidents and FBI directors from J Edgar Hoover to James Comey.

In a tongue-in-cheek reference, Nevins referred to the documentary as "mildly timely." The series' analysis of the past will be used to gauge what may come of the federal investigation of possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia in the 2016 election, Showtime said. — AP

### It's a wrap for 'Homeland'

Showtime says that its acclaimed series "Homeland" will end in 2019 with its eighth season. The show's conclusion was announced Monday by Showtime Networks chief David Nevins, who called the Emmy-winning "Homeland" a game-changer for the premium cable channel. Nevins told a TV critics' meeting that creator-producer Alex Gansa will bring the national security drama to what he called its "proper conclusion."

In a statement, Gansa said he was sad to see the series end but said that it's time. Claire Danes stars in "Homeland," which has taken her bipolar, now former CIA agent Carrie through dangerous conflicts that sometimes mirrored real-world events. Last season, Carrie struggled



File photo shows Claire Danes attends the "Homeland" NYC Event at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills, Calif.



In this file photo, LeBron James speaks at the opening ceremony for the I Promise School in Akron, Ohio. — AP photos



Taye Diggs, left, and Daniel Ezra, cast members in the CW series "All American," pose together for a portrait during the 2018 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.



File photo shows former FBI director James Comey speaks during a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on Capitol Hill, in Washington.

upcoming fifth season. "We've had the chance to see three white witches. And obviously coming off 'Jane,' I know so much more about what it means to be on screen, to see yourself represented, to see yourself being the hero of the story," Urman said.

The varied backgrounds of the witches played by Sarah Jeffrey, Melonie Diaz and Madeleine Mantock also allows the show to explore witchcraft as it exists in different cultures, she said. Urman acknowledged there's been fan unhappiness with the fact "Charmed" is a reboot and not a revival of the original series. The drama debuted in 1998 with Holly Marie Combs, Alyssa Milano and Shannen Doherty as the three Halliwell witch-sisters. Rose McGowan joined the series in 2006. Combs has expressed annoyance as well, posting tweets in which she derides the series remake as "capitalizing on our hard work."

"Charmed belongs to the 4 of us, our vast amount of writers, crews and predominantly the fans," she wrote on Twitter last January. "FYI you will not fool them by owning" a title. Those involved with the reboot understand that "Charmed" is a "sacred thing" to the original cast and its fans, Jeffrey said.

"Of course, we can't help but be a little disappointed because I think the script is fantastic," Mantock said. She added that she hopes Combs watches the show and likes it, but understands she is protective of the drama and "entitled to feel however she wants." At its core, the show is a love story of the three sisters, Urman said, making it true to the original despite changes.

### Lebron goes Hollywood

LeBron James has yet to play a minute for the Los Angeles Lakers, yet the NBA superstar is already busy in Hollywood. James is behind the three-part documentary series, "Shut Up and Dribble," announced Monday by Showtime. Set to debut in October, the same month James suits up for his new team, the series looks at the changing role of athletes in the current political and cultural climate against the backdrop of the NBA.

Its title comes from a comment Fox News host Laura Ingraham made to James in February when she sought to rebuke him for talking politics during an interview. James is the executive producer of the series along with his business partner Maverick Carter and his



Executive producers Jessica O'Toole, from back row left, Jennie Snyder Urman, Amy Rardin, and from front row left, Ellen Tamaki, Rupert Evans, Sarah Jeffery, Melonie Diaz, Madeleine Mantock and Ser'Darius Blain participate in the "Charmed" panel during the CW Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour at The Beverly Hilton hotel on Monday in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP photos



Pascale Serra, film-maker, walking through the MiPoko Airport displaced persons' camp in Bangui, Central African Republic. —Reuters

## Film shows art of survival in C Africa airport's 'tent city'

Tens of thousands of people who fled murderous gangs and set up their own "tent city" inside Central African Republic's main airport are the unlikely stars of an award-winning new film. "Zone III" - selected as the best short documentary at the African Film Festival in the United States in July and now being screened at European film festivals - is named after the busiest of the camp's 13 areas. "We're used to talking about my country only when there's conflict or war," said the film's director, Pascale Serra, 36. "But we don't talk about the people who are doing their best to move on and get over the trauma," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by telephone from the capital, Bangui.

fall apart in bad weather. A makeshift school had more than double the number of pupils it was intended for, and its meagre facilities were regularly pillaged by criminals, Serra said.

In 2017, the government dismantled the camp over safety concerns. Many former residents have since returned to their neighbourhoods and rebuilt their homes, said Kenneth Chulley, a reintegration officer with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). Working with charities, the UNHCR has reconstructed more than 4,000 homes since 2017. "But it's nothing compared to how many houses have been rebuilt by the people themselves," Chulley added.



A family standing outside the ruins of their old house, while living in a tent they brought over from the M'Poko airport displaced persons' camp.



Drums outside ramshackle tents in the internally displaced persons' camp in M'Poko Airport, Bangui, Central African Republic.

### 'Ghost town'

Serra, who is using the proceeds from film screenings to help those most in need, said several of the entrepreneurs she filmed still had no proper home. They include Alpha Bedan, who ran a cinema tent in the camp, screening movies and football matches at \$0.15 per entry. After leaving, he set up his tent next to the ruins of his house in Bangui. In May 2017, Bedan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation he intended to raise cash to rebuild his home by running a stall selling soap, oil and stock cubes in his neighborhood, and restarting film screenings in his tent.

Yet more than a year later, Serra said Bedan had fled his rebuilt home after armed gangsters killed one of his friends. "He told me: 'I now have to destroy my own house'," Serra said, describing Bedan's district as a "ghost town" where the threat of violence is so high most residents have left.

Crime rates in Bangui are "very high", said the UNHCR's Chulley, although the situation has improved since 2016. Tens of thousands are still living in camps around the country. According to the United Nations, over half Central African Republic's population is in need of aid, while nearly 1.2 million have been unable to return home. About half of those are living as refugees in neighboring countries. Relations between different religious groups in Bangui are improving, said Chulley.

But peace will remain elusive until security is re-established and those behind the violence are held to account, said Serra. "We're talking about reconciliation, getting along together - but people don't know how we can speak about this without justice," she added. "The criminals are still out there." — Reuters

### Machetes and mambas

Despite this buzz of activity, life in the camp - plagued by crime, filth, poisonous green-mamba snakes and malarial mosquitoes - was hard. Locals built tents from tarpaulin sacks and scavenged wood, only to watch them

## Bring on the cake: France's baby panda has his 1st birthday

France's first baby panda celebrated his first birthday Saturday with a cake of bamboo, honey, apples, oranges, strawberries and lemons. The panda named Yuan Meng - which means "accomplishment of a dream" - weighs about 30 kilograms (66 pounds). He has recently started eating bamboo while still suckling

milk from his mother, Huan Huan. For the occasion Saturday, the Beauval Zoo south of Paris was open for free to all visitors born on Aug. 4.

Yuan Meng's mother and father Yuan Zi are at Beauval on a 10-year loan from China aimed at highlighting its good ties with France. Other nations in Europe also have giant pandas,

including Austria, Britain, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Finland. French first lady Brigitte Macron, considered the panda's "godmother," did not attend Saturday's celebration. She has already gone to see the baby panda twice. — AP



France's first baby panda Yuan Meng celebrates his first birthday with a birthday cake composed of bamboo, honey, apples, oranges, strawberries and lemons, at the ZooParc de Beauval in Beauval, central France. — AP





Photo shows cat figurines called "maneki-neko" at the Gotokuji temple in Tokyo. — AFP photos

## CAT SNAP: TOKYO 'LUCKY CAT' TEMPLE DRAWS INSTAGRAMMERS

Tokyo's Gotokuji temple has long attracted spiritual visitors with its thousands of figurines of beckoning white cats, thought to bring good luck. But of late it has brought in another breed: Instagrammers. Around 10,000 figurines of white cats seated with one paw raised are stacked and strewn around the temple, providing tempting fodder for social media mavens from Japan and abroad. "I actually Googled 'Instagram spots Tokyo,'" said Emily Lin, a 25-year-old tourist from Hong Kong.

"This was named one of the most 'Instagrammable spots.'" "These cats are like a symbol of luck in the Japanese culture," she added, looking for new angles to capture the copious cats. Ying-Chi Hsueh, 31, a photography student from Taiwan, also said he had been drawn to the temple by the photogenic felines. "I saw a picture on Instagram and I came here using Google Maps," he said. They were among dozens of visitors there the week before Wednesday's International Cat Day, snapping shots of the temple's "maneki-neko" or "beckoning cat" figurines.

Temple lore says the popularity of the figures was inspired by an event at Gotokuji in the 15th century. The priest at the time kept a cat called Tama, which according

to legend one day strolled out of the temple and raised its right paw to beckon a powerful samurai lord inside moments before a thunderstorm struck. Impressed by the cat who had helped him escape the storm, the lord became a patron of the temple.

Tama the cat has been immortalized as a stylized white cat figure considered a symbol of good luck in Japan and across Asia, usually depicted sitting on his back legs with one paw raised. The figurines are often spotted in businesses and some versions feature a paw that moves back and forth. "The maneki-neko gives you the chance to appreciate what you have, the people you meet," Gotokuji's deputy priest Tessai Kasukawa told AFP. "The feeling of appreciation will bring you good luck." And the feline figurines have certainly brought luck to the temple, which says it is seeing a growing number of visitors. "Now with the Tokyo Olympics coming up (in 2020), we receive many international visitors. They spread the word about the temple, making this place globally famous," Kasukawa said. — AFP



Photo shows cat figurines called "maneki-neko".



A woman looking at cat figurines called "maneki-neko" at the Gotokuji temple in Tokyo.



A woman looking at cat figurines called "maneki-neko".



