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# Kerala floods disrupt expats' travel plans; death toll jumps

## Rescue stepped up as more torrential rain batters Indian state

By Sajeev K Peter and Agencies

**KUWAIT/KOCHI:** Holiday plans of hundreds of expats scheduled to travel to Kerala from Kuwait for Eid Al-Adha and Onam have been thrown into disarray while many others already on vacation in the state are on tenterhooks following the closure of Kochi International Airport in the aftermath of the worst-ever flood disaster in the southern Indian state. All airlines flying into Kochi airport from Kuwait and back have either been cancelled or diverted to nearby airports after floodwaters inundated the runways following incessant rains and opening of dam shutters.

"I was scheduled to resume work on the 26th of this month after my one-month vacation. Now I cannot reach Kuwait on Sunday. I don't know what will happen to my job," said Jimmichan Joseph, who spoke to Kuwait Times by phone from Cochin. He echoed the plight of hundreds of others who are stranded in the state without finding any means to travel back to Kuwait anytime soon. Many people were trying to rebook their flights, while others were trying to shift their departure from Trivandrum, Bangalore, Mangalore or Chennai.

An official statement said Kochi airport will remain closed until Aug 26. However it is not certain that the airport will be able to resume operations. According to airport Director A C K Nair, the airport authorities were forced to take this drastic step in the face of an "unprecedented situation". "It is the peak holiday season. Any change in the booking is hard to make," said

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**KOCHI:** People are airlifted by navy personnel during a rescue operation in a flooded area in Paravoor yesterday. — AFP



**KOZHIKODE, India:** A villager looks at the overflowing Kannappanakundu river about 422 km north of Trivandrum in the south Indian state of Kerala yesterday. — AFP

## Kuwait welcomed back to Asian Games with OCA warning

**JAKARTA:** Kuwait was warned by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) yesterday to stop its "world record" of government interference in sport or face being exiled for a third time. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) this week provisionally lifted its ban on Kuwait, allowing the state's athletes to march under their own flag at yesterday's Asian Games opening ceremony in Jakarta. But the IOC said that despite its "gesture of goodwill" the reasons for its original suspension remained valid.

"This is a world record for government interference in the Olympic movement, no country is like this," OCA director general Husain Al-Musallam told AFP after an

executive board meeting discussed the matter in Jakarta yesterday. "We are very happy for the Kuwait National Olympic Committee and for the athletes," he said. "We hope this will not happen in the future and the Kuwait government will respect the road map they have agreed with the IOC to lead to fresh, clean, transparent and democratic elections based on each sport's statutes approved by their respective international bodies."

World sports bodies led by the IOC and FIFA suspended Kuwait in Oct 2015 for a second time since 2010 for political interference in sport. The IOC said that in reinstating Kuwait provisionally that it "acknowledged the progress" and the "positive discussions with the government of Kuwait". Musallam said Kuwait did not have much time to prove it was trying to meet IOC requirements. "We are going to review the situation with the IOC on October 3 and 4 to see if any of the agreement has been implemented on the ground, or if there is nothing," said Musallam. "We really hope this thing will be finished." — AFP



**JAKARTA:** Kuwait's delegation parades during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Asian Games at the Gelora Bung Karno main stadium yesterday. — AFP

## Pakistan cricket hero Imran Khan sworn in as PM

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan was sworn in at a ceremony in Islamabad yesterday, ushering in a new political era as the World Cup cricket hero officially took the reins of power in the nuclear-armed country. The ceremony at the President's House in the capital marks the end of decades of rotating leadership between the ousted Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), punctuated by periods of army rule.

A tearful Khan smiled as he stumbled over some of

the words of the oath administered to him by President Mamnoon Hussain during the ceremony, televised live by the state broadcaster PTV. He swore to "discharge my duties and perform my functions honestly, to the best of my ability... and always in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity, solidarity, well-being and prosperity of Pakistan".

The 65-year-old former cricketer, who captained Pakistan to World Cup victory in 1992, had won a confidence vote in the National Assembly the previous day. In parliament on Friday he came out fighting with a divisive speech in which he vowed to hold corrupt officials accountable. The July 25 election that brought his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to power was branded "Pakistan's dirtiest", with accusations throughout the campaign that the military was trying to tilt the playing field in Khan's favor. The army and Khan have denied claims from rival parties of "blatant" vote rigging.

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**ISLAMABAD:** President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain (center) takes an oath from newly-appointed Prime Minister Imran Khan (left) during a ceremony as caretaker prime minister Nasirul Mulk (sitting) looks on yesterday. — AFP

## Saudis testing Japanese 'nap pods' for hajj

**MAKKAH:** Mansour Al-Amer swipes a card to reveal a narrow sleep pod, reminiscent of Japan's famed capsule hotels. But this pod is in Saudi Arabia, where the Muslim hajj pilgrimage begins today. The kingdom has plans to introduce capsule rooms in the western city of Mina in the coming days, as an estimated two million Muslim faithful gather for the six-day hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam. The free nap pods are part of new measures Saudi Arabia is rolling out this year in a bid to modernize the centuries-old

practice of hajj. The government has also introduced apps for on-the-spot translation and emergency medical care.

Amer is the head of a Saudi charity, the Haji and Mutamer Gift Charitable Association, which is offering between 18 and 24 capsule for pilgrims to nap in for free in the coming days. Each fibreglass pod - less than three meters long and just over one meter high - features a mattress, clean sheets, air conditioning and a large, well-lit mirror. The pods can be lined up horizontally or stacked vertically to save on space. "We are always thinking about pilgrims and how to make them more comfortable during the rituals of hajj," Amer told AFP.

The nap pods provide a solution for pilgrims of limited means who cannot afford to book hotels on site but need a quick rest during hajj.

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**MAKKAH:** A Saudi man sits inside a sleep pod on Aug 16, 2018. — AFP

## Former UN chief Annan dies; Amir sends condolences

**GENEVA:** Former UN chief and Nobel peace laureate Kofi Annan died yesterday at the age of 80, triggering a flood of tributes from around the world for the "diplomatic rock star". The Ghanaian national was a career diplomat who projected quiet charisma and was widely credited for raising the world body's profile in global politics during his two terms as head of the UN from 1997 to 2006. The first secretary general from sub-Saharan Africa, Annan led the United Nations through the divisive years of the Iraq war and was later accused of corruption in the oil-for-food scandal, one of the most trying times of his tenure.

"It is with immense sadness that the Annan family and the Kofi Annan Foundation announce that Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations and Nobel Peace Laureate, passed away peacefully on Saturday 18th August after a short illness," the foundation said in a statement. "His wife Nane and their children Ama, Kojo and Nina were by his side during his last days." Annan, who lived not far from the UN European headquarters



Kofi Annan

Continued on Page 24



## Local

# Driver dies after dump truck falls off bridge

## Homicide investigation in Ahmadi woman's death



KUWAIT: The dump truck is seen after the accident.



Smoke rises from a brushfire in Mahboula.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** A dump truck driver was killed when his truck flipped over and fell from a bridge on King Fahd Road. Nuwaiseeb fire station men responded to an emergency call reporting the accident and dealt with it. An investigation was opened into the case.

### Fires

Firemen fought a brushfire in Mahboula. No injuries were reported. Mangaf, Fahaheel, Mishref and back-up stations dealt with the fire that covered an area of 2,000 sq m. Firemen also fought another blaze in trees behind Sulaibikhat club. The fire covered an area of 500 sq m. Meanwhile, firemen put out a fire in a Fahaheel apartment. Two persons who were inside the apartment sustained minor injuries. Firemen evacuated the building upon arrival and handed the

injured to paramedics.

### Woman murdered

Ahmadi detectives are investigating a homicide case opened in the death of an Ethiopian woman who is believed to

tioned including her husband, who called the police. The woman's mobile phone will also be checked.

### Newborn found

Police received a call from a citizen who said that he found a newborn near a family vehicle, so police and detectives went to the area and the infant was taken to hospital. Detectives who worked on the case for three weeks learned the mother is the Filipina helper that works for the female sponsor, Al-Rai reported. The woman said she did not notice any signs of pregnancy in her helper, but the helper admitted she was the mother.

### Work mishap

A security source said an Indian air conditioning technician fell from a scaffold that was two meters high, and was transferred to Adan Hospital in critical

condition. An investigation was opened into the case.

### Fight

A bedoon man accused three Iraqi nationals of beating him and his children in front of their house using knives in Rabiya. Police received a call about a fight, so they responded and found the fight was due to differences over a divorce. They were sent to the prosecution.

### Assault

Naeem detectives arrested a citizen for stabbing a compatriot and slashing his hands. A security source said a man was brought to hospital bleeding profusely and was admitted to the ICU. The young man told police that two men had attacked him. Detectives were able to arrest one of them, who confessed to committing the attack. Police are in the process of arresting the second suspect.



## Three fires reported around Kuwait

have been murdered in her Ahmadi home. A security source said detectives are waiting for the forensics report, adding that if foul play is confirmed, all those close to the victim will be ques-

## Kuwait ensures orderly Eid celebration

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality is on full alert to ensure orderly celebration of the forthcoming Eid Al-Adha. Faisal Al-Osaimi, the acting public relations supervisor, said in a statement yesterday that the extraordinary state of alert coincided with the campaign 'communicate with us', designed to remove illegal construction on state plots of land and billboards hung at public locations. Municipal teams WILL monitor and take measures against illegal actions on part of vendors and others who may make business on plots without permits, or abandon cars at public locations. Workers will bring down all eid greeting placards and bar trade in sacrificial meat on streets. They will also clean the mosques and roads. The personnel will inspect law abidance at restaurants, cafes and toy stores.

Meanwhile, Acting Director General of the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department Brig Tawheed Al-Kandari said preparations have been made at all Interior Ministry sectors for Eid Al-Adha. He added that the integrated security procedures aim at providing security and traffic control on all major roads and intersections to avoid congestion expected during Eid. He noted that the central operations department operates as a link between all security departments and the emergency number 112 receives calls round the clock.

Kandari also said that the border affairs sector has a role in security procedures to ease travel at Kuwait airport or land and sea outlets, in addition to the role of the traffic department and Najda police. Furthermore, he indicated that the coastguards protect Kuwait's territorial waters against any smuggling or infiltration, in addition to search and rescue operations by round-the-clock patrols. Kandari urged citizens and expatriates to comply with the traffic law and heed policemen's instructions. He said service centers will be closed from today until Aug 25 on the occasion of Eid. — KUNA



Brig Tawheed Al-Kandari



Faisal Al-Osaimi

## 3,000 expatriates layoff

local spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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**T**he Civil Service Commission is forming a committee to follow up the implementation of the Civil Service Council resolution no. 11 of 2017 on the procedures for allocating Kuwaitis for government jobs to replace expats. The plan is to lay off 3,000 expatriates working for the government sector in the new financial year, as it is difficult to lay off all expatriates working in the government at once.

Everyone knows that jobs in Kuwait are linked to either the public or private sectors. In the private sector, the owner of the capital and the company has the right to appoint whoever he wishes - both expatriates and citizens, but the issue of appointing expatriates in the government sector has become a formidable burden on the government.

The number of Kuwaiti graduates and their entry into the labor market in the government sector has continued to increase. Some of the jobs carried out by expatriates are administrative and not technical or training, so they can be easily filled by nationals. But I do not think that the government sector can be prepared to let go of expats with technical jobs and good experience.

In January, MP Khalil Al-Saleh proposed a law on national employment in non-governmental organizations, which aims to compel the private sector to implement the state's declared policy of replacing national labor with expatriate workers. I have seen the proposal and one of the suggestions - that government agencies which enter into contracts with non-governmental entities need to determine the number of workers required for the implementation of the contract with the job titles and the required expertise. The priority in job appointments goes to citizens before expatriates, provided that the contracts stipulate financial penalties for violating the terms for national employment.

Kuwait now has a large number of projects in the energy sector. Therefore, attention must be paid to this issue so that young people can gain good experience away from routine government work. It is also an opportunity for citizens to work with expatriates who have experience. According to the government's decision, the Civil Service Commission will prepare a study for the next fiscal year 2019/2020, which includes the definition of functional groups covered by the recruitment of posts, the target percentage of Kuwaiti employees in the total workforce in the government agency and non-Kuwaiti employees whose services should be terminated.

I believe that the implementation of the policy of replacing expatriates with Kuwaitis in the government sector is not an easy task and may need a 10-year plan, more than five years after the date set by the parliamentary employment committee, especially in the ministries of health and education. We all know that some jobs, such as doctors, engineers, teachers and cleaners, are important for the government sector. But administrative workers in HR and administrative affairs can be easily replaced.

I think it is no longer easy for elderly expatriates who work in government agencies, especially those over the age of 60 for example, to stay longer unless they are highly experienced and want to get an exemption. This issue may seem sensitive to some expats in the government sector, but young and fresh graduates need jobs too. Where will these young people go? Should they go to another country for work? Kuwait is a rich country capable of absorbing its citizens. If the government sector becomes overcrowded, it must be taken into account that the private sector will always need the expertise of expatriates, and can accommodate both.

## News in brief

### Defense Minister congratulates Khan

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Friday a cable to Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan to congratulate him on his new post. Sheikh Nasser wished Khan success in his new duties to bring about development and prosperity to Pakistan, as well as cementing of cooperation between Pakistan and Kuwait. — KUNA

### Amiri Diwan thanks mourners

**KUWAIT:** On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amiri Diwan thanked all citizens and residents, in a statement on Thursday, for their participation and sentiments over recent demise of Sheikhha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

### Russia names new envoy

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday endorsed a decree handpicking Nikolay Makarov as Russia's new Ambassador to the State of Kuwait. Under the decree, Makarov has been named Russian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, replacing Alexey Solomatn, Russian Novosti news agency reported. Makarov was deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department. — KUNA



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Local

# Union denies connection to 'fishermen chase' video

## 10.12 billion cubic meters of seawater for cooling consumed in five years

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Fishermen Union said in a statement it has no connection with a video circulating online and showing coastguards chasing amateur fishermen in Doha. The union said that the violators are a group of boat owners who were fishing illegally, and the union had warned several times about the dangers of the actions that owners of such boats are committing, in continuous violations that affect fish stocks. The statement said the union is keen on safeguarding marine environment and expressed satisfaction about what authorities are doing against violators, adding that the union informs fishermen to comply with Amiri decree 46/1980, which aims towards sustained growth and production.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) had warned in a statement released last June that illegal fishing had grave consequences on biological diversity and sustainability of fish stocks. "Greedy fishermen who do not abide by fishing laws and regulations were unfairly making gains at the expense of their law-abiding peers," head of the aquaculture program at the KISR Dr Mohsen Al-Husseini lamented in a press statement on the occasion of International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. They also encouraged others to violate law, he said, adding that such practices negatively impact ecosystem and marine life due to the fishing of young fish, shrimps and other marine species especially in the protected areas.

Husseini stressed the need to stop such practices which were threatening the fish stock. Efforts by the international community to ensure the sustainability of fisheries are being seriously compromised by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11-26 million tons of fish each year, which is estimated to have an economic value of \$10-23 billion.



### Water supply restored in Bayan

#### Water cuts

The Ministry of Electricity and Water's assistant undersecretary for water operations and maintenance said new water lines have been connected with existing pipes on Al-Ghous Street in Bayan and Mishref in coordination with the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation. He said the ministry prepared an integrated report regarding water cuts which happened in Bayan as a result of the works, with cooperation between various departments and water emergency centers, including Salmiya emergency center. The ministry isolated water from the current lines, then reopened them after the connections were made, it explained.

#### Cooling water

State department and private companies consumed nearly 10.12 billion cubic meters of seawater

for cooling during the five years period from 2013/2014 to 2017/2018, informed sources said. Consumption rose in the past three years from 1.9 billion cubic meters to more than 2 billion cubic meters by the end of fiscal year 2017/2018. The sources said revenues of Public Authority for Industry (PAI) from seawater for cooling were in second place in the items of PAI revenues, which reached KD 10.23 million out of the total revenue of KD 87.7 million for 2017/2018.

#### Collect rent

Figures and financial data reveal government efforts are continuing to collect rent due to the state. Figures show that rent collected from industrial, occupational and commercial lots, in addition to fees and delay fines during the five-year period from 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 reached KD 234.4 million. 2017/2018 saw the highest amount collected, as the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) collected KD 61.96 million from industrial lots. Rent from occupational, commercial and service lots rose from KD 12.99 million to KD 35.8 million in 2017/2018.

#### Grievance petitions

Seventeen companies submitted grievance petitions at the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) as they want to compete for the tender for the second stage of the project of constructing and maintaining the car parking, service buildings and roads leading to the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport, an informed source at the Ministry of Public Works said. The ministry is considering the qualifications of these companies prior to sending the result to CAPT to declare the winning companies, the source added.

## UN chief hails Kuwait's role

**KUWAIT:** UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres praised on Thursday Kuwait's active role as a non-permanent member in the Security Council, and its significant contributions towards supporting and preserving international peace and security. A foreign ministry statement said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call from Guterres this evening, adding the two sides discussed regional and international topics and issues on the Security Council agenda. Guterres also praised Kuwait's pioneering role in supporting the work of the United Nations and its humanitarian and development activities around the world. During the talks, cooperation between Kuwait and the United Nations' various agencies were discussed, the statement added. — KUNA



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

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## Kuwait eyes closer ties with NATO

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait continuously seeks to develop its relations with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at all levels, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Belgium Jassem Al-Budaiwi said on Friday. Speaking after a meeting with Director of Defense Planning, Defense Policy and Planning Division at NATO headquarters Paul Saverex, Budaiwi, who doubles as chief

of the Kuwaiti mission at the NATO, said they discussed ways of promoting Kuwaiti-NATO cooperation in several domains, mainly NATO capability and efficiency development programs.

He added that the NATO had adopted in 1995 the Planning and Review Process aiming at helping NATO partner countries boost their military efficiency according to NATO-proposed programs and plans. The Kuwaiti side is interested in such activities, he said, citing field visits by a Kuwaiti military delegation to the NATO headquarters in Brussels for the purpose, he said. The Kuwaiti diplomat also pointed out the hosting of a NATO regional center as the first premises in a non-NATO member country. — KUNA



BRUSSELS: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Belgium Jassem Al-Budaiwi (right) with Director of Defense Planning, Defense Policy and Planning Division at NATO headquarters Paul Saverex. — KUNA

## Argentina grants outgoing envoy Order of May

**KUWAIT:** Argentina has awarded the outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador Salah Al-Mutairi the Order of May, one of the highest decorations in the country, in recognition of his efforts to strengthen Kuwaiti-Argentinian ties. On this occasion, the Argentinian Foreign Ministry has organized a ceremony to honor Mutairi and hand him the award, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Buenos Aires reported in a statement Friday.

During the ceremony, Argentina's Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Raimondi stressed the growing strength and the development of bilateral relations. He expressed admiration of Kuwait's active role and diverse humanitarian contributions. Raimondi recalled Kuwait's finance to the expansion of the cancer and blood diseases treatment building of Garrahan Pediatric Hospital, which serves patients from Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. He also noted Kuwait's donation of fully-equipped five ambulances to the Argentinian state of Cordoba. The



Kuwaiti Ambassador Salah Al-Mutairi poses after receiving the Order of May, one of the highest decorations in Argentina.

Argentinian official was also appreciative of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development's for financing many development and infrastructure projects in the country. — KUNA



## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait's flag is raised at Al-Andalus Park. — Photo by Meshari Bin Gaith — (KUNA)

# Zain concludes strategic partnership of Coded Juniors Summer Camp

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, concluded its strategic partnership of Coded Juniors Summer Camp. The program aimed at teaching children the basics of coding and technology using the latest tools and gadgets throughout four weeks at Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center.

Coded's organizers honored Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti for the company's strategic partnership during the conclusion ceremony held at the Space Museum of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center. The event witnessed the presence of the students, their parents, as well as representatives from the program's sponsors.

Khashti commented: "Zain's support of Coded Juniors Summer Camp came in line with our strategy towards encouraging innovation and digital transformation. We are keen on contributing to the development and advancement of tech innovation within all age groups, including school children, with the aim of boosting their coding and technology skills, as such skills are essential



KUWAIT: A group photo of the children participating in the Coded Juniors Summer Camp at the conclusion ceremony.



Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti (left) is honored.

for the modern digital world."

Khashti continued: "Through supporting this unique program, we seek to offer the best educational environment for children in Kuwait to nurture their talents, enrich their skills, and promote tech innovation within them from an early age. We believe in the important role tech innovation plays in building the future and progressing the national economy."

Khashti added: "Zain is keen on playing a vital role as an integrated digital service provider in light of the rapid digital changes witnessed by the modern world. The company always seeks to reach new levels of excellence with its customers through offering the best innovative services, meeting their needs and aspirations, as well as supporting programs and initiatives that embrace tech innovation and aim at developing it."

The conclusion ceremony of Coded Juniors Summer Camp witnessed the honoring of the students who participated in the program with the attendance of their parents as well as Zain and Coded officials. The students showcased their own mini tech projects that they worked on during the camp's program, which reflected the tech skills they acquired throughout the past four months.

Coded Juniors Summer Camp mainly aimed at teaching school children (ages 7-12) the basics of coding languages and technology using the latest tools and gadgets like robots, smart toys, computers, and more, as well as traditional learning methods such as art, drawing, and music. The program featured a fun educational environment that lasted for 4 weeks in the Space Museum of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center.



Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti with one of the participants.

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Local

# Kuwaiti humanitarian aid gives new meaning to philanthropy

## Kuwait's humanitarian aid rooted in its history: KRCS

**KUWAIT:** The humanitarian aid provided by Kuwait has helped save lives across large swathes of the globe, with the recipients being people from different walks of life, irrespective of religion, creed or language. The world celebrates today the 'World Humanitarian Day', an initiative launched by the United Nations (UN) to pay homage to aid workers who risk life and limb in humanitarian service, while also to rally support for people affected by crises all over the world. Given the copious amounts of aid Kuwait has given to those in need, the UN has named the Gulf state a 'Humanitarian Center', and its leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was deservedly christened 'Humanitarian Leader'.

By virtue of His Highness the Amir's penchant for altruism, Kuwait has transformed into a huge benefactor of foreign aid, delivering much needed assistance to countries torn apart by conflict, particularly in the wider Arab region. Case in point, Kuwait hosted a trio of major donor conferences for Syrian refugees, where it pledged a sum of \$500 million in aid to the war-torn nation on two separate occasions, in January of 2014 and March of 2015, respectively.

Meanwhile, the plight of Palestinians has also been a core concern for Kuwait, as evident by His Highness the Amir's promulgation of an aid package worth \$34 million back in 2009 to support the mission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In March of the same year, Kuwait donated an amount of \$200 million to fund reconstruction efforts in the Gaza Strip, while it sent a convoy of trucks laden with humanitarian aid to the densely populated territory in 2014. Kuwait-based charities also leapt into action when war broke out in impoverished Yemen, launching a myriad of aid campaigns as military operations and the ensuing violence there led to dismal humanitarian conditions.

The comprehensive aid Kuwait has provided Yemen through the works of its charities, such as the venerable Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and civilian organizations, runs the gamut from healthcare and educational assistance to infrastructure repair. War-ravaged Iraq has not been left out as well, having received humanitarian aid from its smaller neighbor on numerous occasions, including an aid package worth \$176 million Kuwait pledged back in 2016. More recently, Kuwait hosted an international conference over reconstruction in Iraq last February, a generous initiative that yielded a staggering \$30 billion worth of loans and grants to help the country emerge from years of devastating war.

Countries prone to natural disasters have also been the beneficiaries of Kuwaiti aid, chief among them is Bangladesh, which was



Distribution of Kuwaiti humanitarian aid to displaced Iraqis.



Kuwaiti volunteers deliver humanitarian aid to displaced Iraqis.

decimated by Cyclone Sidr in 2007. As a result, Kuwait delivered urgent aid through a donation worth \$10 million to the victims of one of the world's worst natural disasters, in addition to another sum of \$250,000 four years later when calamity struck again in Japan in the form of a tsunami. Similarly, when an Ebola outbreak morphed into a global epidemic in 2014, Kuwait donated an amount of \$5 million to help the World Health Organization deal with the disaster.

### Rooted in history

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) said yesterday that Kuwait's humanitarian contribution is not new but rooted in its history and evolving in every era because of residents providing to those who need it in various programs and projects. August 19 marks World Humanitarian Day, where people celebrate humanitarian actions to forswear conflicts that lead to casualties, advocate protection of humanitarian workers and remember those who died during their duty. KRCS's Secretary-General Maha Al-Barjas said. It is an opportunity to highlight the role of KRCS in society and the international humanitarian movement, by seeking to provide support to the groups that need help, she pointed out.

KRCS provides a variety of services to meet the needs of those affected by crises

through a large number of projects ranging from emergency relief to provision of water, food, therapy, education and shelter to help victims of disaster to recover from their normal lives. Barjas expressed the hope that this day would be a catalyst for more volunteers to join the various areas of humanitarian action to increase local and international support for humanitarian organizations.

### Aid to the needy

In line with orders by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait last week continued sending aid to the needy worldwide. The ongoing and regular Kuwaiti relief efforts were of special significance over the past days due to the forthcoming Eid Al-Adha, with Muslim pilgrims packing the holy sites in Saudi Arabia culminating their rituals with livestock sacrifices; dedicated for the poor.

Kuwait Red Crescent Society dispatched 14 truckloads of relief supplies, including 14,000 food parcels, in cooperation with King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, to those in need in the embattled Yemeni province of Hudaydah, in the west of the troubled nation. Kuwait Deputy Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Saud Al-Harbi said in a statement that the relief supplies were sent to Yemen upon instructions by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah to alleviate hardships

of the brotherly Yemeni people. It was the first such convoy to be sent by Kuwait to Al-Hudaydh. Others would be dispatched to the region soon. Meanwhile, KRCS Vice Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi reaffirmed the Society's commitment to continue its humanitarian mission that started in Yemen three years ago. "Today's aid convoy falls in the framework of cooperation with KSRelief and is in keeping with the results of the GAFC meeting earlier this month where the GCC representatives discussed the needs of the Yemeni people," he pointed out.

Yemen's deputy minister of local administration Abdulsalam Ba-Abboud said meanwhile that the food relief targets residents of Al-Tuhayat, Al-Khawkhah and Hays districts in Hudaydah. Ba-Abboud, the deputy supervisor of KSRelief operations Ahmad Al-Biz, and acting head of the GCC mission in Yemen Sarhan Al-Menaykher appreciated Kuwait's role in alleviating the suffering of the Yemeni people and backing the development projects in Yemen.

### Desalination units

Also at discretion of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait has recently sent four seawater desalination units to Iraq. A technical team of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water delivered the units to officials of the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border on Monday, the Kuwaiti ministry's undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri said in a press statement. The production capacity of the four seawater desalination units amounts to one million imperial gallons, he said.

With the approaching advent of the new schooling year, the KRCS distributed 2,000

school bags to low-income families in Kuwait. KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said that the help was part of the society broader strategy of aiding families in need for financial support. In the same vein, Abdulmajeed Al-Yahya, director of the World Food Program (WFP) bureau in the UAE and representative at the GCC, met officials of the KRCS to examine cooperation for aiding Arabs stricken with crises. He said in a statement to the Kuwaiti news agency that the State of Kuwait has played a leading role in the humanitarian field regionally and internationally.

Yahya, who affirmed the KRCS' role in improving living conditions for the Palestinians in Gaza, briefed the society officials about emergency needs for Gazans, Syrian refugees in Jordan and the Muslim Rohingya in Bangladesh. Barjas affirmed keenness on broadening cooperation with regional and international organizations to aid the needy and launch humanitarian projects. His Highness the Amir has personally devoted special care for charity throughout the globe. His robust commitment to help the needy and poor has earned him the UN designated title, Humanitarian Leader.

Kuwaiti philanthropic associations, namely the KRCS, have been quite active on the global humanitarian arenas, depicting such an approach on part of the political leadership, the government and the people of the Gulf country. The Kuwaiti societies have been particularly active in regional countries, relieving Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, in addition to providing a helping hand to the people of Yemen, Iraq and Palestine. The Kuwaiti charity efforts have reached remote African and Asian nations and regions. —KUNA



## Kuwait aids needy upon Amir's instructions

troubled nation. Kuwait Deputy Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Saud Al-Harbi said in a statement that the relief supplies were sent to Yemen upon instructions by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah to alleviate hardships



Kuwait Red Crescent Society Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer oversees the distribution of humanitarian aid to refugees from the Syrian city of Aleppo.



KUWAIT: Trucks carrying aid sent by Kuwait Red Crescent Society to Yemen. — KUNA photos



Director of the World Food Program (WFP) bureau in the UAE and representative at the GCC Abdulmajeed Al-Yahya (left) meets with KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society distributes humanitarian aid to the Philippines.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society's deputy chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi is seen during the delivery of medical aid in Tanzania.



Distribution of Kuwaiti humanitarian aid in Gaza strip.



KRCS workers arrange school bags to be distributed to low-income families in Kuwait.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society distributes humanitarian aid to refugee Syrian families.





Batting for ballots:  
The sports stars  
turned politicians

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## Fix a phone: How to beat knife crime in Britain



MECCA: Muslim worshippers watch as others circumambulate around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca on August 17, 2018 prior to the start of the annual Hajj pilgrimage in the holy city. — AFP

# Pilgrims flock to Makkah ahead of hajj

## Saudi Arabia stakes reputation on maintaining peaceful hajj

MAKKAH: Hisham Mostafa briefly forgot the war in Syria and his financial worries as he looked upon Islam's holiest sites for the first time, standing among hundreds of thousands of white-clad Muslims gathered in Makkah ahead of the hajj pilgrimage. "This is the first time I see the Grand Mosque and the Kaaba. It is the best feeling of my life to be able to perform the hajj," said Mostafa, 50, as he looked at the cube-shaped structure towards which Muslims turn in prayer five times a day.

The accountant traveled to Saudi Arabia from Turkey where he has lived for five years since fleeing Aleppo in Syria. "War destroys everything... Life in Turkey is hard and I barely earn enough." But he was able to join about 2 million Muslims, including 1.68 million from abroad, flooding Makkah's narrow streets for the annual rite which

starts on Sunday. Nayef Ahmed, 37, told Reuters that in order to afford the hajj he had to sell a plot of land in Yemen, which is embroiled in a three-year proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. "Because of the war the prices are very high. But being here I feel comfort and peace and I pray to God for the war to end." Saudi Arabia stakes its reputation on its guardianship of Islam's holiest sites and organizing a peaceful hajj, which has been marred in the past by deadly stampedes, fires and riots.

### Quota system

The interior ministry has put in place measures to confront any security threat from militant attacks to political protests, but no specific threats have been detected, a spokesman said. "We will prevent any actions that are not

part of the hajj ritual and any act that may impact the safety of pilgrims or their ability to perform the rite," Interior Ministry spokesman Mansour Turki told Reuters. Every able-bodied Muslim who has the means should perform the hajj at least once in their lifetime under a quota system. "I came for umrah (minor pilgrimage) in 2007 and today after 10 years of registering and waiting, I am here," said Najwa, 59, from Tunisia. "I cannot describe the feeling. I cry every day."

The hajj itinerary retraces the route Prophet Mohammad took 14 centuries ago. Saudi Arabia has made use of technology to manage the flow of millions at the same place at the same time. This includes electronic identification bracelets, connected to GPS, that were introduced after a 2015 crush killed hundreds. "There is a com-

prehensive electronic agenda for every pilgrim and we have provided many apps that offer guidance," Minister of Hajj and Umrah Mohammed Bintin told Reuters. "We have a fleet of more than 18,000 buses, all of them linked to a control system that tracks their path."

He said a high speed railway between Makkah and Madinah had been completed and was being now being tested. Pilgrimage is the backbone of a plan to expand tourism under a drive to diversify the kingdom's economy away from oil. The hajj and year-round umrah generate billions of dollars in revenues from worshippers' lodging, transport, fees and gifts. Officials aim to increase the number of umrah and hajj pilgrims to 15 million and 5 million respectively by 2020, and hope to double the umrah number again to 30 million by 2030. — Reuters

## Qatar accuses Saudis of barring hajj pilgrims

RIYADH: Qatar has accused Saudi Arabia of barring its citizens from this year's hajj, something Riyadh denies, saying a diplomatic dispute is not stopping Qataris from making the pilgrimage to Makkah. Although 1,200 Qataris are eligible to perform the hajj under a quota system, Qatar says it has become impossible to get permits, blaming the campaign by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt to cut trade and diplomatic ties with the country.

Abdullah Al-Kaabi of the state-run Qatar National Human Rights Committee said Saudi Arabia had shut down an electronic system used by travel agencies to obtain permits for pilgrims from Qatar. "There is no chance this year for Qatari citizens and residents to travel for hajj," he told Reuters. "Registration of pilgrims from the State of Qatar remains closed, and residents of Qatar cannot be granted visas as there are no diplomatic missions." A Saudi official said Qatar had blocked several registration links set up for its pilgrims.

An official at Saudi Arabia's hajj ministry said a group of Qataris had arrived for the pilgrimage which runs from Sunday to Aug 24, but he did not say how many there were or whether they had travelled directly from Qatar. Last year, 1,624 Qatari pilgrims attended, he said.

### 'Lost money'

Saudi Arabia says the Qatari government is using the issue for political ends and it "rejects any effort to politicise the hajj or drag political differences" into the pilgrimage, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Saudi Arabia, and the three other Arab countries, closed land, air and sea links with Qatar in June last year, accusing it of funding terrorism, something Doha denies.

