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# Saudi Arabia issues its first driving licenses to women

## Saudi lifts its decades-long ban on female drivers

IN MY VIEW

### Kuwait sovereign issuance: The fund manager's view

By Philipp Good

We think it is very likely that Kuwait will offer sovereign debt to international markets in the third quarter of 2018, once Ramadan and the summer vacations are over. And we are looking forward to it. Kuwait is probably one of the strongest, if not the strongest, sovereign credits in the Middle East, so as an issuer it has considerable pricing power. While to some extent, positive Emerging Market (EM) sentiment has faded as a result of rising US yields, the stronger names will still be able to successfully tap the market - and one of those is Kuwait.



The backdrop to this scenario is that Kuwait has delivered a new budget and parliament has approved raising the debt ceiling to KD 25 billion, from KD 10 billion. The country has maintained a positive and stable credit profile among the major rating agencies, with one of the strongest factors in support of its ratings being the substantial FX (foreign exchange) assets held by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) - of over \$580 billion.

The country benefits from good governance and conservative fiscal policies, with increased oil production and increased public spending on infrastructure, in line with the Kuwait National Development Plan, likely to support growth in 2018. GDP growth from 2019-21 is predicted to exceed 3 percent, supported by increased oil output from 2.7 million barrels/day (current) to 3 million barrels/day in 2021. At present, a sovereign rating downgrade looks very unlikely, although potential risks cited include undiversified government income and rising regional political tension. OPEC's oil production cuts have also had some impact on Kuwait's GDP growth.

#### Why is Kuwait attractive?

Firstly, it has solid fundamentals. With a relatively low fiscal breakeven for oil at \$56/bbl, and AA ratings with both S&P and Fitch, this is a robust credit. Kuwait's ratings should be safe at current oil price levels, with Fitch writing that the potential negative impacts would be 'erosion of fiscal and external positions'. This implies a focus almost exclusively on oil price and associated negative credit events, and we are confident that it is stable for now.

With limited chance of an adjustment to ratings, Kuwait is therefore an appealing investment grade play. Since the sovereign cannot at present issue longer-term paper - for example of 30 years - there is limited downside potential. The country is stable in the rates and credit market and would not struggle to issue debt of a reasonably large size. Except a massive drop in oil prices or a significant jump in US Treasury yields - to something like 3.5-4 percent in a short period of time - we don't see considerable risk. If such events were to occur, they would damage sentiment towards emerging markets, but that could happen just as easily due to inflation or growth. In such a scenario, Kuwait would still be attractive, because oil prices would likely increase.

#### Does Kuwait need to issue?

The short answer is no, and it needn't be in any rush to do so, with oil prices having risen considerably in 2018. On the other hand, it does make budgetary sense to pre-fund and to be prudent on the funding schedule. Should the sovereign issue, it may be in either the conventional or Sukuk format, and we see no reason not to issue in both. It is very likely that any issuance by the sovereign will be 144A-compliant, and most likely with a tenor of up to 10 years, as Kuwait doesn't currently have formal approval to issue for a longer period. In terms of volume, we'd expect issuance of between \$5 billion and \$7.5 billion.

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RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday began issuing its first driving licenses to women in decades, authorities said, just weeks before the historic lifting of the conservative kingdom's ban on female motorists. Ten Saudi women swapped their foreign licenses for Saudi ones in multiple cities, including the capital Riyadh, as the kingdom prepares to end its ban on June 24.

The move, which follows a government crackdown on women activists, is part of a much-publicized liberalization drive launched by powerful Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman as he seeks to modernize the petro-state. "Ten Saudi women made history on Monday when they were issued driving licenses," said the Information Ministry's Centre for International Communication (CIC). "Expectations are that next week an additional 2,000 women will join the ranks of licensed drivers in the kingdom."

The official Saudi Press Agency said the swap came after women applicants were made to undergo a "practical test", but it did not offer details. "It's a dream come true that I am about to drive in the kingdom," Rema Jawdat, one of the women to receive a license, was quoted as saying by the CIC. "Driving to me represents having a choice-the choice of independent movement. Now we have that option," added Jawdat, an official at the Ministry Of Economy and Planning who has previ-

ous driving experience in Lebanon and Switzerland.

In preparation for the lifting of the ban, Saudi Arabia last week passed a landmark law to criminalize sexual harassment, introducing a prison term of up to five years and a maximum penalty of 300,000 riyals (\$80,000). Saudi Arabia, the only country in the world where women are not allowed to drive, has long faced global criticism for what is seen as oppression of women. But Prince Mohammed, who recently undertook a global tour aimed at reshaping his kingdom's austere image, has sought to break with long-held restrictions on women. The self-styled reformer has also ended a decades-long ban on cinemas, allowed mixed-gender concerts and clipped the powers of the long-feared religious police.

Saudi Arabia's first cinema in more than 35 years opened on April 18 in Riyadh, the capital after agreeing with AMC Entertainment Holdings to open up to 40 theatres over the next five years. Movie theatres are not be segregated by gender like most other public places in the deeply conservative Muslim kingdom, and the first screening was Marvel's superhero movie "Black Panther," a source said.

Saudi Arabia had some cinemas in the 1970s but its powerful clerics closed them, reflecting rising Islamist influence throughout the Arab region at the time. In

2017, the government said it would lift the ban as part of ambitious economic and social reforms pushed by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. He visited the United States - seeking investments to help broaden the economy and lessen its dependence on oil.

Saudi Arabians are avid consumers of Western media and culture. Despite the cinema ban, Hollywood films and recent television series are widely watched at home and discussed. AMC's first cinema will be located in the King Abdullah Financial District in a building originally intended to be a symphony concert hall, AMC Chief Executive Adam Aron said in an interview. The main theatre will have about 500 leather seats, orchestra and balcony levels and marble bathrooms, he said. Three more screens will be added by mid-summer. "We think it's going to be the prettiest movie theatre in the world," Aron said. "It's a dramatic building."

To serve a population of more than 32 million, most of whom are under the age of 30, Saudi Arabia wants to set up around 350 cinemas with over 2,500 screens by 2030, which it hopes will attract nearly \$1 billion in annual ticket sales. "The restoration of cinemas will ... help boost the local economy by increasing household spending on entertainment while supporting job creation in the Kingdom," Culture and Information Minister Awwad Alawwad said in a statement. — Agencies

## 'Guidelines' for deployment of Filipino workers

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Four months after Kuwait-Philippines diplomatic ties almost hit a crisis level, the new guidelines for the deployment of domestic helpers to Kuwait was finally announced yesterday. But there seems to be no substantial changes as to the welfare of tens of thousands of Filipino women in Kuwait. Most of the provisions in the memorandum of agreement which was recently signed were mostly mentioned in the prevailing Kuwait's domestic labor law.