Photo shows wooden votive tables called "ema" with wishes and images of cats on them at the Gotokuji temple in Tokyo.

## Singapore uproar over store selling ivory jewelry

A Singapore online store selling ivory jewelry has sparked uproar, with an animal rights group yesterday slamming the shop for offering products made from "tortured" elephants. Ivory Lane offers earrings for Sg\$160 (\$120) and necklaces for Sg\$800 (\$585), and insists its products are made from ivory that was obtained before 1990, when an international ban on the trade began. It is still legal in Singapore to export and import products made from ivory sourced before the ban took effect. The shop's Facebook page shows a picture of women wearing the items, with the message:

"Ivory is a secret desire for most girls."

But consumers in the affluent city-state reacted with outrage, flooding the store's page with hundreds of angry comments and demanding its closure. The demand for ivory, particularly in Asia, has contributed significantly to the decline in elephant populations worldwide. "This is an outrageous business! You are creating demand for a product made from a terrible human practice!" Facebook user Laura Goddard wrote on Ivory Lane's page on the social networking site.

Jason Baker, a spokesman for campaign group People

for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), questioned who would want to collect "fragments of a tortured, dead elephant". "Vintage ivory sends the same, unacceptable message as new ivory—that it is ok to maim and kill animals for the sake of vanity," he told AFP. In a statement issued Monday, Ivory Lane's owner Ivy Chng noted the "unhappiness" online but insisted that the ivory she was selling was "completely legal" in Singapore. "We only offer the purest form of ivory, sourced from the natural environments of central Africa," she said. — AFP

## Tying herself in knots, Serbian skin artist boggles senses

Armed with makeup brushes and pencils, skin artist and illusionist Mirjana Kika Milosevic gets to work on her own torso, sketching elaborate knots and making chunks of her flesh disappear, earning her videos millions of views on YouTube. The self-taught makeup artist, 36, from Smederevo, an industrial town 70 kilometers south of Belgrade, now earns enough through her art to dedicate herself fully to it.

Milosevic started several years ago by painting a hole on her thigh and posting photos on Instagram - leaving viewers puzzling over whether it was real or not. After huge interest she decided to do more. "Ever since I was a kid, I liked to draw on unusual surfaces and avoided drawing on paper," she said. Her illusion "Knotted Body" has received more than 12 million YouTube views and she has created illusions for Disney and the horror film character Chucky. — Reuters



This undated handout released by Yonsei University Museum shows fishing net sinkers unearthed at Maedun cave in the eastern county of Jeongseon in June. — AFP

## Cast from the past: World's oldest fishing net sinkers found in S Korea

Archaeologists excavating a cave in South Korea have found evidence that suggests human beings were using sophisticated techniques to catch fish as far back as 29,000 years ago, much earlier than experts previously thought. Carbon dating procedures on the fourteen limestone sinkers, unearthed in the eastern county of Jeongseon in June, have pushed back "the history of fishing by nets by some 19,000 years", Yonsei University Museum director Han Chang-gyun told AFP. Previously, researchers had excavated sinkers—stones used to weigh down nets for catching fish—in Japan's Fukui Prefecture and South Korea's Cheongju city, but those discoveries were all dated back to the Neolithic Era and believed to be around 10,000 years old, Han said.

"This discovery suggests humans in the Upper

Paleolithic era were actively catching fish for their diet", he added. The limestone sinkers, each weighing between 14 to 52 grams and with a diameter of 37 to 56 millimeters, had grooves carved into them so they could be tied to the bottom of nets and used to catch small fish such as minnows in shallow streams, he said.

Researchers also found fossilized bones belonging to fish and other animals, as well as stone tools and flakes, inside the Maedun cave, he said.

Prior to the South Korean find, the oldest fishing implements were believed to be fishing hooks, made from the shells of sea snails, that were found on a southern Japanese island and said to date back some 23,000 years. — AFP



# Classifieds

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust and some high clouds will appear.

**BY DAY:** Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 55 km/h causing rising dust.

WEATHER WARNING			Strong Wind and Dust		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 07/08/2018 1200 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	35 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	36 °C			
ABDALY	47 °C	34 °C			
BUBYAN	---- °C	---- °C			
JAHRA	47 °C	36 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	34 °C			
SALMIYAH	41 °C	35 °C			
AHMADI	45 °C	38 °C			
NUWAISIB	47 °C	34 °C			
WAFRA	47 °C	35 °C			
SALMY	44 °C	31 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	08/08	Very hot + rising dust	47 °C	36 °C	NW	25 - 55 km/h
Thursday	08/09	Hot and some high clouds will appear	46 °C	35 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Friday	08/10	Very hot	47 °C	32 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h
Saturday	08/11	Very hot	48 °C	31 °C	NW	15 - 38 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:45
Sunrise	05:12
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:29
Sunset	18:36
Isha	20:00

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	48 °C
MIN. Temp.	36 °C
MAX. RH	27 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	N 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
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## Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
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Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

## Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 8/8/2018					Departure Flights on Wednesday 8/8/2018				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	FEG 341	Sohag	13:50			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC 1078	Dubai	13:55			
PYA	2396	EVN	00:15	GFA 221	Doha	14:10			
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	SVA 500	Riyadh	14:10			
KAC	102	London	00:50	FDB 059	Bahrain	14:15			
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC 364	Jeddah	14:15			
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC 618	Dubai	14:20			
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	KAC 286	Colombo	14:20			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC 512	Doha	14:25			
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC 788	Mashhad	14:25			
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR 125	Jeddah	14:50			
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KNE 683	Bahrain	14:55			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	RSB 7862	Madinah	14:55			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC 304	ISU	15:00			
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	ETD 303	Mumbai	15:05			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC 412	Abu Dhabi	15:05			
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KAC 562	Bangkok	15:10			
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC 562	Amman	15:20			
THY	1404	AGP	02:45	OMA 645	Muscat	15:20			
WAN	714	Beirut	02:45	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35			
WAN	416D	Abu Dhabi	02:45	KAC 502	Dubai	15:35			
ETD	305	Muscat	03:05	SVA 504	Dubai	15:45			
OMA	643	Amman	03:05	KAC 0808	Madinah	15:55			
RJA	648	Sohag	03:05	SAW 705	Bahrain	16:00			
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	KAC 118	Damascus	16:00			
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	MSR 575	New York	16:00			
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	QTR 1072	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB 051	Doha	16:15			
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	JZR 357	Dubai	16:20			
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	03:30	NIA 361	Mashhad	16:40			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JZR 751	Alexandria	16:50			
JZR	651	Lahore	03:45	KAC 542	Madinah	16:50			
KAC	796	Madinah	03:45	SVA 510	Cairo	17:00			
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	JAV 621	Riyadh	17:15			
JZR	185D	Dubai	04:25	GFA 215	Amman	17:30			
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JZR 145	Bahrain	17:30			
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR 177	Doha	17:35			
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	JZR 535	Dubai	17:40			
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	QTR 1080	Cairo	17:45			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	WAN 874	Doha	18:10			
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSR 620	Istanbul	18:25			
KAC	154	Istanbul	05:20	WAN 976	Cairo	18:30			
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	RJA 640	Baku	18:50			
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	GFA 217	Amman	19:00			
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	UAE 875	Bahrain	19:05			
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	FDB 063	Dubai	19:05			
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC 744	Dammam	19:10			
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:20			
JZR	561D	Sohag	06:40	KAC 156	Istanbul	19:25			
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:35			
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR 189	Dubai	19:40			
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC 674	Dubai	19:40			
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	FDB 057	Dubai	19:50			
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	JZR 483	Istanbul	19:55			
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	RSB 7864	Baghdad	20:00			
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	KAC 616	Bahrain	20:00			
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC 104	London	20:00			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:05			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	OMA 647	Muscat	20:05			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KNE 381	Taif	20:10			
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC 620	Doha	20:15			
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15			
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC 166	Rome	20:25			
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	QTR 1088	Doha	20:40			
SYR	341	Latakia	10:05	KAC 172	Frankfurt	20:45			
JZR	503	Luxor	10:15	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:00			
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC 540	Sharm el-Sheikh	21:00			
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	WAN 136	Doha	21:15			
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15			
JZR	505	Luxor	10:45	ALK 229	Colombo	21:15			
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:15			
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC 168	Paris	21:20			
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	THY 764	Istanbul	21:30			
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:50			
JZR	529	Asyut	11:50	KAC 564	Amman	21:50			
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05			
WAN	134	Doha	12:20	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:10			
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC 786	Jeddah	22:15			
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	AIC 975	Chennai/Goa	22:25			
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	SVA 514	Riyadh	22:30			
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	SVA 502	Jeddah	22:45			
CLX	792	Luxembourg	12:45	JZR 185	Dubai	22:50			
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	JAI 574	Mumbai	23:00			
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC 501	Alexandria	23:10			
RJA	644	Amman	13:20	JZR 803	Tbilisi	23:20			
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	MSR 2614	Cairo	23:30			
JZR	779</								





A helicopter drops water over a wildfire in Pinet, in the eastern Spanish region of Valencia, yesterday. In the Valencia region some 2,500 people were driven from their homes overnight to escape flames that have already swept across around 1,000 hectares, as fire crews struggled to bring the fires under control. — AFP

# India court demands action against rape at govt homes

## Police rescue 24 girls from care home, arrest four

**NEW DELHI:** India's top court yesterday ordered the government to explain what it was doing to prevent rape at state-run children's homes as horrific details emerge of sex abuse rings. Narendra Modi's political opponents also seized on the scandals at two government-run facilities, accusing the prime minister of keeping quiet about India's record of rape. Police are investigating the sexual assault of dozens of girls at the shelters in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The states are governed in coalition or outright by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The Supreme Court yesterday, hearing a plea into the Bihar case, admonished the Modi government's record in tackling rape. "Every six hours, a woman is raped in India," declared a three-judge bench in New Delhi. "What is to be done? Girls and women are getting raped left, right and center." The Delhi Commission for Women Monday announced a committee to audit all

government shelters across the national capital.

Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi yesterday attacked Modi over the issue, saying the prime minister was vocal on all subjects "but not women." "Women are being raped in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and so many other states but the prime minister is quiet," the main opposition leader told supporters in Delhi. India's treatment of women has attracted global scrutiny since the gang-rape and murder of a young student on a New Delhi bus in 2012 made international headlines.

Her brutal murder sparked nationwide protests and led to tougher sentences for perpetrators. But sex crimes remain rampant and activists say women are reluctant to come forward, meaning the real figure for rapes is much higher than recorded. Indians took to the streets in April in numbers not seen in years after details emerged of the rape and murder of a Muslim infant and the separate assault on a teenager by a BJP

state lawmaker.

Police rescued 24 girls and shut down a care home that had been operating illegally in northern India after a youngster living there fled and complained to officers about sexual exploitation. They arrested four people on suspicion of trafficking and closed the home that has been operating in Deoria district in northern Uttar Pradesh, 325 km from the state capital Lucknow, police said after Monday's rescue.

This is the second instance of sexual abuse in homes for destitute children in less than a month after 29 girls were alleged to have been raped and tortured in Bihar state, sparking national outrage and demands for such homes to be investigated. Sexual and physical abuse are common in care homes, where many children are not orphans but placed in care by parents who are too poor to feed, clothe and shelter them, campaigners say.

"We have sealed the shelter home and arrested a

couple who managed the shelter," said Ganesh Prasad Saha, a senior police official in Deoria. He did not give details about the other two arrested. A case of alleged trafficking and illegal adoption has been registered. Local media reports said 18 girls were missing from the Uttar Pradesh shelter home run by the couple, but Saha said the police could not confirm that.

Deoria district magistrate Amit Kishore confirmed the four arrests and said the authorities had previously revoked the shelter home's license, but it had remained open. Media reports said Uttar Pradesh's Women and Child Welfare Department revoked the license in June 2017 after detecting large-scale irregularities. India has about 7,300 care shelters, which are home to some 230,000 children, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights estimates. About 1,300 of them are unregistered, which means they operate illegally with little or no oversight. — Agencies

## Revered Indian leader...

Continued from Page 1

The Press Trust of India news agency said a security alert had been sounded across the state, bearing in mind the outbreaks of violence in the past over the deaths of popular figures.

Karunanidhi was chief minister of Tamil Nadu five times and successfully contested 12 state elections, building legions of supporters on the way. His popularity had not waned even though he handed over the reins

of his Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party to his son M K Stalin. Karunanidhi, a school dropout, became involved in politics at a young age, spearheading the DMK which was allied for many years to the Gandhi dynasty's Congress party.

Affectionately called "Kalaigal" or scholar, he wrote reams of poems, lyrics and books and was a prolific screenwriter for the Tamil film industry. His popularity rivaled that of J Jayalalithaa, another powerful leader from Tamil Nadu whose death sparked a huge outpouring of grief. An estimated one million people lined the streets for Jayalalithaa's burial in 2016. The deaths of Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi leave a big political vacuum in one of India's most industrialized and prosperous southern states only months before key national election early next year. — AFP

but the world's security," he told the BBC.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters the global reaction to Trump's move showed that the US was diplomatically "isolated". Iran ally Syria branded Washington's move "illegal under international law". "The US administration's policies have a proclivity for hegemony and arrogance," said a foreign ministry official, quoted by state news agency SANA. Russia's foreign ministry said it was "deeply disappointed" by the return of sanctions, adding that it would do "everything necessary" to save the 2015 nuclear deal.

Zarif yesterday welcomed to Tehran his North Korean counterpart, Ri Yong Ho, as Pyongyang also faces US pressure to scrap its nuclear capabilities. Ri is on a two-day visit to Tehran, and is due to meet Rouhani today. Fars news agency said the two sides discussed "bilateral relations and regional issues in the Middle East", without giving further details.

Most Iranians see US hostility as a basic fact of life, so their frustration is largely directed at their own leaders for not handling the situation better. "Prices are rising again, but the reason is government corruption, not US sanctions," said Ali, a 35-year-old decorator in Tehran. Long-running discontent over high prices, unemployment, water shortages and the lack of political reform has sparked numerous protests over the past week, though verifiable information is scarce due to heavy reporting restrictions.

Many hope and believe that Iran's leaders will "drink the poison cup" and negotiate with the US eventually. There have been rumors that Trump and Rouhani could meet in New York in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly - though Rouhani reportedly rejected US overtures for a meeting at last year's event. Two countries that have welcomed the tough new US policy are Iran's regional rivals, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed the renewed sanctions as "an important moment for Israel, for the US, for the region, for the whole world". Iran's currency has lost around half its value since Trump announced the US would withdraw from the nuclear pact. But the last two days have seen the rial's value surge by a fifth following the arrest of the central bank's currency chief and new plans being announced. The new rules mean foreign exchange bureaus will reopen after a disastrous attempt to fix the value of the rial in April backfired spectacularly, with corrupt traders making a fortune out of a mushrooming black market. — Agencies

## From London to NY, sleep pods 'oases of peace'

**LONDON:** Faced with long, tiring commutes that make it impossible to go home until the end of the day and rushing to keep up with the fast pace of modern city living, Londoners are paying to sleep. In dark rooms scented with lavender and supplied with ear plugs and eye masks, busy travellers, sore-headed partygoers and new parents desperate for a nap can rest in a so-called sleep pod for £18 (\$23) an hour.

Pop & Rest was co-founded in London's trendy Shoreditch area by Mauricio Villamizar, who said he aimed to "flood" the city with nap pods, setting them up in railway stations, offices and universities. "There is a need for actually getting private space in the middle of the city. We like to call it an oasis of peace," Villamizar told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The pods - which are popping up in cities across the globe, from New York to Madrid - were inspired by the rise in remote working and long commutes, he said, as well as the popularity of third spaces such as coffee shops, that are neither home nor the office.

Britain is experiencing a housing crisis as homebuilding has declined since the 1970s, driving up property prices faster than wages. That is forcing city workers to live further away from the center, Villamizar said. The number of workers facing commutes over two hours has risen 34 percent over the last 10 years, according to the Trade Union Congress, Britain's umbrella union group, with Londoners taking the longest to get to and from work.

With more people working further from their homes, eating out and using 24-hour gyms, some see sleeping on-the-go as a natural extension of busy lifestyles, while others worry it is outsourcing the concept of the home. Nancy, a London tourist from Amsterdam, said that "the city can be quite tiring and you just want to find a place where you can relax a bit". "I think this could be an addi-

tion to the home, so why not?"

Event marketer Sinead Khan said the sleep pods reflected the impact of high property prices on people's lives. "There's a little bit of a moral issue with charging people to sleep, but at the same time this is a city and with the price of houses and property being so high it's still a space, and that's got to be a commodity," she said. "It's just the way the world is moving... but I don't think it will ever replace the concept of having a base that you come to and a home, because there is no place like home."

Regular user and sports massage therapist Victoria Hickman, 24, said the sleep pods offer more privacy and comfort than sleeping in a park or elsewhere in the city and suit her busy freelance lifestyle. "I'd rather spend my money actually recharging and having a really good sleep rather than going to a coffee shop and depending on caffeine or buying food just to keep my body awake," said Hickman. "Sleep is such a vital part of health and I think because there's such a change in how we're thinking about wellbeing, especially in cities and they're so fast-paced... it (sleep pods) will definitely take off."

Public Health England, a government agency, recommends seven to nine hours of sleep per night and warns that a lack of sleep can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease and physical and mental health problems. With the advent of smartphones as well as warmer weather many Britons are sleeping less according to advice body The Sleep Council, which found that almost a third of people sleep poorly most nights, blaming stress as the main cause. For passerby Matthias Schuch, however, paying to sleep is "very strange... because everybody should be able to sleep."

Pop & Rest co-founder Yoann Demont said the sleeping pods are part of a broader "smart cities" movement - and hopes to roll them out to other cities in Britain. The concept advocates a more interconnected use of public space and amenities to offer efficient services, which Demont said appeals to millennials who generally work longer hours and have families later in life. "It's part of the trend of being a nomad... we spend less time at home," he said. Rather than "monetizing napping", Demont said he hopes to offer similar sleep services to low-income workers and homeless people in the future. — Reuters

## Couples in Tunisia unable to wed despite law change

**TUNIS:** Despite the law now being on their side, Zeineb, a Tunisian woman, and her Italian fiance Sergio cannot find a local notary to marry them unless he converts to Islam. "I never imagined that marrying a non-Muslim could be so complicated," 40-year-old Zeineb told AFP in her northern city of Hammamet. A ban on marriage between a Muslim woman and non-Muslim man, unless he converts, is common in Arab countries. Such legislation in Tunisia, which dated to 1973, was scrapped in September 2017 at the initiative of President Beji Caid Essebsi.

But Zeineb and Sergio, a 68-year-old factory director, cannot find a notary in the whole of Hammamet to tie the knot, with officials declining out of "religious

convictions". "I've contacted many notaries and they've all refused to marry me because my partner is a non-Muslim. Some of them said that conducting such a marriage was against their principles and their conviction," explained Zeineb. Sergio was baffled. "The law allows me to marry a Tunisian woman without me having to convert to Islam but the people who are supposed to help with my marriage are preventing me from exercising my right," he said.

The couple decided back in June to get married and have prepared all the paperwork - but so far to no avail. Two of the reluctant notaries in Hammamet, contacted by AFP, said they had yet to receive or read through the new regulations on such marriages. But, according to the local affairs ministry, regional and municipal authorities across Tunisia have been sent the new text.