Saudi Arabia has said Qatari pilgrims can arrive on any airline other than Qatar Airways. But three travel agencies in Doha told Reuters they had stopped trying to sell hajj packages, which can cost up to 120,000 riyals (\$33,000). "Last year we lost a lot of money as the crisis started after we had booked everything in Makkah and Medina and we had to pay people back," said a manager of one travel agency in Doha, declining to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. "This year, nobody is really trying as people have understood there is no way to go there in these circumstances."

Riyadh temporarily opened the land border for the hajj last year, but not this time. A travel agency catering to migrant laborers in Doha said that had hit business. "We sell hajj journeys by bus with accommodation for around 12,000 riyals," its manager said. "But as nobody can get visas and land borders are closed, it is zero bookings this year." The diplomatic crisis has defied mediation efforts by the United States, which has strong alliances with both sides and fears the split among its Sunni Muslim allies could benefit Shi'ite Iran. In 2016, Iran boycotted the hajj over security concerns after hundreds of people were killed in a crush there. Iranian pilgrims returned in 2017. — Reuters

## Amazing rescue stories from the floods in Kerala

KOCHI: A heavily pregnant woman stranded by floods in the Indian state of Kerala gave birth just after being airlifted to safety, an Indian Navy spokesman said, as the military stepped up rescue operations yesterday. Dozens of navy helicopters have embarked on high-risk missions to save people from rooftops and isolated land as the southern state battles a flood crisis that has left at least 324 people dead.

Sajita Jabeel, 25, was winched up by Commander Vijay Verma, who has been widely praised for leading the rescue in the Aluva district of the state's main city Kochi. "The lady was in labor, her water had broken," Verma told News18 television. He called the relief mission "very challenging" and said his team had rushed to find the family after receiving an emergency call. "We took a doctor along, we winched her up, it took some time though because we had to winch down two people to help her." Jabeel gave birth to a healthy baby boy after being rushed to hospital.

Kerala, popular among international tourists for its tropical hills and beaches, has been battered by record monsoon rainfall this year. About 60 military and coast guard helicopters and hundreds of boats are scouring the flood zones across the state for trapped victims. The military said that tens of thousands have been rescued in the past week, but thousands more are feared trapped.

Another pilot winched 26 people up from a rooftop in Kochi on Friday while hovering between trees and other houses just two days after receiving a medal for saving a fisherman last year. A video of Captain P Rajkumar's Sea King helicopter pulling up the victims has been widely shared on social media. He ended up with 32 people on board. "It was a life-threatening mission



THRISSUR, India: An Indian nurse holds a newborn boy next to his mother Sajita Jabeel, 25, in a hospital after she was rescued while heavily pregnant from a roof in a flood affected area of Kochi in the southern state of Kerala. — AFP

but it's an unprecedented situation. We can't leave behind our people," Indian Navy spokesman Captain DK Sharma told AFP. Rajkumar was given the Shaurya Chakra medal for bravery this week after lifting a fisherman from the sea when cyclone Ockhi hit India last year.

### 25 dogs rescued

A woman refused to leave her flooded house in India's Kerala state without her 25 dogs, a rescuer said yesterday, as the death toll continued to rise. The dogs were found covering on beds in the flooded house with water rising when an animal welfare group arrived for a last-gasp rescue, said Sally Varma of Humane Society International. The woman, who uses only one name Sunitha, was found by rescuers in

Thrissur, one of the districts worst hit by floods in Kerala that have left at least 324 dead.

But she refused to leave her house unless her dogs, all strays or abandoned pets, were taken too, Varma said. "She sent back volunteers and rescue officials because they said they could not evacuate her dogs." "She was just not willing to leave her dogs behind. She then managed to get in touch with us," Varma added. "When the rescue team reached her house, it was completely flooded and the dogs were huddled on beds." Sunitha, her husband and the dogs are now staying at a special shelter as the relief camps set up for the disaster refused animals. Varma said she has started a fundraiser for Sunitha and her pets so a kennel could be built at her home after the floods recede. — AFP



## International

# 'Guiding force for good': World mourns the loss of Kofi Annan

## Outpouring of condolences from leaders around the world

**GENEVA:** There was an outpouring of condolences from leaders around the world yesterday after the death of former United Nations Secretary General and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan. Here are some of the tributes:

### United Nations

Current UN chief Antonio Guterres voiced deep sadness at the news, describing his predecessor as "a guiding force for good". "In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations. He rose through the ranks to lead the organization into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination. "Like so many, I was proud to call Kofi Annan a good friend and mentor." The UN high commissioner for human rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said he was grief-stricken. "Kofi was humanity's best example, the epitome of human decency and grace. In a world now filled with leaders who are anything but that, our loss, the world's loss becomes even more painful," he said. "He was a friend to thousands and a leader of millions. There are some human beings who will seem irreplaceable to us, rare human beings. Kofi Annan is high among them. Goodbye my dear friend... goodbye Kofi."

### Ghana

President Nana Akufo-Addo declared a week of mourning, saying the national flag will fly at half-mast at home and in the country's diplomatic missions around the world in honor of "one of our greatest compatriots. He brought considerable renown to our country by this position and through his conduct and

comportment in the global arena. He was an ardent believer in the capacity of the Ghanaian to chart his or her own course onto the path of progress and prosperity."

### EU

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said the "greatest recognition we can give Kofi Annan is to keep his legacy and his spirit alive". "He devoted his life to making the world a more peaceful and united place. He fought to end suffering and injustices across the world and helped to rebuild bridges where they had been destroyed."

### Russia

President Vladimir Putin said he was "fortunate" to have been in personal contact with Annan while he led the UN. "I sincerely admired his wisdom and courage, his ability to make informed decisions even in the most complex, critical situations. His memory will live forever in the hearts of Russians."

### NATO

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said "the UN and the world have lost one of their giants. His warmth should never be mistaken for weakness. Annan showed that one can be a great humanitarian and a strong leader at the same time," Stoltenberg wrote on Twitter.

### Britain

"A great leader and reformer of the UN, he made a huge contribution to making the world he has left a better place than the one he was

born into," British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Twitter. Former prime minister Tony Blair described him as "good friend". "Kofi Annan was a great diplomat, a true statesman and a wonderful colleague who was widely respected and will be greatly missed," Blair said via his institute's Twitter page.

### Kenya

Both key figures in the deadly turmoil that followed Kenya's 2008 election paid tribute to Annan, who helped mediate an end to the violence. Former president Mwai Kibaki said Annan "will be remembered for mediating for the return of peace in Kenya". Opposition leader Raila Odinga hailed "what became known as 'the Annan Doctrine' in which he made it clear that the need to respect sovereignty cannot be used as a shield by governments to brutalize their own citizens and that the international community has a right to intervene".

### South Africa

President Cyril Ramaphosa praised Annan as a "great leader and diplomat extraordinaire" who had advanced the African agenda within the UN and had "flown the flag for peace" around the world.

### Zimbabwe

"A rare breed of diplomat: soft spoken but unshakably firm," tweeted Nelson Chamisa, the main opposition leader in Zimbabwe — where Annan visited days before the July election. "He had great love for world peace & democ-



**GENEVA:** In this file photo taken on July 20, 2012 UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan looks on before a meeting at his office at the United Nations Offices. — AFP

racy. A believer in Zimbabwe & its people. Go well son of Africa, Champion of the world!"

### France

"We will never forget his calm and resolute approach, nor the strength of his fighting spirit," President Emmanuel Macron tweeted.

### The Elders

The Elders organization — a group of

statesmen co-founded by Annan which speaks out on global issues — hailed him as "a voice of great authority and wisdom in public and private".

The world has lost an inspiring figure — but one whose achievements will never be forgotten, and whose commitment to peace and justice will endure to inspire future generations," deputy chair Gro Harlem Brundtland said in a statement. — AFP

## What next in Syria's Idlib?

**BEIRUT:** Syria's northern province of Idlib is home to the last major rebel bastion in the country, and part of it could be the next target of Russian-backed government forces. An operation looks imminent but may be limited in scope, giving more time for a deal with Turkey, which also has forces deployed in the area.

### How soon?

The Syrian army, having retaken the entire area around Damascus and rebel strongholds in the south earlier this year, has sent reinforcements to the Idlib fronts. "Tanks are going north and Russian and Syrian officials are banging the drums of war in the media, so it seems likely there will be some form of offensive," said analyst Aron Lund. On August 15, the pro-government Al-Watan daily described the reinforcements dispatched to Idlib as the biggest since the start of the war in 2011.

The province hosts thousands of rebels who were transferred there after surrendering during previous government operations in other parts of the country. The fighters there, including the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham jihadist group that dominates the province, have been building defensive structures across the province, training new recruits and organizing drills. The regime holds a small sliver of territory in the southeast of the province.

### What scope?

The government of President Bashar Al-Assad has, with Russian backing, rolled back many of the losses suffered at the beginning of the war. It now controls about 60 percent of Syria and 12 out of 14 provinces. Despite Assad's pledges to assert his authority over the entire territory, it is unclear what the immediate goals of an Idlib offensive would be. "I think a limited operation is most likely at this stage," said Lund, a fellow with The Century Foundation.

## UN chief proposes new options to protect Palestinians

**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday presented four options aimed at boosting the protection of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories, from sending UN rights monitors and unarmed observers to deploying a military or police force under UN mandate. The proposals were contained in a report requested by the General Assembly in response to a surge of violence in Gaza, where 171 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since late March.

The UN chief stressed that for each of the options, cooperation by Israel and the Palestinians would be necessary. It remained unlikely however that Israel would agree to the proposals. In the 14-page report, Guterres proposed:

- Providing a "more robust UN presence on the ground" with rights monitors and political officers to report on the situation.
- Pouring in more UN humanitarian and development aid to "ensure the well-being of the population."
- Creating a civilian observer mission that would be present in sensitive areas such as checkpoints and near Israeli settlements, with a mandate to report on protection issues.



**IDLIB:** Rebel fighters from the Suqur Al-Sham brigades take a position in the countryside of the northern Idlib province on August 17, 2018. — AFP

He argued that taking on the entire province "would be a huge undertaking" and said a fully-fledged province-wide assault would "run up against Turkish resistance". Sam Heller, from the International Crisis Group think tank, also said: "A more limited offensive to capture some peripheral sections of the rebel-held northwest seems very possible, even likely."

Experts say key targets could include the Jisr Al-Shughur area in western Idlib and the adjacent farming region of Sahl Al-Ghab, in the south of the province. The region is close to Latakia province, the coastal heartland of Assad's Alawite minority which is also home to the Russian military airport of Hmeimim. "The Russians are convinced that the drones that have targeted their airbase in Latakia are emanating from the area around Jisr Al-Shughur," Heller said. Other likely targets are areas flanking the key M5 highway that links the country's north and south, running through Idlib.

### Foreign players

The recapture of Idlib would be the final nail in the coffin of the rebellion, whose

footprint has shrunk to around 8 percent of the country, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. But the biggest obstacle in the regime's way could be Ankara, which has forces deployed at observation posts there and supports some of the rebel forces.

Just across the border from Idlib, Turkey already hosts three million Syrian refugees and is keen to avoid a fresh influx. The scope of the offensive and the fate of some regions could be decided in ongoing talks between Ankara and Damascus's main Russian sponsor. "Turkey may possibly be willing to accept losses to some peripheral areas, on the condition that accepting them secures more durable Turkish control in Idlib's central and border heartlands," said Charles Lister, of the Middle East Institute.

Turkey is being asked to clamp down on Idlib's jihadists, who are mostly members of Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, a strategy it has attempted to advance by uniting other rebel factions. "Simply and brutally, the salvation of Idlib is the death of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham," said Nick Heras, of the Center for a New American Security. — AFP



**GAZA CITY:** A relative of Karim Abu Fatayer, a 30-year-old member of the Islamist movement Hamas' military wing Al-Qassam Brigades who was shot the day before while demonstrating near the border with Israel, mourns over his body during his funeral in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. — AFP

Gaza border and 270 other Palestinians were wounded. Israel has defended its use of live ammunition in Gaza by invoking its right to self-defense. One Israeli soldier was shot dead by a Palestinian sniper in July. "The targeting of civilians, particularly children, is unacceptable," Guterres said in the report, adding that "those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable." — AFP

## Tehran museum lionizes war in which Iran took on 'world'

**TEHRAN:** With its air raid simulator and battlefield reconstructions, the state-of-the-art Holy Defence Museum in Tehran seeks to glorify the Iran-Iraq war as a time when the country faced down "the whole world".

As Iranians prepare to mark the 30th anniversary of the end of the devastating conflict on Monday, they are being urged to display the same steadfastness as country after country falls in line with crippling unilateral sanctions being reimposed by Washington after its abandonment of a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers. "The message of the museum is perseverance, resistance and the protection of our honor," deputy director Seyyed Mohsen Hajbabbian told AFP.

"We teach younger generations the spirit of combat. Iraq was backed by the whole world and Iran was alone in defending itself, but thanks to God... we were victorious in this war." For Iranians, it is "the imposed war", started by Iraq's then-leader Saddam Hussein on September 22, 1980 and ended by a ceasefire on August 20, 1988.

The Iraqi dictator sought to present himself as a bulwark against the revolutionary ideology of the fledgling Islamic republic, which had overthrown the pro-Western shah only a year earlier, and which was seen as a major threat to the Gulf monarchies and other Arab autocracies. The resulting war was the longest of the 20th century, a ruinous conflict of attrition that has often drawn parallels to the First World War in Europe. It ultimately led nowhere, ending with zero territorial gains for either side — even if it reinforced Saddam's grip on power in Iraq, as well as that of the Islamic republic in Iran.

### Reconstructing horror

But the human cost was horrifying. Although the often-cited figure of a million dead may be an exaggeration by both sides, according to French historian Pierre Razoux, he still estimates a total of

680,000 lives lost. Of those, Iran bore by far the heavier losses, with around 500,000 dead or missing, he said. Built by the Tehran municipality, the Holy Defence Museum opened its doors in 2012 and receives more than 300,000 visitors per year, Hajbabbian said.

On a recent summer afternoon, it was mostly young men and groups of school children on trips organized by Islamic institutions. In the first halls, the visitor is plunged into the ruins of Khorramshahr, the border town in the southwest that was seized by the Iraqi army on October 24, 1980 and still bears some of the worst scars of the war. The "bombing raid simulator" recalls the terror of air strikes suffered by Iranian cities, replete with trembling walls and floors. There are models of the refineries targeted with missile strikes by both sides, as the belligerents sought to sap each other's energy reserves and main source of income.

### Mass mobilization

The museum also glorifies the immense public mobilization that saw everyone from children to pensioners sign up and sacrifice themselves as martyrs at the front. An audio commentary in Persian, English and Arabic accuses "numerous Western media of... serving as a platform for the Iraqi regime" by closing their eyes to Saddam's use of chemical weapons.

Photo montages recall the support Western powers, Arab monarchies and the then Soviet Union all gave to Saddam. There is no mention, however, of the support Iran received from Israel — now its mortal enemy — but then both sharing a greater fear of Saddam's brutal regime. Nor is there any discussion in the museum of the weapons provided by the United States under the highly controversial Iran-Contra deal, in which Tehran was supplied with arms in exchange for help in securing the release of hostages held by Iran's ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"Now I have a deeper and more profound understanding of the war," said one young visitor, Ali Jafarzadeh, at the exit. "We fought the whole world, who supported Iraq, and we resisted for eight years." With tensions mounting between Tehran and Washington over renewed sanctions, he says he is ready to participate "without fail" in any new conflict "to defend my country". — AFP

another bill that grants the state's Supreme Council for Media Regulations the right to monitor social media users.

Under that legislation, which Sisi has yet to approve, people whose social media accounts have more than 5,000 followers could be placed under supervision. The council would be authorized to suspend or block any personal account which "publishes or broadcasts fake news or anything (information) inciting violating the law, violence or hatred".

The authorities have insisted that such measures are needed to help tackle instability and terrorism in the country. But domestic and international rights activists regularly accuse the government of seeking to crush dissent by arresting activists and bloggers and blocking news sites.

More than 500 websites have already been blocked in Egypt prior to the new law, according to the Cairo-based Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression. Egypt is currently placed 161 out of 180 countries in the press freedom rankings of global media rights organization Reporters Without Borders. — AFP

## Egypt approves law tightening Internet controls

**CAIRO:** Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has signed off on a law tightening controls over the Internet in the country, the official gazette said yesterday. The legislation on "cybercrime" allows authorities, through a judge, to order the blocking of websites that "constitute a threat" to Egypt's national security or economy.

Those who administer or visit such websites, intentionally or "in error without a valid reason", can now face jail time and fines. Such decisions can be appealed. The law is one of a series of measures that rights groups complain are aimed at curbing freedom of expression online, with the internet one of the last forums for public debate over Sisi's rule. Egyptian lawmakers last month approved



## International

# Italy buries bridge collapse dead as outrage simmers

## 'Let them not show their faces, the parade of politicians is shameful'

**Genoa:** Grief gripped the Italian city of Genoa yesterday as thousands of mourners attended a state funeral to commemorate the victims of a bridge disaster that has sparked anger, while rescuers pulled more bodies from the wreckage. Large crowds packed inside an exhibition hall turned into a makeshift chapel where coffins adorned with flowers and photographs were lined up.

There was long applause as a priest read out the names of the 38 official dead and also paid respect to the latest victims discovered inside a car under debris early yesterday. Local media reported that the bodies were those of a family of three, including a nine-year-old girl. "The Morandi bridge collapsed has pierced the heart of Genoa. The pain is deep," Archbishop Angelo Bagnasco said during the mass.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte presided over the service, which coincided with a national day of mourning. "I lost a friend but I came for all the victims," Genoa resident Nunzio Angone told AFP. The populist government has blamed the operator of the viaduct for the collapse and threatened to strip the firm of its contracts. Among the coffins was a small white one for the youngest victim, an eight-year-old boy who was killed alongside his parents as they prepared to catch a ferry to the holiday island of Sardinia. Another two coffins were draped in the Albanian flag featuring a black eagle against a red background. "I don't know those who have died in the bridge collapse but I wanted pay my respects regardless. This shouldn't have happened," Genoa resident Claudio Castellaro, 73, told AFP.

**"I lost a friend but I came for all the victims"**

### 'Farce of a funeral'

Applause erupted as firefighters entered the hall ahead of the ceremony. There was also loud clapping for co-deputy premiers Matteo Salvini and Luigi di Maio, two key figures in Italy's new populist government who have led angry tirades against Autostrade per L'Italia, the managing company of the highway.

Mourners also included the city's two football squads, Genoa and Sampdoria, who have postponed their weekend matches. But more than half of the families of the victims refused to take part, some preferring a more intimate funeral, while others announced a boycott. "It is the state who has provoked this: let them not show their faces, the parade of politicians is shameful," the press cited the mother of one of four young Italians from Naples who died, Roberto,

father of another of the dead from Naples used social media to vent his anger: "My son will not become a number in the catalogue of deaths caused by Italian failures." "We do not want a farce of a funeral but a ceremony at home."

### State of emergency

Local media reports said senior staff of Autostrade had planned to attend to the funeral. The company was expected to hold a press conference yesterday afternoon. The government has accused Autostrade of failing to invest in sufficient maintenance and said it would seek to revoke its lucrative contracts.

Salvini, who is also interior minister, demanded that the company offer up to 500 million euros (\$570 million) to



**GENOA:** Relatives mourn near the coffins of some of the victims of the collapsed Morandi highway bridge, laid in front of the altar, during the funeral service. — AFP

help families and local government deal with the aftermath of the disaster. The dead also include children, three Chileans and four French nationals. The Morandi viaduct dates from the 1960s and has been riddled with structural problems for decades, leading to expensive maintenance and severe criticism from engineering experts. Its collapse prompted fears over ageing infrastructure across the

world. Italy has announced a year-long state of emergency in the region. Autostrade, which operates and maintains nearly half of Italy's motorways, estimates it will take five months to rebuild the bridge. It denies scripping on motorway maintenance, saying it has invested over one billion euros a year in "safety, maintenance and strengthening of the network" since 2012. — AFP

## Ex-CIA directors issue unprecedented Trump condemnation

**WASHINGTON:** Former CIA directors and another half dozen of America's most senior spies have issued an unprecedented condemnation of President Donald Trump, after his decision to blacklist their colleague John Brennan. In a statement, ex-CIA bosses appointed by Republican and Democratic presidents — including Robert Gates, George Tenet, Porter Goss, Leon Panetta and David Petraeus — denounced Trump's decision to strip Brennan of his security clearance. Dozens of other former spies signaled their support for the statement.

"The president's action regarding John Brennan and the threats of similar action against other former officials has nothing to do with who should and should not hold security clearances — and everything to do with an attempt to stifle free speech," the statement read. Describing Trump's move as "inappropriate and deeply regrettable," they insisted "we have never before seen the approval or removal of security clearances used as a political tool, as was done in this case."

Two of those who signed the statement — former director of national intelligence James Clapper and former CIA director Michael Hayden — are, according to Trump, on a list of people who could lose their clearance. Former officials often retain security clearance after leaving office to allow their successors to consult them on issues of the day.

The White House said Brennan — a notable Trump critic — had been stripped of clearance due to his "erratic" behavior. But in an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Trump admitted his decision on Brennan's clearance was linked to the ongoing federal probe into possible collusion between his campaign and Russia to influence the 2016 election.

"I call it the rigged witch hunt. (It) is a sham," Trump was quoted as saying in the interview. "And these people led it!" "So I think it's something that had to be done," he added. Trump's actions have been widely condemned, including by respected former admiral William McRaven, the commander of the US Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

"Through your actions, you have embarrassed us in the eyes of our children, humiliated us on the world stage and, worst of all, divided us as a nation," he said. But most of Trump's Republican allies have defended the move or refused to condemn it publicly. On Friday, Trump said he would likely remove the security clearance of Justice Department official Bruce Ohr, who has been targeted by Trump supporters, in part because his wife worked for a company that produced a dossier alleging Russia had incriminating evidence against the now president. "Bruce Ohr is a disgrace. I suspect I'll be taking it away very quickly," Trump told journalists. The Washington Post, citing senior administration officials, reported that the White House has drafted documents revoking the clearances of officials, both current and former, who have criticized Trump or been involved in the Russia probe. The newspaper added that aides have also discussed the best times to release them in order to distract attention from negative news. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** In this file photo taken on September 19, 2016, CIA Director John Brennan speaks during the CIA's third conference on national security at George Washington University. — AFP

## Fix a phone: How to beat knife crime in Britain

**LONDON:** Sitting in his cell, mulling a childhood shaped by fear, theft and drugs, gang member Jake knew things had to change. He was part of Britain's spiraling knife culture and feared it would all end badly. Jake was 15 when he first carried a knife — as protection. Friends had been stabbed, some had gone to prison and he said four had used their 'protective' knives to commit murder.

"I was thinking 'this is it, it's just going to get worse.' I wanted to change my life because I was tired of doing illegal stuff," the softly spoken Londoner, who asked for his surname to be withheld, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Enter "Cracked It" — an innovative business that teaches young offenders like 21-year-old Jake how to fix cracked smartphones, boosting former inmates' self esteem and confidence in the process.

"Iphone repairs are a Trojan horse for getting them engaged in work," said Josh Babarinde, a 25-year-old former youth worker who started the business three years ago. His social enterprise aims to tackle a knife crime epidemic in the capital, beset by ever more inner-city stabbings. Knife crime rose 16 percent in England and Wales in the 12 months to March 2018, official data shows, logging the biggest annual increase ever recorded. Knives were responsible for more than a third of murders last year and the government says the rise in offences involving a knife or sharp instrument is "persistent and worrying".

There were more than 40,000 knife attacks resulting in more than 280 murders in the year to March 2018. The number of victims under 24 is rising faster than any other age group. A 2017 government report calls it a crime that particularly impacts young people — people whom Babarinde said often fall into knife culture and gang life for want of other options. "Many of the young people I work with have really good hearts, they've got very credible aspirations, they want to earn money, they want to feel valued, they want to belong," he said. Nearly two thirds of his 140 graduates are working or studying and 80 percent did not reoffend within six months of graduating, bucking the national trend of 42 percent. The organisation gets paid by companies to offer on-the-spot repairs and by local councils to offer training to young people.

### Workout

Britain is seen as a global leader in the innovative social enterprise sector, with about 70,000 ethical businesses employing nearly a million people, according to Social



**LONDON:** Jake Gibson, 21, learning to fix a smartphone at Cracked It, a social enterprise teaching ex-offenders tech skills. — AFP

Enterprise UK, which represents the growing sector. If Cracked It tries to help those who wield the knife, Steel Warriors puts its efforts into repurposing the weapons.

The year-old organization took some of the thousands of knives that police take off London's streets, melted them down and built an outdoor gym from the steel in an east London park. Founder Ben Wintour said he wanted the gym to start conversations about knife crime. He also wanted somewhere that provided a free workout for people who could not afford a gym.

"It's about helping people to build their bodies and having a bit more confidence in their bodies so they feel less of a need to carry a knife," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Spotlight Youth Service sits on the edge of the park which is home to the gym in one of the most deprived areas of London. "There's a fear of knife crime across the capital at the moment and the gym is a real positive message. It states an unequivocal 'no'," said Daniel Rose, director of Spotlight. He said a group of Spotlight users exercise together at the free gym, joining 40 to 50 others who work out there daily.

### No opportunity

Babarinde had no experience of fixing phones on launch but chose it because it is a quick skill to learn — his course takes five days — and because technology appeals to young people. He said that "a bunch" of the people working with Cracked It — Babarinde had no firm numbers — had been convicted of knife crime, using a blade for protection or to enforce drug deals.

"Many young people are leaving school without the skills they need for employment and (so they turn to) crime — whether it's nicking bikes or dealing drugs and maybe using weapons in the course of that activity to protect themselves. That's a key reason why we are seeing knife crime rise," said Babarinde. About half a million people aged 16-24 are unemployed in Britain, according to official data. Tariq, 18, took the Cracked It course after spending nine months in a secure unit for young offenders in 2017. He is now a technician for the organisation, mending phones in corporate settings and training others to do the same. "When you fix someone's phone and do it successfully you feel good in yourself, you feel more confident because you think: 'Wow, a week ago I never knew how to fix a phone.'" — Reuters

## Namibian leader slams critics of African leaders

**WINDHOEK:** Namibian President Hage Geingob, who is hosting a summit of southern African leaders, yesterday strongly rejected criticism of Africa by the West saying there was undue pressure on the continent. "People have an attitude about Africa," Geingob said in an interview with the French radio network RFI. "Things that they want Africans to do... they don't demand from other places," the president said. "In the United States, there are only two parties there, the same philosophy: how come in America there are no communists, no socialists?"

Geingob also commented on the Comoros government crackdown that followed a controversial referendum, boycotted by the opposition, which allowed President Azali Assoumani to run for another term. "We would like to assess how he (Assoumani) wants to go about it. And those of us who have had a little bit of peaceful transitions and peaceful elections, will say 'my brother don't you think

we should do it this way. Let us not please the West, but to please our own people," said Geingob.

The Comoros is expected to formally join the Southern African Development Community (SADC) at the two-day summit which ends on Saturday. Geingob, who early this year denied corruption accusations stemming from a French anti-graft probe centred on the purchase of Canadian mining company Uramin by French nuclear giant AREVA, said he would never testify in a foreign court for the case.

French investigators are believed to be pursuing allegedly illicit monthly transfers of \$10,000 (8,750 euros) to Geingob made between 2008 and 2009. "If I committed a crime, it will be (heard) in my courts, nobody else's courts," he said. "I'm never going to testify in a foreign institution. I have my own institutions here. That's why I even oppose the ICC (International Criminal Court) because I say we must have our own institutions."

He admitted that a consulting firm he operated while he was not in government had helped Uramin obtain a license and was paid for that service. "They paid me. I declared that. It ends there," he said. Geingob, 77, was prime minister of Namibia between 1990-2002 and 2012-2015 before becoming president in 2015. — AFP

## Mali election marred by fraud claims

**BAMAKO:** More than a thousand supporters of Malian opposition leader Soumaila Cisse gathered in the capital Bamako yesterday after he lost a presidential run-off to President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita amid accusations of fraud. Keita was re-elected with 67.17 percent of Sunday's vote against 32.83 percent for challenger and former finance minister Cisse.

In Bamako, the protesters played vuvuzelas and displayed their candidate's campaign posters, watched by dozens of police officers in riot gear, AFP journalists witnessed. Cisse, who said Friday he had won the poll and dismissed the official results as "parody and lies", joined his supporters mid-morning. "If you exclude the results coming from proven ballot-box stuffing in many polling stations as well as far-fetched results in many northern towns, I won the presidential election with 51.75 percent of the vote," he told reporters on

Friday. His campaign team said some of the results clearly showed fraud had occurred — such as voters casting their ballots in just 40 seconds in some polling stations, while in others 100 percent of the votes were cast in favor of Keita, according to the team's calculations. "The power in place is illegal. This time it is our turn, we have won, we will continue to march until the government resigns," said Fatoumata Konate, a member of the main opposition party.

Cisse, 68, said he had filed an appeal to the country's top court for some of the results to be cancelled. Observer missions sent by the European Union and the African Union (AU), however, have said the election was not badly impaired. The three main opposition candidates had mounted a last-ditch legal challenge to the first-round result, but their petition was rejected by the Constitutional Court. Keita, 73, will take office on September 4, with hopes he can strengthen a 2015 peace accord between the government, government-allied groups and former Tuareg rebels. Mali, a landlocked nation home to at least 20 ethnic groups where the majority of people live on less than \$2 (1.76 euros) a day, has battled jihadist attacks and intercommunal violence for years. — AFP



International

# Five biggest challenges facing new Pakistan PM Imran Khan

## A rundown of the biggest hurdles Pakistan is facing

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's new government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan faces myriad challenges. The cricketer-turned politician will have to make hard choices, and quickly. Here is a rundown of the biggest hurdles Pakistan is facing:

### Economy

Analysts have warned the new government will have to act fast as the country teeters on the verge of a balance-of-payments crisis. Khan's likely new finance minister, Asad Umar, has said they will decide by the end of September whether or not to go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the country's second bailout in five years. But the US, one of the IMF's biggest donors, has raised fears Pakistan could use any bailout money to repay debts to China, a suggestion Pakistan has refuted. The budget deficit has grown steadily over the past five years, and foreign currency reserves have declined. The rupee has been repeatedly devalued, fuelling inflation. Khan has vowed to improve trade with India, increase the ease of doing business and boost tax collection. But the state of national finances could also undermine one of his most popular promises, his "Islamic welfare state", based on increased spending on education and health.

### Extremism

Security has dramatically improved across Pakistan following a crackdown on militant

groups in recent years. But analysts have long warned that Pakistan is not tackling the root causes of extremism, and militants can still carry out spectacular attacks.

That includes during this election season, with a string of bombings at political events killing more than 200 people, including the second-deadliest militant attack in Pakistan's history. The new prime minister, who earned the nickname "Taliban Khan" over his willingness to hold talks with the militants, increasingly catered to religious hardliners throughout the campaign. This has spurred fears extremists may be emboldened under his leadership.

### Population growth

Conservative Pakistan, with its limited family planning, has one of the highest birth rates in Asia at around three children per woman, according to the World Bank and government figures. That has led to a fivefold increase of the population since 1960, now touching 207 million, draft results from last year's census show. The boom is negating hard-won economic and social progress in the developing country, experts have warned. Analysts say unless more is done to slow growth, the country's natural resources will not be enough to support the population.

To add to the problem, discussing contraception in public is taboo in Pakistan. Khan has not taken any clear stance on family planning in the past, and it remains to be seen how

his government will tackle population growth.

### Water shortages

Pakistan is on the verge of an ecological disaster if authorities do not urgently address looming water shortages, experts say. Official estimates show that by 2025 the country will be facing an "absolute scarcity" of water, with less than 500 cubic meters available per person — just one-third of the water available in parched Somalia, according to the UN.

Political initiative will be essential to building infrastructure to reverse the course of the impending crisis. There is also little in the way of public education on water conservation. Khan has a relatively good track record on the environment, with the "Billion Tree Tsunami" tree-planting program in his party stronghold of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province earning acclaim from environmental groups. Whether he can translate that experience to a nationwide water conservation programme is not yet clear.

### Civil-military relations

Pakistan has spent roughly half its nearly 71-year history under military rule, and the imbalance of power in between civilian governments and the armed forces has long been seen as an impediment to democracy and progress. Hope surged in 2013 as the country saw its first-ever democratic transition of power. But since then, experts have warned of a "creeping coup", fuelled by tensions



**ISLAMABAD:** In this handout photograph released by the National Assembly (NA) on August 17, 2018, Pakistan's newly appointed Prime Minister Imran Khan (C) addresses the lawmakers after being elected by National Assembly. — AFP

between the generals and three-time premier Nawaz Sharif, largely attributed to his desire to assert civilian supremacy and seek warmer relations with arch-rival India.

Sharif, ousted in 2017 and arrested for corruption in July, has said he and his party were targeted by the military. It denies the allega-

tions. Khan, who has already made overtures to India, insisted in parliament Friday that he had been elected without any help. "I am standing here in this parliament on my own feet," he said. He will have to meet the country's challenges without upsetting this delicate balance of power. — AFP

## N Korea urges US to be 'bold' on denuclearization

**SEOUL:** North Korean state media blamed Donald Trump's political opponents for the "deadlock" over denuclearization yesterday, urging the US President to act boldly to make progress on the thorny issue. Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong Un held a groundbreaking summit in Singapore in June, which the US leader touted as a historic breakthrough.

At the meeting the pair struck a vague agreement to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, but there has been little movement since. Meanwhile the North has criticized Washington for its "gangster-like" and "unilateral" demands for the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantling of Pyongyang's atomic arsenal. Yesterday Rodong Sinmun, the North's most prominent daily, praised Trump for seeking to improve US-North Korea ties and achieve world peace, which it said would be the "feat of the century".