Yesterday, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) issued the guidelines for the resumption of deployment of Filipino domestic workers.



KUWAIT: Philippine Charge d'Affaires Noordin Lomondot (right) announces the resumption of the deployment of domestic workers to Kuwait as Rustico dela Fuente (center) and Ma Teresa Olgado look on. — Photo by Ben Garcia

These guidelines were announced at the Philippine Embassy by the Philippine Consul General to Kuwait

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AMMAN: Protesters wave flags near Jordanian security forces during a demonstration outside the prime minister's office in the capital Amman yesterday. — AFP

## Jordanian King replaces PM to defuse protest

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah yesterday asked Omar Al-Razzaz, a former World Bank economist, to form a new government after Hani Mulki resigned as prime minister following the country's biggest protests in years, a ministerial source said. The move appeared aimed at defusing popular anger over planned tax hikes that have brought thousands of people onto the streets

in the capital Amman and other parts of Jordan since last week. Razzaz was education minister in Mulki's government.

Jordan, a staunch US ally that has a peace treaty with Israel, has remained stable through years of regional turmoil. Police chief Major General Fadel Al-Hamoud said security forces had detained 60 people for breaking the law during the protests and 42 security force members had been injured, but protests remained under control. "Rest assured, Jordan is a safe and secure country, and things are under control," said Major General Hussein Hawatmeh, head of the Gendarmerie security department, appearing along with Hamoud at a news conference.

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## Guard your tongue (1)

By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

It is worth realizing that everything Allah (to Whom belongs all might and majesty) commands us to do is to our benefit. Therefore, it is imperative to obey Him and His Messengers. Moreover, we should well understand that whatever Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advises us to do is significant and beneficial to us in all aspects of our lives.

Among Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) instructions is to be keen to do and say whatever is beneficial to us. Before doing and saying anything, ask yourself, "How do I benefit from it?" If you don't perceive any benefit, then abstain. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) tells us what can be translated as: "... be keen to do what benefits you, seek Allah's assistance, and do not despair ..." (Saheeh Muslim # 2, 664)

The tongue is a double-edged sword: if you use it in worshipping Allah (SWT), it will accrue to you a lot of blessings and rewards. But if you use it in acts of disobedience, then it will result in evil consequences for you. Allah (SWT) tells us what can be translated as: "Have We not made for him (a human-being) two eyes, a tongue and two lips? And guided him to the two highways of right and wrong." (Al-Balad 90: 8 - 10)

According to some scholars, nine tenths of the sins that are committed are committed by the tongue or by its help. Therefore, it is our responsibility to learn how to use our tongues positively and to discipline ourselves on that. Otherwise, we will be in trouble here in this world and in the hereafter. Allah (SWT), who warned those who falsely accuse chaste women of indecency and immorality, that if they don't repent, they will be cursed here on earth and in the hereafter, and threatened that they will face a severe torment in the hereafter, said what can be translated as: "... on a Day Hereafter when their tongues, hands and legs will testify against them for the 'evil' deeds they committed 'on earth'." (An-Nour 24: 24)

On the Day of Judgment, Allah (SWT) will grant our body parts freedom to speak out. Due to the significance of the tongue and the pressing need to use it wisely and not to abuse it, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would, on various occasions, advise his Companions and, by extension, all those who believe in him to guard their tongues.

Uqbah bin Amer - one of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) bona-fide Companions- said, "I asked Allah's Messenger (SWT), 'What is required of salvation (in this world and deliverance on the Day of Judgment?)' He replied, 'Control your tongue, be satisfied with your house and what you have in it, and cry in repentance for your sins.'" (Al-Albani rated it as Hasan (authentic) in Saheeh At-Tirmidhi # 2, 406.) Regarding the second factor, it also means the following:

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## Local

# Ministers briefed on development plan report, Supreme Council meetings

## Cabinet deplores attacks in Saudi Arabia, Iraq

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeh briefed cabinet ministers on an annual follow-up report on the 2017-2018 development plan, including project execution rates and how to wipe out relevant obstacles.

During the its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday, the cabinet was also appraised of reports on the 10th and 11th meetings of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, including a report on Kuwait's education development, along with an effective management plan for Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital. The ministers then discussed preparations and arrangements for the enroll-

ment of Kuwaiti high school graduates for the coming academic year following the announcement of examination result. Furthermore, the cabinet approved a draft decree to end the second ordinary session of the 15th term of the National Assembly (parliament) as of Thursday (June 28, 2018). Meanwhile, the cabinet congratulated Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi on swearing-in for another term of office, saying it looks forward to promoting and developing friendly and cooperative relations and partnership between both brotherly nations in all fields.

### Terrorist attack

Meanwhile, the cabinet condemned a recent 'terrorist attack' that took place in Taif City in west of Saudi Arabia



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday. — KUNA

and left a police man killed and another wounded. The cabinet said in a statement that the State of Kuwait stands by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and backs all measures its authorities are taking in order to safeguard its security and stability. It also deplored recent attacks in Iraq and

Belgium as terrorist acts, reiterating Kuwait's rejection of all forms and manifestations of terrorism regardless of relevant motives and causes. In this context, the Kuwaiti cabinet called on the international community to step up efforts aiming at uprooting the scourge of terrorism. — KUNA



## Management plan for Jaber Hospital

## Court rejects 'cheating' students' plea

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The court of urgent matters yesterday rejected six cases filed by high school students complaining about being deprived of the right to sit for all exams, which disappointed them, after they were

hoping that a verdict issued in favor of another student would apply to them too. This verdict also means that the Fatwa and Legislation Department has succeeded in defending and supporting the decision made by the education minister after realizing that cheating is very detrimental for education in Kuwait.

### \$7.4 million

A government body employs 31 expats and annually pays them around \$7.4 million (KD 2.23 million), ie an average of around \$239,000 annually and \$20,000 monthly to each employee, well-informed sources

said. The sources also said the parliamentary budgets and final statements committee inquired from the finance ministry about the details of listing the sum of KD 42 million for salaries in ministries' budgets in the fiscal year 2018-2019, while the total value of special contract salaries paid to Kuwaitis working in the civil aviation, the Audit Bureau and the Cabinet is only KD 2.7 million not KD 42 million.

### Cleaning contracts

Chairman of the Municipal Council Osama Al-Otaibi said that Kuwait Municipality director had asserted that

the municipality will sign new cleaning contracts of a total value of KD 140 million in November. Otaibi added that both the council and the municipality are not satisfied with the cleaning contracts signed in 2011 for KD 290 million, especially after both the Audit Bureau and the municipality admitted that the offer had not been properly studied and that one of the cleaning companies had been fined several times in Kuwait, while it acted professionally in similar contracts in other GCC states. "This means that the problem lies in monitoring," Otaibi underlined.