Rights groups have stepped in to demand an end to such obstruction by notaries. The justice ministry should take "strong action against those who do not apply the law", the Tunisian association for the rights of minorities said in a statement. The association has found at least two other cases this month which match the circumstances of Zeineb and Sergio. — AFP



Sports

# Bauer strikes out 11; Indians blank Minnesota Twins 10-0

## Osuna, back from ban, earns win in Astros debut

**OHIO:** Trevor Bauer struck out 11 and gave up just three hits over six innings, and Edwin Encarnacion gave him plenty of support with a home run and four RBIs as the host Cleveland Indians cruised to a 10-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Monday night at Progressive Field. Yonder Alonso, Brandon Guyer and Jason Kipnis also homered for Cleveland, which won its third straight game and improved to 33-15 against AL Central competition.

Francisco Lindor, Michael Brantley and Kipnis each finished with two hits. It was the 10th double-digit strikeout game of the season for Bauer (11-6), tying Boston's Chris Sale for the American League lead in that category. The 11 strikeouts also gave Bauer 206 for the season, making him the 11th pitcher in Cleveland history to reach 200 strikeouts in a season—and the second fastest to do it behind only 2017 AL Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber.

### Yankees 7, White Sox 0

Lance Lynn pitched two-hit ball for 7 1/3 masterful innings, and New York halted its season-high, five-game losing streak with a victory at Chicago. Inserted into the rotation to replace a struggling Sonny Gray, Lynn (8-8) produced a gem in his first start for the Yankees and first start since July 27 for Minnesota at Boston. He tied a season high with nine strikeouts and walked one. Gleyber Torres and Neil Walker homered for the Yankees. The White Sox saw their season-high, four-game winning streak stopped while getting blanked for the 10th time.

### Astros 3, Giants 1

Roberto Osuna, fresh off a 75-game suspension and making his Astros debut, earned the win Monday as Houston rallied to beat the Giants 3-1 in San Francisco. Osuna, 23, was punished for violating Major League Baseball's domestic-violence policy. The right-handed reliever was arrested May 8 and charged with assaulting his girlfriend in Toronto. Osuna is next due in court on Sept. 5. On Monday, a few boos were heard when Osuna entered the game at AT&T Park with Houston trailing 1-0 in the eighth inning. Osuna (1-0) set down the side in order, then wound up with the victory when Marwin Gonzalez hit a three-run homer in top of the ninth inning.

Hector Rondon pitched the bottom of the ninth for his 12th save. Osuna said, according to ESPN, "It was really special coming back and feeling the mound again. I was really excited about today. I got the opportunity to pitch, and the most important thing is that we won tonight." Osuna began his suspension when he was

the Blue Jays' roster. The Astros traded Ken Giles and two minor-leaguers to Toronto on July 30 to acquire Osuna, who was added to Houston's active roster Sunday after his 75-game ban expired.

His arrival in Houston received a muted reception, with teammates such as Justin Verlander, an outspoken critic of domestic violence, saying they would wait to pass judgment. The players held a closed-door meeting with Osuna when he joined the club Sunday. In 15 appearances for Toronto earlier this year, Osuna had no decisions and nine saves while compiling a 2.93 ERA. In four major league seasons, all with the Blue Jays until Monday, Osuna is 9-13 with 104 saves in 124 chances plus a 2.85 ERA. Osuna will be eligible for the postseason, as players suspended for domestic violence are eligible to play in the playoffs, unlike those banned under MLB's policy prohibiting performance-enhancing drugs.

### Diamondbacks 3, Phillies 2 (14 innings)

David Peralta homered off the top of the fence in left-center field with one out in the 14th inning, his second long ball of the game, to give Arizona a victory over Philadelphia in Phoenix.

Peralta, who has a career-high 19 homers, homered off Austin Davis (1-2) for his first career walk-off hit. Peralta's solo homer with one out in the ninth inning started a rally that tied the game at 2. He had four hits, all from the ninth inning on. Yoshihisa Hirano (3-2), the seventh Arizona pitcher, retired all six batters he faced while pitching two innings for the first time this season. The Diamondbacks moved one-half game ahead of the idle Los Angeles Dodgers for first place in the NL West.

### Angels 6, Tigers 2

Nick Tropeano and four relievers combined for a three-hitter in Los Angeles' win over Detroit at Anaheim, Calif. Tropeano (5-6) gave up just one of the hits—a solo homer by Nick Castellanos in the first inning—in five innings. He was replaced to start the sixth inning despite making just 62 pitches because of what the team termed shoulder tightness. Andrelton Simmons and Kaleb Cowart led the Angels' offense. Simmons with two hits, including a home run, and Cowart with two doubles. Jose Briceo also had two hits for Los Angeles, and Eric Young Jr added a homer and a sacrifice fly.

### Cubs 3, Royals 1

Javier Baez hit a go-ahead home run in the sixth inning, and Cole Hamels gave up one run in six frames

as Chicago won at Kansas City. Baez's 25th home run of the season was his sixth in his past 10 games. He added an RBI double in the eighth inning for an insurance run. Baez already has a career-best homer total, and he increased his National League-leading RBI total to 88. Hamels (7-9) outlasted a 22-minute rain delay to win for the second time in two starts with the Cubs. He gave up seven hits and a walk while striking out two. Pedro Strop pitched the ninth inning for his eighth save.

### Marlins 2, Cardinals 1

Wei-Yin Chen pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings as Miami snapped the longest active losing streak in the major leagues at six games, defeating visiting St. Louis. Javy Guerra earned his first save since 2014, inheriting a bases-loaded jam in the ninth. On his second pitch, he got Yadier Molina to bounce into a game-ending double play. Chen (4-8) allowed one hit—a single—and two walks, striking out four and lowering his home ERA to 1.94. Starlin Castro led Miami's offense, going 2-for-3 with a home run.

### Mets 6, Reds 4

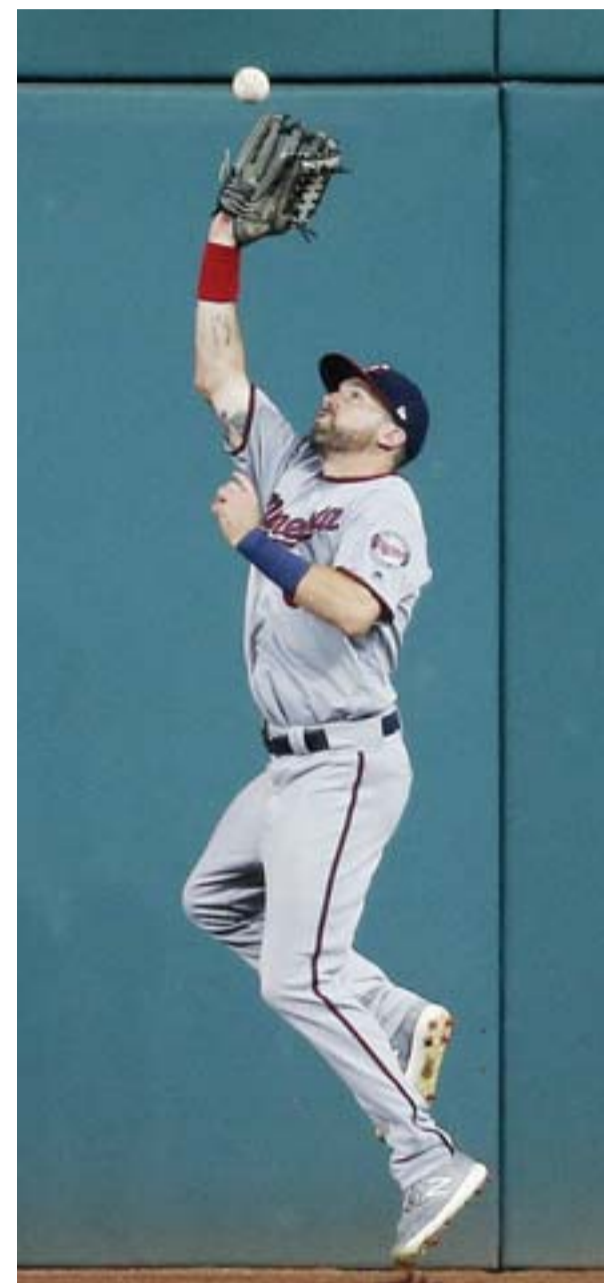
Wilmer Flores celebrated his birthday with three hits, including a pair of RBI singles, to lead host New York to a victory over Cincinnati. The Mets won for just the third time in 10 games. The Reds have lost six of seven. Flores, 27, is the first Mets player to have at least three hits on his birthday since Jeromy Bectz did so on April 15, 2003. Austin Jackson and Jeff McNeil each added three hits for New York, and McNeil homered.

### Rockies 2, Pirates 0

Kyle Freeland pitched two-hit ball over seven innings, and Colorado beat Pittsburgh in Denver. Freeland (10-7) didn't give up a run for the fifth time this season and tied a season high in innings pitched to help Colorado open a seven-game homestand with a win. He finished with five strikeouts and three walks. Wade Davis retired the side in order in the ninth inning for his 32nd save in 38 chances. Pittsburgh lost its third game in a row while the Rockies won their second straight.