"However, he faces too many opponents," it said in a signed commentary. The newspaper said Democrats and even some Republicans are hampering Trump's efforts for their own partisan interests while media hostile to Trump are undermining his policies. It

accused bureaucrats and Trump's aides of "speaking and moving in contradiction to the president's will" and "distorting facts and covering up his eyes and ears in order to mislead him to a wrong decision".

North Korea has demanded that America agree to declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War, accusing the US of failing to reciprocate a series of its "goodwill measures". These include ending its nuclear and missile testing, the destruction of a nuclear testing site and handing over the remains of US troops killed in the Korean War. When Kim met South Korean President Moon Jae-in in April for their first summit, they agreed to push for a declaration of an end to the Korean War this year.

But US officials insist denuclearization of the North should be realized before such an event takes place. Trump's political opponents are "raising their voice, dismissing the Singapore joint statement and boycotting a declaration of an end to the war", Rodong Sinmun said. "The current deadlock in the DPRK-US relations requires President Trump's bold decision," it added.

It also urged Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to brush aside speculation from opponents over the North's intentions. Pompeo, who is preparing for his fourth visit to the North, said Thursday his team was "continuing to make progress" with the North, expressing hope that "we can make a big step here before too long". — AFP

## Batting for ballots: The sports stars turned politicians

**ISLAMABAD:** Imran Khan's anointment as Pakistan's new prime minister caps a more than two decade transformation from a World Cup winning cricket captain to a world leader, placing him in charge of a nuclear armed state. But he is not the only one to have swapped playing fields for the hustings. Here are five other sport stars who have made a similar switch:

### George Weah

Khan's elevation to premier is only matched by George Weah, who was inaugurated as Liberia's president in January. Weah first learned to kick a ball in the slums of Monrovia, but went on to become one of Africa's greatest footballers, playing for a string of top European clubs and winning both FIFA's World Player of the Year and the Ballon d'Or.

Weah avoided the brutal civil war that destroyed much of Liberia but vowed to put his wealth and fame to use, unsuccessfully running for president in 2005. Twelve years later he was triumphant, succeeding Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Liberia's first democratic transition since 1944. He put education, job creation and infrastructure at the centre of his platform, though critics said he was vague on specifics.

### Arnold Schwarzenegger

Before the silver screen and politics, Austria-born Arnold Schwarzenegger was one of the world's best bodybuilders. While beefing up in a bid to get on his local soccer team, Schwarzenegger became infatuated by bodybuilding, racking up title after title, until he

became the youngest-ever winner of the Mr Universe competition. He moved Stateside to pursue acting and, despite his thick accent, finally made the big time in the 1980s with roles such as Conan the Barbarian and the Terminator. A moderate Republican, he became Governor of California in 2003, serving two terms. He has long distanced himself from the Republican mainstream on a range of social issues, such as abortion, gay marriage and gun control, and remains a staunch environmentalist, often clashing with President Donald Trump on Twitter.

### Manny Pacquiao

Manny Pacquiao is idolised by millions in the poverty-afflicted Philippines after rising from the streets to the pinnacle of boxing. The winner of an unparalleled 12 world titles in eight different weight divisions, he has successfully parlayed his boxing fame into a political career. He was elected to the House of Representatives and then, in 2016, to the Senate, a high-profile national position which can be a stepping-stone to the presidency, an office he openly admits to having aspirations for. In 2012 he found Christianity — turning his back on the many vices fame, money and power brought him — and social conservatism permeates his politics. Pacquiao stirred international anger when he compared homosexuals to animals in a 2016 interview, later citing the Bible in his defence.

### Vitali Klitschko

Two-metre (6 ft 6 ins) -tall Klitschko went from a heavyweight champion who never suffered a knockdown, to a Ukrainian protest leader and current Mayor of Kiev. He was always viewed as something of a quiet intellectual on the world boxing circuit, a fighter fluent in several languages with a PhD in sports science who liked to relax with a thick Dostoyevsky novel.



Manny Pacquiao

An early supporter of the pro-democracy Orange Revolution, he became a major figure in the often treacherous arena of Ukrainian politics, eventually winning the capital's mayoralty in 2014. "It's much easier to be the heavyweight champion of the world than to be the mayor of Kiev," he told the Guardian newspaper earlier this year. "It's hitting you in the back. It's hitting you under the belt line. It's really tough."

### Arjuna Ranatunga

Four years after Imran Khan captained Pakistan to World Cup cricket victory, Arjuna Ranatunga did the same for Sri Lanka in 1996. He entered politics soon after retiring, briefly serving as a junior tourism minister, before spending years in the opposition. In 2015 he became the first former Sri Lankan international to be named a cabinet minister and has held a slew of ministerial positions since, including his current job as petroleum minister. In recent years Ranatunga has been in an increasingly acerbic war of words with Sri Lanka Cricket, the country's notoriously scandal-plagued cricket board which he has long had aspirations to run. — AFP

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## Washington Watch

## What about Israel's airport mistreatment of Arab Americans?

By Dr James J Zogby

This past week the New York Times ran an article, "Israeli Airport Detention of Prominent US Jew Prompts Uproar," focusing on the airport harassment received by Peter Beinart, a prominent liberal writer and TV commentator. The article mentioned a number of other American Jews who were similarly detained and questioned about their political views regarding Israel's occupation policies.

While I was pleased that Israel's policy of airport interrogations was receiving critical attention, I was distressed that the article made no mention of how Israel has, for decades, meted out far harsher treatment to Arab Americans flying into Ben Gurion Airport or crossing the Allenby Bridge. The Times' piece also failed to note the extent to which the US government is responsible for the brazenness of Israel's impunity in its continued mistreatment of US citizens.

As readers of my column may recall, I have been dealing with this issue for four decades. I have, myself, been subjected to hours of frustrating and humiliating interrogations by Israeli officials (even when I was entering the country on official business in my capacity as Co-Chair of Builders for Peace, a project created by then Vice-President Al Gore).

Since the 1970s I have logged with the State Department the complaints of hundreds of American citizens of Arab descent traveling to, or within Israel and the Occupied Territories. These included reports of: being detained for hours of questioning; being denied entry and forced to purchase a ticket to return home; being forced to surrender their American passports and made to secure, against their will, a Palestinian ID document; being denied permission to exit; being strip searched; or having their possessions stolen or deliberately destroyed by Israeli airport inspectors.

The stories, many of them recent and posted on the website of the Arab American Institute are deeply hurtful and demeaning. Because these practices are so systematic, many Palestinian Americans who have experienced this treatment have simply stopped going to the occupied lands to visit their families.

What has been especially galling has been the failure of the State Department to hold Israel accountable for these behaviors which are in clear violation of their treaty obligations to the US. In the 1951 US-Israel Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation, Israel pledges to permit US citizens "to travel freely, to reside at places of their choice; to enjoy liberty of conscience" and to guarantee them "the most constant protection and security". As many Arab Americans, especially those of Palestinian descent, can testify, this treaty has been "honored more in the breach than in the observance".

We have also been angered by the State Department's failure to deliver on the assurance implied by the message found on the opening page of every US passport: "The Secretary of State of the United States of America hereby requests all whom it may concern to permit the citizen/national of the United States named herein to pass without delay or hindrance and in case of need to give all lawful aid and protection".

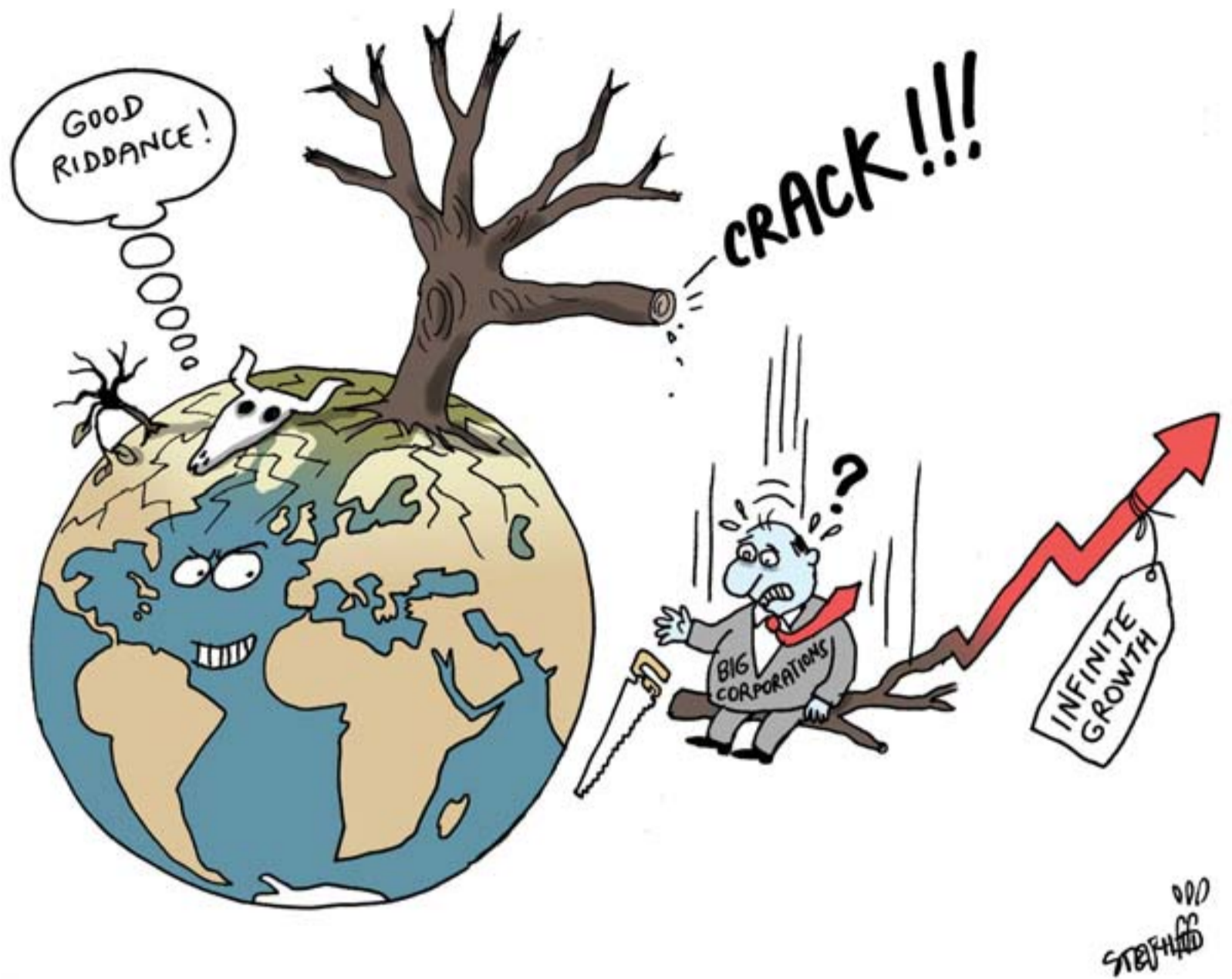
### Impunity

Instead of protecting its citizens and insisting that Israel honor its treaty obligations, US officials have all too often feigned powerlessness, thus enabling Israel to continue to violate the rights of Arab Americans with impunity. In effect, they have allowed Israel to define distinct classes of American citizenship: Unquestioning Jewish Americans; Jewish Americans and others who challenge their policies; and, at the lowest rung, Americans of Arab descent.

Especially hurtful to Arab Americans is the travel advisory issue by the State Department that warns American citizens who have Arabic names, especially those of Palestinian descent, should expect to be singled out for different treatment on entry to Israel—amounting an "official" acceptance of Israel's discriminatory policy. I have sat with Secretaries of State and National Security Advisors and presented them with documentary evidence of this Israeli abuse. They have expressed outrage and assured me that they would raise the issue "at the highest levels" with their Israeli counterparts. They have done so and reported back to me of the assurances they received.

In spite of this, the systematic discrimination against and humiliation of Americans of Arab descent not only continues, it has worsened. It continues because after the initial protest is ignored by Israel, my government has shrugged its shoulders as if to say "We tried. There is nothing more we can do". Well there is more they can do. They simply cannot or will not muster the political courage to protect the rights of my community when Israel is concerned.

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



## Exiled Uighurs feel state's long reach

Sitting on the terrace of a Paris cafe, a young Chinese woman glances nervously at her mobile phone as a message from a police officer in her native Xinjiang region pops up. A member of China's Muslim Uighur minority, Mariem travelled halfway around the world to study in France, but has found herself pulled into a mass security crackdown under way back home. "They want to know where I live, what I do, how I spend the weekend. They want me to give them information about Uighurs here. They threaten my family who beg me to do what they ask," she said, visibly stressed.

Mariem is one of several ethnic Uighurs in France who shared accounts of harassment by Chinese authorities and expressed concern for missing family members caught up in sweeping security operations back home. All their names have been changed to protect their identity. AFP saw messages several Uighurs received from the authorities on China's messaging application WeChat. "Do you have your degree now?" one officer asks a student. "Send me your address and tell me who you work for and what your degree is," reads another message. "Why don't you send photos?" another person returning from holidays is asked.

### 'Orwellian society'

On Monday, Chinese officials were grilled by a UN human rights committee in Geneva over reports that it is

holding up to one million Muslims, mostly Uighurs, in camps under cover of a massive anti-terrorism drive. China has pointed to a series of attacks in Xinjiang by suspected Islamist radicals in recent years as justification for a draconian clampdown in a region with a long history of tensions with Beijing.

But it has called the reports of internment camps "completely untrue", saying that the "education and training centers" to which "minor criminals" are assigned serve merely "to assist in their rehabilitation and reintegration". Several NGOs and China experts believe that what is under way is far more sinister, saying accounts from former detainees and official documents point to a massive program of political and cultural indoctrination.

Last year, China banned "abnormally long" beards and Muslim veils in Xinjiang and ordered all car owners in the region to install GPS tracking devices. In December, New York-based Human Rights Watch reported that Xinjiang authorities were planning to collect biodata from all residents. "An Orwellian society has been put in place in Xinjiang," Thierry Kellner, a politics professor at Belgium's Universite Libre de Bruxelles specializing in China and the Muslim world, told AFP.

A report published by US-based security analysis group Jamestown Foundation in May estimated that "at least several hundred thousand and possibly just over one million" people had been interned as part of a

"pacification drive". "This is unprecedented and exceeds anything that China has done in any other region including Tibet," the report's author, Adrian Zenz, told AFP. Surveillance of overseas Uighurs is also "a very common practice", Kellner said. Questioned about the allegations the Chinese foreign ministry said it was "not aware" of any such practices.

### Passport 'blackmail'

Nijat, a young man who arrived in France on a student visa in 2007, deleted his WeChat account after getting a call from a person claiming to be a police officer who asked for a copy of his passport and visa. "He said if I didn't cooperate my family would get into trouble," he told AFP. For months now he has been without news of his sister and his parents, who asked his brother in Canada to stop calling home, fearing the contact was inviting unwelcome attention.

At a Uighur rally in Paris in July, AFP also met Adil, who held aloft a photograph of his grandmother and brother, who he claimed were being held in camps in Xinjiang. Adil first moved to Turkey, which has close religious and cultural ties to Xinjiang. But after Turkey began cracking down on "anti-Chinese" forces at Beijing's request he fled to France, leaving behind another brother, of whom he also has no news. Mariem says her family is also in the state's sights. One of her brothers has been arrested and the other has disappeared. "I cannot get hold of him. When I ask about him I get conflicting information. I think he has been sent to a camp," she said. She fears she could face a similar fate if forced to return home to renew her passport, a service usually available to overseas citizens through their embassy but which has been denied to her. — AFP



### No place to hide

## Murders leave Rohingya camps gripped by fear

A spate of bloody killings is fuelling unease in the Rohingya camps on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, where overstretched police are struggling to protect nearly a million traumatized refugees from violent gangs. Just 1,000 police officers guard the labyrinthine shanties that make up the giant camps and authorities want to more than double the force in the wake of the murders. Three respected community leaders are among those slain in what police suspect is a power struggle between Rohingya gangs in the refugee slums in camps around Cox's Bazar.

One, Arifullah, was stabbed 25 times on a busy road in June and left in a pool of blood. The other two were killed in their shacks just days apart by masked assailants. Police in the crime-ridden Cox's Bazar district are investigating 21 refugee murders, many in recent months, which they blame on score-settling and turf wars. Many in Kutupalong, the world's biggest refugee camp, and others nearby, say the unchecked violence leaves Rohingya families at the mercy of criminals.

### Cashing in on misery

"When the gangs come into the camps, people call the police. But they only arrive after the criminals are gone," said 16-year-old Runa Akter, whose father disappeared in July with a relative who was later found dead. Police only filed a case after her uncle's body was found, she said. "We are scared. We are especially worried about my brother,

because there have been threats to kidnap and kill him," the anxious teenager told AFP. "I don't want to lose anyone else in my family."

A police investigator, SM Atiq Ullah, said no suspects had been identified so far. Criminals have long preyed on the Rohingya camps however. Police say refugees with ties to Bangladeshi drug and human trafficking networks have sold Rohingya girls into sex and recruited mules to courier methamphetamine. The scourge has intensified since an army crackdown in Buddhist-dominated Myanmar drove nearly 700,000 of the stateless Muslim minority into Bangladesh last year.

Hundreds of Rohingya refugees have been arrested since the August influx for rape, drug offences, human trafficking and weapons possession, among other crimes. Afruzul Haque Tutul, a senior police officer who until mid-August was deputy chief of Cox's Bazar, said gangs cashing in on the human misery were extorting "huge money" from new refugees desperate for land, shelter and food.

### Savage beating

Internal feuds over territory quickly turn deadly. Among the bodies was Arifullah, one of the "mahjis" or community leaders tasked with overseeing day-to-day camp affairs. As an English speaker, he met with dignitaries and liaised closely with police - a position of power Tutul says could have irked rivals. Arifullah's wife blamed Rohingya militants for the death of her husband who was surrounded and stabbed by a group of men. She told AFP that Arifullah was a "big critic" of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), the shadowy group whose attacks in Myanmar sparked the military reprisals.

Bangladesh denies the militants have a foothold in the camps and the group



This photo taken on July 18, 2018 shows Bangladeshi police patrolling in a Rohingya refugee camp in Teknaf. — AFP

distanced itself from crime in a rare January statement issued after two mahjis were murdered. "It is very challenging, and sometimes threatening, being a mahji," said Arifullah's right-hand man, Abdur Rahim, who took over four days after his friend's killing.

Just a day earlier, a mahji in a neighboring camp was savagely beaten by a mob but there were not enough police to deter violence, he told AFP in his bamboo office in Balukhali camp. Tutul said patrols had been increased but forces were spread thin. Some 1,500 additional officers had been requested from Dhaka, he added. "Definitely it's a huge task. We are trying our best to control the area," he told AFP. As the body count climbed, Bangladesh's Daily Star newspaper in July printed an editorial declaring it "amateurish to hope that less than 3,000 police would be enough" to guard one million desperate people. The murders and other unexplained crimes have eroded trust in law enforcement and underscored gaps in policing.

### Scared to talk

On one recent visit, AFP reporters saw a police unit armed with shotguns and sticks patrol a camp near where two men were found dead in July. But a community leader, who requested anonymity, said: "There are no police after midnight. Even during the day, during their shifts, they often stay in their posts." Few officers speak the Rohingya language, further hampering inquiries. Fear has kept mouths shut. "That is why Rohingyas do not come forward. They are scared. In your town, if criminals or terrorists or robbers were there, definitely you will be scared," Tutul said.

Aid groups are installing floodlights to improve safety, especially for women, and police check posts are planned for vulnerable areas of the dense slums. But Mohibullah, an influential Rohingya leader, said policing such ghetto-like conditions was difficult and crime was inevitable. "It is very bad," he told AFP. "But, we think the refugee life is like this." — AFP



## Business

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018

**12** Kuwait credit growth remains soft in Q2, picks up in June**13** Bridge collapse in Genoa puts spotlight on dilapidated roads**14** NAS introduces Pearl Assist baggage delivery service at Kuwait Airport

**CARACAS:** A customer shows Bolivar bills while at a gas station in Caracas where people queuing for petrol on Friday for the uncertainty about the price and availability of gasoline from Monday on, when the new currency with five fewer zeros starts circulating in Venezuela. — AFP

## Venezuela re-launches currency amid hyperinflation

### Maduro to slash five zeros off crippled bolivar

**CARACAS:** Venezuela will start issuing new banknotes tomorrow after slashing five zeros off the crippled bolivar—but analysts warn the measure will do nothing to arrest a worsening economic crisis.

President Nicolas Maduro has described the move as a “great change” as the government attempts to halt spiraling hyperinflation that the International Monetary Fund predicts will hit a staggering one million percent this year.

Maduro blames Venezuela’s financial woes on opposition “plots” and United States sanctions—but he admits that the government will “learn as we go along” when it comes to the currency redenomination. Uncertainty, doubt and skepticism reign. “If you maintain the fiscal deficit and the disorganized emission of money (to cover it), then the crisis will worsen,” economist Jean Paul Leidenz told AFP.

Oil-rich Venezuela is in a fourth year of recession and has been hamstrung by food and medicine shortages, as well as failing public services such as transport, electricity and water.

Oil production accounts for 96 percent of Venezuela’s revenue but that has slumped to a 30-year low of 1.4 million barrels a day, compared to its record high of 3.2 million 10 years ago. The fiscal deficit is almost 20 percent of GDP while Venezuela struggles with an external debt of \$150 billion. And

there’s a good reason the redenomination hasn’t generated renewed hope or investor confidence: Venezuela has done this before. Maduro’s predecessor and revolutionary hero Hugo Chavez stripped three zeros off the bolivar in 2008, but it was not enough to prevent hyperinflation.

#### ‘Failure’

Electronic transactions are set to be suspended from Sunday to facilitate the introduction of the new notes, known as the sovereign bolivar to differentiate it from the current, and ironically named, strong bolivar. The largest will be worth 500 bolivars, equivalent to 50 million in today’s money—or eight dollars on the black market.

Towards the end of 2016, Venezuela’s largest currency denomination was 100 bolivars—but less than a year later the government had started issuing 100,000 bolivar notes, which are now almost worthless. Oliveros warned that the new bank notes will face the same fate as the last ones “within a few



#### Uncertainty, doubt and skepticism reign

months” if hyperinflation is not brought under control. According to Leidenz, Venezuela is trying to emulate Brazil, which replaced its old cruzeiro currency with the real in the 1990s after the former was destroyed by hyperinflation.

But he said that will not work because of the government’s fiscal indiscipline and a lack of financing.

#### Cryptocurrency confusion

The government, though, has ploughed on, with Maduro insisting the bolivar would be anchored to the country’s widely discredited petro cryptocurrency, along with new salary and pricing systems.

Venezuela launched the digital currency in a bid for liquidity to try to circumvent US sanctions, with Maduro saying it would be backed by the country’s oil reserves. Since the presale of the petro ended in March, the government claims to have received \$5 billion in offers, yet five months later there is “enormous confusion,” Leidenz said.

Cryptocurrency rating site ICOindex.com has branded the petro a “scam” while the US has banned its nationals from trading in it. “Anchoring the bolivar to the petro is anchoring it to nothing,” said economist Luis Vicente Leon, director at polling organization Datanalisis. Right from the outset, it has not been clear how the petro would operate, nor what being backed by oil means. But it is one of a raft of seemingly desperate economic measures announced by Maduro’s government to try to fix the country’s economic meltdown.

Earlier this week, Maduro also announced a curb on heavily subsidized fuel in a bid to prevent oil being smuggled to other countries. Subsidies would only be available to citizens registering their vehicles for a “fatherland card” the opposition has decried as a mechanism to exert social control over opponents. Fuel subsidies have cost Venezuela \$10 billion since 2012, according to oil analyst Luis Oliveros, but without them most Venezuelans would not be able to buy fuel. Meanwhile, two weeks ago, Venezuela loosened its vice-like grip on currency controls in a bid to attract foreign investment.

It ended the government’s monopoly over foreign currencies, which had created a black market where the dollar could change hands for 30 times its official rate. — AFP

## S&P cuts Turkey debt rating further, projects 2019 recession

**WASHINGTON:** Global ratings agency S&P on Friday cut Turkey’s debt grade for the second time in four months, moving it further into junk territory and predicting the country will go into recession next year. The agency downgraded the rating a notch to ‘B+’ and pointed to the weakening of the Turkish lira in the past two weeks, amid an overheating economy and high debt levels. Moody’s likewise cited the weakening lira and downgraded Turkey’s debt to Ba3 from Ba2, also citing the declining lira, “heightened concerns” for the central bank’s independence and “the lack of a clear and credible plan” to address the causes of recent financial troubles.

The currency has come under increased pressure amid the worsening dispute with the United States, including President Donald Trump’s decision to double tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from the country. “The downgrade reflects our

expectation that the extreme volatility of the Turkish lira and the resulting projected sharp balance of payments adjustment will undermine Turkey’s economy,” S&P said in a statement.

“We forecast a recession next year. Inflation will peak at 22 percent over the next four months, before subsiding to below 20 percent by mid-2019.” The declining currency is increasing pressure on indebted local companies, which also could harm the balance sheets of domestic banks, the statement said.

“Despite heightened economic risks, we believe the policy response from Turkey’s monetary and fiscal authorities has so far been limited.” The dispute and war of words between Trump and Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has escalated over Ankara’s jailing of American evangelical pastor Andrew Brunson since October 2016, who Trump has said is a “hostage.” US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned on Thursday the United States would impose more sanctions unless Brunson was released. Turkey fired back threatening to respond to any additional US action.

The lira has plunged as investors fret about Erdogan’s influence over monetary policy. Heavy selling in recent weeks has spread to other emerging market currencies and global stocks and deepened concerns about the economy, particularly Turkey’s dependence on energy imports and whether foreign-

currency debt poses a risk to banks. On Friday, Turkey’s battered lira weakened 3 percent after a Turkish court rejected an American pastor’s appeal for release, drawing a stiff rebuke from President Donald Trump, who said the United States would not take the detention “sitting down”.

#### China support

China supports the Turkish government’s efforts to safeguard security and economic stability and believes that it will overcome its “temporary difficulties”, China’s top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, told Turkey’s foreign minister yesterday. China’s foreign ministry said in a statement that Wang had made the comments in a phone call with the Turkish minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu. The Turkish lira has lost a third of its value against the dollar this year as worsening relations between NATO allies Turkey and the United States added to losses driven by concerns over President Tayyip Erdogan’s influence on monetary policy. Cavusoglu spoke about the current situation in Turkey during the phone call and said his government was willing to strengthen strategic communication with China, the statement said. Beijing first commented on the issue on Friday in a foreign ministry statement in which it offered moral support to Turkey. — Agencies



**ANKARA:** A seller prepares his stall at a market in the center of Ankara. Customers and shopkeepers say the diplomatic spat with Washington and the crash of the Turkish lira have strongly affected their daily lives. — AFP



Business

NBK Economic Report

# Kuwait credit growth remains soft in Q2, picks up in June

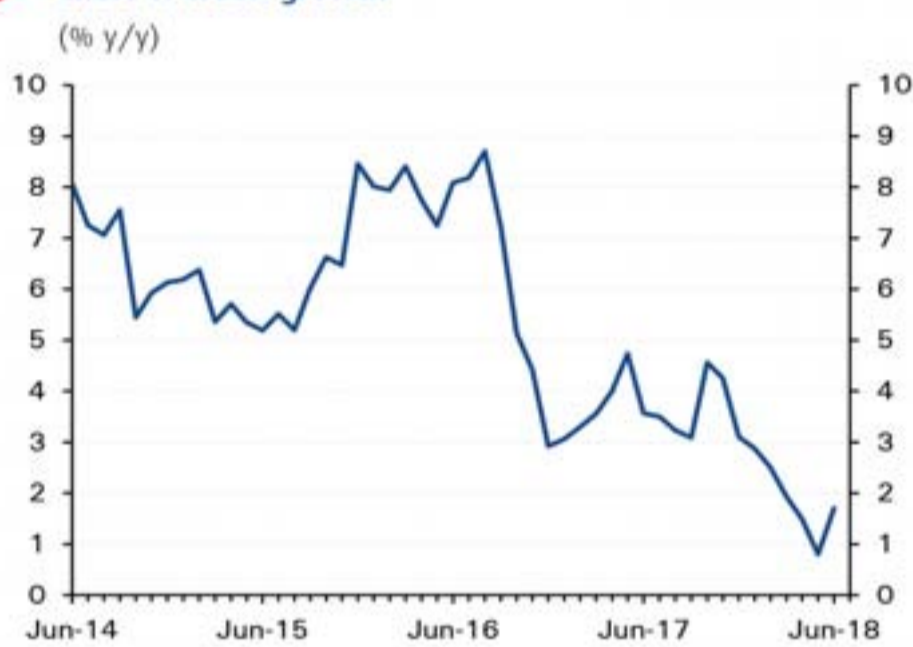
## Lending still lagging with only KD 0.8 billion borrowed in 1H18

**KUWAIT:** Credit saw its strongest month-on-month gain in two years in June, and finished 1H18 up 1.7 percent y/y from 0.8 percent in May. This followed seven consecutive months of declines affected by lackluster growth in business lending, slightly softer household borrowing and continued deleveraging by non-bank financial firms. Year-to-date, however, lending is still lagging, with only KD 0.8 billion borrowed in 1H18 compared to an average of KD 1.1 billion during similar periods in the last five years. Credit growth also eased a touch from March's 1.9 percent.

June saw strong business lending - up KD 482 million m/m and 1.3 percent y/y - overturning months of little to no growth in that segment. There was improving appetite for credit from key sectors - oil, trade, industry, and construction. Catalysts included the conclusion of a major financing deal for a government oil project, and possibly increasing issuance of commercial business licenses in recent months (up more than 60 percent y/y in 1H18) and an improving operating environment.

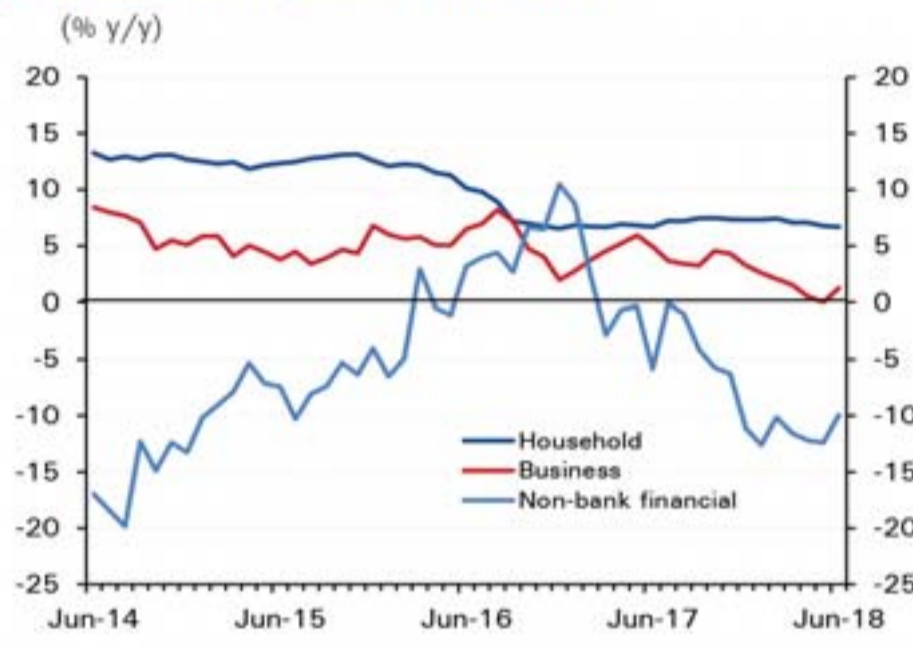
Household borrowing growth however edged down, ending June up 6.7 percent y/y compared to 7 percent in March, on softer demand for home financing. This perhaps reflected recent firmness in housing prices and seasonal softness usually associated with the holy month of Ramadan (mid-May to mid-June). Meanwhile, consumer loans - of shorter duration - contracted by 6.4 percent y/y in June compared to March's 5.9 percent. But the pace of decline steadied through the quarter, perhaps reflecting early signs of improved consumer sentiment and consumption.

Chart 1: Credit growth (% y/y)



Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Chart 2: Credit growth by component (% y/y)



Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Meanwhile, the pace of deleveraging by non-bank financial firms slowed in June to 9.9 percent y/y from 11.6 percent in March, thanks to a pick-up in net borrowing late in the quarter. Investment companies may be looking to take advantage of the rebound in the domestic stock market, helped by a recent index reclassification and restructuring.

Private deposits

Private deposits finished 2Q18 up 5.7 percent y/y in June, the strongest growth in almost three years, and up KD 1.2 billion

over the quarter. Strong earnings and solid dividend payments supported the increase. This propelled growth in M2 money supply to 5.3 percent y/y. The increase was across the board and led by KD sight and KD time deposits. Meanwhile, government deposits, which have been weakening over the past year, rose in 2Q18, with year-on-year growth at -0.6 percent in June versus -1.3 percent in March, helped by higher oil revenues.

Bank reserves (cash, deposits with the CBK, and CBK bonds) increased by KD 754 million to KD 6.1 billion or 9.4 percent of

bank assets in 2Q18. This coincided with KD 650 million in public debt maturing without any new issuance as the new debt law has yet to be approved. KD 350 million in public debt is still set to mature in 2018, and this is expected to continue increasing liquidity this year. Domestic deposit rates were higher in 2Q18, pricing in March's rate hike and some of June's increase in the repo rate. The Central Bank of Kuwait left the discount rate unchanged in June, opting not to follow the Fed's latest move. The repo rate, however, was raised by 25 bps to 2.00 percent.