## Allowances, tickets and other perks

Legalese



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I am writing again this week from Silicon Valley, located south of San Francisco and known as the hub of technology and financial companies. Silicon Valley is also known for how companies treat their employees, and I wrote last week about all the companies that I had meetings with, such as Facebook, Google, Asana, HP, Airbnb and so on, and the perks they have for working there. The perks range from things like flexible hours, free healthy meals, bikes and game rooms or more lucrative perks such as paying for children's education or providing resources for employees to start a new venture. The companies understood how important it is to invest in a team, recognizing them as a main asset.

While seeing this and being here, I have realized how much space companies in Kuwait have for improvement. I have chosen a few emails that reflect the previous statement.

### Free ticket

**Question:** I have been working for a company for 10 years and have been receiving a ticket every year for the past 10 years to go back home to my country. This year my boss told me that I can no longer get a free ticket, and since it's not mentioned in my contract, I don't legally have the right to it.

**Fajer:** This question doesn't have a straight yes or no answer. According to Kuwait labor law's article 55: "Remuneration means the basic payment the worker receives or should receive in consideration of his work, in addition to all elements stipulated in the contract or the employer by-laws. Without prejudice to the social allowance and the children allowance granted by virtue of law no. 19 of the year 2000, the remuneration shall include the payments made to the worker on periodic basis such as bonuses, benefits, allowances, grants, endowments or cash benefits."

This article has been previously interpreted by experts and judges that annual benefits such as tickets will be part of the salary - this in return can be interpreted that the cost of a ticket that was given to you for the last 10 years has now become a periodic benefit that should be included in your remuneration and your termination indemnity, and therefore many lawyers will argue that if it is to be included in the termination indemnity, it should be included as a yearly benefit even if the employment contract is not being terminated.

### Breastfeeding

**Question:** I have read somewhere that as a breastfeeding mother, my employer should build a safe space for me to breastfeed and nurse. Is this true?

**Fajer:** According to article 25, a working woman will be allowed a two-hour break during her working hours in order to feed her baby, according to conditions set forth in the ministry's decision. The employer will establish a nursery for children below the age of 4 at the place of work in the event where the number of female workers exceeds 50 or the number of workers exceeds 200.

Yes, this is true if there are more than 50 female employees in your workplace or 200 employees in total. And this is not just for nursing, but also for babysitting any kids under the age of four. Unfortunately though, this does not seem to be common practice in Kuwait! I hope more and more companies in the future provide their employees with such perks.

For questions or queries, please email us at [info@ftl-legal.com](mailto:info@ftl-legal.com).

## High school finals' results announced

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Education announced on Sunday that the success rate of high school tests reached 69.84 in the scientific division, and 63.9 and in the art division, while in religious institute, it reached around 68.75 percent for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi expressed, in a press conference, his thanks and appreciation to efforts exerted by officials in the ministry of Interior, Health, and education to ensure success of this year's exams. High school tests witnessed 38,279 female and male students, which were divided into 21,688 students in the scientific division, while 15,316 in the art division, and 1,275 in the religious institute.— KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi (center) is seen during the press conference. — KUNA

## Info Minister lauds association's support to young writers

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri has praised the pioneering role played by the Kuwait Writers' Association in embracing young. In statements to reporters during a visit to the Kuwait Writers' Association on Sunday, Jabri said that "the Association is a great national organization whose record is full of achievements." He noted that the association members had been playing an important cultural and intellectual role in Kuwait and overseas. He stressed the information ministry would continue its support to the association and its activities.

Separately, Jabri praised the achievements of the National Library of Kuwait's advisory board after they successfully concluded several agreements with similar centers across the GCC. This commendation came after the meeting on Sunday between Jabri and the advisory board in the National Library, as they went over the national catalog project, and Library's plan to acquire valuable manuscripts and important publications.

Jabri especially hailed the role of the library in preserving national intellect in addition to developing a system of creativity, intellectual property rights, and participation in cultural activities, conferences, and exhibitions, both internally and abroad. He added the importance of providing complete support and removing any obstacles, that might stop the library from doing its duty and implementing future development plans.

The support would come in the form of training programs for the Library's national cadres, particularly the youth, to sharpen their skills and develop their creativity. Jabri stressed the importance of media coverage of activities of the library, which he considered as a national cultural symbol that reflects the leading cultural and education role of the State of Kuwait. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri poses for a group picture during his visit to the Kuwait Writers' Association. — KUNA



**Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri meets with National Library of Kuwait's advisory board.**

## Tanzania honors Kuwaiti official

**DAR ES SALAAM:** Tanzanian Prime Minister Qassem Majaliwa has honored Undersecretary of Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for Holy Quran and Islamic Studies Dr Waleed Al-Shuaib, as the person of 2018 to serve the Holy Quran. This award was presented by the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs in Tanzania and with the approval of the Tanzanian International Holy Quran Award Organization, Kuwait Embassy in Dar es Salaam said in a statement. The honoring ceremony was part of the Tanzanian International Holy Quran competition, which is held annually in the holy month of Ramadan. Kuwait Ambassador to Dar es Salaam Jassem Al-Najem said.

This honor will be added to Kuwait's record in the service of the Holy Quran, and efforts of the concerned authorities in organizing international competitions in memorizing the Holy Quran, the most important Kuwait International Prize for the Holy Quran, which is under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he said.

Dr Shuaib is honored for his outstanding efforts in serving the Holy Quran as he chairs the Coordinating Council for International Competitions of the Holy Quran in Kuwait and Vice Chairman of the Supreme Committee and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Kuwait International Prize for Memorizing the Holy Quran.

Contestant Mohammed Al-Khalidi from Kuwait participated in the Tanzanian international competition and was able to reach advanced levels along with other participants from Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Yemen, Mali, USA, Britain and Tanzania, but the Saudi reader won the first place. — KUNA



**DAR ES SALAAM:** Tanzanian Prime Minister Qassem Majaliwa honors Undersecretary of Kuwait's Dr Waleed Al-Shuaib. —KUNA



## Local

# Finance Minister briefs MPs on GRF cash flow outlook, presents scenarios to boost liquidity

## In a joint meeting with three parliamentary committees

**KUWAIT:** In a joint off-floor government-parliament meeting held on Sunday, Kuwait's Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf briefed parliamentarians on the liquidity outlook for Kuwait's General Reserves Fund (GRF) for the next five to ten years, while emphasizing the need to adopt short and long-term reforms to safeguard the country's GRF and boost its liquidity ratio.