### Mariners 4, Rangers 3 (12 innings)

Ryon Healy singled home the go-ahead run with two outs in the 12th inning as Seattle defeated host Texas. Mike Zunino went 3-for-5 with a home run for the Mariners, who improved to 9-1 in extra-inning games. Sam Tuivailala (4-3) got the victory with a scoreless inning of relief, and Edwin Diaz earned his major-league-leading 42nd save.—Reuters



**OHIO:** Jake Cave #60 of the Minnesota Twins makes a leaping catch during the eighth inning at Progressive Field on August 6, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. The Indians defeated the Twins 10-0. — AFP

## Under KIB sponsorship, Ghazi Al-Jeraiwy shines



Ghazi Al-Jeraiwy

**KUWAIT:** The jockeys of the KIB Equestrian team continue to shine on the global equestrian scene - most recently at the CH de Wolden - CSI Zuidwolde International Competition, where Ghazi Al-Jeraiwy took the 3rd place in the 35CM CATEGORY. The young jockey completed an error-free round - clocking in at a timing of 39.60 after a stiff competition with first-place finisher Swedish jockey Antonia Anderson - who grabbed the top spot (timing - 37.5). The second-place finisher was Japanese jockey Tae Sato - who came in at a timing of 38.53.

The competition kicked off with the participation of 230 jockeys from 35 countries - with participants from Europe, U.S., Canada, Malaysia, Japan as well as a number of Arab and GCC nations. Kuwait's participation in this international equestrian event came under the flag of the International Federation for Equestrian Sports, with the country being represented by jockeys Ali Al-Kharafi, Ghazi Al-Jeraiwy, Rakan Al-Hassawi, Dalia Al-Zaghem, Noura Al-Quod, Yara Al-Hneidi, Ghaneema Al-Marzouq, Latifa Al-Hajery, Layan Al-Eissa, and Latifa Al-Othman - all of whom proved

themselves worthy sportsmen and sportswomen amongst their international peers.

On this occasion, KIB congratulated Al-Jeraiwy on his impressive accomplishment, noting that the Bank continues to offer its support and sponsorship to the showjumping team year on year, as the team continues to deliver a solid performance time and time again. The Bank's sponsorship of these athletes comes as part of KIB's ongoing efforts to support youth.

It also comes in line with KIB's numerous initiatives geared towards supporting the local sports culture, as the Bank is especially focused on sponsoring talented local athletes to enable them to participate in various competitions; thereby establishing KIB as partners in every aspect of their lives; a true 'Bank for Life'. It serves to note that the KIB equestrian team features jockeys Ghazi Al-Jeraiwy, Ahmad Al-Mudaheka, Abdullah Hamadah and Ahmad Al-Ansari. The team has continued to garner an impressive slew of accolades over the past few years, raising Kuwait's name high on the international scene.

## Kuwaitis nab gold, silver at Arab U-15 fencing event



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaitis Mohammad Al-Fadhli and Hussain Mahdi clinched respective gold and silver medals at the Arab U-15 Fencing Championships, which concluded in Amman, Jordan, on Monday. The two young fencers secured the accolades in the men's Sabre individuals, according to the Kuwait Fencing Federation. Kuwait team director Tareq Mahdi said he was pleased with the accomplishments, recorded in the name of the country, which came as a result of hard work and perseverance.—KUNA



## F1 champions Mercedes sign virtual champ for esports team

**LONDON:** Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes Formula One team launched an esports program yesterday with another British world champion, Brendon Leigh, lined up to compete for them in the virtual world. Leigh, winner of the inaugural F1 esports championship

last year at the age of 18, will be one of four gamers racing for Mercedes-AMG Petronas Esports. The former kitchen worker from Reading who had not left Britain until he went to Abu Dhabi and won, joins compatriot Harry Jacks, Poland's Patryk Krutjy and Hungarian Dani Berezny in the line-up.

Jacks, 24, was a finalist in McLaren's 'World's Fastest Gamer' competition last year. Krutjy, 22, is a four-times Polish league winner while Berezny is an 18-year-old student selected through the F1 Esports series 2018 Pro Draft. Mercedes, winners of both Formula One titles for the past four years, said the esports team will be based at their Brackley headquarters and have the use of a purpose-built esports training centre. Construction of the centre, in the same building as a simulator

used by the regular F1 drivers, is expected to start in the coming weeks.

"The program also focuses on human performance and will give the esports team members access to the on-site Performance Centre covering the core areas of nutrition, physical conditioning and wellbeing," said Mercedes. The Formula Esports series 2018, using the official F1 game, takes place in October and November involving all of the F1 teams with the exception of Ferrari. Three live events will decide the virtual drivers' and teams' world championships with a prize fund of at least \$200,000. More than 63,000 hopefuls worldwide entered last year's competition initially by competing in the Codemasters-developed F1 2017 video game on PlayStation4, Xbox One and Windows PC platforms.—Reuters



## Sports

# 2020 Olympic chief pushes for a daylight saving time

## Tokyo 2020 to up security with facial recognition system

**TOKYO:** The chief organizer of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics appealed yesterday for Japan to introduce daylight saving time to reduce the effect of the extreme summer heat on athletes and spectators. "I want them to use the Olympics as a way to give a maximum push for the project," said former prime minister Yoshiro Mori after meeting current premier Shinzo Abe. Japan is currently sweating through a deadly heatwave that has seen the mercury top 40 degrees in some parts of the country and sparked fears over the well-being of participants at the 2020 games.

Abe responded by urging members of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party to consider the plan, according to Toshiaki Endo, a former Olympic minister who attended the meeting. Japan adopted daylight saving time in 1948 under US occupation after defeat in World War II but scrapped it four years later amid concerns it was encouraging longer work hours. The idea has won favor from some in business and politics as a way to allow the famously hard-working Japanese to enjoy longer summer evenings with their families. But critics say extending daylight hours risks people staying in the office longer, hindering official efforts to clamp down on overtime.

In Tokyo, the sun sets at around 7pm, even at the height of summer. Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters that it was just one proposal among many to mitigate the effects of the heat. "However, the measure would have a significant impact on the everyday lives of the Japanese people and we only have two years before the event," Suga warned. He said officials were drafting plans to lessen the impact of the hot weather, including early starting times for competitions and laying special pavement to

reduce road surface temperature. "We are already taking comprehensive and thorough measures," he said.

### Facial recognition system

Tokyo 2020 will be the first Olympics to use facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues, the organizers announced yesterday. Games organizers have linked up with Japanese telecommunications and information technology giant NEC to develop the first system of this kind to be implemented at an Olympics. The technology, which was demonstrated to the media at an event in the Japanese capital, will use IC chips within identification cards to automatically verify the identity of those entering over 40 venues.

More than 300,000 athletes and Games staff will have to submit photographs to a database before the Olympics start in July 2020. "Every time they enter the facility, they have to do a security check," explained Tokyo 2020's head of security Tsuyoshi Iwashita. "Tokyo's venues doesn't always have enough space for the security check or even space to wait for the security check. When the events are happening, we expect many people to come and the weather will be very hot. This is why we introduced this facial recognition."

The system will not be aimed at spectators and will instead concentrate on strengthening security and decreasing waiting times for athletes. "More than 40 facilities, including the main stadium, International Broadcast Centre, the Olympic village and so on, will have the facial recognition system," said NEC Senior Vice President Masaaki Suanuma.

"Athletes, Games staff, volunteers and the media will have this recognition." NEC said they tested the



**TOKYO:** Japanese swimmer Kosuke Hagino (2nd left), Canadian swimmer Kylie Masse (3rd left), Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games mascot Miraitowa and Paralympic mascot Someity (4th left) pose in front of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Aquatics Centre yesterday. — AFP

technology during the Rio 2016 Olympics and that the technology has already been implemented in various locations, including airports. During the demonstration to media, the technology correctly identified a string of people, including those in wheelchairs and

of varying heights, which is a key feature of NEC's system. Suanuma said: "99.7 percent of the time, the face is recognized by the system correctly. "This number will not change according to nationality or if big or small." — Agencies

## Ball-tampering, abuse threaten cricket's 'DNA'

**LONDON:** Ball-tampering, verbal abuse and on-field confrontations are threatening the spirit of cricket and recent poor behavior by players has to stop, International Cricket Council (ICC) boss David Richardson has said. Richardson also took aim at players claiming confusion over ball-tampering rules, saying the laws were clear and their complaints "disingenuous" in a speech at the MCC's Colin Cowdrey Lecture at Lord's.

"The phrase 'it's just not cricket' is not an accident, it's because cricket's DNA is based on integrity and people know that cricket represents something more than a game," Richardson said. "We have seen too much behavior of late that puts that in jeopardy and it has to stop. "Sledging that amounts to no more than personal abuse, fielders giving send-offs to batsmen who have been dismissed, unnecessary physical contact, players threatening not to play in protest against an umpire's decision and ball tampering. "This isn't the version of our sport that we want to project to the world."

Cricket's image has taken a battering in recent months, with former Australia captain Steve Smith and two of his players slapped with long bans for the Cape Town ball-tampering scandal in March. The same test series against South Africa was also marred by an off-field altercation between Australia's David Warner and Quinton de Kock, and a string of code of conduct violations by players on both sides. Ugly incidents involving players undermining officials have also tarnished the game, with Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan sanctioned after threatening to take his team off the ground over an umpiring decision in a Twenty20 match against Sri Lanka in March.

Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal, coach Chandika Hathurusinghe and manager Asanka Gurusinha were all sanctioned last month after the team refused to take the field for two hours in a June test match against West Indies in protest after Chandimal was charged with ball-tampering. The ICC introduced tougher punishments for ball-tampering last month, but South Africa captain Faf du Plessis, who has twice fallen foul of the rules, remarked that he needed more "clarity" over what was permitted.

Richardson said the rules were already clear enough. "Over the last few months I've read comments from players requesting guidance on what is allowed in relation to the ball," he said. "Asking if they can chew gum, wear sunscreen or drink a sugary drink, and to be brutally honest, I find this a little disingenuous. "The laws are simple and straightforward - do not change the condition of the ball using an artificial substance. "If you are wearing sunscreen, sucking a mint or chewing gum with the intent of using the cream or sugary saliva on the ball, you are ball-tampering." — Reuters

## Unpredictable Spieth seeks Grand Slam at PGA Championship

**ST LOUIS:** Three-times major champion Jordan Spieth can achieve the 'Career Grand Slam' at this week's PGA Championship, the final major of the year, but the young American is just as likely to deliver his latest memorable near miss. Spieth arrives at Bellerive Country Club in St Louis needing a victory to become only the sixth player to win all four modern majors - joining Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.