Customer deposit rates were up 25-28 basis points across the board in 2Q18. The average 3-month interbank rate rose 8 basis points to 2.0 percent. Rates have held relatively steady since.

Credit is projected to finish the year up 4 percent, supported by capital spending and moderate economic growth. Project financing, in light of the government's budgeted 14 percent increase in construction capital spending this year, as well as its commitment to reduce delays in execution, is seen providing a vital boost to borrowing.

## Air France's new boss flies into immediate strike threat

**PARIS:** The first non-French boss of Air France-KLM, Canada's Ben Smith, faces a rocky landing at the strike-prone airline where his nomination and pay packet have been sharply criticized by French trade unions. Smith, the current number two at Air Canada, was unveiled Thursday as the new chief executive of the Franco-Dutch group, whose last boss quit during an ongoing labor dispute as staff press for higher wages.

The French government, which has a 14.3-percent stake in the airline, said attracting "a leader of this stature who has great experience acquired through 19 years with Air Canada" was "a boon" for the airline. But no sooner had the 46-year-old been named than he became embroiled in controversy over his salary, which could be several multiples that of his predecessor Jean-Marc Janaillac, according to a source close to the airline.

The source told AFP his annual pay could reach up to 4.25 million euros (\$4.8 million), consisting of a fixed wage of 900,000 euros — 50 percent higher than his predecessor—as well as performance-based



PARIS: Travellers and an Air France Airbus A380 aircraft at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport, north of Paris. Air France-KLM named Benjamin Smith of Air Canada as its new chief executive, the first non-French head of the group despite resistance from its powerful trade union. — AFP

bonuses and shares which will be dependent on results.

Former CEO Jean-Marc Janaillac took home 1.122 million euros in 2017, based on a fixed salary of 600,000 euros and bonuses.

The CFDT union called the reported pay hike "unreasonable", echoing criticism from other unions, while French politicians across the spectrum were drawn into the debate about executive pay.

Olivier Dartigolles, a spokesman for the French Communist party, said the package was "shameful"

and said Smith "would be the person explaining to employees that they need to make moderate salary demands".

Fears of further strikes from staff, who have seen their call for a five percent pay hike this year turned down by management, saw investors take fright on Friday with shares down heavily on the Paris stock exchange. The fall was due to "fears of a strike forming that would affect the profitability of the airline," an analyst at financial trading group IG France, Alexandre Baradez, told AFP. — AFP

## Italy should double 2019 growth target to 2 percent - Savona

**MILAN:** The Italian government should be able to double its economic growth target for next year to 2 percent, thanks to an expected massive injection of private investment, a senior minister said.

European Affairs Minister Paolo Savona wrote in a newspaper editorial published yesterday that investment planned by major Italian firms could amount to as much as 34 billion euros (\$39 billion), boosting the economy and state revenues in turn. "To bring the real rate of growth for 2019 to 2 percent would be a realistic economic policy objective," he wrote in financial daily *Il Sole 24 Ore*. Last month, Savona proposed Italy should boost investments by about 50 billion euros and called on the EU to back the plan instead of insisting on deficit reduction.

He said at the time that the boost to growth would generate extra revenues that would allow the government to fund all its main spending plans, and would help ease the public debt burden.

The new anti-establishment government wants to cut taxes, ease pension rules and introduce a basic income for the poor, measures estimated to cost tens of billion of euros. Italy has the highest debt burden of any big euro zone economy. Earlier this month, Economy Minister Giovanni Tria said he expected a downward revision of economic output to 1 or 1.1 percent next year from a previous estimate of 1.4 percent. — Reuters

## Strike off as Chile workers sign deal at world's biggest copper mine

**SANTIAGO:** Chilean miners at the world's biggest copper mine, Escondida, signed an agreement on Friday with Anglo-Australian owners BHP to avoid a strike announced two weeks ago when unions rejected as insufficient a proposed salary hike.

BHP said "a new collective contract" had been agreed with the No 1 union, which represents 2,500 miners, preventing a potentially crippling shutdown at the mine, which produces five percent of the world's copper. Neither the union nor BHP divulged the terms of the new deal but local media reported miners would get a 2.8 percent salary increase and a bonus of almost \$28,000 per worker for ending negotiations.

The union had called for a five percent salary increase and bonus of about \$34,000 while BHP's counter offer was 15 million Chilean pesos (\$23,000) per worker. Chilean miners earn between \$2,500-3,000 a month—a comfortable sum in a country where the mini-

mum wage is \$800. But the workers argue they deserve such a premium because of their harsh working conditions.

Negotiations had dragged on for weeks, increasing fears that miners would go on strike for the second year in a row. Last year, Escondida miners spent 44 days on industrial action, provoking a 39 percent drop in production over the first half of the year-and costing the company \$740 million.

BHP is a multinational mining, metals and petroleum company that posted revenues of \$38 billion and \$5.9 billion in bottom line profit last year. Escondida is one of the most profitable copper mines in the world.

It earned almost \$1.2 billion last year, a 20 percent increase on the previous year, despite the lengthy industrial action. That hurt the local economy, though, in a country that produces almost a third of the world's copper, around 5.6 million tons, fueled largely by China's insatiable appetite for the red metal.

The Escondida mine is located in the world's driest desert, the Atacama in northern Chile, at more than 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) in altitude. It's the same area where eight years ago, 33 men were trapped 700 meters underground for 69 days following a cave-in at the Copiapo mine.

Last month, at another mine in Chuquibambilla, run by the state-owned CODELCO company, workers briefly went on strike to demand the reinstatement of sacked colleagues. — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.382476	0.396376
Czech Korune	0.005539	0.014839
Danish Krone	0.042599	0.047599
Euro	0.34894	0.355594
Georgian Lari	0.138023	0.138023
Hungarian Forint	0.001147	0.001337
Norwegian Krone	0.031974	0.037174
Romanian Leu	0.065218	0.082068
Russian Ruble	0.004566	0.004566
Slovakia	0.009097	0.019097
Swedish Krona	0.029184	0.034194
Swiss Franc	0.299791	0.310791

	Australasia
Australian Dollar	0.215031
New Zealand Dollar	0.196383

	America
Canadian Dollar	0.228039
US Dollars	0.300250
US Dollars Mint	0.300750

	Asia
Bangladesh Taka	0.003007
Chinese Yuan	0.042958
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037030
Indian Rupee	0.003887
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017
Japanese Yen	0.002673
Korean Won	0.000251
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070883
Nepalese Rupee	0.002632
Pakistan Rupee	0.001917
Philippine Peso	0.005752
Singapore Dollar	0.216885
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001566
Taiwan	0.010443
Thai Baht	0.008846

	Arab
Bahraini Dinar	0.792191

Egyptian Pound	0.014381	0.020099
Iranian Rial	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000201	0.000261
Jordanian Dinar	0.424968	0.433968
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022508	0.046506
Omani Rial	0.784201	0.789881
Qatar Rial	0.079307	0.084247
Saudi Riyal	0.080073	0.081373
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.106431	0.114431
Turkish Lira	0.048209	0.059709
UAE Dirhams	0.081438	0.083138
Yemeni Rial	0.000989	0.001069

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

	Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar		303.940
Canadian Dollar		232.365
Sterling Pound		388.215
Euro		347.610
Swiss Franc		304.185
Bahraini Dinar		808.290
UAE Dirhams		83.155
Qatari Riyals		84.390
Saudi Riyals		81.945
Jordanian Dinar		429.975
Egyptian Pound		16.997
Sri Lankan Rupees		1.896
Indian Rupees		4.351
Pakistani Rupees		2.464
Bangladesh Taka		3.636
Philippines Peso		5.698
Cyprus pound		18.080
Japanese Yen		3.740
Syrian Pound		1.590
Nepalese Rupees		2.723
Malaysian Ringgit		75.035
Chinese Yuan Renminbi		44.555
Thai Bhat		10.125
Turkish Lira		51.345



## Business

# Bridge collapse in Genoa puts spotlight on dilapidated roads

## Lack of funding leaves world's roads in disrepair

**PARIS:** In an age of austerity and budget cutbacks, the deadly bridge collapse in Genoa, Italy, has put the spotlight clearly on the lack of public funding for road networks across the globe, from France and Germany, to the United States and beyond.

### Dilapidation everywhere

A report by the World Economic Forum published late last year found that, out of 137 countries, road quality was highest in the United Arab Emirates, with Singapore in second place, Switzerland came third. Among its European partners, the Netherlands followed in fifth place, France in seventh, Germany 15th, Italy 45th and Belgium 46th.

In France, a recent government-commissioned audit found that one out of every three bridges is in need of repair. In Belgium, around 80 bridges, viaducts and tunnels have been placed under heightened scrutiny due to their state of disrepair, according to a De Standaard newspaper report.

In Germany, "it's only a matter of time before a similar catastrophe happens," the head of the DIW economic think-tank, Marcel Fratzscher, said on national radio.

According to the Federal Highway Research Institute, only one motorway bridge out of every eight is classified as being in

"good" or "very good" condition. One particular bridge across the Rhine at Leverkusen in Germany's industrial heartland was closed to heavy goods vehicles in 2012. The Swedish Transport Administration estimates that some 850 bridges across the country need to be reinforced by 2030 after heavier trucks were allowed onto its roads. In Bulgaria, the EU's poorest member whose infrastructure is notoriously dilapidated, Prime Minister Boiko Borissov has called for the renovation of all of the country's bridges. In the United Kingdom, public debate about the state of the country's roads tends to focus more on potholes than on the condition of tunnels and bridges.

The RAC Foundation however published a report last year which found that more than 3,000 bridges were not fit to carry the heaviest vehicles. The US Transportation Department estimated last year that more than two thirds of American roads and nearly 143,000 bridges were in need of urgent repair or improvement.

### Budget cutbacks

In Spain, where motorways and fast roads are relatively new, the Spanish Road Association AEC expressed concern, particularly about the state of the regional road networks, which has deteriorated as a result of

successive budget cutbacks following the 2008 financial crisis. In the wake of the collapse of the decades-old Morandi bridge in Genoa, Italy, which killed 38 people, Italy's hardline euroskeptic Interior Minister Matteo Salvini accused the European Union of prioritizing balanced budgets over safety, austerity over public need. The European Commission hit back, insisting it had always "encouraged" Italy to invest and take advantage of the EU's available structural funds.

Germany, which has a budget surplus, has frequently been called on by the likes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to be "more energetic" in its public investment. In 2018, the government earmarked 3.9 billion euros (\$4.4 billion) in investment for roads and bridges. The DIW think-tank calculates that closer to 10 billion euros is needed.

### Future funding

In France, the government-commissioned audit recommends substantially boosting funds for the maintenance and modernization of national roads, compared with the annual average of 666 million euros earmarked between 2007 and 2017. French Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne said in May she intended to spend one billion euros, compared with 800 million euros in 2018 and 700



**BRUSSELS:** An aerial view shows repair work on the Vilvoorde viaduct on the ring road in Brussels.

million euros in 2017. In June, the Swedish government unveiled an ambitious plan to spend 67 billion euros in infrastructure by 2029. The Spanish government has pledged to invest five billion euros in the country's

roads over the next four years. US President Donald Trump has announced plans to spend \$1.5 trillion on infrastructure, but no concrete details for the roll-out of such plans have so far been forthcoming. — AFP

## Canada inflation surges on rise of global oil prices

**OTTAWA:** Canada's inflation rate surged to 3.0 percent in July, fueled by rising global prices for crude oil, according to government data released Friday.

The year-over-year increase in consumer prices was the largest since September 2011, and follows a 2.5 percent rise in June of this year. Analysts had expected it to remain flat.

Statistics Canada cited continued strength in energy prices for the increase. Gasoline (+25.4 percent) and fuel oil and other fuels (+28.1 percent) were the main contributors to inflation. Global oil prices have risen steadily over the past year, with Brent crude estab-

lishing itself above US\$70 in May for the first time in years. The costs in Canada of buying passenger vehicles, car insurance, food, telephone services, air transportation and travel tours were also up, said the government statistical agency.

And recent interest rate hikes pushed up mortgage rate costs. Price increases for a basket of items consulted by the Bank of Canada in setting its key lending rate remained at 2.0 percent—the bank's target inflation rate—which CIBC Economics analyst said happened "somewhat surprisingly."

"As such, while today's figures will likely support the CS and result in increased speculation that the Bank could hike again as early as September, we continue to lean toward October for the next move," he said.

The central bank hiked its benchmark rate to 1.5 percent in July—its highest level in a decade, following a previous rate increase in January. — AFP

## Trump backs CEOs, proposes easing corporate reporting rules

**NEW YORK/WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump asked securities regulators to explore replacing quarterly reporting requirements with half-yearly filings at the urging of executives including PepsiCo Chief Executive Indra Nooyi, reigniting a debate about how often companies should give financial updates to investors. Such a switch would mark a huge change in the US Securities and Exchange Commission's disclosure requirements and put them in line with European Union and United Kingdom rules.

Trump said on Twitter that meetings with business leaders had convinced him that the change would give companies more flexibility and reduce costs. "I'd like to see twice, but we're going to see," Trump told reporters when asked about his tweet. He said Nooyi, who will step down in October after 24 years at PepsiCo Inc, had brought it up to him. Nooyi said in an e-mailed statement, "Many market participants, as well as the Business Roundtable which we are a part of, have been discussing how to better orient corporations to have a more long-term view ... My comments were made in that broader context, and included a suggestion to explore the harmonization of the European system and the US system of financial reporting."

Some investors and analysts said Trump's argument made sense because it would cut costs of compiling and filing results and remove short-term distractions for those running companies.

Others said quarterly disclosures are essential for investment decisions and support richer US stock valuations, and that a change could make shares more volatile. The SEC is an independent agency, and the president cannot force it to implement rule changes. Any move to scrap quarterly filings would have to be voted on by the SEC's sitting commissioners, who are political appointees. In a statement on Friday afternoon, SEC Chairman Jay Clayton said Trump has raised a "key consideration" for US companies

and that the agency's "Division of Corporation Finance continues to study public company reporting requirements, including the frequency of reporting." Following Clayton's statement, the agency also announced it had voted to adopt a rule change first proposed in 2016 to streamline some company accounting disclosures, in an unscheduled private commission vote. While capital market rules are not traditionally a partisan issue, a major rule change would likely meet opposition from the agency's two Democratic-leaning commissioners, Robert Jackson and Kara Stein, who generally advocate for strong corporate governance.

Even if the SEC concluded the change was a good idea, companies would likely stick with the current regime to avoid investor backlash, said Ed Yardeni, founder and chief investment strategist at Yardeni Research. "It's cockamamie idea. For starters, what's the difference between six and three months? ... Either way we're talking about a very short-term period," Yardeni added.

Under Clayton, a Trump appointee, the SEC has taken steps to relax rules for issuers, including allowing firms going public to file information confidentially, and is currently discussing easing other compliance rules. But scrapping quarterly reporting is not on the SEC's near-term agenda, according to public records. Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk stunned investors last week with a plan to take the electric carmaker private, a move he says would benefit shareholders by removing short-term pressures.

### Cutting the red-tape

"I do believe it will help upper management ... We start preparing three weeks in advance every quarter, essentially taking almost a third of executives' time each quarter," said Bryan Sheffield, chief executive of shale oil producer Parsley Energy Inc.

But he said energy companies would probably still report some oil and gas well data every three months to please investors. Trump recently hosted company leaders at his private golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, including the heads of Apple Inc, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, Boeing Co, FedEx Corp, and Honeywell International Inc.

### Opening corporate books

The Trump administration has said it would like to reduce red tape it blames for a decline in public listings. In 1998, there were around 7,500



**S** This file photo taken on May 3, 2013, shows a view of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) headquarters in Washington, DC. US President Donald Trump said on August 17, 2018, he has ordered stock market regulators to look into ending the requirement for businesses to issue quarterly earnings reports. Asking the SEC, an independent agency, to move to twice-yearly reporting could help create jobs, Trump said on Twitter.

listed companies in the United States, compared with around 4,300 in 2017, according to the World Bank. Last fall it laid out changes to capital market rules in a US Treasury report, but did not advocate scrapping quarterly reporting. Business groups including the US Chamber of Commerce, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association and exchange operator Nasdaq have been lobbying for lawmakers and the SEC to relax listing rules, warning that the decline in listings hurts jobs and pension funds.

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett and JPMorgan Chase & Co Chief Executive Jamie Dimon wrote in the Wall Street Journal in June that companies should move away from quarterly guidance, but did not call for an end to quarterly reporting. The Council of Institutional Investors (CII) believes that public companies should continue to report quarterly.

"Investors and other stakeholders benefit when regulations ensure that important information is promptly and transparently provided to the marketplace," said Amy Borrus, CII's deputy director. "Investors need timely, accurate financial information to make informed investment decisions." — Reuters

## Mexico hopeful to conclude NAFTA talks with US next week

**WASHINGTON:** US and Mexican negotiators are making progress and could resolve remaining issues to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement by next week, Mexico's Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said Friday. Once the two nations iron out the pending differences, Canada could then rejoin the discussions, he told reporters following a meeting with US trade officials. The development raised hopes that a year's worth of sometimes fraught negotiations could reach a successful outcome by the end of the year.

"Hopefully we will be able to close up no later than the middle of the week the remaining issues and probably there will be space to start the trilateral," Guajardo said a day after the one-year anniversary of the talks' start.

Guajardo has been leading a delegation to Washington for four straight weeks to try to conclude a deal to rewrite NAFTA in time to be signed before a new government takes office in Mexico in December.

He said technical discussions would continue Monday and that he would return Tuesday to continue the high level talks. But there remain "a couple of things that have to be settled," including the US demand for a "sunset clause" that would end the trade pact after five years unless it was reauthorized.

"There is no breakthrough until everything is finished," US Trade Representative Robert

Lighthizer said Thursday he hoped to get a breakthrough with Mexico in the coming days.

### 'A lot of progress'

But President Donald Trump on Thursday said he was in "no rush" to conclude a deal and reiterated that "NAFTA has been a disaster for our country." The US, Mexico and Canada began talks to modernize the 24-year-old trade pact a year ago at Trump's insistence but the talks were hung up over US demands. Recent discussions with Mexico are largely over provisions affecting the auto industry, and Guajardo said the sides had made "a lot of progress," but still needed to finalize details like the transition period for implementing new commitments.

Washington has sought to increase the content requirement of auto parts and components produced in North America in order for vehicles to receive duty free treatment, and also wants a portion to come from high wage areas—which essentially means the United States and Canada.

But Guajardo said, "There are issues that have to be discussed at the trilateral level." US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Friday with Mexico's Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray to discuss NAFTA as well as immigration and security issues. US officials have indicated that if the deal can be agreed by the end of August it would be possible to win congressional approval for the new NAFTA before Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador takes office December 1. That would allow outgoing President Enrique Pena Nieto to leave with a major accomplishment for his government.

That also would put the deal in place before the new US Congress is seated in January, which would protect it from the possibility of opposition if Democrats win control of the legislature in the November mid-term elections. — AFP

bailout in economic history, more than 260 billion euros lent by Greece's eurozone partners and the IMF. As Athens now eyes a return to normality and reclaiming its economic sovereignty, the scars remain - banks are saddled with huge bad loan portfolios and Greece's public debt load is still the highest in the eurozone, at 180 percent of national output.

But sunshine is breaking through the clouds. The economy, which shrank by 26 percent in the crisis years, has started to grow, tourism is booming and unemployment is slowly coming down - to 19.5 percent from a peak of almost 28 percent.

"If there is a lesson that we learned from the crisis it is that, under any circumstances, you must try to protect macroeconomic stability," said Panos Tsakloglou, chief economist of the previous coalition government.

"Populist policies that may win some votes today and have disastrous effects some years down the road must be avoided at all costs. Otherwise, sooner or later we will end up in the situation we are in now," he said. — Reuters

## World Stocks mixed amid Turkey jitters, eyes US-China deal

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street stocks finished higher on increased hopes of a resolution of the US-China trade impasse, while European stocks were pressured by worries over Turkey.

US stocks, which were negative much of the morning, rallied following a midday Wall Street Journal report that Washington and Beijing were taking steps to try to resolve a trade dispute ahead of a November summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The S&P 500 finished up 0.3 percent. "Clearly the market rallied after that Wall Street Journal report," said Karl Haeling of LBBW. "At the same time though, the market did not rally that much." "The lack of details prevented a bigger rally," he added. "There's still a lot of uncertainty about what all this means." The article added to positive sentiment after both sides on Thursday confirmed a resumption of talks, even though both parties are still expected to enact fresh tariffs next week. "Markets are optimistic but remain wary," said FXPro analyst Alexander Kuptsikevich.

### Turkish lira tumbles

Meanwhile, a rebound in the Turkish lira was cut short by new threats by Ankara and Washington to impose more sanctions as the dispute over a jailed American pastor shows no



**KARACHI:** Pakistani stockbrokers monitor during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi on Friday. — AFP

sign of being resolved. The ratings agency S&P on Friday also downgraded Turkish sovereign debt for the second time in four months, predicting a recession in 2019. Meanwhile, European and US stocks rebounded as news that Beijing and Washington would hold trade talks overshadowed lingering worries over Turkey.

Chinese officials announced they would send a senior negotiator to the United States in late August to resume trade talks, the first publicly announced meeting on the escalating dispute in weeks. US officials also confirmed the talks.

Traders saw a glimmer of hope of an easing in the trade battle that has seen the two sides

hit each other with reciprocal tariffs on goods worth \$34 billion, although the negotiations will be between lower ranked officials than in previous cases.

"The stakes are now lower, without the big brass physically present at the table," Pantheon Macroeconomics said in a note. "But in a way, this could enable the talks to proceed favorably, with lower-level officials thrashing out a deal on which higher-level talks could be based."

Frankfurt, London and Paris clawed back much of their losses of more than 1.5 percent the previous day on Turkey fears and Chinese growth concerns. — Agencies

## Greece set to exit bailout, still faces daunting challenges

**ATHENS:** Greece exits the last of its three bailouts on Aug. 20 and hopes to be able to borrow again in international markets after a nearly nine-year debt crisis that shrank the economy by a quarter and forced it to implement painful austerity measures.

The crisis has proven deeply traumatic for Greeks who had enthusiastically swapped drachmas for euros in 2001. Adoption of the single currency ushered in an era of cheap credit that funded a spurge in private consumption and public spending that sent Greece's budget and current deficits ballooning.

Since the debt crisis exploded in early 2010, four successive governments have fought to keep bankruptcy at bay, relying on the biggest



## Business

# NAS introduces Pearl Assist baggage delivery service at Kuwait Airport

## Fast and reliable baggage delivery service from arrivals to passengers' doorstep

**KUWAIT:** National Aviation Services (NAS) has introduced the Pearl Assist Baggage Delivery Service at Kuwait International Airport. This service allows passengers arriving at the airport to have their luggage delivered to their doorstep allowing them to exit the airport faster without waiting for the checked in baggage.

The Pearl Assist Baggage Delivery Service is open to all passengers flying any airline arriving at the Kuwait International Airport and the luggage can be delivered to any area in Kuwait.

Passengers can avail of this new service by pre-booking online via [www.fasttrack.aero](http://www.fasttrack.aero) or at the Pearl Assist Baggage Delivery Service counter located in the arrivals area at the Airport.

The NAS Pearl Assist team will ensure that the luggage is kept safe and secure during the whole process. Bags are safely sealed at the luggage belt and scanned for tracking. This seal will be intact till the bags reach your doorstep and can only be opened by you. You will receive SMS messages alerting you on the status of your luggage at different stages of collection or delivery.

The Pearl Assist Baggage Delivery service adds to NAS's varied portfolio of services aimed at making travel easier. This includes Pearl Assist Meet and Assist services, that help you avoid unnecessary queues to complete check-in, and also allowing the immigration process faster and Pearl Lounge services that allow you to relax in a comfortable space, before, after or in between flights.

NAS has also recently introduced the Pearl Assist meet and assist service for departures and arrivals at the new Jazeera T5 terminal in Kuwait.

Globally, NAS has a presence in 16 countries across the Middle East, Asia and Africa; managing 31 airport lounges, and providing ground handling services to seven out of the world's top ten airlines. With an expanded portfolio of aviation services and certified by IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO), NAS also has demonstrated expertise in supporting local hub carriers in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

National Aviation Services (NAS) is the fastest growing aviation services provider in the emerging markets.

Established in 2003, NAS quickly transformed from a Kuwait based ground handling company into an emerging markets leader in the industry. NAS is present in over 30 airports across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, handling seven of the world's top 10 airlines and managing more than 31 airport lounges.

With an employee base of over 8,000 capable and experienced employees at the core of its worldwide network, NAS is committed to providing aviation services that benchmark to the best in the world.

The NAS portfolio of services includes ramp and passenger services, cargo management, engineering and line maintenance, airport technologies, fixed base operations, terminal management, aviation training, travel solutions, lounge management and meet-and-assist packages.



## Joyalukkas celebrates Arab beauty and craftsmanship with Arabic Jewelry Show

**KUWAIT:** The world's favorite jeweler pays homage to its second home with a stunning showcase of Arabian treasures. Jewels of Arabia, the Joyalukkas Arabic Jewelry Show, features thousands of designs inspired by the sights, wonders and gems of the Middle East.

"When people think about Arabic jewellery, Arabesque patterns and calligraphic designs quickly come to mind," said Joy Alukkas, CMD Joyalukkas Group. "With Jewels of Arabia we aim to show the world that there is so much more beauty to be found in the world of Arabic jewelry. This first ever showcase is the perfect opportunity for our loyal customers to discover the art and craftsmanship of Arabic jewelry making and find new pieces to cherish that they would love to add to their collection."

Jewels of Arabia comprises thousands of perfectly crafted jewelry sets and unique necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings in yellow, white and rose gold. This special Arabic Jewelry Show is happening simultaneously at all Joyalukkas showrooms in the GCC.



## Malabar Group to donate INR 2 crore to Kerala CM's distress relief fund

**DUBAI:** Malabar Group has announced a contribution of INR 2 crore (20 million Indian rupees) to Chief Minister's distress relief fund to deal with the devastating flood in the Kerala state. Malabar Group Chairman M P Ahamed informed press that the Group will associate with district administrations at local levels in lending helping hands to the needy.

Group has already started distributing food and drinking water to the flood victims through Malabar Gold & Diamonds jewelry outlets across the state. M P Ahamed expressed grief and solidarity to the distressed suffering from the unprecedented flood and landslides. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations of Malabar Gold & Diamonds commented "We would like to express our deepest sympathy and offer our sincere help to those suffering from the impact of the flood. We are hoping the earliest possible recovery and praying to the almighty for the restoration of the affected areas". Malabar Gold & Diamonds is always at forefront when it comes to CSR activities. The group sets aside a fixed percentage of its net profit for the benefit of the needy in the respective markets it operates in. They undertake social welfare activities all year long, focusing on five priority areas such medical, educational sector, environment as well as housing and women empowerment.



M P Ahamed

## KFH continues to serve customers electronically, through Airport branch during holiday

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced that it is ready to fulfill its commitments towards its customers during Eid Al-Adha holiday. The bank will continue to offer a plethora of services for its customers in Kuwait and overseas through its website that offers a wide range of services, in addition to the alternative channels, XTM and the 24/7 branch at the Kuwait International Airport.

XTM service allows customers to conduct their transactions and perform many banking services in minutes in a very modern way using advanced tools through visual and audio communication options; conference call with KFH staff who are always available and ready to answer all customers' questions. This service is available 24/7 at Avenues mall and Al-Dhahya Banking Lounge.

Moreover, the Call Center will be ready to receive calls from clients throughout the day, and will work relentlessly to overcome any problems that might face clients in Kuwait and overseas.

In addition, KFH continues to offer its IVR service on 1803333 that is available throughout the day. Clients can call to make account transactions, ask for financial transaction, pay bills, purchase cards to recharge cell phone,

and other services.

## Warba Bank announces winners of 'Al-Sunbula' draw

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, organized its 29th weekly draw for Al-Sunbula Account on Thursday at 11 am in presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the bank officials.

Al-Sunbula Account is the perfect choice for all customers who wish to save money and achieve steady returns while simultaneously have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. Due to the high traffic on this account, for its offerings of unparalleled opportunities, Warba Bank has worked on enhancing Al-Sunbula account to provide customers with more benefits. Such enhancements include increasing the number of winners and the frequency of the draws. Now, on every Thursday the Bank holds draws for 5 weekly winners of KD 1,000 each. In addition, the Bank continues its monthly draws held on the first Thursday of every month, with cash prizes of KD 30,000 divided amongst 4 winners: two winners getting KD 10,000 each, and two winners getting KD 5,000 each.

Thus, the new development of Al-Sunbula account has increased the total number of winners to 24, and the total amount of prizes to 50,000 KD instead of 30,000 KD. As for the chances for winning, each customer is eligible to enter the draw against each KD 10. It is noteworthy, that Warba Bank has recently launched the Al-Sunbula Fixed Deposit, which provides depositors with high returns of up to 3 percent, as well as getting monthly chances to win in Al-Sunbula Account draws.

Furthermore, Warba Bank has launched its latest Customer Onboarding solution, in line with its ambitious five-year strategy that enables non-Warba Bank customers to request opening Al-Sunbula account in an easy electronic manner through the Bank's website without having to visit any of the Bank's branches, by following 5 simple steps that might take up to 5 minutes. New customers will be able to request opening the account at anytime, anywhere, and the Bank will receive, process and pass the new application for approval through whole new and unique electronic system used to implement this service. Warba Staff will then contact the customer to determine the appropriate time to visit the branch to get required signatures, verify the customer's identity, deliver his/her debit card, and activate the account.



Further, clients can take advantage of KFH's ATM machines (Shamel) that are available at most of the branches in vital locations. KFH offers Mobi Baitok vehicles that serve as mobile branches that allow people to deposit and withdraw cash in addition to other banking transactions.

KFH has additional technical privileges, such as allowing customers to conduct several banking transactions through smart phones on kfonline application.



## Burgan Bank announces working hours during Eid Al-Adha holiday

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank yesterday announced that on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, the bank will be closed during the Eid holiday from today (19th of August until Thursday 23rd of August 2018), with the exception of the Airport branch which will be open from 8:00 am to 10:30 pm

every day, in its continuous efforts to conveniently provide services to its clients during public holidays.

As for today the following branches will be open to serve customers: Head Office - Ahmadi - Shuwaikh Industrial - Hawally Tunis Street - Jahra Taimaa - Salmiya - Farwaneya - Avenues and Airport branches.

The contact center will also be at customers' service over the clock at 1804080, as well as many alternative channels to ensure customers enjoy services throughout the holiday period. On this occasion, Burgan Bank extends its best wishes and greetings to the public on the coming of Eid Al-Adha.

## Tesla shares tumble after Musk interview sparks fresh fears

**WASHINGTON:** Tesla shares took a pounding Friday amid fresh fears about the future of the electric carmaker after a wide-ranging interview with chief executive Elon Musk in which he revealed his struggles with exhaustion and a lengthy but unsuccessful effort to find a number two executive.

In closing trade, Tesla shares skidded 8.9 percent to \$305.50 following the publication of the interview with The New York Times. Musk opened up to the newspaper about the personal toll he says he has endured, working marathon hours trying to ensure that deadlines are met, with Tesla ramping up production of its crucial Model 3 sedan. "There were times when I didn't leave the factory for three or four days-days when I didn't go outside," Musk said. "This past year has been the most difficult and painful year of my career. It was excruciating."

Musk also revealed he needed to take prescription medication to sleep during the latest ordeals, and disclosed he had approached Facebook's chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg about becoming his number two at Tesla. The brash South African-born entrepreneur also sought to explain his tweet earlier this month about taking Tesla private, which has drawn scrutiny from regulators.

He explained that the August 7 tweet claiming assurance that funding for going private was secured was an attempt to be transparent, even though it provoked questions from analysts about whether it violated stock market regulations. He and other board members are preparing to meet with Securities and Exchange Commission officials as early as next week, the Times said. Musk acknowledged that no one read his Twitter post before he sent it, but insisted he did not regret it. "Why would I?" he said.

### 'He is one guy'

Musk, who envisions sending tourists to the Moon with his private firm SpaceX and has unveiled ambitious plans for high-speed trains and other projects, is recognized as one of the most influential innovators in the United States.

But he has appeared to fray under the pressure in recent months. "Part of the issue from my perspective is focus," said Roger Kay, an analyst and consultant with Endpoint Technologies Associates.

"He is one guy and he has multiple companies. Any one of those requires the full attention of the CEO."

Kay said the comments on his personal issues "is not going to get him any sympathy," but added: "It's not a question of whether he is likable, what matters is whether he can function." The analyst noted that "there isn't anyone currently who can pick up the slack for him (as a number two). But he needs to get that person in place pretty quick." Art Hogan, chief market strategist for B. Riley FBR, said the interview "did not improve the image of the company or the CEO," while adding to uncertainty about Tesla's future. "If we say we simply remove Elon Musk from the situation, I don't know if that does much good. I don't know what the bench looks like behind him," Hogan said.

### Tesla's future

Tesla produced slightly more than 100,000 vehicles last year and the company has been struggling to boost production of its Model 3, which is less expensive than its first models and could help expand Tesla's base. On the physical toll his job is taking, Musk said: "It's not been great, actually. I've had friends come by who are really concerned."

He described spending every hour of his 47th birthday in June at work and almost missing his brother's wedding. On Monday, Musk explained in a blog post that his much-scrutinized statements about financing were based on his conversations with Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund and other investors. If delisted, Tesla could operate without requirements for financial reports and other pressures of a publicly traded firm. However, it could also lose visibility and limit its ability to raise capital.