The Minister spoke at length about the liquidity outlook of the GRF, while stressing that it is important to distinguish the GRF liquidity concerns from the performance of the much larger Future Generations Fund (FGF), commonly referred to as the country's sovereign wealth fund, which continues to grow year-on-year in Assets Under Management (AUMs) and returns.

The GRF is one of two funds managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority, which is chaired by the Minister of Finance, and is the main repository of all the State of Kuwait's revenue to finance the national budget and obligations. The other fund, The Future Generations Fund (FGF), is an intergenerational savings platform where a minimum of 10% of all state revenue is transferred for investment on an annual basis. All FGF returns are reinvested in the FGF itself.

Hajraf said, "Let me start by dispelling recent speculations regarding the performance of Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund, the FGF. I assure everyone that the FGF continues to grow and perform above benchmarks. As for the liquidity of the General Reserve Fund (GRF), it is under pressure due to growing budget expenditure and a low-oil price environment in recent

years. Boosting the liquidity of the GRF is a shared responsibility, and although the executive branch bears the largest part, we urge the legislative branch to pass the required legislations to strengthen liquidity in the reserves."

During the meeting, Hajraf disclosed the total assets of the General Reserve fund as of 31/03/2018 at approximately KD 26.4 billion, equally distributed between cash and equivalents and non-liquid investments (around KD 13.2 billion each).

Hajraf presented various scenarios of oil prices from \$70 to \$100 per barrel, explaining their effect on the GRF and indicating the necessity to preserve the liquidity of the GRF under any and all oil price scenarios. Hajraf said, "Whether oil trades at \$70 per barrel or at \$100 a barrel, the GRF's liquidity ratio remains a matter of concern unless real long-term economic and fiscal reforms are implemented."

During the meeting, the cabinet urged parliament to expedite laws aimed at increasing the liquidity in the GRF, particularly the Government Borrowing Act which enables the government to issue sovereign bonds locally and internationally.

The meeting was attended by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khalid Al-Saleh, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Sabeeh Al-Sabeeh, and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Adel Musaed Al-Kharafi.



Nayef Al-Hajraf

## Meeting with joint committee fruitful: Defense Minister

**KUWAIT:** The meeting of the joint parliamentary committee on Sunday was excellent and fruitful, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said. Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah

made the statement after a meeting for the parliamentary committees on budget and final accounts, financial and economic affairs, and legislative legal affairs, and the government, tackling a host of state finances.

Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah added that they addressed Kuwait's future. Discussions will continue in the next one. He thanked members of the parliamentary committees for their cooperation with the government. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attends the meeting of the joint parliamentary committee. — KUNA

## Expat remittances drop by 13%

**KUWAIT:** Remittances by expatriates living and working in Kuwait dropped by 13 percent during the first quarter of 2018, said money exchange sources, noting that the fall has been taking place since 2017. The sources added that official statistics have shown that expats' remittances dropped by 9 percent last year to KD 4.14 billion compared to KD 4.56 billion in 2016.

The sources explained that the monthly rate of remittances made by an individual expat (excluding domestic helpers) dropped from \$626 to only \$545, and attributed this to a slight drop in the number of expatriate laborers.

The sources also said the drop was due



to falling oil prices over the past few years, noting that this led to a fall in expats' incomes, which were also affected by increasing fuel prices, water and electricity fees. Notably, the average monthly remittance by around 700,000 expats is no more than \$300. — Al-Qabas

## OIC appreciates Kuwait's concern for Palestinians

**JEDDAH:** The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has praised a Kuwaiti initiative to adopt a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution calling for "international protection" of Palestinian civilians. Kuwait's firm commitment as a non-permanent member of UNSC and its efforts to draft such a resolution are highly appreciated, the Islamic bloc's secretary

general Dr Yousef Al-Othaimeen said in a statement yesterday.

The proposed UNSC resolution condemns Israel's use of force against Palestinian civilians and calls on Israel to adhere to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which deals with the protection of civilians in a war zone, Othaimeen clarified.

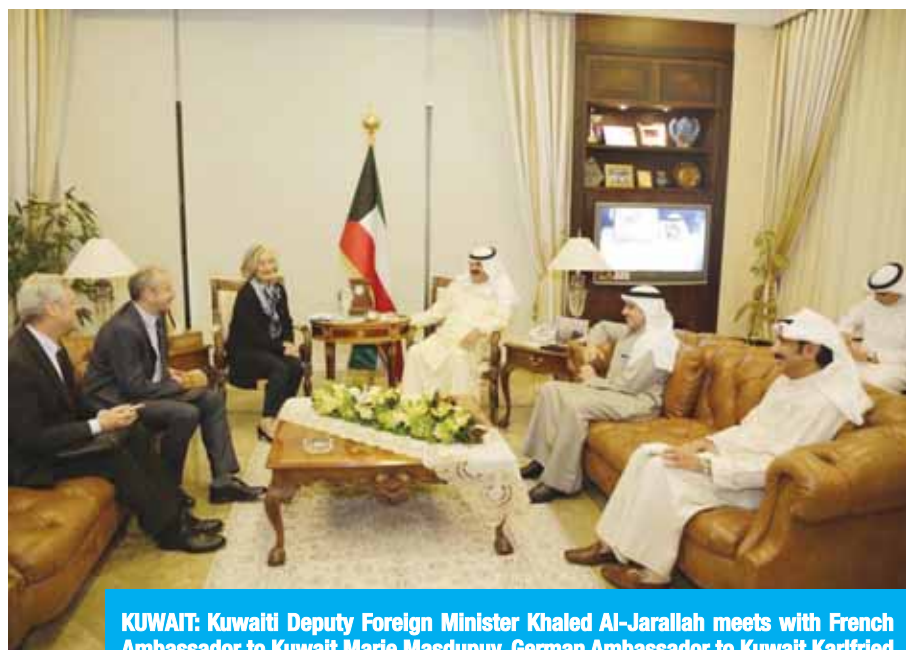
Meanwhile, he emphasized that the OIC would continue to stand by the Palestinians and support their aspirations for statehood. The United States vetoed on Friday the Kuwaiti-drafted UNSC resolution, while 10 out of the 15 UNSC member nations voted in favor of the draft. —KUNA

## Deputy FM meets Ambassadors

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday French Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy, German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner and British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport.

The meeting focused on the position of the three countries on the Iran nuclear deal (also known as the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action). The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with French Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy, German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner and British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. — KUNA

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## Local



# Movenpick hosts annual ghabqa for ambassadors and media delegates



**KUWAIT:** Movenpick Hotel Kuwait Free Zone, The Convention Center and Royal Suites and Inn and Go Kuwait Hotel Plaza organized their annual ghabqa in The Convention Center and Royal Suites at Free Zone, Noura Ballroom. The ghabqa was attended by ambassadors to Kuwait, VIPs, media delegates, journalists, representatives

from advertising agencies as well as bloggers and social media influencers. The famous TV anchor, Youmna Sherry, was the guest of honor who interacted and presented a series of contests and games to attendees as well as handed over valuable prizes and gifts to them.