The 25-year-old Spieth has made a habit of etching his name next to the giants of the game, and his path to golf's elite club has been all kinds of spectacular. Last month's Open Championship at Carnoustie provided the latest glimpse into Spieth's brilliance and flaws. He charged to the top and held a share of the lead entering the final round, only to disintegrate into the Scottish links with a five-over-par 76 that dropped him well out of contention.

Somehow, though, the experience left Spieth more inspired than discouraged. "I believe that my best golf has yet to come, absolutely," he told reporters. "Even better than (2015), all that, yeah. It's all there, and it's moving in the right direction. So I'm actually very pleased coming out of this week." To anyone other than Spieth himself, he seems a great distance from his hallmark 2015 form when he captured the Masters and US Open, finished tied for fourth at the Open Championship and was runner-up at



**ST LOUIS:** Jordan Spieth of the United States plays a shot from a bunker during a practice round prior to the 2018 PGA Championship at Bellerive Country Club in St Louis. — AFP

the PGA. Last week's outing at the WGC Bridgestone Invitational saw Spieth finish tied 60th and added to a season of inconsistency.

### Mercurial golf

It has now been more than a year since he recorded a PGA Tour victory. The 2017 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale was Spieth's last triumph and a keen reminder of his mercurial golf, after he squandered a three-shot lead in four holes only to channel his most sublime play to seize the Claret Jug. The 2016 Masters is the flipside for Spieth - he lost a five-shot lead on the back nine during a collapse that echoed far beyond the reach of Augusta National. "I believe

that going through struggles, you start to realise where your tendencies are and how to compensate for it and turn them into advantages," Spieth said last month. "I think that I have that going for me." What Spieth always seemed to have going for him during his best days was his magic with the putter. During his hot stretches, 50-footers and 10-footers felt equally destined to find the hole. Spieth is confusingly near the bottom of the PGA Tour this season in strokes gained putting and admits that his limited number of chances to win has been frustrating. Regardless of form, he has a knack of taking residence on major championship leaderboards. His final outcomes, however, have become golf's most suspenseful drama. — Reuters

## Venus survives Dolehide scare in Rogers Cup

**CALIFORNIA:** Venus Williams avoided an upset at the hands of fellow American Caroline Dolehide, holding off the 19-year-old 7-5, 6-1 to claim her first round match at the Rogers Cup on Monday. Williams, coming off a disappointing quarter-final loss at the Silicon Valley Classic last week, fell down a break early but recovered to turn back her dangerous opponent. "I think she had a really great second serve," Williams told reporters, of Dolehide. "I think I got a better feel for it in the second set. In the first set, I was still figuring it out."

Dolehide displayed her full potential in March when she nearly took down world number one Simona Halep at Indian Wells. Against Williams, the young player lost momentum late as Williams claimed 12 of the final 14 games of the match. The only two other seeds in action during the opening day were ninth seed Karolina Pliskova and 10th seed Julia Goerges who both won. Pliskova beat Katerina Siniakova 6-4 6-4 while Goerges overcame Timea Babos 3-6 7-6(3) 6-4. Among those yet to play are top-ranked Halep and number two Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark. The top eight seeds all received first-round byes.

### Serena struggling

Meanwhile, Serena Williams was in a "funk" last week because she felt her hectic schedule was not leaving her enough time to care for her 11-month old daughter, the 23-time grand slam champion said in a social media post on Monday. The 36-year-old American pulled out of the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Saturday citing "personal issues", days after she was beaten 6-1 6-0 by Johanna Konta in the first round of the Silicon Valley Classic, the most lopsided defeat of her career.



**MONTREAL:** Venus Williams serves against Caroline Dolehide during day one of the Rogers Cup at IGA Stadium on August 6, 2018. — AFP

"Last week was not easy for me. Not only was I accepting some tough personal stuff, but I just was in a funk," Williams said in an Instagram post. "Mostly, I felt like I was not a good mom," "I read several articles that said postpartum emotions can last up to 3 years if not dealt with. I like communication best. Talking things through with my mom, my sisters, my friends let me know that my feelings are totally normal."

"It's totally normal to feel like I'm not doing enough for my baby," Williams said feeling overwhelmed was a normal part of being a new mother and encouraged anyone struggling through a rough patch to stay positive. "We have all been there. I work a lot, I train, and I'm trying to be the best athlete I can be," she said. "However, that means although I have been with her every day of her life, I'm not around as much as I would like to be. "Most of you moms deal with the same thing. Whether stay-at-home or working, finding that balance with kids is a true art. You are the true heroes. "I'm here to say: if you are having a rough day or week-it's ok-I am, too!!! There's always tomm!" — Agencies

## Curran's example inspires England new boy Pope

**LONDON:** Ollie Pope hopes to follow in the footsteps of fellow 20-year-old Surrey rising star Sam Curran during England's Test series with India. Top-order batsman Pope is set to make his England debut at Lord's later this week after being called into the squad for the second Test in place of the dropped Dawid Malan. County colleague Curran starred with both bat and ball as England beat India by 31 runs in the first Test at Edgbaston last week to go 1-0 up in the five-match series. Now Pope, who has played just 15 first-class matches, would love the chance to prove, as Curran did in Birmingham, the old adage that 'if you're good enough you're old enough' right. "The way he (Curran) played last week can give me confidence to know I can do it," Pope told reporters at Lord's on Tuesday.

"I've played with him since we were 14 or 15 - as soon as he came over from Zimbabwe — and we've gone through the same path. "I've had a good season so far. I have confidence in my own game to take the next step. You hear stories of some of the greats of the game, people like Alastair Cook. I think he was 20 when he made his debut, so it's not like it hasn't been done before." Pope has been in brilliant form for County Championship leaders Surrey this season, scoring 684 runs at a huge average of 85.50, including three centuries and a top score of 158 not out.

He also made an unbeaten fifty for the second-string England Lions in a 253-run win over India A in a first-class fixture at Worcester last month. But if England decide to bat Pope in Malan's number four position, when the second Test starts on Thursday, he will be two places up the order from the number six berth he usually occupies at Surrey. Pope, asked if he would be ready to bat at number four, replied: "If required, yes. Especially against this India side, where they bowl a lot of spin. "It's not massively different. When I bat at six sometimes I've been in the 10th over, other times I'm in for the second new ball," he added. "In the four to six region I don't think there's a massive difference in the way you play." — AFP



## Sports

# No gentle introduction for new Arsenal coach Emery

## Emery steers club into a brave new post-Wenger world

LONDON: There will be no gentle introduction to Premier League football for Arsenal manager Unai Emery as he begins the task of steering the club into a brave new post-Arsene Wenger world. Looming on the horizon for the Spaniard is an opening-day home game against last year's runaway champions Manchester City. Then it's a trip across town to Chelsea. Hardly a honeymoon period.

But then again Emery always knew that leaving mega-rich Paris St Germain for the most unforgiving league in Europe would be full-on from day one. Arsenal fans in their mid 20s and younger are unlikely to have any recollection of a season kicking off without Wenger at the helm. Even the older generations must have thought change would never come before the Frenchman finally stepped aside at the end of last season and was replaced by Emery.

While Wenger will always command reverence at Arsenal, even from those who ran out of patience with the Frenchman in the latter years of his 22-year reign, there is a genuine excitement about the build-up to the new season. Emery actually comes with a much more impressive track record than Wenger boasted when he arrived to questions of 'Arsene Who?'. He won three successive Europa Leagues with Sevilla and last year landed a domestic treble with PSG.

In terms of the challenge that lies ahead it is not dissimilar to what Wenger inherited in 1996 — a club in need of a kickstart after stalling on the pitch. The trouble is the competition in the top-six of England's top tier has never been fiercer and pushing the Gunners up

from the sixth position they finished last season and back into the Champions League will be a devilishly tough assignment. Emery will certainly not fail for lack of preparation and attention to detail. Unlike Wenger's more hands-off approach, the Spaniard is well-known for his devotion to painstaking preparation, post-match analysis and belief in marginal gains.

During his time in charge at Valencia his insistence on players watching videos of forthcoming opponents led Joaquin to quip that "I ran out of popcorn". Emery is certainly not short of ambition, judging by his comments when first being unveiled to a curious British media. "We can grow with these players and the objective is to work hard with these talented players, to work to be a candidate for all the titles in the future," he said. "After two years outside the Champions League, to work towards this, to arrive and be the best team in the Premier League and also the world."

A bold ambition indeed and Emery at least appears to be starting by putting in the defensive foundations that had become so unstable in Wenger's latter years. German keeper Bernd Leno has arrived from Bayer Leverkusen while former Juventus defender and Switzerland skipper Stephan Lichtsteiner will add experience to the back four, as will Greek Sokratis Papastathopoulos who joined from Borussia Dortmund. Uruguayan Lucas Torreira, signed from Sampdoria, looks like the kind of midfield linchpin Arsenal have been crying out for while in attack Emery will hope Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang will form a fruitful partnership. —Reuters



LONDON: Photo shows general view outside the Emirates Stadium before the English Premier League football at The Emirates Stadium in north London, England. —AFP

## Sarri faces tough task in search for first silverware

LONDON: Chelsea's appointment of Maurizio Sarri as manager should guarantee an entertaining brand of football at Stamford Bridge this season but winning trophies, not admirers, is how he will be judged come May. The experienced Sarri received plenty of plaudits for Napoli's eye-catching style during his three-year stint and last season his team ran Juventus close in the Serie A title race. But as has been the case throughout a managerial career that began in 1996 and has stopped off at several humble outposts of Italian football, the 59-year-old failed to land any silverware.