Musk told the Times that board members had not complained to him about his tweet. But the paper said he later told them through a spokesperson that Antonio Gracias, Tesla's lead independent director, had in fact contacted him to discuss the Twitter post.

Musk added he had agreed not to tweet again about taking the firm private unless he had discussed it with the board. The tycoon has caused controversy by turning to his Twitter following of more than 22 million to vent frustrations in recent months. — AFP



Technology

# Silicon Valley idealism at odds with China market

## Google workers' outrage over censoring searches

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Google workers' outrage over the notion of censoring searches to appease Chinese officials highlights the dilemma US tech companies face in accessing the lucrative market. Using technology to make the world better is a well-worn mantra in Silicon Valley, preached so strongly by internet companies such as Google and Facebook that it has become part of their identity.

That idealism has repeatedly run headlong into a wall of reality when it comes to internet firms needing to compromise with the interests of governments that have oppressive approaches to online activity. "The tech industry had a utopian view of the world and of itself," said Irina Raicu, director of the internet ethics program at Santa Clara University in Silicon Valley. "It's running up against its own narrative of how it holds certain values." After portraying itself as a champion of making all the world's information freely available, Google would be hard-pressed to explain taking part in online censorship in China, according to Raicu.

Hundreds of Google employees were said to have signed a protest letter after reports that the company is working on a censor-friendly search engine to get back into China. The employees are demanding to know more about the supposed

"Dragonfly" project so they can weigh the moral significance of their work at the company. "We are seeing technologists start to flex their power," Raicu said. "They do want to change the world for the better, and this goes against that."

### Do no evil

Silicon Valley companies share global ethics challenges with other industries, but they face employee rebellion and user scrutiny because of having built images of being devoted to doing good, or at least "no evil." Facebook is banned in China, but that has not stopped the leading online social network from exploring the potential to establish a beachhead there, even if only for an "incubator" that nurtures local entrepreneurs.

Facebook last year discreetly released a photo sharing mobile application, named Colorful Balloons, in China. Two years ago, it reportedly worked on a censorship tool that would filter out posts on forbidden topics there. Even Apple, the world's most valuable company, has had to make concessions in China, pulling items from its App Store and transferring control of cloud storage accounts of Chinese customers to a company there. Meanwhile,

Chinese internet firms such as Baidu, Tencent, Alibaba, and WeChat have thrived.

Google and other publicly-traded US tech titans are legally obligated to maximize shareholder value, but being viewed as "oppression's little helper in China" can hurt their businesses along with their reputations, noted Human Rights Watch senior internet researcher Cynthia Wong. Wong called on tech firms looking to do business in China to have plans in place to improve the censorship and the human rights situation, which she said has worsened since Google pulled out.

"Google wants to organize the world's information: Facebook wants to connect everyone," Wong said. "I think the engineers really do believe in those missions, and that accounts for some of the difference in how Silicon Valley reacts than, say, the oil sector." Google is among the Silicon Valley companies that pride themselves on open cultures in which workers are encouraged to share views, creating an environment ripe for employee activism when values seem compromised, according to Ann Skeet, senior director or leadership ethics at Santa Clara University. "Google has led with this strong culture, and now has its



PARIS: This file photo shows the Google logo displayed on a screen and reflected on a tablet in Paris. — AFP

own employees calling it on hypocrisy," Skeet said. Employees, many of them Millennials, also feel a right to know how what they are working on is going to be used-and to be able to decide whether to participate. — AFP

## Tech giants plan to fight India's data localization plans

**NEW DELHI:** US technology giants plan to intensify lobbying efforts against stringent Indian data localization requirements, which they say will undermine their growth ambitions in India, sources said. US trade groups, representing companies such as Amazon, American Express and Microsoft, have opposed India's push to store data locally. That push comes amid rising global efforts to protect user data but is one that could hit planned investments by the firms in the Indian market, where the companies currently have limited data storage.

The issue could further undermine already strained economic relations between India and the United States. Technology executives and trade groups have discussed approaching Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office to appraise him of their worries. Separately, the industry is considering pitching the issue as a trade concern, including at the India-US talks in September in New Delhi, according to two sources familiar with the matter. Though a final decision hasn't been made, the deliberations come while the United States and India are locked in a dispute over US tariff increases and on the Indian policy of capping prices of medical devices, which hurts American pharmaceutical companies.

"This issue is important enough to be discussed at the India-US trade level," said Amba Kak, a global public policy adviser at the Internet company Mozilla Corp. "Data localization is not just a business concern, it potentially makes government surveillance easier, which is a worry." Stricter localization norms would help India get easier access to data when conducting investigations, but critics say it could lead to increased government demands for data access.

Technology firms worry the mandate would hurt their planned investments by raising costs related to setting up new local data centers. Greater use of digital platforms in India for shopping or social networking have made it a lucrative market for technology companies, but a rising number of data breaches have pushed New Delhi to develop strong data protection rules.

Shamika Ravi, a member of Modi's economic advisory council, said data localization was a

global phenomena and India wasn't an outlier. "It's in the long term strategic and economic interest," said Ravi, who is also a research director at Brookings India.

### Extensive meetings

The main government committee on data privacy last month proposed a draft law, recommending restrictions on data flows and proposing that all "critical personal data" should be processed only within the country. It would be left to the government to define what qualifies as such data.

Global companies are coming together to push back. In a meeting last week organized by lobby group US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, executives from Facebook, Mastercard, Visa, American Express, PayPal, Amazon, Microsoft and others discussed plans to approach Indian lawmakers, including Indian parliamentary panels on information technology (IT) and finance, five sources said.

The industry also discussed approaching media and internet groups to explain why data localization would be bad for India's booming IT, e-commerce and payments landscape, the sources said. "People are fairly stressed and scared," said an executive working for a multinational technology firm. The US-India lobby group said it was "nearly impossible" to implement "industry-specific regulations in our global data environment without the ripples being felt". It didn't comment on its recent meeting, but said it will continue facilitating policy discussions.

Mastercard, American Express and Amazon didn't respond to a request for comment, while Facebook, Microsoft, Visa and PayPal declined to comment. The Indian bill, which was opened for public comments this week, will later go to parliament for approval. The US-India Business Council, a lobby group that is part of the US Chamber of Commerce, has brought in the Washington-headquartered law firm Covington & Burling to suggest submissions on India's data protection law.

The firm's 43-page draft recommendations, seen by Reuters, listed removing data localization requirements as a top priority and called New Delhi's proposed move a "protectionist approach". The US-India Business Council didn't comment on how it would act on the recommendations of Covington & Burling, which declined comment. The lobby group's president, Nisha Biswal, however said India's draft privacy law was of "great importance," and that the group would share its concerns with the government directly. —Reuters

## Samsung launches Galaxy Note9 in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY:** Samsung Gulf Electronics yesterday announced the latest addition to its premium Note series with the launch of Galaxy Note9 in Kuwait. The Note series has been recognized for including the company's latest groundbreaking innovations, and Galaxy Note9 builds on this legacy with a premium smartphone that delivers the ultimate in performance: a new S Pen with connectivity for the first time ever; and Samsung's most intelligent camera yet.

"The Galaxy Note9 demonstrates the power of Samsung innovation in a single device. It is a phone that has all the features you need to work hard and play harder - it's designed for a level of performance, power and intelligence that today's power users want and need," said Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile (IM) Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics. "Note fans are Samsung's most loyal, and in a region driven by ambition and entrepreneurship, the Galaxy Note9 is the only phone that can meet all the needs of the diverse population of achievers."

### All Day Performance

People rely on their smartphones for almost everything they do - all day, every day. They need a phone that can keep up without having to find the nearest outlet to recharge, delete pictures to free up storage for their next snap, anxiously wait for their video to download before boarding their flight, or deal with any lag time when gaming. They need a phone that won't let them down and Galaxy Note9 delivers.

All Day Battery: Galaxy Note9's 4,000mAh battery, the largest ever on a flagship Galaxy phone for long-lasting power to use all-day to talk, text, play games and watch movies from morning to night.

Store More, Delete Less: Galaxy Note9 is available with two internal storage options - choose from 128GB or 512GB. And with the ability to insert a microSD card, Galaxy Note9 is ITB ready to have peace of mind knowing there is enough room for favorite photos, videos and apps. Speed and Power: Galaxy Note9 is a super powerful smartphone with cutting-edge 10nm processor and support for the fastest network speeds available in the market (up to 1.2 gigabits per second) to stream and download without slowing down. Galaxy Note9 also includes an industry-leading and Samsung developed Water Carbon Cooling system and on-device AI-based performance adjusting algorithm to deliver the powerful yet stable performance.

### The Evolution of the S Pen

The S Pen is the signature feature of the Note series - it's how users have made their mark, and how Samsung has expanded the notion of what a smartphone can do. What began as a tool for writing and drawing is now putting more power and control in their hands.

Now with Bluetooth Low-Energy (BLE) support, the new S Pen delivers an entirely new way to use the Note. With just a click, it's now possible to take selfies and group pictures, present slides, pause and play video, and more.

### The Intelligent Camera That Makes Pictures Perfect

It can be hard to take a picture that looks just like the ones the pros take - but it shouldn't be. Galaxy Note9 builds on Samsung's industry-leading camera technologies with new capabilities that take the work out of getting the perfect picture. Scene Optimizer: Galaxy Note9's camera is Samsung's smartest yet. It uses intelligence to identify elements of a photo, such as scene and subject, to automatically classify it into one of 20 categories and instantly optimize it based on the category. The result is a stunning, lifelike image with bold colors and dynamic definition.

Flaw Detection: The first shot doesn't always come out right, but the Galaxy Note9 lets users know if there's something wrong, so they can take another picture without losing the moment. An immediate notification will appear if the image is blurry, the subject blinked, there is a smudge on the lens, or there's backlight impacting the quality of the image.

Premium Camera: With the unique combination of advanced intelligence features and leading premium hardware, Galaxy Note9's camera is the best on the market. It comes with advanced noise reduction technology, and a Dual Aperture lens, which adjusts to light just like the human eye. No matter the lighting conditions, Galaxy Note9's top-tier camera delivers a crystal-clear shot.

### Premium Experiences

The Infinity Display is the cornerstone of

Samsung's design heritage, and Galaxy Note9 has the largest edge-to-edge display ever on a Note. The 6.4-inch Super AMOLED Infinity Display provides a truly immersive multimedia experience. Galaxy Note9's Infinity Display is complemented by stereo speakers, which are tuned by AKG, and ability to deliver Dolby Atmos immersive audio for a life like experience. Mobile video has never looked or sounded better than it does on Galaxy Note9. YouTube named Galaxy Note9 as a Signature Device able to deliver a best-in-class YouTube experience.

Galaxy Note9 also delivers a PC-like experience with Samsung DeX. Users can work on presentations, edit photos, and watch their favorite show all powered by their phone. Experience Samsung DeX with easy-to-carry HDMI adapters. When connected to a monitor, Galaxy Note9 can power a virtualized desktop and even serve as a fully-functional second screen. Take notes with the S Pen while watching a video, or use Galaxy Note9 as a trackpad, to right-click, drag and drop, and use multiple windows on a monitor. It's never been easier to be more productive.

### Samsung Members

The Samsung Galaxy Note9 comes fully loaded with the all-new Samsung Members app. The all-in-one app is designed to help users unlock the full potential of their Galaxy device through unrivaled exclusive lifestyle and service rewards available and regularly updated throughout the year, from exclusive event invitations to discounts on services, and specialized customer care services, all of which make the Samsung experience a fuller and richer one.

Consumers who purchase the Galaxy Note9 will also receive great offers from Samsung's partners that will further enhance their mobile experience, these include:

- 20 percent off at participating Marriott restaurants and spas across the Middle East & Africa.
- Enjoy a 3 month subscription to WAVO by OSN. Stream Live TV channels, 1000s of the latest shows, movies and Live sports anytime, anywhere.



- Offers from over 21 international fashion, footwear and lifestyle brands from Apparel Group.
- Savings up to 30 percent on flights, hotels and UAE activities with Cleartrip
- Access to special 2-for-1 vouchers from the Galaxy Entertainer.

### Galaxy and Beyond

The premium Galaxy technologies come standard with Note9: fast wireless charging, IP68 water and dust resistance and Samsung services such as Samsung Health and Samsung Pay. Galaxy Note9 features Samsung's trusted, defense-grade Knox security platform and biometric security options including fingerprint scanning, iris scanning and facial recognition capabilities to keep important information safe.

Additionally, Samsung also introduced the new Galaxy Watch that brings the best of the Samsung's Galaxy ecosystem with long-lasting battery life, wellness capabilities and a timeless and personalized design. Galaxy Watch helps users accomplish more with new stress and sleep monitoring capabilities, in addition to offering a more robust line up of style options including three new watch faces in Silver, Midnight Black and Rose Gold, and new customizable watch band colors. Galaxy Note9 will be available starting August 30, 2018 across all major retailers and Samsung Brand Stores in Kuwait in Midnight Black and Lavender Purple with matching S Pen, and Ocean Blue with a Pearl Yellow S Pen.

### Samsung Galaxy Note9 Product Specifications

	Galaxy Note9
<b>Display</b>	6.4-inch Quad HD+ Super AMOLED, 2960x1440 (516ppi) *Screen measured diagonally as a full rectangle without accounting for the rounded corners *Default resolution is Full HD+ and can be changed to Quad HD+ (WQHD+) in Settings
<b>Camera</b>	Rear: Dual Camera with Dual OIS (Optical Image Stabilization) - Wide-angle: Super Speed Dual Pixel 12MP AF, F1.5/F2.4, OIS - Telephoto: 12MP AF, F2.4, OIS - 2X optical zoom, up to 10X digital zoom Front: 8MP AF, F1.7
<b>Body</b>	161.9 x 76.4 x 8.8mm, 201g, IP68 (BLE S Pen: 5.7 x 4.35 x 106.37mm, 3.1g, IP68) *Carrying an IP68 dust and water resistance rating. Based on test conditions of submersion in up to 1.5 meters of fresh water for up to 30 minutes
<b>AP</b>	10nm 64-bit Octa-core processor (Max. 2.7 GHz + 1.7 GHz) *May differ by market and mobile operator
<b>Memory</b>	6GB RAM (LPDDR4), 128GB + MicroSD slot (up to 512GB) 8GB RAM (LPDDR4), 512GB + MicroSD slot (up to 512GB) *May differ by market and mobile operator *User memory is less than the total memory due to storage of the operating system and software used to operate the device features. Actual user memory will vary depending on the operator and may change after software upgrades are performed.
<b>SIM Card</b>	Hybrid: one Nano SIM and one Nano SIM or one MicroSD slot (up to 512GB) *May differ by market and mobile operator
<b>Battery</b>	4,000mAh Fast Charging compatible with wired and wireless Wired charging compatible with QC2.0 and AFC Wireless charging compatible with WPC and PMA *May differ by market and mobile operator
<b>OS</b>	Android 8.1 (Oreo)
<b>Network</b>	Enhanced 4x4 MIMO, 5CA, LAA, LTE Cat.18 *May differ by market and mobile operator
<b>Connectivity</b>	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac (2.4/5GHz), VHT80 MU-MIMO, 1024QAM, Bluetooth® v 5.0 (LE up to 2Mbps), ANT+, USB Type-C, NFC, Location (GPS, Galileo*, Glonass, BeiDou*) *Galileo and BeiDou coverage may be limited.
<b>Payment</b>	NFC, MST *May differ by market and mobile operator
<b>Sensors</b>	Accelerometer, Barometer, Fingerprint Sensor, Gyro Sensor, Geomagnetic Sensor, Hall Sensor, Heart Rate Sensor, Proximity Sensor, RGB Light Sensor, Iris Sensor, Pressure Sensor
<b>Authentication</b>	Lock Type: Pattern, Pin, Password Biometric Lock Types: Iris Scanner, Fingerprint Scanner, Facial Recognition Intelligent scan: Combines iris scan and face recognition for convenient unlocking and in some cases provides enhanced security for certain authentication services
<b>Audio</b>	MP3, M4A, 3GA, AAC, OGG, OGA, WAV, WMA, AMR, AWB, FLAC, MID, MIDI, XMF, MXMF, IMY, RTTTL, RTX, OTA, DSF, DFF, APE
<b>Video</b>	MP4, M4V, 3GP, 3G2, WMV, ASF, AVI, FLV, MKV, WEBM



## Compare your smartphone with 'Huawei Nova 3 Series'

**Kuwait:** Huawei's experience zone at Marina Mall, Salmiya will provide consumers innovative ways to compare their own device with Huawei's newest smartphones - Huawei nova 3 and Huawei nova 3i. Both smartphones are powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its overall functioning and camera features. With dual front camera (24MP+2MP), users can expect the best-in-technology 'selfie' that a smartphone can offer.

The Huawei experience zone has been purposefully created to bring to life its unique features for a hands-on engagement like no other. From understanding the power of AI photography, to experiencing the state-of-the-art dual front and dual back cameras, consumers could test the camera capabilities of

both the smartphones that have the ability to recognize age, gender and skin tone to capture perfect AI selfies.

Huawei nova 3 and Huawei nova 3i smartphones are equipped with background scene recognition and enables AI engineered beautification solutions for that self-expressing and confidence boosting AI selfie in one click. HUAWEI has organized a range of exciting activities to keep the visitors entertained at the roadshow. Not only will the visitors get a chance to experience the different features of the Huawei nova 3 and nova 3i, but also get a chance to enter a lucky draw and win the HUAWEI nova 3i.

Huawei CBG has also collaborated with Kuwaiti Celebrity Singer, Humood Al Khudher, to explore the breakthrough AI features of the new HUAWEI nova series. The HUAWEI experience zone is scheduled from August 16 to 18, 2018. If you are waiting to buy the new Huawei nova series, both the Huawei nova 3 and Huawei nova 3i are now available across select retailers in Kuwait. The Huawei nova 3 will be available in Iris Purple, Airy Blue and Black colors and the HUAWEI nova 3i will be available in Iris Purple, Pearl White and Black colors.



# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

**DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY**  
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology  
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- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

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- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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Health & Science

# Vietnam's caged bears dying off as bile prices plummet

## Number of captive bears drop dramatically since 2005

**THAI NGUYEN, Vietnam:** Two moon bears are gently removed from the cramped cages where they have been held for 13 years, rescuers carefully checking their rotten teeth and matted paws before sending them to their new home in a grassy sanctuary in northern Vietnam. The animals are among the lucky few to be rescued in a country where hundreds of bears are feared to have been killed or starved to death as the cost of once-valuable farmed bile has plummeted.

Bear bile is extracted—often continuously and painfully—from the animals' gallbladders and used in traditional medicine in Vietnam, where the illegal practice remains widespread. But consumers are shunning the farmed version in favor of bile taken from the nearly extinct wild bear population, which can cost 12 times more, and farmers can no longer earn what they used to from the illicit trade.

If consumer demand for wild bear gallbladders catches on, it could spell the end for wild bears, which are killed for the sought-after organ. The trend is also bad news for caged bears, whose owners can no longer afford to keep them alive. "Farmers said it wasn't profitable to keep the bears any more so they started feeding them less and let them die off," Brian Crudge, research program manager at Free The Bears, said this week.

The number of captive bears has dropped dramati-

cally since 2005 from about 4,500 to less than 800 today, according to official data and Crudge, who recently co-authored a study on the issue. With about 200 bears in Vietnam's rescue centers, he said many likely starved to death or were killed off and sold for their body parts. Bear paws are popularly used as a delicacy in soup or liquor, while bones are used for cooking and teeth and claws for decoration or jewelry.

### Race against time

Now it's a race against time to rescue Vietnam's remaining caged bears. "It's quite urgent, we want to get as many of them as we can before it's too late," Crudge said. Some farmers—who can legally keep bears as pets but are not allowed to extract bile—have started handing over their bears voluntarily. One farmer said he used to earn \$10 for one milliliter of farmed bile, but now only makes about \$2, as some consumers prefer to shell out for a supposedly higher quality product from wild bears.

"People don't seem to like the bile anymore so it's harder to find customers," said the farmer, speaking anonymously. He used to keep about a dozen bears in cages at his home and now has none, but just smiled when asked when happened to them, refusing to elaborate. Vietnam has come under fire for failing to crack down on the illegal trade, but in a landmark decision



**THAI NGUYEN, Vietnam:** This photo shows a caged bear during a rescue operation from a facility where bear bile is extracted in Thai Nguyen province. — AFP

“  
And let them die off  
”

## On Thai island, hotel guests check out of plastic waste

**KUALA LUMPUR:** For the millions of sun seekers who head to Thailand's resort island of Phuket each year in search of stunning beaches and clear waters, cutting down on waste may not be a top priority. But the island's hotel association is hoping to change that with a series of initiatives aimed at reducing the use of plastic, tackling the garbage that washes up on its shores, and educating staff, local communities and tourists alike.

"Hotels unchecked are huge consumers and users of single-use plastics," said Anthony Lark, president of the Phuket Hotels Association and managing director of the Trisara resort. "Every resort in Southeast Asia has a plastic problem. Until we all make a change, it's going to get worse and worse," he said. Established in 2016 and with about 70 members - including all Phuket's five-star hotels - the association has put tackling environmental issues high on its to-do list.

Last year the group surveyed members' plastics use and then began looking at ways to shrink their plastics footprint. As part of this, three months ago the association's hotels committed to phase out, or put plans in place to stop using plastic water bottles and plastic drinking straws by 2019. About five years ago, Lark's own resort with about 40 villas used to dump into landfill about 250,000 plastic water bottles annually. It has now switched to reusable glass bottles.

The hotel association also teamed up with the documentary makers of "A Plastic Ocean", and now show an edited version with Thai subtitles for staff training. Meanwhile hotel employees and local school children take part in regular beach clean-ups. "The association is involved in good and inclusive



**BALI:** Volunteers from Trash Hero, an environmental NGO, clean up a beach on the island of Bali, Indonesia. — Reuters

community-based action, rather than just hotel general managers getting together for a drink," Lark said.

### Creators and victims

Phuket, like Bali in Indonesia and Boracay in the Philippines, has become a top holiday destination in Southeast Asia - and faces similar challenges. Of a similar size to Singapore and at the geographical heart of Southeast Asia, Phuket is easily accessible to tourists from China, India, Malaysia and Australia. With its white sandy beaches and infamous nightlife, Phuket attracts about 10 million visitors each year, media reports say, helping make the Thai tourism industry one of the few bright spots in an otherwise lackluster economy.

Popular with holiday makers and retirees, Phuket - like many other Southeast Asian resorts - must contend with traffic congestion, poor water management and patchy waste collection services. Despite these per-

sistent problems, hotels in the region need to follow Phuket's lead and step up action to cut their dependence on plastics, said Susan Ruffo, a managing director at the US-based non-profit group Ocean Conservancy. Worldwide, between 8 million and 15 million tons of plastic are dumped in the ocean every year, killing marine life and entering the human food chain, UN Environment says.

Five Asian countries - China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand - account for up to 60 percent of plastic waste leaking into the seas, an Ocean Conservancy study found. "As both creators and 'victims' of waste, the hotel industry has a lot to gain by making efforts to control their own waste and helping their guests do the same," Ruffo said.

"We are seeing more and more resorts and chains start to take action, but there is a lot more to be done, particularly in the area of ensuring that hotel waste is properly collected and recycled," she added. —Reuters

## 122 sea turtles found dead on Mexico beach

**TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico:** Mexican authorities said Friday they found 122 sea turtles dead on a beach in the southern state of Chiapas, mostly from an endangered species. The cause of death was not immediately clear, though around 10 percent of the turtles had wounds to the head or shell and showed signs of injuries from fish hooks or fishing nets, the environment ministry said in a statement.

It said authorities had not been able to carry out autopsies "due to the advanced state of decomposition in which they were found." The turtles were found on the beaches of Puerto Arista, a small town on the Pacific coast. Most of them - 111 - were from the endangered Pacific Ridley species (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). Mexico banned the capture of sea turtles in 1990, but there is still a lucrative black market for their eggs. —AFP

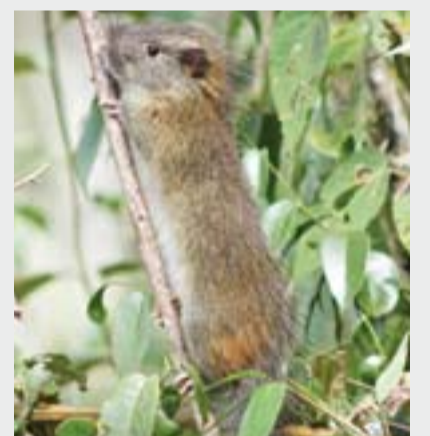


**MEXICO:** In this file photo Olive Ridley sea turtles arrive to lay their eggs at Ixtapilla Beach, Michoacan State, Mexico. — AFP

## Rare 'bamboo rat' photographed at Machu Picchu

**LIMA:** A rare rodent species known as a "bamboo rat" that lives around the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu in Peru has resurfaced after a decade of absence and been photographed for the first time. A specimen of the rodent *Dactylopsilus peruanus* was spotted by guards among bamboo trees at the citadel, which is surrounded by a protected area, said the National Service of Natural Protected Areas.

The last time the animal was recorded at Machu Picchu was in 2008. The bamboo rat lives in subtropical or wet tropical areas, according to Peruvian authorities. It has also been reported at medium-altitude heights on the slopes of the Andes in northern Bolivia. In Peru, the animal is on a list of creatures about which little is known because it is seen so rarely. —AFP



**PERU:** This handout picture shows a rare, little known species of rodent commonly called 'bamboo rat' in the woodlands surrounding the historic sanctuary of Machu Picchu, in Cusco, Peru. — AFP

## Choking hazard: Air pollution hangs over Asian Games



**JAKARTA:** The morning sun rises past buildings and haze over the Jakarta city skyline. — AFP

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia is about to open the Asian Games but its traffic-clogged capital Jakarta remains shrouded in a haze of air pollution that threatens to mar the world's second-biggest multi-sport event. Jakarta's toxic skies have been stuck at unhealthy levels for weeks despite drastic efforts to cut down on congestion, including an odd-even license plate system and the closure of some schools and toll roads.

The city's air-quality index reading hovered around 107 on Friday, posing a danger for people sensitive to air pollution including those with respiratory problems. But the index has regularly topped 150 this month, which is considered a health threat to the general population. A reading over 300 is seen as

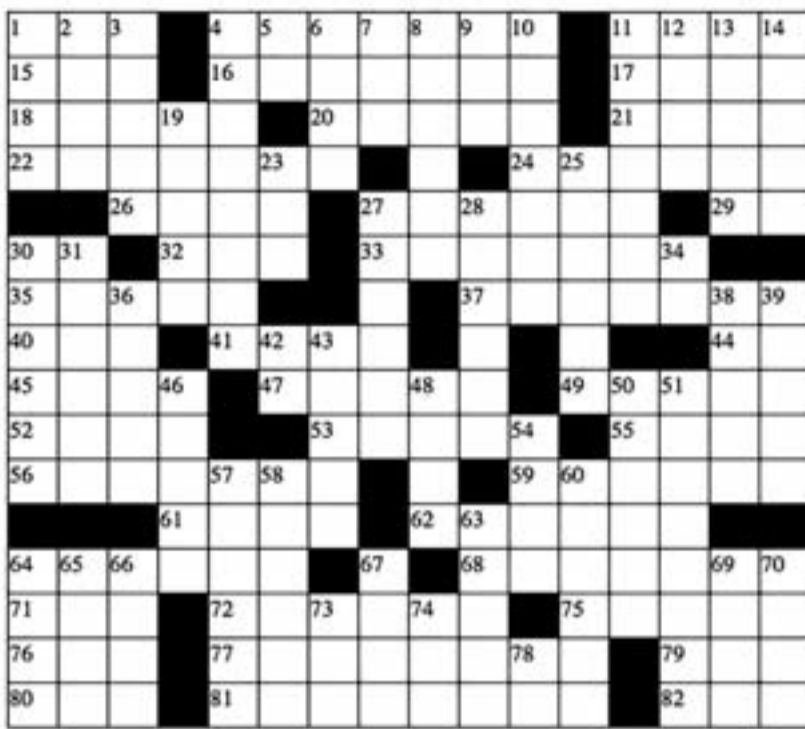
hazardous. About 16,000 athletes and officials from 45 Asian countries—along with hordes of sports-crazy tourists—are flocking to Jakarta and co-host city Palembang for the showpiece event, which kicks off Saturday.

Athletes competing indoors will be relatively unaffected, but it's a different story for outside sports like athletics, archery, baseball, softball and rugby, said Budi Haryanto, an air pollution and health expert at the University of Indonesia. Competing in an environment with dirty air limits athletes' ability to perform at their best, he added, with Jakarta's average 31 degree Celsius temperatures already threatening to leave competitors drenched in sweat. —AFP



Stars

CROSSWORD 1989



ACROSS

1. 10 grams.
4. A genus of Nymphalidae.
11. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
15. An informal debt instrument.
16. Chiefly Old World herbs or shrubs.
17. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
18. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
20. An island consisting of a circular coral reef surrounding a lagoon.
21. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
22. An important god.
24. Regarded with deep or rapturous love (especially as if for a god).
26. A unit of area (4840 square yards) used in English-speaking countries.
29. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
30. An honorary degree in science.
32. Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.
33. The attribute of accepting the facts of life and favoring practicality and literal truth.
35. Greek author of fables (circa 620-560 BC).
37. Neckwear consisting of a long narrow piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front.
40. Standard time in the 7th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 105th meridian west.
41. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
44. A state in southeastern United States.
45. Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing.
47. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
49. Being in competition.
52. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
53. The first Hindu calendar month (corresponding to March or April in the Gregorian calendar).
55. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
56. An instance of driving away or warding off.
59. The time at which something begins.
61. (archaic) A fitting reward.
62. Relating to or characteristic of the Cells.
64. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
68. A mask with a filter protects the face a lungs against poisonous gases.
71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
72. Guinea fowl.
75. Genus of tropical plants with creeping rootstocks and small umbellate flowers.
76. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
77. Genus of powdery mildews.
79. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
80. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
81. Appear again.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

2. Tree bearing large brown nuts containing e.g. caffeine.
3. Small tropical shrubby tree bearing small yellowish fruit.
4. The property of being isotropic.
5. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
6. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
7. Standard time in the 6th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 90th meridian.
8. Any of several crested Old World birds with a slender down-curving bill.
9. Not in good physical or mental health.
10. Possible to sell.
11. One of two official languages of Norway.
12. Located in or toward the back or rear.
13. (South African) A camp defended by a circular formation of wagons.
14. A woman who has recently been married.
19. Extremely small in scale or scope or capability.
23. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
25. Heater that removes ice or frost (as from a windshield or a refrigerator or the wings of an airplane).
27. A decorative pin worn by women.
28. A Japanese cheer of enthusiasm or triumph.
31. East Indian annual erect herb.
34. A unit of weight equivalent to 1000 kilograms.
36. An elongated leather strip (or of strip of similar material) for binding things together or holding something in position.
38. Complacently or inanely foolish.
39. Enthusiastic approval.
42. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
43. Having a face or facing especially of a specified kind or number.
46. A person who is gullible and easy to take advantage of.
48. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
50. The innermost membrane of an organ (especially the inner lining of an artery or vein or lymphatic vessel).
51. Gregarious burrowing rodent larger than the chinchillas.
54. 100 loea equal 1 kina.
57. (horseshoes) The throw of a horseshoe so as to lean against (but not encircle) the stake.
58. Free from fear or doubt.
60. A historic division of Ireland located in the northeastern part of the island.
63. With the mouth wide open as in wonder or awe.
65. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
66. The habitation of wild animals.
67. A speech defect that involves pronouncing s like voiceless th and z like voiced th.
69. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
70. God of love and erotic desire.
73. Type genus of the family Myacidae.
74. A depression in an otherwise level surface.
78. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.

DOWN

1. Portuguese explorer who in 1488 was the first European to get round the Cape of Good Hope (thus establishing a sea route from the Atlantic to Asia) (1450-1500).