The company's management and marketing team wel-



comed all guests including the Operations Manager, Mr. Ali Haddad who expressed his gratitude for the constant support of the local media. He also wished them a blessed Ramadan and invited them to experience the true spirit of Ramadan and enjoy the distinctive, authentic Arabian hospitality. During the event, guests enjoyed the Oriental

music as well as the mouth-watering Kuwaiti and Arabian cuisine, Ramadan juices and delicious Arabic sweets. At the end of this wonderful event, the company's team thanked all guests for their presence in their ghabqa, and wished to maintain the established, friendly relationship and continued mutual cooperation with them.



## ABK holds ghabqa for employees

**KUWAIT:** On the occasion of the Holy month of Ramadan, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held a ghabqa for its employees to celebrate the joyous event in the midst of a fun-filled atmosphere. The ghabqa was held on May 23, 2018 at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel with Group CEO, Michel Accad opening the evening with a warm message to all staff.

The event featured an exciting pro-

gram filled with entertainment including a traditional Kuwaiti band, a Jazz band, a decorated 'selfie' stand, and a calligraphy artist, who sketched pictures of ABK staff to take home as keepsakes. A number of exciting draws took place throughout the evening including travel tickets to top destinations such as Paris, London, Barcelona, Egypt, India and Dubai, in addition to 14 cash prizes.

The employee ghabqa is one of a series of events rolled out by the Bank in recognition of the Holy month. A few of the Bank's main initiatives this month was the provision of the Holy Quran in braille to the visually impaired, the distribution of food packages to the underprivileged and girgian celebrations with children in local hospitals in collaboration with KACCH.



## Children's Home, Al-Hamra become friends for life!

**KUWAIT:** Al-Hamra Real Estate Company, a leader in real estate development and management, recently concluded its 'Spread the Joy' campaign in partnership with Children's Home, an orphanage ran by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. 'Spread the Joy' brought together dignitaries, senior government officials, corporations, media representatives, the social media community and general public. Everyone stood united to create joyous moments for the little orphan boys and girls, spreading love and support ultimately, making them feel part of a bigger family.

On the occasion of girgian, Al-Hamra Real Estate Company recently hosted a benefit ghabqa reception at Al-Hamra Business Tower, which was attended by Yahya Al-Dakheel, Director of the Family Nursery Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, including senior officials and representatives from the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Wataniya Airways, Burgan Bank, Zain Telecom, Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, Belgian, French, German and US Embassies, in the midst of a fun-fill evening with the orphan children aged 4-15 years.

'Spread the Joy' campaign was designed to



promote happiness and compassion for a vulnerable group, show national solidarity and encourage artistic expression among young orphan kids inspiring them to dream big. Through a series of activities, Al-Hamra Real Estate Company also aimed to create positive and lasting memories for the kids during the blessed occasion.

The campaign saw the little orphan children participate in a drawing competition, design their own girgian boxes and engage in numerous lively activities. To acknowledge their creative talent, the artwork and girgian boxes were displayed at various locations at Al-Hamra Business Tower and Luxury Center. A limited

number of the girgian boxes that were embellished with the kids' drawings were sold, proceeds of which will now be used to provide innovative gifts, necessities and art kits to the orphans. The campaign received overwhelming support from several governmental sectors, international organizations, diplomatic missions, children's organizations, media, influencers and the general public.

Owing to its commitment to 'Youth Empowerment', Al-Hamra Real Estate Company will continue back and invest in youth activities that help build an inclusive, culturally rich and dynamic society showcasing the best of the Kuwaiti heritage, and promote healthy living.





Local



# Ooredoo celebrated girgian with children in hospitals



**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait participated via its volunteer program in celebrating girgian with the children in hospitals last week, as part of the company's agenda for the holy month of Ramadan. The visits included the hospitals of Jahra, Ibn Sina, and Al-Razi. The program's volunteers and Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Social Responsibility team, from the company's Corporate Communications Department, represented by CSR and Sponsorship Manager Sarah Al-Qabandi, shared the festivities of this traditional joyous occasion by distributing boxes of sweets and gifts on the children. The boxes were previously prepared by the volunteers in an event that fosters the values of caring and connecting, two of the core val-

ues of Ooredoo Kuwait. This year saw the launch of the fourth edition of the volunteer program, which is operated in collaboration with Spread the Passion non-profit organization. The program aims to educate youth and provide them with necessary training before matching them with volunteer opportunities. The program received more than 300 applicants this year. Ooredoo's volunteers have participated in more than 120 activities since the inception of the program four years ago, including iftar meal distribution in the company's iftar tent opposite the company's head office, in addition to its charity truck which drives to different locations

across Kuwait to deliver meals to those in need. Members of the program also contribute regularly in organizing visits to care centers for the elderly, the orphanage, and hospital wards throughout the holy month and around the year. The company launched its activities by distributing iftar meals to hundreds of workers from its Ramadan tent, with its prime location on Soor Street opposite its head office. To better serve a wider range of beneficiaries, the company utilizes a special truck that will deliver meals to areas populated by underserved communities. The meal distribution drive is fully operated by Ooredoo's volunteer program members, after the great success of the program

in the last years. The upper management at Ooredoo regularly participate in the activities, in addition to staff from the company's different departments and divisions. Ooredoo also held a special training session for registered members that focused on professional photography, with specialized cameras and advanced smartphone cameras. The session, which was presented by Ooredoo's Social Media Team, covered the basics of photography, photo editing, in addition to the best ways to angles of lighting. Ooredoo aims to hold several other training sessions throughout the course of the program aimed at enriching participants and helping them take their passion to the next level.



## Dates: The stable food of Ramadan

By Ben Garcia

Kuwait Times celebrates Ramadan in Kuwait with 30 days of the Icons of Ramadan. We highlight our favorite activities, events, symbols and foods that are popular during this holy month, along with Kuwait's Ramadan culture, history and traditions. Dates are the symbol of resiliency and steadfastness, and form the first bite of food after a whole day of fasting during Ramadan. Dates have been a staple food in the Middle East for thousands of years. It is the only fruit recommended by doctors to be taken for breaking the fast because it is proven to be very effective with a lot of nutritional value for an empty stomach. In Kuwait, every meal in Ramadan is served with dates. Dates can be purchased from Souq Mubarakia and many other places at a very reasonable

price. Dates can be grown anywhere, even in the harshest weather conditions. They are usually grown in farms, but in Kuwait date palms can be seen in the streets, gardens and homes of Kuwaitis, which makes the whole country a virtual palm tree plantation. Date or date palm is cultivated for its edible sweet fruit. Dates contain about 75 percent sugar when dried. The origins of the date tree are unknown, but it is mentioned in several holy books of major religions. Date trees typically reach about 21-23 m in height, growing singly or forming a clump with several stems from a single root system. When ready, the fruit is usually bright yellow or bright red depending on variety. The trees are also a favorite nesting place for native birds in Kuwait. Email us at [local@kuwaittimes.com](mailto:local@kuwaittimes.com) with your favorite symbols of Ramadan and Ramadan photos.