His biggest honor was being voted Serie A Coach of the Year in 2016-17. That will have to change at Chelsea—his first overseas coaching adventure—although he has chosen a devilishly difficult league to try and make it happen and a club not exactly known for its patience. Fellow Italian Antonio Conte won the 2016-17 Premier League title in his first season with Chelsea and the FA Cup in his second but was jettisoned earlier this month. Sarri's approach will likely be radically different to that of Conte who preferred three central defenders.

"He is bringing a different style, a different formation and we just need to grow into it," Spanish midfielder Cesc Fabregas said of the 4-3-3 system that served Sarri well at Napoli. Brazilian-born midfielder Jorginho followed Sarri from Naples to west London and will be the deep-lying playmaker who will help make Chelsea tick alongside their World Cup-winning French dynamo N'Golo Kante. Further up the pitch, Sarri's formation looks tailor-made for Belgian livewire Eden Hazard to operate with the kind of freedom that he was often denied under Conte, especially last season when Chelsea were accused of being too predictable.

### Strong start

Getting his ideas across in time for Chelsea to make a strong start will be key for Sarri, though, and this weekend's Community Shield against Premier League champions Manchester City will offer an interesting gauge of his approach. The early indications are that the players have enjoyed the way the Italian is trying to mould the team. "I love Sarri's philosophy," Chelsea's Brazilian central defender David Luiz, who was out of favour under Conte last season, said. "We play high, with a lot of possession in a technical way. A new philosophy always takes time." Sarri, who will have Chelsea great Gianfranco Zola as part of his coaching set-up, is an admirer of the quick-passing football played by Pep Guardiola's Manchester City to such devastating effect last season.

There were hints of that style in Chelsea's friendly against Inter Milan last weekend in Nice. "We moved



Chelsea's Italian head coach Maurizio Sarri

the ball very quickly and we moved it well tonight, but not at the right speed," Sarri said after a 1-1 draw. "You have to move the ball at a great speed on the floor. "Otherwise, we risk playing for 90 minutes with 75 percent ball possession but without scoring." The other big question is how much more money Chelsea will spend before they kick off their season at Huddersfield Town this weekend. Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuain was on Sarri's wish list although probably his biggest coup would be to convince Hazard he is the man to take Chelsea on another title run. — Reuters

## Strengthened Liverpool set to challenge City

MANCHESTER: Liverpool's run to the Champions League final and their impressive three wins over Manchester City in the last campaign have raised hopes on Merseyside that they could be the closest challengers to Pep Guardiola's side this season. Their work in the transfer market has also added to the positivity around the club after German manager Jurgen Klopp made some major moves that have clearly strengthened his squad. The most glaring weakness in last year's team was in goal, where Loris Karius's nightmare performance in the Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid exposed their lack of a reliable top-class keeper.

Klopp responded by signing 25-year-old Brazil international Alisson Becker from AS Roma, smashing the world record for a goalkeeper in a deal worth up to 72.5 million euros (\$84 million). The departure of Emre Can to Juventus and the long-term injury absence of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain left Klopp short of options in the centre of midfield. Yet the arrivals of Brazilian Fabinho from AS Monaco and Guinea international Naby Keita from RB Leipzig have provided plenty of additional quality.

Liverpool's strength last season was their attack, which remains unchanged, with Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane a potent trident that will trouble any defense in the Premier League. The surprise purchase of Swiss international Xherdan Shaqiri from Stoke City offers some cover and flexibility, rounding out what has been an impressive transfer window for Klopp. As well as the close-season signings, the arrival in January of Virgil van Dijk brought much-needed solidity and stability to the centre of defense and with Joe Gomez and Nathaniel Clyne back to fitness, there are increased options at fullback.

While City start as title favorites, Liverpool know they are capable of outgunning Guardiola's side — they beat them 4-3 in the league at Anfield in January before a 3-0 victory in the Champions League quarter-final, first leg. Klopp is well aware that Liverpool need to eliminate some of the sloppy performances, which left them trailing City in the league last season, and while he is not promising silverware, he expects to see progress. "Improvement, development, using our football last season as a basis and make the next steps. More consistency - we were not inconsistent, but we can be more consistent," he said. "The mood in the club at the moment is really good and we want to build on that, we want to come even closer." — Reuters

## Record-breaking keeper El Hadary retires - aged 45

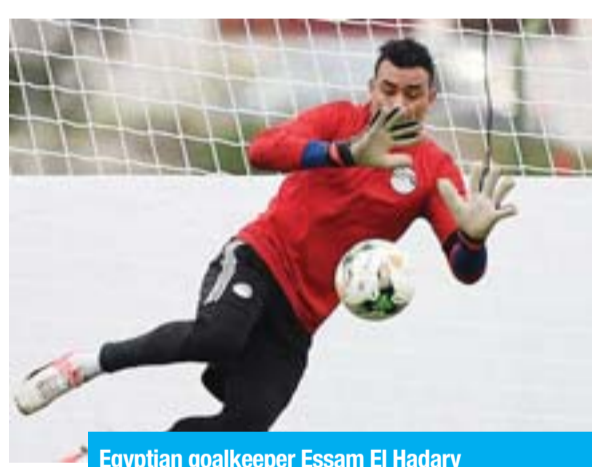
CAIRO: Veteran Egyptian goalkeeper Essam El Hadary has retired from international duty aged 45, after breaking the record for oldest player to appear at a World Cup in Russia. "After reflecting at length and asking God, I have decided to retire from international football," El Hadary wrote on Facebook late Monday. El Hadary, nicknamed "High Dam", won 159 caps for his country during a 22-year international career that saw him win the Africa Cup of Nations four times.

At the age of 45 years and 161 days, El Hadary smashed Colombian stopper Faryd Mondragon's record for oldest player at a World Cup when he took to the field against Saudi Arabia in Volgograd this summer. He wrote that he was "very proud" to have finally "realized the most important, biggest, dearest dream of playing at the World Cup". The joy of appearing at Egypt's first World Cup since 1990 was tempered by the team's poor showing, as the Pharaohs led by Liverpool star Mohamed Salah crashed out winless.

## Record-breaking City stick with the winning formula

MANCHESTER: For a club who have become accustomed to spending heavily in each transfer window, this has been a quiet close-season for Manchester City. But such was Pep Guardiola's team's domination of the Premier League last season that reinforcements hardly seemed necessary and the solitary addition of Riyad Mahrez makes an already potent attack even more fearsome.

Algerian Mahrez, a key figure in Leicester City's shock 2016 title win, has been brought in for a reported 60 million pounds (\$78 million), and will compete with Bernardo Silva, Raheem Sterling and Leroy Sane for a place in City's flexible forward line. With Sergio Aguero and Gabriel Jesus battling for the starting centre forward role and David Silva indispensable as the link between midfield and attack, Guardiola has abundant options. The return to fitness of French full back Benjamin Mendy, who made such



Egyptian goalkeeper Essam El Hadary

El Hadary did, however, manage to pull off an impressive penalty save in the final game with the Saudis against a player nearly half his age. Talisman Salah hailed El Hadary as a "legend" after his international retirement was announced. "A new legend from the golden generation is leaving us," Salah wrote on Twitter Tuesday, wishing El Hadary "all the best" for the future. Despite dropping out of the national setup, El Hadary is still playing for Egyptian top flight team Ismaily. He signed for the club back in his homeland in July after leaving Saudi side Al Taawun. — AFP

a promising start to life at the Etihad before an injury in September cut short his season, will also give fresh impetus to the champions.

For those who see an improving Liverpool as a real threat to City and Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur fans who hope for an open fight for the title, it is worth remembering just how dominant City were last season. City were the first team to reach 100 points in a Premier League season and finished 19 points clear of their closest rivals United—another Premier League record. Guardiola's side scored a record 106 goals at an average of 2.8 per match and dominated all the statistical categories and away from the numbers, their attacking, passing football was frequently a joy to watch.

The challenge for City will be to maintain the same level of intensity and consistency in the league while making another push for glory in the Champions League. The quarter-final exit to Liverpool was a blow to a club who had begun to feel they belonged in the European elite and Guardiola certainly has his eye fixed firmly on that competition. The one area where City may be vulnerable, in terms of lacking quality cover and options, is in the defensive midfield role occupied by Fernandinho. Guardiola had hoped to bring in another Brazilian, Jorginho, from Napoli but the player opted to join Chelsea with his former boss from Naples Maurizio Sarri. —Reuters

## New stage but familiar cast for Tottenham

LONDON: Off the pitch the furniture at Tottenham Hotspur will have a shiny new look but on it there will be familiarity as the London club begin a fifth season under Argentine Mauricio Pochettino. After a season lodging at Wembley, Spurs return to their home since 1899 where a new 850 million pounds (\$1.1 billion) stadium has risen on the site of their White Hart Lane ground.

The 62,000-seater—the biggest club arena in London—will be a stunning backdrop as they try to build on the progress which made them a fixture in the Premier League top four. Last season's third-place finish followed a runners-up spot and another third—an impressive sequence considering the club's net spend was dwarfed by the likes of Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal in the same period. Once again Tottenham have been conspicuous by their absence in the transfer market in the build-up to the new campaign.

They had failed to add any new faces despite Pochettino at the end of last season suggesting the club's hierarchy needed to "be brave and take risks" in order to compete for silverware. Either chairman Daniel Levy has something up his sleeve late in the transfer window, as has been the case in previous seasons, or Pochettino's plea has fallen on deaf ears. Liverpool, who were a place below Spurs last season, have gone on a spending spree and will parade the new faces when Tottenham play their first match at the new stadium on Sept. 15 after using Wembley one more time to host Fulham.