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, this is a great time for your close relationships. They seem to take on more emotional depth, power, and mean more to you now. You are finally starting to realize you need the support of those closest to you for you to thrive. No one should take on as much responsibility as you attempt to handle on your own. Remember to be humble. It is ok to ask for help and to admit you can not do everything on your own. This is a difficult thing for you to do, due to the desire you have to be totally independent. No man is an island, Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

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



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, you are able to see what future brings very clearly now. You can see the road ahead and you are ready to move forward. You are able to make clear decisions and things really seem to be falling into place for you. Progress at this time is easy. You may feel invincible. Be careful not to bite off more than you can chew now. You tend to be overconfident and not put much thought into your decisions. You are very optimistic and may find yourself taking chances you would usually refrain from taking. You may spend much time exploring your emotions and this could be a time you get in touch with your roots and find purpose in your life, Gemini.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, a need to be respected seems to be a very emotionally charged issue in your life. You will not settle for anyone to treat you any other way. They can either treat you with respect or they have no place in your world. It seems you have a knack for not only organizing things but also organizing the people around you. You are able to put each person into the position they will be most productive. This does not go unnoticed in the workplace. It seems as if your upper management may have their eyes on you. You exhibit management qualities and may soon find yourself offered a new position or you may be asked to lead a new project. Shoot for the stars, Cancer.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, your independence is not always looked at with envy. At times others feel as if you may think you are above them. They see it as an insult that you refuse to include them in your projects and exclude them from the decision making process in the work place. We are all surrounded by someone who looks for reasons to be offended. These are not the most pleasant people to have in our lives. Do not take offense to their attitude. Instead push on and do your thing, Leo.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, contrast is evident in your life today. That's doesn't have to mean conflict. There is a difference. Cultivate your fun-loving, romantic side. But, don't ignore your uncomfortable, needy feelings. Your insecurities make you more compassionate toward those who are looking for comfort. They will find you reassuring. You will bring peace into the lives of others today, Virgo.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, the sky is the limit. You have set your goals high and by this point you may be look down on them as you soar above and beyond all expectations you had for yourself. You are on fire. You filled with optimistic feelings and on top of the world. This is a great day for your relationship wise as well as in the workplace. You exude confidence today that so many will find as attractive. Your desires are leading you to crave something new. You are willing to try anything today with your "bring it on" attitude. High energy and happiness fill your world today. Enjoy! You may feel led to take chances concerning your relationship that are led by deep emotions today, Libra.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, the sky is the limit. You feel unstoppable. It seems you are deep in reflection and past experiences are helping you deal with your present circumstances. You may realize there is someone in your life you need to forgive in order to be able to move forward. You're experiencing a more sensitive side and putting more thought into seeing things from other people's point of view. This helps you understand those close to you better and helps dissolve boundaries that have been standing in your way. This helps bring more peace into your life and harmony into your world, Scorpio.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, you may feel as if the sky is the limit today. There are no limits to what you can accomplish when you set your mind to it. Focus and determination are your friends today. You are optimistic and have faith in yourself and your abilities. You may find this to be a great time to explore your emotions and feelings. You may be feeling some sort of restlessness. An emotional experience, a sort of divine wanderlust is what you crave, Sagittarius.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, you have always had a soft heart. There is a special place in your heart for children. You seem to be drawn to their innocence. Today you may find the opportunity to spend some special time with a child who is special to you. This is a great opportunity to spend use some of your creative energy to express your feelings. An art project with this child would be a wonderful way to spend your time this evening. Nothing compares to time spent with a child with a paintbrush in their hand. You may see an undeniable sense of admiration in the eyes of this child. Little things mean a lot to little ones, Capricorn.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Aquarius, this is a great time of understanding in your world. You could find yourself really enjoying a special time with someone you love. Your world is full of love, optimism, and faith. What a wonderful time full of wonderful feelings! You may feel led to take a chance on a deep emotional level. This risk could bring great reward into your world. This is a time you are truly exploring your feelings, you are experiencing a new emotional experience. This is a wonderful feeling and a wonderful time in your life. You are ready to experience all the world has to offer you, Aquarius.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, things really seem to be going your way. You find this a time you are filled with appreciation. You can truly enjoy your life situation now. Your senses are heightened. Your taste is impeccable. You will be able to use this to your benefit in any decorating you do or any purchases you make now. You may find others seek your opinion in many aspects of their own life. If anyone is trusted to make the right choices and right decisions, it is you, Pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 4

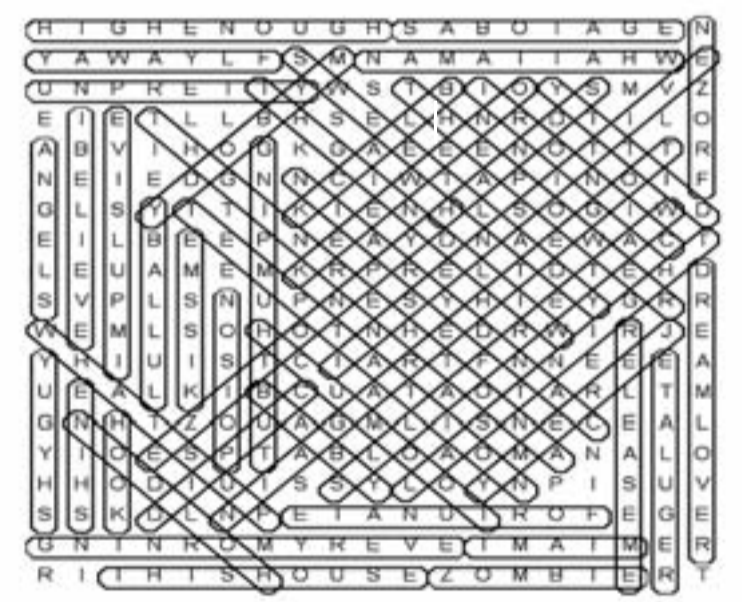
Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.



- |           |               |               |              |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| ADIA      | DISARM        | LATELY        | SAY IT       |
| ALRIGHT   | EVERLONG      | LOUNGIN       | SLIDE        |
| ANGEL     | EVERYTHING    | MASTERPIECE   | SUKIYAKI     |
| ANYTHING  | FINALLY       | MISSING       | TELL ME      |
| ANYWHERE  | FOOLISH GAMES | MR. JONES     | TIME         |
| BIG POPPA | HERO          | NO DIGGITY    | TOO CLOSE    |
| BLACK CAT | I KNOW        | NO RAIN       | TWO PRINCES  |
| CRAZY     | I SWEAR       | NOBODY KNOWS  | UNBELIEVABLE |
| CREEP     | INFORMER      | NOT TONIGHT   | WANNABE      |
| DEAR MAMA | JUMP AROUND   | RUN-AROUND    | WHO DAT      |
| DECEMBER  | JUMPER        | RUNAWAY TRAIN | WITHOUT YOU  |
| DISAPPEAR | LAST KISS     | SAVE TONIGHT  | YOU'LL SEE   |

Friday's Solution

90's Songs 3



- |               |             |             |                |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| ANGELS        | HANDS       | LULLABY     | THE POWER      |
| ANOTHER NIGHT | HIGH ENOUGH | MIAMI       | THIS HOUSE     |
| BLACK         | HOLD ON     | MY BODY     | TOGETHER AGAIN |
| BABY          | HOOK        | ONE WEEK    | TOO MUCH       |
| CANDY RAIN    | HYPNOTIZE   | POISON      | TURTHUMPING    |
| CLUPID        | I BELIEVE   | REGULATE    | UNPRETTY       |
| DITTY         | IMPULSIVE   | RELEASE ME  | WATERFALLS     |
| DREAMLOVER    | INSENSITIVE | SABOTAGE    | WHAT'S UP      |
| EVERY MORNING | IRONIC      | SHINE       | WHATTA MAN     |
| FLY AWAY      | JEREMY      | SHY GUY     | WILD NIGHT     |
| FORTUNATE     | KISS ME     | SWEET LADY  | ZOMBIE         |
| FROZEN        | LAST NIGHT  | TEMPERATION |                |

The hidden song title is: SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution





# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018



An animated marionette, a so-called Giant, of French street theatre company Royal de Luxe parades through the streets in the European Capital of Culture 2018, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands. Royal de Luxe present a new story based on the saga of the Giants called 'Grand patin dans la glace' (Big skate on the ice) during three days until today. — AFP

## India star **Chopra** to become 'Mrs Jonas'

American singer Nick Jonas yesterday announced Indian superstar Priyanka Chopra will be "Mrs Jonas" after the couple performed a traditional ceremony in Mumbai, the home of Bollywood cinema. Jonas, 25, posted a photo with Chopra on Instagram, captioning it: "Future Mrs Jonas. My heart. My love." Chopra, 36, posted the same photo on her Instagram page, writing: "Taken... with all my heart and soul." She was seen wearing a diamond ring that Jonas reportedly bought after shutting down a Tiffany store in New York last month. Chopra, who won the Miss World pageant in 2000, is one of Bollywood's most identifiable stars and one of the few

to have achieved success in the West.

She stars in the ABC thriller series "Quantico" and has released songs with US chart-toppers including Pitbull and The Chainsmokers. Jonas first found success as a child as the frontman of The Jonas Brothers with his two siblings. The brothers hailed from a deeply devout Christian family and presented a wholesome image, including wearing purity rings to promote chastity. In more recent years Jonas remolded himself with a more mature and edgy musical image, as well as turning to acting. He has been romantically linked to a number of celebrities including Miley Cyrus and Selena Gomez.

In photos shared on social media yesterday, Chopra and Jonas were seen performing a prayer ritual in traditional Indian attire. While Chopra opted for a flowing yellow ensemble, Jonas wore white kurta-pyjama. Jonas' parents also wore Indian outfits. Rumors that the duo were engaged kicked off last month when People magazine reported Jonas had proposed to Chopra after a whirlwind two months of dating. The couple are yet to announce a wedding date. — AFP



In this file photo Indian Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra (left) accompanied by Nick Jonas arrive for the pre-engagement party. — AFP



Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta

**Travolta, Newton-John** reunite for 40th anniversary celebration of 'Grease'

"Grease" stars Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta on Wednesday celebrated the 40th anniversary of their classic movie musical about teenagers finding their way at the fictional Rydell High. The pair posed for cameras and showed off some dance moves at a screening in Beverly Hills hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "The idea that they're honoring our movie, and that it's meant so much to the history of film, nothing's quite like it," Travolta said. "I think it's a really prestigious moment."

Newton-John, now 69, played good girl Sandy in the 1978 film opposite Travolta, 64, as bad boy Danny. The movie was adapted from a Broadway musical and featured a soundtrack of hits including "Summer Nights" and "Hopelessly Devoted to You." Also attending the event were co-stars Didi Conn, who played Frenchie; Barry Pearl, who portrayed T-Birds member Doody; and director Randal Kleiser. — Reuters

**Marvel Comics mogul Stan Lee** wins renewal of protective order

Marvel Comics mogul Stan Lee won renewal of a protective order on Friday against a onetime business manager accused of subjecting the 95-year-old "Spider-Man" co-creator to elder abuse after taking charge of his affairs earlier this year. Keya Morgan, a New York-based memorabilia collector who became involved with Lee following the death of Lee's wife last year, must stay at least 100 yards (91.4 metres) away from the Marvel magnet for the next three years, the restraining order states.

The order further requires Morgan, also known as Keyra Mazhari, to stay away from Lee's daughter, Joan Celia "C.J." Lee, 68, and his 86-year-old brother, Larry Lieber. "Stan Lee and the Lee family are happy that the court saw fit to try to prevent further intrusion into the personal life and affairs of Mr. Lee," his lawyer, Jonathan Freund, told Reuters by phone. Lee is co-creator of "Spider-Man," "Iron Man," "The Hulk" and dozens of other superheroes that have become mythic figures in US pop culture with soaring success at the movie box office. Recognized by fans for his cameo appearances in each of Marvel's live-action films, Lee has an estate worth some \$50 million, according to previous court documents.

Freund said Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Laura Hymowitz granted the restraining order on the basis of evidence outlined in an earlier petition and a brief presentation he made in court on Friday. He said neither Lee or Morgan were present for the proceedings. A previous restraining order issued in June against Morgan was dismissed in July over confusion about Lee's legal representation. —Reuters



Stan Lee

**Hairdresser, manicurist remember** down-to-earth **Aretha**

For years, Jacqueline Robinson was a hairdresser to Aretha Franklin, invited to lavish Christmas parties, whisked off to meet Oprah Winfrey or joining the likes of Stevie Wonder at dinner. The hair stylist, who trained in Europe and runs an upmarket salon near Detroit, was heartbroken when the woman she called an "inspiration" died on Thursday, after a long battle with cancer. "I had a headache. I had a stomachache. I cried all day," Robinson told AFP, finding comfort by listening to radio stations that honored the "Queen of Soul" by playing Aretha songs until midnight.

It was the late 1990s when the music icon telephoned for the first time, asking Jacqueline to style her hair. When her limousine pulled out front, people from neighboring businesses stopped to stare. But the 18-times Grammy winner, hailed the greatest singer of all time by Rolling Stone magazine, was never one for airs and graces, taking her seat in the salon alongside any other customer. "She would lay back in the shampoo bowl just like everybody else," Robinson said Friday, perched on her hairdresser's stool, grey hair swept back, lipstick perfectly applied and elegantly dressed in black.

"She never tried to project herself as 'being Aretha' or 'get out of my way.' Never, never, never." The soul legend had several, if not many hairdressers in Michigan, but Robinson was the one she chose to style her hair for appearances on the Oprah Winfrey Show and the BET Awards. "I would hear her singing in the bathroom when I was traveling with her," she recalled. "You never heard somebody singing and it sounds like a full orchestra behind them? That's Aretha. Beautiful voice."

**Flying earring**

"She loved it when I did her hair," Robinson said. "She said 'Jacqueline you're very special, you have a wonderful touch.'" Robinson's brain is packed with indelible memories, such as chatting backstage with Winfrey and Mary J Blige, or not a dry eye in the house after Aretha's performance of "Amazing Grace." "I mean, there were so many tears, so many tears. She's so wonderful. Oprah was crying. It was great." There were also moments of hilarity. For the BET Awards, Aretha asked her to style her tresses into

a chignon, which the performer planned to reveal as a "wow factor" on stage by suddenly whipping off a wig.

Except, when she did, the wig sent flying a priceless earring on loan from a jeweler in New York for the telecast. As producers frantically cut to a commercial break, Robinson joined everyone else on their hands and knees until the earring was found. Music legend Stevie Wonder and R&B singer Alicia Keys were at those awards, she remembers. "When it was over I got to eat dinner with all these people... It was wonderful."



Jacqueline Robinson, who has done hair for the late Aretha Franklin, works on a customer at Salon Jacqueline & Spa in Southfield, Michigan. — AFP

**'Inspirational'**

It wasn't just hair. Aretha stopped by the same salon for \$80 mani-pedis with manicurist Shawn Frazier for 10 to 15 years. Rust orange, silver and a blue-silver were her favorite colors, Frazier recalled. "People were so amazed that she would just come in and just be normal. Her security would sit up front, and her driver, but she would walk around," Frazier said. "She just made you feel comfortable." Frazier bubbled over with memories of the lavish Christmas parties that Aretha would host, one set in a winter wonderland made to look like snow, with music, food and invitations by special delivery. Franklin's signature song, "Respect," was her calling card, a feminist anthem and one that inspired generations of women all over the world. To Robinson, she was also "very, very inspirational... as an African American woman." —AFP



## Lifestyle | Gossip

# You Me At Six fuse The Weeknd with rock music on new album VI

**Y**ou Me At Six's forthcoming sixth album 'VI' sounds like "The Weeknd being smacked in the face with rock music". The 'Underdog' hitmakers previously said they hope the record will be "career-defining" as they admitted to feeling "underwhelmed" by 2017's 'Night People', and now they've revealed they weren't afraid to mix their hip-hop influences, including the 'Starboy' rapper, with their guitar roots with the encouragement of producer Dan Austin (Biffy Clyro). Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, frontman Josh Franceschi said: "Dan Austin is one of the most remarkable people we have ever worked with. He just elevated our confidence and desire. He became the sixth member of the band. You could turn around to him and go, 'This song is essentially our R&B song on the

record, how do we do it and not make it feel like we are a guitar band?" He wasn't scared and was like, 'Yeah, let's do that.' "Whereas some producers are like, 'Stay in your lane', and we are like, 'Nah, man.' "Dan has been doing a lot of work on Logic (software) and this album has a lot of dance songs. "Like The Weeknd being smacked in the face with rock music. "I think that Dan really encouraged that." Josh previously admitted the band felt they needed to swiftly make another record because they didn't connect to their fifth album, despite it reaching number three in the Official UK Chart. He spilled "We felt underwhelmed by our own record so we wanted to make another one quickly, and a good one. "Being a number three album doesn't mean it's any good." [Sir] Cliff Richard had how many numbers ones at Christmas, they were all crap so

that doesn't mean it's any good." The 27-year-old singer compares the band's transition from 'Night People' to 'VI' like the Arctic Monkeys' journey from 2009 LP 'Humbug' to 2013's 'AM', arguably their best record to date. He explained: "I still stand behind 'Night People' because it's something we've done. "You know how Arctic Monkeys had 'Humbug' as a stepping stone before 'AM', that's how I feel it was like for us. "It's a record we had to make and the only record we could have made at that moment in time. Ultimately, it's what shaped us to make this one, it served a purpose." 'VI' is released on October 8 and features the singles '3AM' and 'Fast Forward'.



## Michelle Williams: Aretha Franklin gave me confidence in my voice

**M**ichelle Williams says Aretha Franklin gave her confidence in her voice. The Destiny's Child singer was originally worried that her voice was not "pop" enough to make it in the music business but listening to music from Aretha, who died earlier this week at the age of 76, helped her to appreciate her own sound. She told Billboard: "I remember when I first got in Destiny's Child, a childhood friend of mine-music producer James 'Big Jim' Right, who has done some producing for Aretha-made me this CD of music I should be listening to. On that CD was so much Aretha Franklin. He said, 'Watch how she gets in the pocket of the song, how she grooves. Just study her.' At the time, I didn't know if my voice was radio friendly-it's not that crystal-clear pop voice-and Aretha gave me some confidence. She grew up in the church, and she would always be herself, whether she was singing or hollering. She inspired me to own my unique voice: Whoever likes it likes it, and whoever doesn't, it's okay." And when Michelle, 38, got to see Aretha perform at the White House in 2015, she treated the session like a class and took notes. She said: "When I'm around folks like Aretha, school is in session. When we both performed at the White House in 2015, I literally sat Indian-style in the back. I didn't want my original seat. I was like, 'Aretha Franklin is here, get my books and my pencil and my notepad.' Her voice is everything. She is everything. I'm not even ready to say she was everything-I can't bring myself to say anything past tense about her yet. "I learned so much from the way she let the spirit take over. I love that whether she was in the White House or Madison Square Garden, you were going to get the same type of show. I tell people all the time, "I don't care if I'm performing for 20 people or 2,000, you're going to get the same energy." And you learn that from legends like Aretha Franklin."

## Dave Davies: Me and Ray need to iron out a few kinks before making music

**D**ave Davies insists he and his rival brother Sir Ray Davies still need to "iron out a few" kinks before working together again. The latter recently went on a national news channel to announce that the 'You Really Got Me' group had been back in the studio for the first time in 25 years, but the 71-year-old songwriter-and-guitarist says it's not entirely true as they've only discussed the prospect and need to argue out their creative differences first. In an interview with The Daily Telegraph newspaper, he spilled: "I thought, 'What is Ray talking about now?'" However, he added: "We've been talking about maybe trying to work on new Kinks material. "I said, 'We shouldn't go public yet



## Jess Glynne's musical 'therapy'

**J**ess Glynne found writing with Ed Sheeran to be like a "therapy" session. The 28-year-old singer teamed up with the 'Castle on the Hill' hitmaker to pen 'Thursday' for her new album 'Always in Between' but their writing session wasn't planned, they just found they hit it off when they were introduced by a mutual acquaintance. She said: "I actually wasn't meant to be going into a studio with him. "I was going in to write with a guy called Steve Mac and Steve said that Ed was about and would I mind if he came down. "We spent most of the day talking and getting to know each other and having a little bit of a therapy session about what we've all been going through. And then we started jamming and 'Thursday' came out of it." 'Thursday' was written to encourage people to embrace who they really are and not put on a front for the sake of social media. Jess explained to OK! magazine: "'Thursday' is a song about not caring what people think and to just appreciate that you are beautiful no matter what. "I think social media and the way the industry is these days makes you question and judge yourself more than you ever should or did before. "There was a time for me where I felt like I was pressured to be a certain way or I felt madly insecure for how I was and who I was and it takes a moment for you to step back and be like, you idiot, be you."



because we've got to iron out a few things." He said, 'Yeah.' Of course, he left and the next thing he's on TV saying we're doing it. Typical Ray." Dave says he doesn't want the rock 'n' roll band to be seen as a bunch of "pathetic old men" attempting to recreate their past, so any new material will have to be relevant to the current climate. He said: "It might work if we can do something that reflects the time and culture we are in. "I would hate to finish off our career as a collection of pathetic old men trying to resurrect the past." The musician - whose fights with his sibling and bandmates even made it onto the stage throughout the roaring 60s - hinted that part of his hatred towards his older brother was the fact he didn't tell him how much he cared about him. He said: "Ray's a clever guy, an observer, very good at expressing himself in music, very articulate about other people's feelings. "He wasn't particularly good at expressing his own feelings, or telling you how much he cares about you." As the pair attempt to put the past behind them, Dave says despite not getting on, they are actually enjoying spending time together at the moment, and he admits that they need to accept they'll never be harmonious because it fuels the fire in their music. He admitted: "We don't really like each other, but we're enjoying each other's company, funnily enough. "As the years have chewed and beaten us up, it changes you. "There is such a rich vein of art and sweat and emotion and love and pain in Kinks music. "As you get older you think maybe things happened for a reason. "Maybe we not embrace the not-so-pleasant aspects of relationships." He added that he felt one of the reasons they never got along was because Ray always treated him like his biggest competition. He concluded: "I looked up to Ray. I thought we were collaborators but he treated me like a rival. "Yet he admits to missing the near 'telepathic' communication he felt making music with his brother." The brothers founded the band in 1963 and split in 1996. However, they performed together for the first time in almost 20 years in 2015, when Ray joined Dave on stage in London for a performance of 'You Really Got Me'. The Kinks' classic lineup featured Mick Avory on percussion and the late Pete Quaife on bass.

## Minaj: 'Drake collaboration almost featured on Queen

**N**icki Minaj has revealed that there was almost a Drake collaboration on 'Queen'. The pair - who are both signed to Lil Wayne's Young Money Entertainment - were working on a track for her new album but they missed the deadline to complete it because Drake was preparing for his 'Aubrey and the Three Migos' tour. Speaking on 'The Whoollywood Shuffle' on Eminem's SiriusXM channel, Shade 45, she said: "Drake and I were working on something, but I didn't want to change the date of the album. So about two days before I had to turn it in, he and I had been going back and forth. And then even up until - I would say, within 12 hours of having to turn in my album, we were going back and forth. "He had come to my studio, we found something that we really, really loved. But he was also going through that process of getting stuff right for his tour, and I had to understand that. As an artist, I always try to put myself in the artist's shoes, and not try to be selfish." The album features collaborations with Lil Wayne, Eminem and Ariana Grande but Nicki says she is also very proud of her solo work. She said: "I stand on my own two feet. I always keep on reminding myself, 'Onika, when you were putting out your mixtapes, you ain't have no big name people to put on there.' Wayne came after, and then even with Wayne, Wayne would come in with a verse, and that was that. And that was the icing on the cake. "It was me grinding, and if I have to do that again, so be it. Nobody's going to make or break me. I'm going to do me."



## Dinah Jane lands solo deal

**D**inah Jane has signed a solo record deal with L.A. Reid's Hitco label. The 21-year-old Fifth Harmony singer has followed in the footsteps of ex-bandmate Camilla Cabello - who left the 'Work From Home' hitmakers in 2016 to pursue a solo career - and has landed her own record deal with Hitco, the label owned by music executive L.A. Reid. According to Variety, Dinah will be joining a roster made up of the likes of Outkast's Big Boi and DJ Holiday - whose latest single, '2 Seater,' features Quavo and 21 Savage - and a single from the 'That's My Girl' singer is expected in the coming weeks. The star has been working with Fifth Harmony's 'Worth It' songwriter Priscilla Renae and Mozella - who wrote Miley Cyrus' 'Wrecking Ball' - alongside producers Nic Nac, Neff-U and J.R. Rotem on more material. Dinah's solo signing comes after Fifth Harmony - also comprised of Ally Brooke, Normani, and Lauren Jauregui - announced in March this year that they would be going on indefinite hiatus in order to pursue their own solo careers. The group - who were put together on the US version of 'The X Factor', where they finished third - said in a statement at the time: "Reflecting on the past six years since we started on 'X Factor', we've realised just how far we've come and we appreciate everything so much, more now than ever. "We've really had one hell of a memorable journey together and can't begin to express our gratitude to y'all for coming along with us on this wild ride!" "After six years gong hard, non-stop, we also realized that in order to stay authentic to ourselves and to you, we do need to take some time for now to go on hiatus from Fifth Harmony in order to pursue solo endeavors." Dinah has already stepped into her very own spotlight, and in October 2017, she featured on RedOne's song "Boom Boom" along with Daddy Yankee and French Montana.



## TONY HADLEY TO WORK WITH BEYONCE'S 'IF I WAS A BOY' WRITER FOR NEXT ALBUM

**T**ony Hadley is working with Beyonce's 'If I Was a Boy' writer for his next album. The 58-year-old former 'Spandau Ballet' frontman only released his fourth solo album 'Talking to the Moon' in June, but has admitted he's already "thinking about" his next album, and will be travelling to LA to work with A-List hitmaker, Toby Gad, who has worked with Beyonce on her 2008 hit, as well as with John Legend on his 2013 track 'All of Me'. When asked how long he'd been working on his new solo album, Tony joked: "It took ten years [to put it together]. The thing is you write songs and you think 'I'm not sure about that', There's even a deluxe version set up that has five bonus tracks and I've still got songs that I just couldn't put on the album. "So I'm now thinking about the next one too. But I'm also going to do some writing and work in LA with Toby



Gad who's worked with Beyonce and John Legend." Despite fans waiting a whopping 12 years between Tony's solo releases - with his third album 'Passing Strangers' dropping in 2006 - the star still has an overwhelming amount of support behind him, and says he's excited for the journey ahead. Speaking on ITV's 'This Morning', Tony added: "I've done a Christmas album, I've done a swing album because, I love swing music, but this is the album I've wanted to make for many, many years. And it's just taken a long time, I get distracted very easily - I go on tour, America tours, euro tours, Spandau tours and finally I got to the point where I was sick of hearing my own voice and I thought 'I'm going to finish this album it's going to be out next year.' "So I finally got my head together and I'm very, very proud of it as everybody is with their own solo work. It's getting a great reaction, we had album of the week with Radio 2, single of the week with Radio 2 and the new single 'Take Back Everything' is on the playlist. It's exciting." The 'Through the Barricades' singer walked out on his Spandau Ballet band mates - Gary Kemp, Martin Kemp, Steve Norman and John Keeble - over a year ago because they weren't keen on him doing solo work in between their group projects, but he has claimed he was made to feel he had no choice but to leave because they didn't like his way of thinking. The 'Gold' hitmakers split in 1990 due to a row over royalties, but eventually put their differences aside in 2009 for a reunion tour and the album 'Once More'. They came together again in 2015 for another tour before Tony walked away.



Lifestyle | Gossip



# Madonna surpassed label's expectation for Like a Virgin

**M**adonna's record label never expected 1984's 'Like a Virgin' to sell three million copies - let alone 28 million. Chic legend Nile Rodgers, who produced the 60-year-old Queen of Pop's second studio album - which featured top five hits 'Material Girl' and the album title track - has revealed he pitched to Sire Records boss Seymour Stein that if the record shifted more than three million units, he'd like to have a large percentage of the royalties. Seymour later confessed to the 'Le Freak' hitmaker that he'd lied about the sales of Madonna's 1983 debut self-titled LP, which he later admitted only sold 200,000 copies. The 65-year-old studio wizard - who first met Madonna at a nightclub in New York in the 80s when she was just 25 - recalled to The Sun newspaper: "I was told her first album had sold 375,000 copies but Seymour told me the truth a few months ago in Ibiza. It was more like 200,000. 'I said, 'What!?' And he said, 'We couldn't sell that album for nothing. People just gravitated towards the singles. 'They bought 'Holiday' and 'Everybody' as 12-inch records but nobody would touch the album.' "And I said, 'So you mean at that first

meeting, you guys were lying to me?' and he replied, 'Yeah! I just said, 'Wow!'" The 'Get Lucky' guitarist had just recorded late music icon David Bowie's album 'Let Dance' - which went platinum in the US - but taking a chance on the former doughnut shop waitress, even though the label had doubts in his confidence in the young star, paid off. He continued: "The reason I got such a huge producer royalty was because her first album hadn't sold that well." He had told Seymour: "I can guarantee you that I will sell three million albums with this girl, guarantee you!" He added: "They looked at me and started laughing. They said, 'Three million albums? Her album's been out a year and she's only sold 375,000?..?..?' and she hadn't even sold that! "I said, 'Here's the deal. I don't want any money now, but if I go over the three million mark, you gotta pay me a high percentage. "They were like, 'Sure! You sell three million we'll be jumping up and down. We'll take the bet.' "The Like A Virgin album has sold 28million. I bet they wish they could redo that deal!"

## Reid ready for new American Pie

**T**ara Reid thinks there's going to be another 'American Pie' movie. The 42-year-old actress played Vicky Lathum in the original 1999 movie, it's 2001 sequel, and the fourth installment, 'American Reunion, in 2012, and she's excited about the possibility of reprising the role again in the near future. Asked if she'd do more 'American Pie' movies, she said: "Absolutely, and I think there could be one more. "A couple of weeks ago I was at a party and I ran into the directors. "I was like, 'Come on guys, when are you going to make another 'American Pie?'" They said, 'I think it's going to happen.' They've never said that before." Tara's also been a firm fixture in the 'Sharknado' series but with the franchise coming to an end with the upcoming sixth movie, 'The Last Sharknado: It's About Time', she's looking forward to doing something new. She told Britain's Star magazine: "It's a crazy feeling to think we're not doing it any more after six years. "Next year, when January rolls around, it won't be 'Sharknado' season, but hopefully I'll be doing other films and won't miss it so much. There'll definitely be a melancholy feeling." And the blonde beauty has a number of new projects in the pipeline. She said: "I'm in several movies. One is 'Party Bus To Hell', about these kids going to a music festival in a bus that breaks down in the desert and it turns into a nightmare. "There's also one called 'Art Of The Dead' about paintings that are haunted. "Another is 'Attraction'. I play an FBI agent who finds terrorist groups. You'll see a range to my acting that you've not seen for a while."



## Byrne praises 'matinee' idol Wahlberg

**R**ose Byrne says Mark Wahlberg is a "matinee idol". The pair have worked together on new movie 'Instant Family' and Rose, 39, loved working with the former rapper and model because he is so diverse. She told Collider: "Mark is great. He doesn't have to do much to be funny. He's just serious, but he's got a great take on things. He's such a matinee idol, and he's also really diverse. He does a lot of different stuff, and I know he was really passionate about the subject matter, too." The movie features a couple (Wahlberg and Byrne) who decided to foster some children but find themselves landed with three wild youngsters. 'Transformers: The Last Knight' star Isabela Moner plays one of the children, alongside Gustavo Quiroz and Julianna Gamiz. Mark has produced the movie alongside Steve Levinson and Sean Anders. Anders, who previously directed Mark in 'Daddy's Home', has directed the movie from a script he wrote with John Morris and Rose was thrilled to take on a role in the film because it is deeply personal to Sean. She said: "Sean Anders reached out to me about that. He and his wife fostered and adopted three kids, so it's his story. I had just had a baby and was recovering from being a new mom again, but I wanted to be a part of it because it is such a personal story that's so important to him. There were so many things that I didn't know about the system and about kids in the system. It's such a passion project for him, and I just wanted to be a part of it." Rose's career has involved a mixture of dramatic and comedic roles and she says that as long as she is being creative, she doesn't care which genre she works in. She said: "This business is so bonkers. It's many different things. It's just what comes your way and where you're at in your life. When you have children, what you want to do and what you don't want to do becomes much clearer. There's no planning. I just take it on a case by case basis. Anytime you start feeling pigeonholed, you start to feel a little frustrated, so as long as I can keep being creative, I'm thrilled."



## Samuel L. Jackson wants Star Wars return

**S**amuel L. Jackson wants to return to the 'Star Wars' franchise. The 69-year-old actor portrayed Jedi master Mace Windu in Episode I-III and though his alter ego was killed off after losing an arm and being thrown from a window during a fight in the third film, 'Revenge of the Sith', he hasn't given up hope of being asked to reprise the character in some form. He said: "You know, it's not that crazy that Jedi can fall from great heights and survive. "And how many one-handed people are roaming about in that galaxy? Quite a few... "I've still got the old Jedi spirit. I'm down. "If they call me, I'll show up - hell, I'm hanging around just for that. "I'd even show up as a hologram or some s\*\*t." The veteran actor admitted he urged creator George Lucas not to kill off his alter ego even though he understood why his character was more disposable than others. He said: "I was really the only person they could do something to in the movie to create some turmoil, because everyone else shows up in the original films. "I kept saying to George, 'You sure about this? I can kill this dude - you know that, right?'" When he received the script for his first film, 'The Phantom Menace', Jackson was disappointed at the lack of action his character was involved in but unlike co-star Ewan McGregor - who publicly voiced his displeasure at having so many green screen scenes as Obi-Wan Kenobi - he kept his complaints to himself because he didn't want to jeopardize the possibility of appearing in future movies. He told Empire magazine: "I started to realize I was just going to be sitting in a Jedi Council room with my arms folded. I was flicking through the pages like crazy, going, 'Fight? Fight? Fight? No? Damn!' "But you can't turn something like that down. You know, it's the greatest fantasy series ever in the world and all of a sudden the genie turns up and says, 'Your wish is granted... but you won't be the star.' I was there but I couldn't fight. "My biggest concern was not to do anything to anger anyone off and get killed. When I heard Ewan complain, I was like, 'Dude... "I had no idea where Mace was going but I wanted to be in the next one, so I kept bringing George snacks."