## AUB participated in minors authority's girgian ceremony



**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) has participated in the girgian ceremony held by the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) at the authority's headquarters in Murgab. This participation is part of the bank's rich and widely diversified program of activities during the holy month of Ramadan. In this context, Sahar Dashti, AUB's Deputy General Manager responsible for the bank's social responsibility program has stated: "We have welcomed this humanitarian and social participation in the PAMA Affairs ceremony of distributing girgian gifts to the children under their care. We are happy to have contributed by giving a few moments of pleasure and planting happy smiles on the faces of the young children. The celebration offered live

entertainment and featured a varied program that reflected our close relationship with the PAMA, our strong commitment to support their activities and to enhance the cooperation between the bank and PAMA and, first and foremost, our desire to bring joy and happiness to the children. We consider this a social commitment by us to our society, and an effective fulfillment of our wish to bring happiness to the hearts of our children." "The bank's social responsibility team," Dashti added, "makes many humanitarian visits to institutions all year round, and on many occasions, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. In this we emphasize our commitment to participate in these happy occasions and events, reflecting the true spirit of Kuwaiti society."

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US urges China to account for ‘ghosts’ of Tiananmen

## Lack of hope in South Sudan camps driving youth into gang crime

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This handout picture shows the Volcano Fuego during an eruption in El Rodeo, Guatemala on Sunday. — AFP

# Guatemala volcano eruption kills 25

## Search on for missing • Israel dispatches emergency aid

**ALOTENANGO, Guatemala:** Emergency workers resumed the search yesterday for Guatemalans missing after the eruption of the Fuego volcano, which belched out clouds of ash and flows of lava and left at least 25 people dead. The volcano expelled hot muddy material that caused the deaths - including of several children - in communities located on its southern slope, disaster agency spokesman David de Leon said in a WhatsApp group. Search and rescue operations were suspended due to low light and dangerous conditions, but resumed early yesterday morning, he said.

The Institute of Volcanology said the eruption ended after over 16 hours of activity, but warned that it could resume again and recommended precautionary measures be maintained. The eruption of the 3,763-m volcano sent ash billowing over the surrounding area, turning plants and trees gray and blanketing streets, cars and people. Farmers covered in ash fled for their lives as civil defense workers tried to relocate them to shelters during the event. “This time we were saved; in another (eruption) no,” said Efrain Gonzalez, 52, sitting on the floor of a shelter in the city of Escuintla, where he arrived with his wife and one-year-old daughter after fleeing the hard-hit El Rodeo community.

Gonzalez was overwhelmed with despair, as two more of his children, aged 10 and four, are missing. They were trapped in their home, which was flooded with hot mud that descended from the volcano. National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (Conred) chief Sergio Cabanas did not rule out the number of dead increasing, as there are “missing persons, but we do not know how many.”

### Thousands evacuated, airport closed

Cabanas said that the eruption also left 20 injured and affected more than 1.7 million people. President Jimmy Morales and his government declared three days of mourning and a state of emergency for Escuintla, Chimaltenango and Sacatepequez, which must still be ratified by Congress. Hundreds of personnel from the police, Red Cross and military have been dispatched to support emergency operations, Morales said. Cabanas said that the dead included a civil protection official.

Some 3,000 people were evacuated due to the eruption, which affected rural communities around the volcano as well as Antigua Guatemala, a colonial-era town very popular with tourists in the Central American country, he said. Dense ash blasted out by the volcano shut down Guatemala City’s international airport, civil avia-

tion said. People were working to clean ash off the runways to get the airport operating again.

Israel said yesterday it was sending emergency aid worth \$10,000 to Guatemala. Foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said on Twitter the money will be used to buy emergency equipment, namely medication, food, blankets. Israel will coordinate further needs with Guatemalan authorities, he said. Guatemala was one of the few countries to side with the United States after President Donald Trump’s December recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, breaking with decades of US diplomacy and international consensus. On May 16, Guatemala opened its new embassy in Jerusalem, just two days after the US. Since then Paraguay has also followed suit.

The eruption is the second major one this year from the peak, following another that subsided at the beginning of February after sending ash towering 1.7 kilometers into the sky. A Sept 2012 eruption of the volcano saw 10,000 people evacuated, while another in February 2015 forced the closure of the capital’s main airport. Apart from the Fuego volcano, there are two other active volcanoes in Guatemala. One of them, Pacaya, is just 20 km from Guatemala City. —Agencies



Police officers carry a wounded man after the eruption of the Fuego on Sunday. — AFP

## Duterte stirs controversy by kissing woman

**MANILA:** A kiss by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on a Filipino woman’s lips while on an official visit in South Korea sparked anger and jokes yesterday, as feminists denounced what they called his “perverted way” of taunting his female critics. Many Filipinos, however, thought it was a harmless kiss intended to be fun. The 73-year-old Duterte, whose critics have labeled him a misogynist and say his comments are derogatory and demeaning towards women, dismissed the kiss as just a “gimmick” to entertain supporters at a meet-and-greet event in Seoul.

Social media was abuzz with photos and videos of Duterte on stage before a crowd of Filipinos on Sunday night, when he asked an unidentified audience member to kiss him in exchange for a book he was handing out. The woman, who admitted she is married and appeared excited to see Duterte in person, agreed. Duterte then told the cheering crowd of about 3,000: “Don’t take it seriously. It’s just for fun, a gimmick.” State-run Philippine News Agency identified the woman as Bea Kim and posted a brief video interview with her on its Facebook page. “There wasn’t malice in it,” she said. “For me, for him, it didn’t mean anything.”

Duterte’s controversial remarks about women include numerous jokes about rape and have incensed activists and foreigners, most notably, Chelsea Clinton, the daughter of former US President Bill Clinton. But none have



SEOUL: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte burns incense at the National Cemetery yesterday. — AFP

dented the hugely popular leader’s domestic support. Women’s rights advocates in the Philippines recently launched an online #BabaeAko (I Am A Woman) campaign to send a message that they were not taking Duterte’s “sexist” statements sitting down.