### Young squad

While the lack of squad-strengthening is causing consternation amongst the fans, Tottenham's squad is still young and looks more than capable of standing its ground. Nine Spurs players featured in the World Cup semi-finals—more than any other club—and the likes of England quartet Harry Kane, Dele Alli, Eric Dier and Kieran Trippier will again form an important part of Pochettino's plans. Belgium's Jan Vertonghen remains Tottenham's defensive rock, although there are doubts as to whether his compatriots Toby Alderweireld and Mousa Dembele will remain with the club. Denmark's Christian Eriksen will again fill the playmaking role while in Argentine Erik Lamela, South Korea's Son Heung-min and Brazilian Lucas Moura Spurs have lots of attacking options.

Their Spanish striker Fernando Llorente has enjoyed a full pre-season and, providing he does not seek regular first-team football elsewhere, could offer more in the way of back-up to Kane this term after a frustrating opening campaign. Without one or two major signings, few will back Tottenham to challenge for the title but a third consecutive Champions League campaign means an exciting season lies ahead. Top managers, of which Pochettino is certainly one, like to embellish their CVs with silverware, however, and a fifth season at Tottenham without anything tangible to show for his efforts could bring things to a head in nine months' time. — Reuters



**25** Bauer strikes out 11; Indians blank Minnesota Twins 10-0

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**27** Egypt's record-breaking keeper El Hadary retires



## 'Black day' as Mayer fluffs decathlon lines

Zakalynyskyy and Henriques walk to European glory



BERLIN: France's Kevin Mayer competes in the men's decathlon long jump event during the European Athletics Championships at the Olympic stadium in Berlin yesterday. —AFP

**BERLIN:** In-form decathlete Kevin Mayer suffered a "black day" yesterday as he failed to register a mark in the long jump of the multi-discipline event, a failure that means the Frenchman will not add the European title to his world gold medal. The Olympic silver medalist, who was touted as having a shot at the world record such as his form, lived up to that when he opened up with a lifetime best of 10.64 seconds in the 100m, the fastest of the field.

But come the second test of the two-day event, and the 26-year-old Mayer could only record three fouls in the long jump, effectively ruling himself out of a tilt for gold and blowing the field open in the race for the podium. "This is a black day for me," said Mayer. "I do not have an excuse. I am very sorry for those who expected a lot of me, for all my fans. "I was in great shape, but today the others were better. I wanted to show much more than this."

While Mayer was left holding his head in his hands crouched by the sandpit, there was more woe for the

French team as, astonishingly, neither Ruben Gado nor Romain Martin registered a legal jump. There was then more drama in the men's discus when Germany's reigning Olympic gold medalist Christoph Harting and Poland's defending European champion Piotr Malachowski both failed to record a mark in qualifying at Berlin's Olympic Stadium. Harting's launch was obviously offline, the strapping home favorite clattering his discus high into the exit netting.

### Kanter eyes window

One thrower hoping to take advantage of the duo's failure will be Estonian veteran Gerd Kanter, the former world and Olympic champion. "I am pretty old and I am pretty experienced," said the 39-year-old, whose qualifying effort was the third longest. "My first big championships was in 2002 in Munich. I have eleven different championships medals. Here in Berlin, these are my last championships. "I

had some injuries last year and now I hope to quit my career in a good way. I am delighted to be in the final. We had some surprises in the qualification, everything is open."

Another discus thrower bowing out of major championships in Berlin is Christoph Harting's brother Robert, who did manage to qualify for the final in the same stadium where he won world gold in 2009. Teammate Daniel Jasinski, the Olympic bronze medalist, failed however to make the cut. The first gold medal of the European champs, which run until Sunday, went to Ukraine's Maryan Zakalynyskyy, who claimed victory in the men's 50km race walk in 3hr 46min 32sec.

Symbolically finishing next to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church at Breitscheidplatz in western Berlin, where a terror attack on a Christmas market in December 2016 left 12 people dead and 56 others injured, the Ukrainian comfortably held off Slovakia's 2015 world and 2016 Olympic champion Matej Toth (3:47.27) for silver,

with Belarus' Dzmitry Dziubin taking bronze.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Maryan Zakalynyskyy and Portugal's Ines Henriques were the first two champions crowned at the European Athletics Championships yesterday when they delivered exceptional 50 kilometer race walk triumphs. On a hot morning around the streets of Berlin, both athletes defied draining conditions to comfortably eclipse their opposition. The 23-year-old Zakalynyskyy was a surprise winner of the men's race, beating Slovakia's Olympic champion Matej Toth by 55 seconds in three hours, 46 minutes and 32 seconds.

Henriques, the remarkable 38-year-old who won the world title in London last year, then took the women's crown in 4:09:21, three minutes and 23 seconds clear of Ukraine's silver medalist Alina Tsvily. The conditions ruled out any prospect of Henriques attacking Chinese Liang Rui's world record time of 4:04:36 set in May this year at the race walking team championships in Taicang. —Agencies

## Kroenke wins full control of Arsenal

**LONDON:** American billionaire Stan Kroenke has struck a deal to take full control of Arsenal by buying out Russian rival Alisher Usmanov, valuing the English Premier League club at around \$2.3 billion but enraging some fans of the north London team. Coming at a crucial time for Arsenal as they start life without manager Arsene Wenger for the first time in 22 years, the deal cements the position of the US sports boss among an elite band of super-rich soccer club owners in England. Fans worry however that Kroenke, relying on a loan for the bulk of the funding, will not spend enough to compete for players with the likes of Chelsea, Manchester City or Paris St Germain, backed by money from Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar respectively.

The deal ends a standoff between the two

tycoons, who had both battled for control, but it has angered the small group of well-connected independent shareholders who see themselves as guardians of the 132-year-old club. "The Arsenal Supporters' Trust is wholly against this takeover," one fans' group said. "Arsenal remains too important to be owned by any one person." Kroenke, who largely avoids the media spotlight, owns a string of US sports clubs including the US Denver Nuggets basketball team, the Los Angeles Rams American Football team and the Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer.

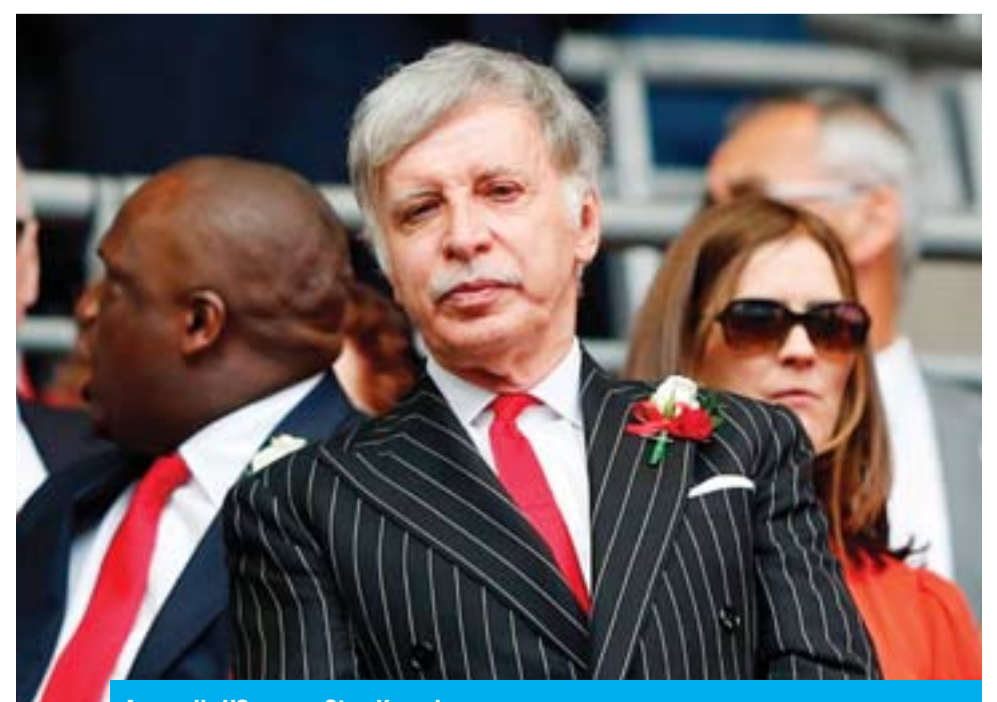
### Done deal

Initially viewed with suspicion by the Arsenal board, the 71-year-old started building his stake in 2007 as he slowly bought out the families who had run the club for generations. He said yesterday he had now received an acceptance from Usmanov to buy his 30 percent stake, adding to the 67 percent he already owns. He will now buy out the remaining independent shareholders at 29,000 pounds for each of its rarely traded shares - more than the average salary for a British worker.

"We appreciate Mr Usmanov's dedication to the Arsenal Football Club and the storied ethos and history the club represents," he said. Usmanov, ranked by Forbes as Russia's 10th richest man with a fortune of \$12.5 billion, owns stakes in some of Russia's biggest companies including phone operator Megafon, iron ore producer Metalloinvest and Internet group Mail.ru. "I have decided to sell my shares in Arsenal Football Club which could be the best football club in the world," Usmanov said in a brief statement. To buy him and the other investors out, Kroenke will pay 602 million pounds, using 45 million pounds of his own money and a 557 million pound loan from Deutsche Bank.

### Fan fears

In a world where clubs are owned by billionaires who do not always turn up to watch them play, the independent shareholders formed a rare bridge between the club's board and its fans. Arsenal's annual meeting was always a feisty affair. At the last game of last season, when Wenger stood down, some fans hired a plane with a banner saying "Kroenke - You're next". —Reuters



Arsenal's US owner Stan Kroenke