## McGregor would love to make a Christopher Robin sequel

**E**wan McGregor would love to return for a 'Christopher Robin' sequel. The 47-year-old actor took on the title role in the new movie - which sees Christopher all grown up as Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Piglet and friends try to help him rediscover his childhood joy and imagination - and he would be delighted to reprise the part. He told The i newspaper: "Totally ready for the sequel. It was never mentioned when we shot it [but] I'd be happy to do it again. I'd be up for it. I'll sign on the dotted line right now." The star also lent his voice to the 'Beauty and the Beast' live action retelling last year, bringing Lumiere to life, and after making the two Disney movies he admits there is something special about seeing the famous logo appear in the cinema. He said: "I was thinking, 'God, I've done a Disney movie.' The first film I ever saw in the cinema was 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks'. "[Now children will] watch ['Christopher Robin'] over and over again. People will come up to you and say, 'I watched your film a hundred times.' "The nostalgia aspect of 'Christopher Robin' - which is based on the hugely popular stories of A.A Milne - isn't lost on McGregor, who has read the books to his four daughters. He added: "I'm so familiar with all the stories. I've read them to my kids and I know I know those stories. They're not new to me. "I can only assume that I was read them when I was little and my mum said she did read them to me. My dad went, 'No, I don't think so!' Which was very telling - my dad probably didn't read me so many stories, I guess."



## Sexy Beast prequel in the works

**A**'Sexy Beast' prequel may be coming to screens. Paramount TV is developing a new series based on the 2001 British crime drama which starred Ray Winstone and Sir Ben Kingsley, was directed by Jonathan Glazer and was written by Louis Mellis and David Scinto. 'The Sopranos' writer Matthew Caleo has been hired to pen the script. The original film follows ex-villain Gal Dove, played by Winstone, whose trouble-free life in Spain is interrupted by gangster Don Logan (Kingsley) who forces him out of retirement to participate in a bank robbery in London for crime boss Teddy Bass - portrayed by Ian McShane. The television series will explore how Gal initially formed a partnership with Don, starts working for Teddy and meets his wife, former porn star DeeDee Dove, played by Amanda Redman in the movie. The film has become a cult classic due to its incredible cast, numerous quotable lines and iconic scenes. One memorable moment sees a tanned Winstone in character wearing a pair of tight gold swimming trunks, and he kept them after the shoot to wear on vacation. However, he has had to retire the trunks because he wore them out. Winstone previously said: "They kind of wore away. When you dive in the pool they become see through."



## Judd Hirsch joins Adam Sandler's Uncut Gems

**J**udd Hirsch has joined the cast of Adam Sandler's upcoming movie 'Uncut Gems'. The 'Independence Day' star will appear opposite the 51-year-old actor in the upcoming Safdie Brothers film, which sees the latter play a jewellery store owner and dealer whose life gets turned upside down following a robbery. As reported by Deadline, 83-year-old movie veteran Hirsch will appear as Sandler's father-in-law as the cast starts to come together for the project, which is set in New York's diamond district. Also said to be signed on for the film is Eric Bogosian, while the script has been penned by Josh and Ben Safdie, and collaborator Ronald Bronstein. It's a busy time at the moment for Sandler, who is also working on upcoming Netflix movie 'Murder Mystery' in which he'll star opposite Jennifer Aniston. It will be the first time the pair have been on screen together since 2011's 'Just Go With It'. According to Variety, the film will see Sandler and Aniston star as a New York police officer and his wife, as they find themselves as prime suspects in the murder of an elderly billionaire during a trip to Europe. The Netflix original film - which is yet to have a release date - will be directed by Kyle Newacheck and penned by James Vanderbilt, who is best known for his work on 'Zodiac' and 'White House Down'. Last year, Sandler

signed a four-film deal with Netflix, and said in a statement that he loves "collaborating with them". He said: "I love how passionate they are about making movies and getting them out there for the whole world to see. They've made me feel like family and I can't thank them enough for their support." — Bang Showbiz







Couples dance tango during a Tango camp near the town of Kolasin in the heart of Montenegro's rugged north. — AFP photos



A couple dances tango during a Tango camp near the town of Kolasin in the heart of Montenegro's rugged north.



Montenegrin Darko Dozic (right) dances tango with a partner during a Tango camp.



Kolasin's town square where people dance daily milongas, in the heart of Montenegro's rugged north.

'Little by little, tango started to pull some people in this city out of the shadows'



Couples dance tango during a Tango camp.

## Mountain milonga: 'Tango therapy' finds unlikely Montenegrin home

Couples twist across a wood floor to the melancholy sounds of tango music, swaying and swiveling in a dance that comes from far away. The hours-long dance session, known as a milonga, is not in Buenos Aires but at the base of a ski-slope in a small Montenegrin town that has become the unlikely host to a thriving tango scene. "We call this 'Tango Woodstock,'" said Darko Dozic, a lanky 36-year-old who brought the Latin dance to his hometown of Kolasin in Montenegro's rugged north. Now in its eighth year, some 600 people from around the globe come every summer for nearly three weeks of 'tango therapy' in the mountains of the Balkan country.

The Tango Camp has become a badge of pride—and welcome source of cash—for a town of fewer than 3,000 people trying for a place on the tourism map. But that wasn't always the case. Although tango has travelled far beyond its birthplace in Argentina and Uruguay, convincing a traditional, tight-knit Montenegrin community to embrace the sensual Latin dance was not easy, says Dozic.

### Cure for doldrums

After catching the "tango bug" abroad, Dozic thought the dance could help cure a depressed mood weighing on many childhood friends back home, where Montenegro's economic doldrums set the tone. He started by converting former basketball teammates into 'tangueros', and went as far as giving what he called "motivational speeches" in cafes to try to convince other locals to join in. "It was challenging," he told AFP, recalling how many people were put off by a foreign—and intimate—dance that clashed with the Balkan town's more stoic, macho sensibility.

Groups of men "would come to watch a dancing event, many of them just to challenge us, smiling, pointing, drinking", he remembers. But slowly a tango community grew. "Little by little, tango started to pull some people in this city out of the shadows," said Dragana

Scepanovic, a local journalist. "That is the most valuable part of tango camp: some people who were hiding behind the walls of their homes, who did not have the courage to show themselves in such a social context, began to dance and help start something new in Kolasin," she added.

### Tango therapy

While Kolasin and tango may not be a natural fit, locals who have embraced the dance have developed real talent. "Once you motivate people, they become extreme, dancing all the time," said Dozic. Agustin Luna from Argentina said he "never imagined that there could be tango fans (in Kolasin) and that people could dance tango so great." "Here, I feel like I'm at home," the Argentine added, strumming a charango on the sidelines of the milonga, where dancers trade partners throughout the night. But dancing is only one part of Tango Camp. Dozic and his partner, Sonja Zivanovic, see tango as a form of catharsis and therapy—something agreed by doctors who have turned to tango to ease ailments ranging from depression to Parkinson's disease.

Dancing tango requires mental focus and it also famously "takes two", encouraging connection with another person. In Buenos Aires, doctors have found these factors helpful in soothing ailments of psychiatric patients, as well as combating loneliness among the elderly. Elsewhere, tango has been used as a form of exercise to help Parkinson's patients with balance and coordination. Bojana Markovic, a psychotherapist who came to Tango Camp from Belgrade, described the dance as a "simulation and metaphor of life."

"You grow personally and learn a lot about yourself by listening to your body, and listening to the signals you're sending, the way you're receiving information," she told AFP. In addition to dance workshops and daily milongas, including one in Kolasin's town square, the camp

offers meditation, yoga, hiking and other excursions in the surrounding mountains.

### 'Think free, act free'

The tango campers, many of whom are foreign, still stand out on the cobblestoned streets of Kolasin. But today their presence is increasingly welcomed by hotels, restaurants and stores happy to have a bustling business in sum-



Couples dance tango during a Tango camp.

mer, a time when most tourists head straight to Montenegro's Adriatic coast. Jasmine Salihovic, a shop owner who grew up in Switzerland and moved to Kolasin a few years ago, describes how tango has helped locals realize "that they can think free, they can act free."

"Here in the Balkans I think this is something that must be done... and we definitely can feel it happening here." The town's former mayor, who finished her term in July, wants to see the tourism grow. "Kolasin has a lot of natural beauty that people can enjoy in combination with tango," Zeljka Vuksanovic told AFP. — AFP

## Roman-era tombs discovered in Palestinian village

A set of Roman-era tombs dating back some 2,000 years have been discovered near the Palestinian city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank during road works, an official said Thursday. The cemetery dating to the first century AD, when the region was under Roman rule, was found in the village of Idna in the southern West Bank around two weeks ago. It was discovered during road work in mountainous terrain in the area, said Taleb Jubran, director of the department of tourism and antiquities in Hebron.

Bones, pottery and some 32 tombs set into stone were found. It was clear to

archaeologists that artifacts had been stolen from the site before it was officially discovered, said Jubran. "This discovery is very important for us to study it and to preserve it," Jubran said. The tombs were set out over a space of some 50 meters. Officials also hoped to turn the site into a tourist attraction, while further study of it would continue to turn up details of what was found and its importance, he said.

A large number of remains from the Roman era can be found and visited in Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as the region as a whole. — AFP



Taleb Jubran, director of the department of tourism and antiquities in Hebron, stands in an ancient burial site from the Roman-era which was discovered during construction of a new road in Idna village, northwest the West Bank city of Hebron. — AFP photos



Taleb Jubran points to an ancient burial site from the Roman-era which was discovered during construction of a new road in Idna village, northwest the West Bank city of Hebron.



Taleb Jubran shows pieces of bones and pottery found in an ancient burial site from the Roman-era.



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**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**

**BY DAY:** Very hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
<b>STATION</b>	<b>MAX. EXP.</b>	<b>MIN. REC.</b>		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	35 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	29 °C		
ABDALY	47 °C	29 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	48 °C	31 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	46 °C	29 °C		
SALMIYAH	44 °C	34 °C		
AHMADI	44 °C	34 °C		
NUWAISIB	46 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	47 °C	31 °C		
SALMY	45 °C	27 °C		

**4 DAYS FORECAST**

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	08/19	Hot and some high clouds will appear	46 °C	31 °C	NW	12 - 32 km/h
Monday	08/20	Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas and some high clouds will appear later on	47 °C	30 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Tuesday	08/21	Hot and rising dust	46 °C	32 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Wednesday	08/22	Very hot and rising dust over open areas	47 °C	31 °C	NW	15 - 45 km/h

**PRAYER TIMES**

Fajr	03:54
Sunrise	05:18
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:27
Sunset	18:26
Isha	19:48

**RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT**

MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	30 °C
MAX. RH	25 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 46 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
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
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Qibla	22459381
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**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Sunday 19/8/2018				Departure Flights on Sunday 19/8/2018											
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	988	Hyderabad/Chennai		00:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	KAC	646	Muscat	16:20
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:15	JZR	1075	Doha	12:10	KAC	220	Bahrain	22:50
KAC	102	London	00:50	WAN	965	Tbilisi	00:15	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	417	Manila	00:25	THY	702	Damascus	13:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
JZ	R539	Cairo	01:00	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	JZR	767	Istanbul	13:40	KAC	511	Riyadh	18:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	JZR	144	Doha	13:55	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	MSR	2615	Sohag	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	677	Dubai	00:30	JZR	394	Kozhikode	14:10	KAC	218	Bahrain	19:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	872	Dubai	01:30	AXB	776	Dubai	14:15	KAC	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	UAE	645	Amman	14:15	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	JZR	802	Tbilisi	14:50	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	FEG	442	Asyut	14:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00	KAC	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	THY	765	Jeddah	02:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	FDB	060	Doha	15:05	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
WAN	714	AGP	02:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:10	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10	SVL	501	Jeddah	15:45	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	AEE	957	Sharjah	03:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	WAN	351	Luxor	03:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35	KAC	563	Amman	16:10	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:15	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	WAN	415	Beirut	16:15	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	OMR	646	Muscat	16:20	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	SVR	342	Damascus	16:55	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	LMU	571	Cairo	05:00	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JAI	1077	Mumbai	05:00	SAW	710	Latakia	17:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
THY	1414	Jeddah	04:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	303	Baku	05:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	103	Dubai	05:45	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	FDB	070	Istanbul	06:00	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	THY	1465	Riyadh	06:00	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
QTR	8511	Doha	05:30	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	FDB	8398	Dubai	17:50	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	JZR	530	Asyut	06:45	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
BAW	157	London	06:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	153	Istanbul	07:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	RJA	649	Amman	07:00	KAC	511	Riyadh	18:15	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	QTR	8512	Doha	07:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
WAN	966	Tbilisi	06:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:55	JZR	240	Amman	18:30	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	JZR	501	Beirut	08:00	JZR	650	Lahore	18:35	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	238	Amman	08:00	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
MSR	2616	Sohag	07:05	MSR	2617	Cairo	08:05	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	WAN	713	AGP	08:10	WAN	1081	Doha	19:20	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	BAW	156	London	08:20	MSR	975D	Baku	19:25	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	165	Rome	08:25	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	177	Vienna	08:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC															



# Erdogan declares Turkey will not be cowed by US

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared yesterday that his country would not be cowed by the United States, his latest broadside in the bitter feud between Ankara and Washington. The two NATO members are at odds over Turkey's detention of an American pastor, which has triggered a trade row and sent the local currency the lira into a tailspin.

"We will not surrender to those who present themselves as a strategic partner while at the same time trying to make us a strategic target," Erdogan said at a congress of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). "Some people threaten us with economy, sanctions, foreign currency exchange rates, interest rates and inflation. We know your shenanigans and we will defy you." At the end of congress, delegates unanimously re-elected Erdogan as head of the AKP, the state news agency Anadolu reported.

Last week, US President Donald Trump said he had doubled the tariffs on aluminium and steel tariffs from Turkey, prompting Ankara to sharply hike tariffs on several US products. And Turkey on Friday threatened to respond in kind if Washington imposed further sanctions, while a court rejected another appeal to free pastor Andrew Brunson, who has been held for almost

two years on terror charges. The lira has nosedived against the dollar, dropping as much as 20 percent on one day last week. It sunk to a low of well over seven to the dollar earlier this week but was trading at just over six to the dollar on Friday - a loss of 40 percent since the start of the year.

The collapse of the currency has been blamed both on the tensions with the United States and Erdogan's increasing hold on Turkey's economy and his refusal to allow the central bank to raise interest rates. Meanwhile, Erdogan told the AKP congress that Turkey would press on with and expand its cross-border military operations. Turkey sent troops into northern Syria two years ago to fight against the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

The YPG forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-Arab alliance that has received extensive backing from the US-led coalition in the battle against the Islamic State group. But Turkey accuses the YPG of being the Syrian branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a rebel group blacklisted by Ankara and its Western allies. The Turkish army has also increased its strikes against PKK rear bases in the north of Iraq in the past few months. — AFP



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine greet supporters of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) during the sixth congress of the AKP to prepare for March local elections yesterday. — AFP

## Pakistan cricket hero Imran Khan...

Continued from Page 1

Khan's third wife Bushra Bibi kept her eyes cast modestly downwards during Saturday's ceremony. It was her first public appearance since their wedding earlier this year, and she appeared escorted by tight security and covered from head to toe in a white niqab, a conservative garment by Pakistani standards. Khan had invited the rest of the 1992 cricket team to the ceremony, and fast bowler Wasim Akram was pictured smiling among the crowd.

Another cricketer-turned-politician, India's Navjot Singh Sidhu, was seated in the front row and earlier warmly embraced the powerful Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Later, Khan went to the Prime Minister's house in the capital, where he was met by a guard of honor. Khan campaigned on promises to end widespread graft while building an "Islamic welfare state".

"I promise to my God that everyone who looted this country will be made accountable," he said in Friday's speech to parliament. He also defended himself against widespread claims the military had targeted the former ruling PML-N, especially its leader Nawaz Sharif, and fixed the playing field in Khan's favor. "No dictator has taken care of me. I am standing here in this parliament on my own feet," he told the raucous assembly as opposition members shouted protest slogans.

Pakistan's 71-year history has been punctuated by coups and assassinations and the 2018 election was only its second ever democratic transition of power from one civilian government to another. No prime minister of Pakistan has ever completed a full five-year term. Khan will have to contend with the same issue as

many predecessors: how to maintain a power balance in civil-military relations. The new 15-member cabinet was announced by PTI in a tweet.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who previously served as foreign minister under a PPP government until 2011 when he switched to PTI, returns to the role. Pervez Khattak, the former chief minister of Khan's stronghold in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, was appointed defense minister. Khan and his cabinet face a myriad of challenges including militant extremism, water shortages, and a rapidly growing population negating growth in the developing country, among others.

A massive power outage that plunged over 60 percent of the port city of Karachi and southwestern Balochistan province Friday evening starkly highlighted a chronic energy crisis the country faces. Most pressing is a looming economic crisis, with speculation that Pakistan will have to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund. PTI fell short of an outright majority in the July 25 vote, forcing Khan to partner with smaller parties and independents in order to form a government.

But it retained its stronghold in northwestern Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa province and has made an alliance with regional parties in Balochistan. The party is also expected to form a coalition government in powerful Punjab, formerly a PML-N stronghold. Southern Sindh province remains in the hands of the PPP. PTI secured the positions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker in the National Assembly - putting Khan in a strong position to act on his legislative agenda.

In the West, Khan is often seen as a celebrity whose high-profile romances were tabloid fodder. But at home he cuts a more conservative persona as a devout Muslim who believes feminism has degraded motherhood. Known in Pakistan as "Taleban Khan" for his calls to hold talks with insurgents, he increasingly catered to religious hardliners during the campaign, spurring fears his leadership could embolden extremists. — AFP

the state capital Thiruvananthapuram, which has been cut off for four days. Troops and military boats have been sent to the town and media reports said bodies had been found.

Saji Cherian, who represents Chengannur in the Kerala assembly, said he feared there were at least 50 dead in the town and broke down in tears as he pleaded for more help on Asianet TV late Friday. "Please give us a helicopter. I am begging you. Please help me, people in my place will die. Please help us. There is no other solution, people have to be airlifted," he said. "We did what we can with fishing boats we procured using our political clout. But we can't do more."

With no end in sight to the rains, people all over the state of 33 million have made panic-stricken appeals on social media for help, saying they cannot make contact with rescue services. Some say they are trapped inside temples and hospitals as well as submerged homes. Authorities have warned that rains and strong winds are predicted for many parts of Kerala yesterday and today.

Prime Minister Modi arrived in Kerala on Friday night and held meetings with state leaders and went on a brief air inspection tour. "I took stock of the situation arising in the wake of the devastating floods across the state," Modi said in a Twitter statement. An immediate grant of \$75 million was offered by the government. Other state governments promised nearly \$20 million.

Opposition Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi demanded that Modi declare the flood crisis a "national disaster". Dozens of military helicopters stepped up rescue operations across the state and in one a heavily pregnant woman Sajita Jabeel, 25, gave birth just after her rescue, an Indian Navy spokesman said. "It was a very critical case, the lady was in labor, her water had broken," the pilot Commander Vijay Verma told News18 television. "We took a doctor along, we winched her up, it took some time though because we had to winch down two people to help her get on to the strop."

Another pilot, Captain P Rajkumar, winched 26 people up from a rooftop after guiding the helicopter through trees and other houses. A video of his Sea King pulling up the victims has been widely shared on social media. He ended up with 32 people in his Sea King helicopter. Rajkumar was given the Shaurya Chakra medal for bravery this week after lifting a fisherman from the sea when cyclone Ockhi hit India last year.

## Saudis testing Japanese 'nap...'

Continued from Page 1

Each napper will have three hours of access to the pods, which are imported from Japan at cost of around \$1,114 each. When the pilgrim wakes for prayer time - five times daily in Islam - workers will sterilize the pod before handing it over to the next pilgrim. "The idea already exists globally, in Japan for example, and in several cities across the world," Amer said. "We believe it's extremely well-suited for crowded places in our holy sites and in Makkah."

But for hajj, which takes pilgrims across Makkah and Mina - two cities in western Saudi Arabia home to the holiest sites of Islam - the pods were also inspired by the rising popularity of car- and bike-sharing. "The capsules work through a share economy, like bicycles that you can rent for an hour and then leave for someone else," said Amer. A trial run of 12 pods earlier this

year was, he said, a success. Amer estimates 60 people used each pod every day during the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

The hajj presents the Saudi authorities with major logistical challenges, as Islam is currently the world's fastest-growing religion, according to the Pew research center. Providing accommodation for two million pilgrims is no small feat, with travellers staying in everything from five-star hotels to tents pitched in empty lots. Saudi authorities are pushing a "smart hajj" initiative to meet with the growing demands of hajj, which coincide with the kingdom's unprecedented modernization drive.

Every Muslim is required to complete the hajj at least once in their lifetime if they have the means to do so. The annual pilgrimage sees the Muslim faithful gather in Makkah, all clad in white, to perform rituals around the black Kaaba cube. The hajj also features a symbolic stoning of the devil ceremony, marking the start of Eid Al-Adha, a three-day feast. Eid Al-Adha includes the slaughter of sheep, with the meat distributed to Muslims in need. The ritual symbolizes Abraham's (PBUH) willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismael (PBUH), on the order of God. — AFP



MAKKAH: A Saudi man sits inside a sleep pod on Aug 16, 2018. — AFP

## Former UN chief Annan dies...

Continued from Page 1

in Geneva, died in hospital in the German-speaking part of the country, Swiss news agency ATS reported.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable to Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo, offering sincere condolences over the death of Annan. In the cable, the Amir recalled Annan's accomplishments and illustrious performance in serving international issues, as well as his keenness on promoting the UN's role in safeguarding international security and peace during his tenure.

HH Sheikh Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to the Elders on the passing away of Annan, the Elders' chairman. The Amir paid tribute to contributions of the deceased within the Elders and his commitment to boost the role of the Elders in preventing wars and conflicts, protecting human rights and spreading peace and security. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables.

Current UN chief Antonio Guterres described his predecessor as "a guiding force for good". "In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations," he said. "He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination." UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said Annan was "a friend to thousands and a

leader of millions". "Kofi was humanity's best example, the epitome of human decency and grace." The UN said it would fly flags at half-mast at all of its locations around the world through Tuesday. Akufo-Addo announced a week of mourning for "one of our greatest compatriots".

In 2001, as the world was reeling from the Sept 11 attacks in the United States, Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with the world body "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world". Another Nobel laureate, retired South African archbishop Desmond Tutu, described Annan as "an outstanding human being who represented our continent and the world with enormous graciousness, integrity and distinction".

Born in Kumasi, the capital city of Ghana's Ashanti region, Annan devoted four decades of his working life to the UN and was the first chief to rise from within the organization's ranks. In 1993, he took over as peacekeeping chief - a position he held through two of the UN's darkest chapters: The Rwandan genocide and the Bosnian war. His tenure as UN chief was tarnished by a 2005 investigation of Annan and his son over the oil-for-food scandal, seen by some as payback for his comments that the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq was "illegal".

An inquiry cleared Annan of any serious wrongdoing, but found ethical and management lapses linked to his son Kofi's ties with a Swiss firm that won lucrative contracts in the oil-for-food scheme. Annan later admitted the scandal had sorely tested his mettle not only as secretary-general, but as a father. Despite the lows, he left the post as one of the most popular UN leaders ever, and was considered a "diplomatic rock star" in international diplomatic circles. — Agencies

## Kerala floods disrupt expats' travel plans...

Continued from Page 1

Kareem, a travel agent, pointing out that airlines are trying to make maximum adjustments. Some airlines are redirecting their flights from Cochin to Bangalore, Trivandrum or Chennai.

"We were planning to travel tomorrow to Kerala as we wanted to spend the Eid holiday with our aged parents. Now the airline informed us that my bookings have been cancelled," said Aziz Ibrahim, an expat from the Vayanad district of Kerala, one of the worst-affected regions in the state. Indians in Kuwait, like their counterparts outside India, are worried about the safety of their relatives back home.

In Kerala, rescuers in helicopters and boats fought through renewed torrential rain yesterday to reach stranded villages, as the toll from the worst monsoon floods in a century rose above 320 dead. Dozens of military and coastguard helicopters took troops to high risk areas seeking people trapped on the roofs of submerged buildings. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the crisis as "devastating" after visiting Kerala.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced late Friday that the monsoon death toll had dramatically risen to 324. Media reports said at least another 14 bodies were found yesterday and state officials said they expected the number to rise as more landslides were reported and dam levels remained dangerously high. No new official toll was given however. With power and communication lines down, thousands remained trapped in towns and villages cut off by the floods amid growing shortages of food and water. Helicopters have been dropping emergency food and water supplies across Kerala, while special trains carrying drinking water and rice have been sent to the state.

With rain alerts hanging over much of the state, dozens of dam and reservoir gates across the state have had to be opened as the waters reached danger levels, inundating many villages downstream. Particular fears have been raised for Chengannur, about 120 km north of



## Sports

# Olson's 10th-inning blast sends Oakland Athletics past Astros

## Ramirez hits 37th homer as Indians nip Orioles

HOUSTON: Matt Olson homered off left-hander Tony Sipp leading off the bottom of the 10th inning Friday night, completing a comeback that delivered the Oakland Athletics a 4-3 win over the Houston Astros in the opener of a three-game series between the top two teams in the American League West in Oakland, Calif. Nick Martini lashed a game-tying RBI double in the ninth to force extra innings for the A's (73-49), who moved within one game of the first-place Astros (74-48). Olson belted Sipp's sixth pitch well over the fence in right field for his 23rd home run of the season and Oakland's eighth walk-off win of the year. A's closer Blake Treinen (6-2), who worked the top of the 10th in a tie game, was credited with the win after a three-strikeout effort. Sipp (2-1) took the loss.

### Cardinals 5, Brewers 2

Rookie Jack Flaherty continued his mastery over Milwaukee as host St. Louis claimed victory in the opener of a key three-game series between the two National League Central rivals. The win was the ninth in the past 10 games for the Cardinals and allowed them

to move to within a half-game of the Brewers in the NL wild-card race. Flaherty (7-6) dominated the Brewers for the third time this season, scattering three hits in six innings while striking out seven and walking three. Flaherty has now struck out 29 Brewers batters in 18 innings over his three appearances against them this season.

### Cubs 1, Pirates 0

Kyle Schwarber hit a solo home run and Cole Hamels pitched seven scoreless innings Friday as visiting Chicago beat Pittsburgh for its third win in a row. It marked the second straight night the Cubs beat the Pirates 1-0 on a home run, Ian Happ providing the pop on Thursday. Relievers Brandon Kintzler, Jorge De La Rosa, Steve Cishek and Jesse Chavez combined with Hamels on the seven-hit shutout, with Chavez picking up his second save. The Cubs had a six-hit shutout Thursday.

### Yankees 7, Blue Jays 5 (7 innings)

Giancarlo Stanton hit a long home run in the bottom of the seventh inning as host New York overcame an early four-run deficit to defeat Toronto in a rain-shortened game. Stanton capped the comeback from the early hole when he drove a 1-2 fastball from Luis Santos 431 feet into a standing-room section in right-center field above New York's bullpen. A few minutes after Stanton's 31st homer, the game was delayed by rain. After the 85-minute delay, the game ended.

### Nationals 8, Marlins 2

Max Scherzer took the major league lead with 16 wins as Washington defeated visiting Miami. Marlins manager Don Mattingly was ejected in the fourth inning after he argued a called third strike on Miami batter Derek Dietrich. Miami has lost 15 of 17 games, including six straight. Ryan Zimmerman and Matt Wieters homered for the Nationals, who pushed past .500 at 62-61. Scherzer helped his cause by scoring

two runs and stroking a double, setting a career high with 16 hits this season.

### Indians 2, Orioles 1

Jose Ramirez hit a two-run homer, and Carlos Carrasco threw seven shutout innings as Cleveland defeated visiting Baltimore. The Indians have won six straight games. Baltimore, on the other hand, has lost seven of its last eight and dropped to 50 games under .500. For the Indians, Carrasco (15-6) won for the seventh time in his last eight decisions. Ramirez's homer was his 37th of the year, tying him with Boston's JD Martinez for the league lead.

### Red Sox 7, Rays 3

Mitch Moreland delivered the tiebreaking RBI single in the fifth inning for Boston, which rallied past visiting Tampa Bay. The scorching Red Sox have won 16 of 19 since their last set of back-to-back losses July 24-26. At 87-36, Boston is on pace to win 115 games, one shy of the all-time record. Brian Johnson (4-3) recovered from his rough first inning to earn the win by allowing the three runs on five hits and two walks while striking out two over 5 2/3 innings. Johnson retired 15 of the final 17 batters he faced.

### Dodgers 11, Mariners 1

Manny Machado hit two of Los Angeles' five home runs to back a strong start by rookie Walker Buehler in a rout at Seattle. Yasmani Grandal, Max Muncy and Matt Kemp also went deep for the Dodgers, who won their second in a row after a five-game losing streak. Buehler (6-4) allowed one run on three hits in six innings. He walked two and tied his career high with eight strikeouts.

### Rockies 11, Braves 5

Ian Desmond drove in five runs, and Kyle Freeland struck out nine batters in six innings as Colorado earned a win at Atlanta. Desmond had a three-run triple in the third inning and a two-run single in the eighth. Charlie Blackmon had a two-run triple in a four-run sixth inning and scored three runs. Blackmon, Desmond, DJ LeMahieu and Trevor Story each had three hits for Colorado. Ozzie Albies had three hits for the Braves, who lost consecutive games for the first time since a four-game losing streak July 24-28. The Braves fell to 11-6 in August and 14-6 over their last 20 games.

### Diamondbacks 9, Padres 4

Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer in the first and Steven Souza Jr. added a three-run double in the sixth as visiting Arizona defeated San Diego to maintain its 1 1/2-game lead on Colorado in the National League West. Right-handed reliever Yoshihisa Hirano (4-2) was credited with the win as Arizona starter Robbie Ray failed to complete five innings while holding the lead against the Padres for the second time this season. Left-handed rookie starter Joey Lucchesi (6-7) took the loss. Goldschmidt reached base in all five plate appearances, going 2-for-2 with a homer and three

victory against the Miami Dolphins on Friday night in Charlotte, N.C. Newton, who completed 9 of 12 passes for 89 yards, teamed up with Thomas on a 27-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter. Panthers running back Christian McCaffrey opened the scoring with a 71-yard rushing touchdown in the first quarter. McCaffrey finished with 92 yards and one touchdown on five carries. Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill was 14-of-17 passing for 100 yards. The Panthers (2-0) led 13-9 at halftime against Miami (0-2).—Reuters

almost two-year break, Biles looked like she had never been away.

She recorded the highest score in all four disciplines—the floor routine, balance beam, uneven bars and vault—to head defending champion Morgan Hurd on 57,000 points. The 21-year-old Biles has her sights set on more Olympic glory in Tokyo in 2020 after she claimed four gold medals in Rio in 2016. The second and final night of the women's championship will be held today. The titles are being held in the wake of Biles' revelation in January that she was among dozens of gymnasts sexually abused by former Gymnastics USA team doctor Larry Nassar. Nassar in February was given what amounts to a life sentence for his crimes.—Reuters



OAKLAND: Matt Olson #28 of the Oakland Athletics is congratulated by teammates with pie in the face after hitting a walk off home run against the Houston Astros during the tenth inning at the Oakland Coliseum on August 17, 2018. — AFP

walks. Escobar reached four times, going 2-for-3 with his homer, two walks and three runs scored. Souza was 3-for-5. Jon Jay had two hits and scored twice.

### Reds 2, Giants 1 (11 innings)

Phillip Ervin hit the third pitch of the bottom of the 11th inning for a walk-off home run, delivering Cincinnati a dramatic win over visiting San Francisco. Ervin's homer, his third of the season, came off the sixth Giants pitcher, right-hander Ray Black (2-2), and ended what began as a pitchers' duel between Cincinnati's Anthony DeSclafani and San Francisco's Casey Kelly, the son of Reds interim bench coach Pat Kelly. The win allowed the Reds to snap a four-game losing streak on the same day they placed star first baseman Joey Votto on the disabled list with a bruised right shin.

### Phillies 4, Mets 2

Right-hander Aaron Nola pitched seven strong innings as Philadelphia defeated visiting New York. Nola (14-3) allowed one run on three hits, with one walk and 11 strikeouts against a Mets team that had scored 46 runs over the previous three games, including a franchise-record 24 in a victory in the opener of a doubleheader Thursday against the Phillies. Nola improved to 9-0 at Citizens Bank Park this season and allowed four or fewer hits for the 15th time in 25 starts, tying Ken Howell (1989) for the second-most in team history, one behind Grover Cleveland Alexander (1915).

### Rangers 6, Angels 4

Texas scored five runs in the second inning and made it stand to beat visiting Los Angeles. Joey Gallo had a two-run double and Rougned Odor had a two-

run single in the inning off starter Odrisamer Despaigne (2-1), who was making his Angels debut after being acquired from the Miami Marlins earlier in the week in exchange for cash considerations. Texas, which had six hits and a walk in the second inning, has won the first two games of the four-game series. The Rangers had 10 hits in all by seven different players, led by center fielder Carlos Tocci, who had three singles.

### White Sox 9, Royals 3

Jose Abreu and Nicky Delmonico each hit three-run home runs to highlight a seven-run seventh inning, and James Shields give up three runs on six hits over seven innings to pick up his fifth win of the season as Chicago rallied to defeat visiting Kansas City. Delmonico finished with two hits and five RBIs while Tim Anderson had three hits—including a double and triple—scored three runs and stole two bases for the White Sox, who won their third straight game. Shields (5-14) improved to 10-3 in his career against the Royals, including 3-1 this season. He walked two and struck out five.