“You don’t have to kiss that woman if you want to entertain people,” said Joms Salvador, secretary-general of Gabriela Women’s Party. “The fact that you thought that kissing the woman would entertain people...that’s something really sick.” Opposition Senator Risa Hontiveros said that even though the kiss was consensual, it was a “grave abuse of authority”.

Anna Pinili, a churchgoer who considers herself a devout Catholic, said Duterte had good intentions, but could have handled it better. “He should have kissed her on the cheeks

instead,” she said. Father of two Raymond Pascual said people were making too much of a deal of it, and he thought it was just a “simple kiss”. Making the rounds also on social media was a spoof photo of the same kiss, but with the woman replaced by superimposed image of China’s President Xi Jinping, in an attempt to poke fun at Duterte’s high regard for his Chinese counterpart.

Duterte has fought publicly with powerful women who criticized his deadly narcotics crackdown and human rights record. He labeled the now-ousted head of the nation’s judiciary, Maria Lourdes Sereno, an “enemy” before her colleagues on the Supreme Court sacked her last month. Duterte critic Senator Leila de Lima is behind bars on charges she insists are politically motivated after battling with the president. —Agencies

## Macron’s chief of staff probed for conflict of interest

**PARIS:** French anti-corruption prosecutors said yesterday they have opened an investigation into President Emmanuel Macron’s chief of staff Alexis Kohler over his links to Italian shipping giant MSC. The probe will look into Kohler’s career as a senior civil servant in France’s economy ministry, where he served as cabinet director to Macron during Macron’s time as minister from 2014-2016. The financial crimes’ prosecutor office said it would check whether Kohler respected conflict of interest rules for civil servants as he “could have dealt with issues of interest” to MSC.

Kohler’s mother is a cousin of billionaire Rafaela Aponte, who founded the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) with her husband Gianluci in 1970. The group is now a global leader in container shipping and cruise holidays. Macron’s office yesterday dismissed the allegations of wrongdoing, first revealed by investigative website Mediapart, as “completely unfounded”.

“Alexis Kohler will willingly send to prosecutors all of the documents that prove his respect of the law during his professional life,” the presidency said in a statement.

The case is an unwelcome development for the 40-year-old French leader who has been labeled the “president of the rich” by leftist opponents accusing him of being too close to company owners and entrepreneurs. It also adds to a list of legal investigations targeting political allies which have the potential to cause problems if any of the allegations are proven in court. Labor Minister Muriel Penicaud, who also worked with Macron while he was economy minister, is being investigated over an evening she organised in Las Vegas to promote French technology companies in 2016. The contract to organize the event, which initially cost nearly 400,000 euros (468,000 dollars) and featured Macron as guest of honor, was not put out to tender, leading to accusations of favoritism. She also denies wrongdoing. Soon after his election last May, Macron’s close ally Richard Ferrand stepped down from his job as minister for social cohesion after being probed over a property deal involving a public health fund he headed. And several other ministers from the centrist MoDem party, which backed Macron as president, also withdrew from the government over an investigation into alleged misuse of EU funds for political parties. —AFP





# THE INDIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, KUWAIT

TEL : 25629583, 25659126, 25613260, 25633570 - FAX : 25652308 [www.icsk-kw.com](http://www.icsk-kw.com)

## ICSK BASKS IN GLORY WITH MOMENTOUS RESULTS IN CBSE CLASS X & XII EXAMINATION

### CBSE CLASS XII- RECORD BREAKING PERFORMANCE-305 DISTINCTIONS OUT OF 332 (92%)

#### KUWAIT TOPPERS



ABIMATHI ANANTH  
Science (97.4%)



KARTHIKEYAN SURESH  
Science (97.4%)



NITYA KAPOOR  
Commerce (95.8%)



GAYATHRI NAIR  
Humanities (91.2%)



BATUL HUSAINI  
Humanities (91.2%)

#### ICSK TOPPERS

#### ICSK SUBJECT TOPPERS



BATUL HUSAINI  
(History 92%)



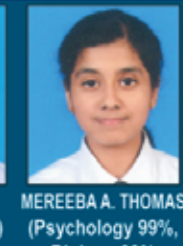
GAYATHRI NAIR  
(Political Sc. 88%)



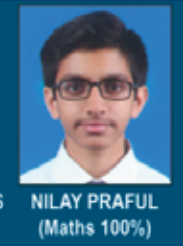
FIRDAUS SALIM  
(Economics 97%,  
Accountancy 95%)



NITYA KAPOOR  
(Economics 97%)



MEREEBA A. THOMAS  
(Psychology 99%,  
Biology 99%)



NILAY PRAFUL  
(Maths 100%)



JOHN DANIEL P.  
(Physics 98%)



KARTHIKEYAN SURESH  
(Chemistry 100%)



ANURAJ  
(Physical Ed. 97%)



ABIMATHI ANANTH  
(Painting 99%)



NAGA SREEJA  
(Painting 99%)



MURIEL FERNANDEZ  
(Fashion St. 92%)



NANDITA MARIAM  
(Business St. 97%)



MIRIA JOHNSON  
(Home Sc. 97%  
English 97%)



VILEENA ANN  
(Informatics PR 98%)



JERRY ROY V.  
(Informatics PR 98%)



TARIQ AHMED  
(Web Tec. 98%)



COLIN CHARLES  
(Computer Sc. 99%)



VIVEK PRASAD  
(Computer Sc. 99%)



SNEHA SRIDHARAN  
(Computer Sc. 99%)