### Twins 5, Tigers 4

Joe Mauer's three-run, pinch-hit homer highlighted a four-run seventh as Minnesota edged visiting Detroit. Mauer's second career pinch-hit homer made a winner out of Kyle Gibson (7-9), who gave up three runs on eight hits and struck out five in seven innings. Eddie Rosario and Tyler Austin also homered for the Twins, who have taken the first two games of the four-game series. Victor Martinez had three hits and drove in a run for Detroit. Matthew Boyd (7-11) was charged with four runs on four hits while striking out seven in 6 1/3 innings.—Reuters

## Panthers beat Dolphins 27-20

MIAMI: Rookie tight end Ian Thomas scored the first touchdown of his NFL career and quarterback Cam Newton shook off a sluggish performance, leading the Carolina Panthers to a 27-20 preseason

## Biles dominant at US gymnastics championship

BOSTON: Olympic champion Simone Biles compiled the highest score in the world this year when she piled up 60.100 points on the first night of the US women's gymnastics championship in Boston on Friday. Less than a month into her return to competition after an



BOSTON: Simone Biles warms up on the balance beam during Day 2 of the US Gymnastics Championships 2018 at TD Garden on August 17, 2018. — AFP

## Champion Winx records 26th win



SYDNEY: Jockey Hugh Bowman rides Winx (left) during the Winx Stakes horse race at the Royal Randwick race course in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

SYDNEY: Champion thoroughbred Winx notched a national record 26th win in succession to claim a Group 1 race named in her honor at Royal Randwick in Sydney yesterday. The seven-year-old mare, trained by Chris Waller, thundered down the straight to take the lead at the 100-metre mark and went on to win the 1,400m Winx Stakes by a length over

Invictus Prince. Winx's 19th Group 1 victory in the A\$500,000 (\$366,000) weight-for-age event eclipsed the record held by Black Caviar, who claimed 25 consecutive wins before retiring unbeaten in 2013. Winx's winning streak dates back to May 2015 and she has claimed over A\$19 million in prize money.—Reuters



## Sports

# In a glittering ceremony, Indonesia declares the 18th Asian Games open

## Two Koreas march together as Asian Games burst into life

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia president Joko Widodo declared the 18th Asian Games open in a glittering ceremony yesterday, launching what promises to be a frenetic fortnight of breathless sporting action featuring the best of the continent's athletes. Some 13,000 athletes will compete in 40 sports and 67 disciplines, including new additions such as bridge, jet skiing and roller skating in the biggest multi-sport extravaganza outside the Olympics. "I hereby declare the 18th Asian Games 2018 open," Widodo said in front of a 50,000-plus crowd at the Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium.

Esports debuts as an official demonstration sport in Indonesia, which volunteered to host the Games after Vietnam pulled out in 2014 because of financial concerns. North and South Korea marched together at the opening ceremony and will field joint teams in several events. Kuwait will participate under their own flag a couple of days after the International Olympic Committee lifted their ban. The Games, which conclude on Sept 2, are the first co-hosted by two cities with Palembang on the island of Sumatra acting as venue for some sports along with the capital Jakarta.

### Two Koreas march

Meanwhile, North and South Korea marched together in a stirring display of unity as the Asian Games, one of the world's biggest sports events, opened in a blaze of color in Jakarta yesterday. South Korean women's basketball player Lim Yung-hui and North Korean footballer Ju Kyong-chol jointly held the Korean Unification flag aloft as they led the athletes out to an ovation from the packed crowd.

It is the second such symbolic gesture this year by the two Koreas, who also walked together at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics opening ceremony - an event that heralded an unprecedented warming of ties.

The North and South, still technically at war, are joining forces in women's basketball, canoeing and rowing during the 40-sport, two-week regional Olympics in the Indonesian capital and Palembang, a port city on Sumatra island. South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon and North Korean Deputy Prime Minister Ri Ryong-nam, watching from the VIP seats, rose together holding hands and beaming as the Korean athletes marched.

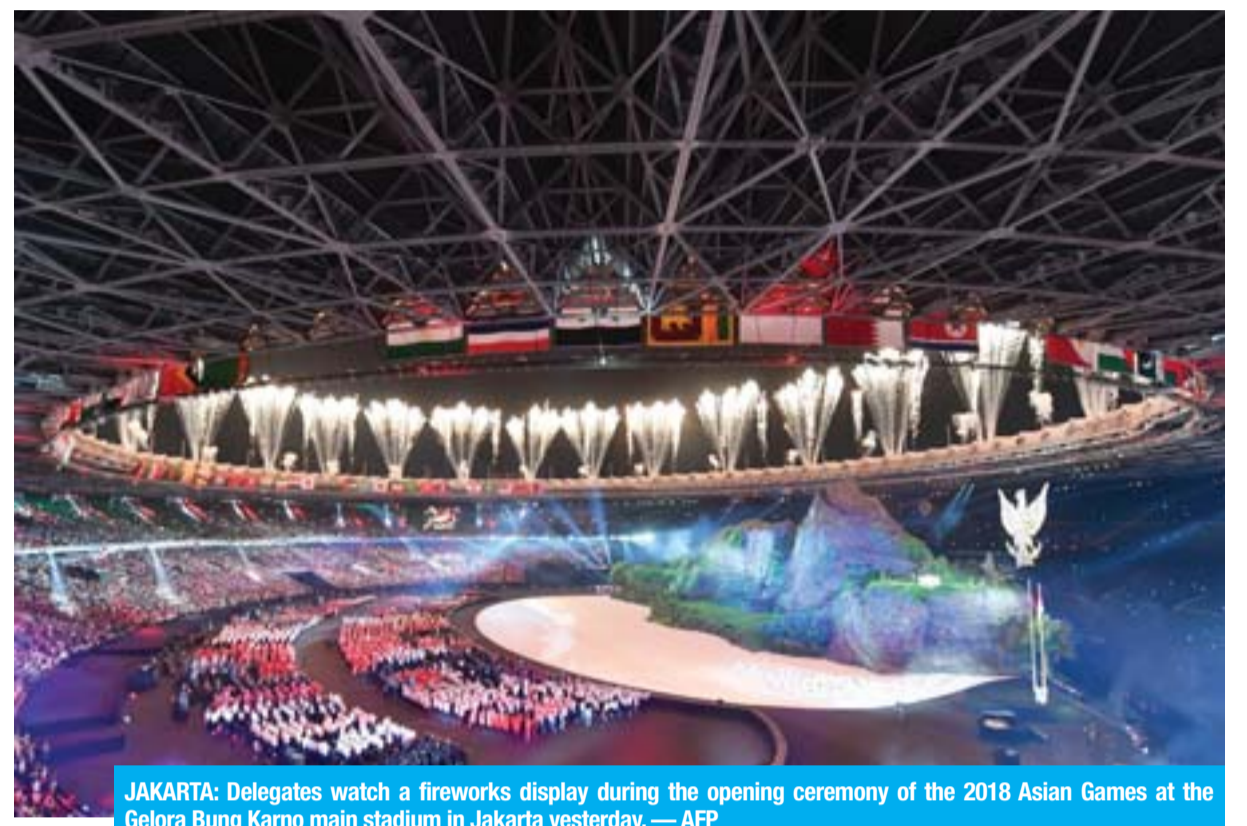
The ceremony opened with a skit purportedly showing President Joko Widodo doing stunts on a motorbike in Jakarta's streets before riding into the Gelora Bung Karno stadium, to roars from the crowd. About 1,500 dancers in traditional dress then performed a tightly choreographed routine before Afghanistan led the athletes' parade into the stadium.

There were huge cheers when the two Koreas, whose athletes together number about 1,000, marched into the stadium together wearing pristine white and blue uniforms.

### 'You can feel proud'

Widodo was then seen dancing in his seat as Indonesian singer Via Vallen took to the stage, before the stadium fell silent to honor the victims of the recent Lombok earthquake. "You can feel proud of your home country Indonesia," said Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, president of the Olympic Council of Asia, before Widodo declared the Games open. Indonesian badminton great Susi Susanti, the women's singles Olympic champion in 1992, lit the Games cauldron and the ceremony closed with a noisy music performance and spectacular fireworks. It provided a vibrant start to the Games, whose build-up has been dogged by logistical headaches and security fears after Indonesia suffered its deadliest terror attack in a decade in May.

The sprawling archipelago has also been grappling



**JAKARTA:** Delegates watch a fireworks display during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Asian Games at the Gelora Bung Karno main stadium in Jakarta yesterday. — AFP

with its latest earthquake disaster after strong tremors in Lombok, an eastern island, left more than 400 people dead. Indonesia, a country of about 270 million, stepped in to host the Games at short notice after Vietnam pulled out, citing the event's eye-watering costs. Indonesia has a poor track record in hosting multi-sports events — the 2011 Southeast Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang suffered serious corruption problems and delays, and two people died in a stadium stampede.

Rights group Amnesty International said at least 31 people were killed in a "shoot first and ask questions

later" police crackdown on petty crime. But officials say all venues are ready for competition and tournament-related problems so far have been relatively minor, from the ticket website crashing to misspelt words on signs. About 18,000 athletes and officials from 45 Asian countries will be at the Asiad, organizers said, looking to make their mark across a range of sports from swimming to sepak takraw and bridge. The Asian Games encompass nearly the full Olympic program and are considered the pinnacle by many participating nations, for whom Olympic success often proves elusive.—Agencies

## Sorry mum, dad, Indian shooting star bans parents from foreign trips

**PALEMBANG:** Teenage shooter Manu Bhaker said she's told her parents not to accompany her to tournaments abroad as she struggles to adapt to life as one of India's best known sportswomen. The 16-year-old has brought home World Cup and Commonwealth Games gold medals this year in a sudden rise to fame, and is one of the favorites at the Asian Games in Indonesia.

But she is finding that success comes at a price, with a tough training schedule and a restrictive lifestyle that means less time with friends and a one-hour daily time limit for using her mobile phone. Bhaker said she had resorted to banning her parents from her overseas trips as she tries to carve out a slice of freedom. "They make limits for me, like, 'Eat that, eat this, don't go there, do this, don't do this, don't use your phone, don't do this now, go to bed,'" she tells AFP before a training session in Palembang, which is co-hosting the Asian Games along with Jakarta. "It's a bit too much."

Bhaker's day kicks off at 5am with yoga and meditation, and ends with a jog and bootcamp-style workout. But perhaps most punishing of all, she and the other 'juniors' on the Indian team are only allowed one hour with their phones each day. In spite of her age, Bhaker is competing at senior level for the 25m sports pistol and both the individual and mixed team 10m air pistol. She is proud of her achievement but, yes, the unfairness does grate when she sees older members of her team. "They're seniors. They're free. They can do anything they want," she says wistfully of her team-mates. "They can use their phones any time."

### 'Your friend circle decreases'

Bhaker swept to fame at the beginning of this year by becoming the youngest Indian to win a gold medal at the World Cup, a feat she achieved the individual 10m air pistol and the mixed team event. She then climbed back on the podium once again at Australia's Gold Coast in April, setting a Commonwealth Games record of 240.9 points for the 10m air pistol. The Asian Games promises to be the toughest field yet with the world number nine taking on fourth-ranked Ji Xiaojing of China. Life on the road takes its toll too.

Bhaker says she has spent fewer than 10 days at her home in Haryana state since February and knows her studies have suffered in spite of some tuition on the road. She also admits she feels lonely sometimes. "Your friends are like, 'No, we can't have fun with her. She's a Commonwealth gold medalist - we must respect her,'" she says. "Your friend circle decreases." Her coach Jaspal Rana agrees the cycle of competitions and training camps is tough for youngsters who often crave normality. But they need to decide what they want out of life, he says. "People come and go. But there are few people who become real champions, real heroes - so you need to work for that." — Reuters

## From bamboo shack to running track, sprinter boosts Indonesia

**JAKARTA:** Rags-to-riches teenage sprinter Lalu Zohri has given Indonesia an unexpected confidence boost as the Asian Games hosts look to pull off their first top-10 medals finish in decades. Zohri, 18, won the hearts of Indonesians last month with a shock 100-metres victory over two favored American rivals at the world junior championships in Finland. It was the first medal for an Indonesian athlete at the under-20 tournament and capped a heady rise for Zohri, who was raised in a bamboo shack and trained barefoot on the beach as a youngster. Now, Zohri is facing his biggest test as he competes against a field of older and faster athletes at the world's second-largest multi-sports event.

"My goal is to give my best for Indonesia," Zohri, who clocked 10.18sec to win world gold, said after a training session in Jakarta. "But I'm not targeting a medal in the 100 meters." Still, his unlikely rise has given Indonesia a glimmer of hope that it too can manage a surprise showing - and overcome a history of middling performances at international tournaments. Badminton, weightlifting, Indonesian martial art pencak silat and even paragliding are all potential medal sports for the hosts at the August 18-September 2 Games in Jakarta and Palembang. Despite

## Grey Games: India grandma charges for a bridge gold

**NEW DELHI:** Rita Choksi says yoga and breathing exercises have kept her sharp as the Indian grandmother goes for gold at the age of 79 - just one of many elderly contenders in the Asian Games bridge competition. Choksi may be India's oldest athlete at the Games in Jakarta, but she's one of several 70-plus bridge players as the cerebral card game makes its debut at the regional Olympics.

Also in the mix are Malaysia's Lee Hung Fong, at 81 the Games' oldest competitor, and 78-year-old tobacco billionaire Michael Bambang Hartono, Indonesia's richest man. Bridge is one of the more surprising sports among the 40 at the Games, which also include paragliding and jet-skiing - alongside Olympic events like swimming and athletics. At the other end of the generational scale, video games or eSports will make their debut as a demonstration event, before becoming a full medal sport at the next Games in 2022.

Choksi is one of four septuagenarians in India's bridge team, which has an average age of 60. As well as her morning yoga routine, she spends three hours a day playing bridge online. "I am looking forward to it. As far as age is concerned, I never felt that old, that was my problem," said Choksi, who will turn 80 in October. "They kept saying that there other people much younger but they feel old," she told AFP at her home in what, coincidentally, was once the athletes' village for the 1982 Games in New Delhi.

a population of more than 260 million, Indonesia frequently trails smaller Southeast Asian nations like Malaysia and Thailand at the Asian Games. Indonesia has ranked no better than 13th at the past four Asiad and last placed in the top 10 in 1990. They were 17th at the 2014 Games in Incheon. Although the Asian Games allow the host nation to tailor the sporting program to suit its strengths, some remain sceptical that Indonesia can finish in the top 10. "Last year we had a very poor performance at the Southeast Asian Games with the same athletes, so I think it is really difficult to achieve," sports analyst Fritz Simanjuntak said. The country ranked fifth at the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur last year behind hosts Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore.

### High fliers and Minions

Indonesia's poor results at multi-sport events can be explained by a dearth of youth development programs, according to Simanjuntak, who was a member of the Indonesian Olympic Committee (IOC) between 1995-2004. "We don't have a good structure for athlete development in Indonesia," he said. "The government needs to focus on the community level and the school level." Even so, many Indonesian athletes will be hell-bent on proving they're gold medal-worthy in front of passionate home crowds. Paragliding - along with bridge and pencak silat - will feature for the first time in the Asian Games, and there are sky-high expectations for Indonesia's team, which includes four top-10 fliers in both the men's and women's accuracy discipline.

Hening Paradigma, who is aiming for gold in the men's accuracy and cross country events, said the Indonesian team has been training for a year-and-a-half. "The possibility of gold is quite high for accuracy and for cross country we have a 50/50 chance," said Paradigma, who is ranked world number seven for paragliding accuracy. "We



**JAKARTA:** Indonesian sprinter Lalu Zohri (center) takes part in a practice session with his teammates at the Senayan sport complex in Jakarta, ahead of the 2018 Asian Games. — AFP

know Korea and Japan are more experienced... but we will do our best to achieve a gold medal." While Indonesia's stranglehold on world badminton has loosened since the 1990s, it stands a strong chance resurrecting some past glory at the showpiece tournament.

Diminutive duo Marcus Gideon and Kevin Sukamuljo - affectionately dubbed the "Minions" after the little yellow characters featured in a popular 2015 animated film - are the world's top-ranked men's doubles pair and will be tough to beat. Team manager Susi Susanti, a former Olympic gold medalist and world champion, said Indonesia's shuttlers were ready to go. "Indonesia has a chance of getting a gold medal in several divisions like men's doubles and mixed doubles," Susanti said. "This is one of the most important competitions and we hope that we can contribute a gold medal for the overall Indonesian team." — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Bridge player Rita Choksi, 79, gestures during an interview with AFP at her residence in New Delhi. — AFP

Choksi took up the sport in the 1970s and has represented India at international tournaments in China, Pakistan and the United States. She secured her Asian Games place at a contest in Goa. "I played well in Goa and the president of the Bridge Federation of India felt I am good enough. They selected nine ladies out of the 24-member bridge team," Choksi said with pride.

Choksi is confident that bridge will contribute to India's medal tally as the country has internationally ranked players. China and Indonesia are also strong. "Bridge is a different game, it's a mind game and there is no age barrier in this," Anand Samant, secretary of the Bridge Federation of India, told AFP. "Rita is part of a mixed event and her male partner is also in his sixties."

"We had a fair selection process at various camps and the teams were selected after proper evaluation." Anand said every country faces some uncertainty as bridge is contested for the first time. —AFP

## Asia's Olympic champions vie for gold in pool

**JAKARTA:** China's medal machine Sun Yang heads a handful of reigning Olympic champions, and host of aspirant Tokyo 2020 gold medalists, looking to make a statement in the Asian Games pool over the next week. While the Asiad does not often provide world class competition in the big Olympic sports - Kosuke Kitajima in 2002 was the last swimmer to post a world record time at the Games - it can provide valuable experience for aspiring champions.

Sun, Singapore's Joseph Schooling, Dmitry Balandin of Kazakhstan and Japan's Kosuke Hagino all won one or more golds in the Incheon pool four years ago and followed up with Olympic titles in Rio in 2016. Japanese breaststroke specialist Rie Kaneto, Asia's other Olympic swimming champion in Brazil, retired earlier this year but the other four will all compete in Jakarta. China and Japan are the unquestioned continental swimming superpowers and shared 34 of the 38 swimming gold medals at the last Asian Games with Schooling and Balandin accounting for the other four.

Schooling, who skipped the Commonwealth Games earlier this year, will have a heavy schedule as the mainstay of the Singapore relay team and having added the 50 meters freestyle to his program. —Reuters



Sports

# Kane ends August drought as Spurs enjoy 'home' comforts

## Leicester see off Wolves 2-0 despite Vardy red card

LONDON: Harry Kane ended his hoodoo of failing to find the net in August as Tottenham made themselves at home at Wembley by beating Fulham 3-1 yesterday to move top of the Premier League. Bournemouth are the only other side to so far take maximum points from their opening two games as Eddie Howe's men came from behind to win 2-1 at West Ham. Everton's £50-million signing Richarlison continued to quieten queries of his price tag with the winner as Southampton were defeated 2-1 at Goodison Park, while Leicester saw off Wolves 2-0 despite a red card for Jamie Vardy. The game of the day sees London rivals Chelsea and Arsenal face off at Stamford Bridge in an early-season test for new managers Maurizio Sarri and Unai Emery. After becoming the first Premier League side since the introduction of the summer transfer window to fail to sign a player, Spurs were dealt another blow off at Wembley in midweek with the news their new 62,000-capacity stadium won't be ready until at least October.

Mauricio Pochettino's men will therefore host another two home fixtures against Cardiff and Liverpool at Wembley. But after a slow start at their temporary home last season, Tottenham have a good record at Wembley and picked up another three points despite being fully tested by newly-promoted Fulham. Lucas Moura curled home his first Premier League goal to give Spurs the lead, but Aleksandar Mitrovic deservedly headed Fulham level early in the second half.

**World Cup stars shine**

Tottenham may still be suffering a World Cup hang-

over with the majority of their stars enjoying barely a week of pre-season training after their efforts in Russia. But it was two of England's World Cup heroes who produced the goods as Kieran Trippier curled home a wonderful free-kick before Kane finally ended his wait to score in the opening month of the season at the 15th attempt in the Premier League. "We dominated the first 30 minutes and created a lot of chances, but in the Premier League if you drop your level it can let in the other team," Pochettino said.

### Everton thump Southampton



"Overall we were much better and deserved the three points, but we still need to improve. "We conceded too many chances. In possession we played well, but we need to be more focused without the ball." In contrast to Spurs, West Ham splurged nearly £100 million in the transfer market to back new manager Manuel Pellegrini but still have no points to show for it after a second-half surrender to Bournemouth. Marko Arnautovic's penalty gave the hosts a half-time lead. Two goals in six minutes turned the game on its head, though, as Callum Wilson and Steve Cook made it two wins from two for the Cherries.

Everton's revolution under Marco Silva gained more momentum at Goodison with Richarlison scoring his third goal in two games. A well-worked free-kick freed up Theo Walcott to open the scoring before the Brazilian headed home a Walcott cross to double Everton's advantage. Wolves shared the points in a four-goal thriller with Everton last weekend, but despite much hype and expectation after a summer of heavy investment, they remain winless after losing 2-0 at 10-



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (right) shoots to score their third goal during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham yesterday. — AFP

man Leicester. A spectacular own goal from Matt Doherty and a deflected James Maddison strike put the Foxes in command.

However, victory came at a cost for Leicester as England international Vardy was shown a straight red card 20 minutes from time for a late lunge on Doherty and now faces a three-game ban. Cardiff and Newcastle

both registered their first point of the season in a draw 0-0 in the Welsh capital in a missed opportunity for both sides. The visitors played the final half-hour with 10 men after Isaac Hayden was dismissed, but still had the best chance to take all three points when Kenedy's 96th-minute penalty was saved by Neil Etheridge. — AFP

## Nigeria face football ban; deadline looms

DURBAN: Nigeria have less than 48 hours to sort out the running of their football federation if they want to avoid the possibility of being banned by FIFA from international soccer, including exclusion from next month's African Nations Cup qualifiers. Soccer's governing body issued the country with a final warning due to alleged state interference in the running of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF). FIFA's recognized leadership were kicked out of the NFF and a rival faction has taken control.

FIFA do not accept third party interference in its member federations and said the NFF must be led by its elected president, voted in 2014. If that does not happen, FIFA said it would suspend Nigeria. "The suspension would be lifted only once the NFF, under President

Amaju Pinnick and General Secretary Mohammed Sanusi, confirms that it has been given back effective control of the NFF and its offices," said FIFA. Pinnick's long-standing rival Chris Giwa took control after a recent court case recognized him as the NFF president at the end of a protracted legal protest of the 2014 election results.

Giwa was handed a five-year ban by FIFA for breaches of the NFF statutes and the FIFA code of ethics in February last year. But he appears to have the backing of the Nigerian government, whose sports minister Solomon Dalung had a request to meet FIFA this week turned down. He had included Giwa in his proposed list of delegates to travel to Zurich to see FIFA president Gianni Infantino - an idea FIFA rejected. If Giwa's faction do not vacate the offices by the Monday's midday (1000 GMT) deadline, FIFA is expected to impose a ban. Nigeria are due to play a qualifier for the 2019 African Nations Cup in the Seychelles on Sept 8 but a ban could lead to an expulsion from the preliminaries.

**Long history**

Nigeria have a long history of being threatened with

FIFA sanctions for government or court interference in NFF affairs but have previously always backed down. Ghana were also warned on Tuesday but their government has quickly climbed down over a proposed legal bid to wind up the country's football association (GFA) over corruption allegations. They have agreed to work together "to offer leadership in reforming football administration in Ghana and in Africa" and will set up a so-called "normalization committee" to administer football in the country as well as a task force to create disciplinary, governance and auditing mechanisms.

The GFA became embroiled in a scandal when its president Kwesi Nyantakyi was filmed by an investigative journalist in a hotel room appearing to take a \$65,000 bribe from a supposed businessman seeking to sponsor the Ghanaian football league. Nyantakyi resigned as GFA president and from the posts he held with FIFA and the Confederation of African Football (CAF). He denies any wrongdoing. In June, the government began a process to wind up the GFA and police locked down the GFA offices, declaring the building a crime scene. — Reuters

## Al-Osaimi praises Kuwait, athletes

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federation's Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi has congratulated Kuwait leaders and athletes after the international sports body lifted Kuwait's suspension. He said this lifting comes as a result of tremendous efforts by ministers and former senior officials, headed by Former Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah - through decisions that preserved Kuwait's sovereignty and Kuwait's athletes' interest, adding that if it was not for the efforts of former officials, the International Olympic Committee would not bow and take a decision to lift the suspension.

Al-Osaimi lauded the major role of Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud as being the first to start the sports reform steps - by taking decisive decision against all those who conspired against Kuwait sports. He also lauded the role of Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Nasser Al-Jabir. Al-Osaimi said Kuwait shooters will participate in the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia with the best shooter in Clay competitions, and hope to achieve the best results despite the very short time of preparations. Al-Osaimi thanked the Director General of Public Authority for Sports Dr Humoud Fulaiteh and his deputy Saqer Al-Mulla for their efforts to have Kuwait Shooters participate in the Asian games.



Obaid Al-Osaimi

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>	
Man City v Huddersfield Town	15:30
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Brighton v Man United	18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>	
Eibar v Huesca	19:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Rayo Vallecano v Sevilla	21:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Real Madrid v Getafe	23:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
<b>ITALIAN LEAGUE</b>	
Torino v AS Roma	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Bologna v Spal	21:30
beIN SPORTS	
Parma Calcio 1913 v Udinese	21:30
beIN SPORTS	
Empoli v Cagliari Calcio	21:30
beIN SPORTS	
Sassuolo Calcio v Inter Milan	21:30
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
<b>FRENCH LEAGUE</b>	
Strasbourg v Saint Etienne	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Toulouse v Girondins de Bordeaux	18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Nimes Olympique v Marseille	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	



SYDNEY: Usain Bolt poses for pictures with fans upon arrival at Sydney international airport yesterday. Bolt, 31-year-old eight-time Olympic champion, arrived to start training with the A-League club Central Coast Mariners. — AFP

## Bolt lands Down Under for 'real' soccer mission

SYDNEY: Olympic sprint champion and aspiring footballer Usain Bolt touched down in Sydney yesterday, declaring himself ready to prove to the world that his Australian soccer adventure is "real". The eight-times Olympic gold medalist will train with Central Coast Mariners for the first time on Tuesday after being granted an open-ended trial with the struggling A-League club. Draped in a Mariners scarf, Bolt arrived on a red-eye flight from Los Angeles and was greeted by a few dozen fans and a huge media pack.

"This is real. I've said it since my last season of track and field I want to play football. I know what I'm capable of, I know what I can do, so I'm thankful to the Mariners for giving me this opportunity to show what I'm capable of," Bolt told reporters. "I always put my best foot forward and I'm just going to show the world what I'm made of." The Mariners' tie-up with Bolt has proved polarizing in Australia, with critics dismissing it as a publicity stunt

to boost the profile of a team that has failed to make the playoffs for the last four seasons. The Mariners finished bottom of the 10-team league last season and operate in one of the country's smallest soccer markets about an hour north of Sydney in eastern New South Wales state.

Jamaican Bolt, who retired from athletics at the world championships in London last year, has previously trained with Germany's Borussia Dortmund, South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns and Norway's Stromsgodset in his bid to win a professional football contract. His first Mariners training session will coincide with his 32nd birthday on Tuesday. Despite Bolt's thin soccer pedigree, he has been welcomed with open arms by the Mariners, who have carved a huge lightning bolt on the turf of their home Central Coast stadium.

Bolt could play his first match on Aug 31 against a Central Coast representative side made up of the region's top amateurs. The Mike Mulvey-coached Mariners are in talks to have the trial broadcast on TV, pending Bolt's selection, local media reported. Mariners CEO Shaun Mielekamp said last week that Bolt had already bought into the low-profile club's community ethos, including agreeing to live in the sleepy coastal region like his team mates, rather than in more vibrant Sydney. "As you all know I love Australia, so I'm happy to call Australia home for now," said Bolt. — Reuters

## Celtic sink Partick after Euro woes

GLASGOW: Celtic got back on track after a difficult week as Brendan Rodgers' side clinched a 3-1 win against Partick Thistle in the last 16 of the Scottish League Cup yesterday. Rodgers' men lost 1-0 at Hearts in the Scottish Premiership last Sunday before crashing out of the Champions League qualifiers on Tuesday after a 3-2 aggregate defeat against AEK Athens. It was essential for Celtic to lift the gloom and Leigh Griffiths' goal after 17 minutes gave the Scottish champions the lead on their return to domestic action at Firhill.

Andrea Mbuyi-Mutombo equalized with 18 minutes left, but Moussa Dembele and Tom Rogic netted to get the treble winners back to winning ways. Celtic will be back in continental action when they take on FK Suduva in the first leg of their Europa League play-off on Thursday. With one eye on the trip to Lithuania, Rodgers dipped into his squad with Scott Bain, Kristoffer Ajer, Cristian Gamboa, Scott Sinclair, Mikey Johnston and Emilio Izaguirre in the starting line-up.

Celtic took the lead when Scott Sinclair went past Christie Elliott and cut the ball back for Griffiths to fire in from 10 yards for his first of the season and his 99th for Celtic. Griffiths was replaced by Dembele in the 64th minute and within moments he drew a great save from Cammy Bell with a powerful angled-drive. — AFP



**25** Olson's 10th-inning blast sends Oakland Athletics past Astros



**26** Indonesia welcomes Asia with explosive opening ceremony



**27** Kane ends August drought as Spurs enjoy 'home' comforts



## Ronaldo makes a winning debut

Champions Juventus snatch 3-2 win



VERONA: (From left) Chievo's Serbian midfielder, Ivan Radovanovic, Juventus' Portuguese forward, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Chievo's defender Michele Rigione go for the ball during the Italian Serie A football match AC Chievo vs Juventus yesterday. — AFP

VERONA: Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo missed chances to score on his Serie A debut as defending champions Juventus snatched a late 3-2 win against Chievo in a thrilling opening match of the 2018-2019 league season yesterday. Ronaldo, 33, joined from Real Madrid last month in a deal worth 100 million euros (\$114.5 million). Substitute Federico Bernardeschi scored the winner two minutes into injury time with

Germany international Sami Khedira opening the scoring after just three minutes at the Bentegodi Stadium. Chievo's Mattia Bani turned into his own net after 75 minutes following pressure from Leonardo Bonucci to pull the champions level after the home side had taken a shock 2-1 lead. Polish striker Mariusz Stepinski had headed in and an Emanuele Giaccherini penalty gave the Flying Donkeys hope of a rare win over the Turin giants.

Mario Mandzukic had a goal disallowed late in the game following an incident which floored Chievo goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino who required medical assistance. But Bernardeschi finished off an Alex Sandro assist to seal the first three points for the champions as they target an eighth straight league title. The game had been preceded by a minute's silence for the victims of the Genoa bridge disaster with players taking to the

pitch wearing black armbands. The opening round of matches involving both Genoa teams were postponed because of the bridge collapse in the port city. Sampdoria had been due to host Fiorentina and Genoa to travel to AC Milan. Meanwhile, another big name arrival in Serie A, Carlo Ancelotti makes his debut as Napoli coach as last year's runners-up take on Lazio in Rome later.—AFP

## Chelsea stun Arsenal in a 5-goal thriller

LONDON: Eden Hazard came off the bench to provide the winner for Marcos Alonso as Chelsea edged a thrilling London derby 3-2 over Arsenal yesterday to condemn new Arsenal boss Unai Emery to a second consecutive defeat. Contrastingly, Chelsea sit top of the embryonic Premier League table thanks to a perfect start under Maurizio Sarri, but made life difficult for themselves after racing into a 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes through Pedro Rodriguez and Alvaro Morata.

Arsenal were level by half-time as Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Alex Iwobi netted. Yet the Gunners were left to rue wasting a host of other glorious chances before Hazard provided the inspiration in his cameo appearance to swing an enthralling encounter Chelsea's way. Chelsea cruised to victory at Huddersfield, whilst Arsenal were

outclassed by champions Manchester City on the opening weekend of the season.

But given the chasm in quality between their opponents this promised to be a much truer test of where both sides stand in their bid to get back into the top four after missing out on the Champions League this season. And it didn't disappoint as a thrilling 90 minutes gave both coaches plenty of cause for optimism, but also demonstrated defensive frailties that are likely to prevent a serious title challenge from either side.

### Jorginho key

Chelsea beat City to the signing of Jorginho to reunite the Italian international with Sarri after three seasons together at Napoli and is already becoming key to Sarri's change of system at Stamford Bridge. He opened up the Arsenal defense to open the scoring with one pass into Alonso, whose cross was turned into the bottom corner by Pedro. Despite being outplayed for most of the opening period, Arsenal could easily have scored seven times before the break but for some woeful finishing. Mesut Ozil flashed a great chance wide seconds before Chelsea's opener and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang then skied over with the goal at his mercy and the chance to lev-

el. Seconds later, Arsenal trailed 2-0 as Morata raced onto a long ball over the top and turned inside Shkodran Mustafi before firing home his first goal of the season.

### Arsenal rue finishing

Mkhitaryan followed Aubameyang's example by somehow also blazing over an almost identical chance from close range. The Armenian made amends to spark Arsenal's fightback eight minutes before the break, though, with a fiercely struck low shot that had too much power for the world's most expensive goalkeeper, Kepa Arrizabalaga. If Kepa could have been questioned for the first goal he has conceded in English football after an 80 million euro move from Athletic Bilbao, he was helpless as Arsenal equalized four minutes later when Iwobi smashed home Mkhitaryan's cross. There was still time for Aubameyang and Iwobi to pass up another two great chances as Arsenal ended the half on top.

Both sides tightened up after the break as Emery introduced tough-tackling Uruguayan midfielder Lucas Torreira. But there were still chances at either end as Petr Cech turned Ross Barkley's low effort behind before Aubameyang was unfortu-



LONDON: Chelsea's Spanish defender Marcos Alonso (4th right) shoots to score their third goal during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday. — AFP

nate to be wrongly flagged offside when he did finally find the net. Sarri believes Hazard isn't yet ready for 90 minutes after his exertions with Belgium at the

World Cup. But he still proved a match winner by easing past Hector Bellerin before providing a low cross for Alonso to sweep home 10 minutes from time.—AFP