#### 90% AND ABOVE



KARTHIKEYAN S.  
97.4%



ABIMATHI ANANTH  
97.4%



JOHN DANIEL P.  
97.2%



MEREEBA A. THOMAS  
97%



SHABBIR MURTAZA  
96.6%



SNEHA SRIDHARAN  
96.6%



NILAY PRAFUL  
95.8%



NITYA KAPOOR  
95.8%



ATHIRA SREELA  
95.6%



HANAN HASHIM  
95.2%



MIRIA JOHNSON  
95.2%



TARIQ AHMED  
95.2%



JUWERIYA NASIR  
94.8%



PAVAN KUMAR  
94.8%



DAANISH BAIG  
94.8%



BUSHRA T.  
94.6%



RANJANA R.  
94.6%



VILEENA ANN P.  
94.4%



FIRDAUS SALIM  
94.4%



LUJAMOL V.  
94.4%



POOJA DHARSHINI  
94.4%



JENNIFER DELSY  
94.4%



KARTHIK S.  
94.4%



COLIN CHARLES  
94.2%



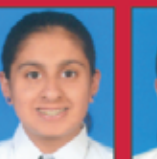
SARAH JOHNSON  
94.2%



ARJUN R.  
94%



MERIL SUSAN  
93.8%



KRIPA ELSA V.  
93.8%



DIYA MARY V.  
93.6%



SHARON MANOJ  
93.6%



ANEEZ MOHAMMED  
93.6%



SALAMUDEEN T.  
93.4%



ETHAN ROSS D.  
93.2%



AASIF KHAN  
93.2%



SILLA SWASTIK  
93%



SIDDHARTH ABY  
92.6%



ASHLY SHIBU  
92.4%



AKASH PHILOPOSE  
92.4%



YUSRA AFZAL  
92.2%



FATEMA ABUL  
92.2%



ROHAN PHILIP  
92.2%



ANKITA BIJU  
92%



VIVEK PRASAD  
92%



DALE MARIA  
92%



VISHAKHA J.  
91.8%



NANDITHA N.  
91.8%



SHAIKH NAMEERA  
91.2%



BENJAMIN COMMEN  
91.2%



MUFADDAL L.  
91.2%



GAYATHRI NAIR  
91.2%



BATUL HUSAINI  
91.2%



UMME HANI  
91%



RUTH MARY RAJI  
91%



ROYCE DSOUZA  
90.8%



HASAN HABIBULLA  
90.8%



AREFA SHABBIR  
90.6%



FUAD ABOU  
90.6%



PRIYADARSHINI  
90.4%



JULIANA MARIAM  
90.2%



MOHAMMED FALAH  
90.2%



ASTREL REBECCA  
90.2%



ALEFIYA  
90.2%



DAVID THOMAS  
90%



SHABBIR MOHAMMED  
90%



HINAL SRIVASTAVA  
90%



ABI JOHN THOMAS  
90%



FATEMA ABBAS  
90%



ABDUL RAHIM  
90%



KARTHIK RAMESH  
90%

\* Kuwait Topper - Science (97.4 %), Commerce - 95.8%,  
ICSK Toppers - Humanities - (91.2%)  
\* 332 Students appeared for the exam, highest in Kuwait.  
\* Abimathi Ananth and Karthikeyan Suresh - Science  
Stream Toppers (97.4 %)

\* Nitya Kapoor - Commerce Stream Topper - 95.8%  
\* Gayathri Nair and Batul Husaini Daliwala - Humanities  
Stream Topper (91.2%)  
\* 332 First Class (100%) & 305 Distinctions (92%) out of  
332 students.

## CBSE CLASS X - SCALING GREATER HEIGHTS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#### CENTUM SCORERS (100%)



DEENA ELSA GEORGE  
ENGLISH



GAUTAM PRAKASH  
MATHEMATICS



DHEERAJ RAMESH  
MATHEMATICS



JESSICA HENRY SERRAO  
MATHEMATICS



AISWARYA HARIGOPAL  
SOCIAL SCIENCE



SANDRA SHAJAN  
SOCIAL SCIENCE



AMANI ANWARHUSEN  
SOCIAL SCIENCE



TIMOTHY THOMAS  
SOCIAL SCIENCE



HUSSAIN MUSTAFA  
SCIENCE



ALVIN MANOJ ALEX  
SCIENCE

#### ICSK TOPPERS



GAUTAM PRAKASH  
97.6% (RANK 1)



AKSHARA JUI  
97.4% (RANK 2)



ALVIN MANOJ ALEX  
97.4% (RANK 2)



JOHN HARSHITH  
97% (RANK 3)

#### 90% AND ABOVE



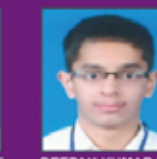
GAUTAM PRAKASH  
97.4%



ALVIN MANOJ ALEX  
97%



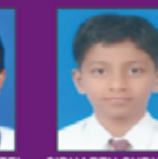
JOHN HARSHITH K.  
97%



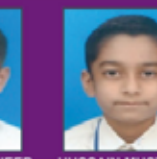
DEEPAK KUMAR T.  
95.4%



RUDRA VIPUL PATEL  
95.4%



SIDDHARTH SUDHEER  
95.2%



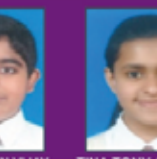
HUSSAIN MUSTAFA  
SHAFIQUE - 94.8%



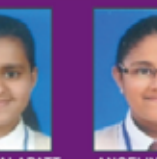
AVINASH KUMAR ANIL  
KUMAR - 93.8%



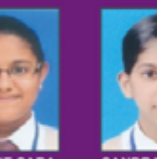
JAYKRISHNAN VIJAY  
KRISHNAN - 93.8%



TINA TONY ALAPATT  
93.6%



ANGELINE SARA  
SANTHOSH - 93.6%



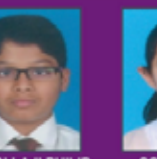
SANDRA SHAJAN  
93.4%



CHERISH CHERIAN  
SUNIL - 93.2%



JOHANN LAJI PHILIP  
92.8%



SOPHIA SAJI  
VARGHESE - 92.2%



HARNAM SINGH  
SAWNEY - 92%



MELAN VARGHESE  
91.6%



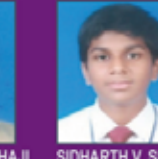
JOEL ANTO  
91.6%



ELWIN GEORGE  
JOECHIM - 91.6%



CHRISA SUSAN SHAJI  
91.4%



SIDDHARTH V. SIJU  
91.4%



VEDHIKA KALPESH  
GUDIWALLA - 91.2%



DARREN SLI  
SEBASTIAN - 91%



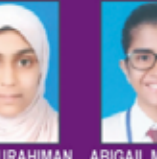
SAFA JAVID RAWOOT  
91%



MURINTA RACHEL  
MATHEW - 91%



HUDA ABDURRAHMAN  
K PARAMBIL - 90.8%



ABIGAIL MARY YANG  
90.8%



MANPREET SINGH  
90.6%



AKSHARA JUI  
97.4%



International

# Lack of hope in S Sudan camps driving youth into gang crime

## International aid agencies struggling to assist displaced people

**POC3 CAMP, Juba:** Having twice escaped the clutches of South Sudanese rebels who forced him to fight with them, Puok Barar, a grinning 16-year-old in rubber flip-flops decorated with the word “LOVE”, has already confronted many of his worst fears. But in the PoC3 camp for people uprooted by violence and conflict, encircled by a barbed-wire fence on the outskirts of the capital Juba, where Barar now lives, he is still afraid. His kidnappers may be far away, but inside the muddy camp of ramshackle tents, youths his age prowl, attacking others.

“They arm themselves with machetes and knives,” Barar told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. He described rampant alcohol and drug use by young gangs with names like G-Unit and Westlife, who fight, steal and abuse others. His friend Nyenhial James Lam, 16, said the gang culture also extends to teenage girls, who have formed their own groups and take drugs. “The girls fight like the boys,” she said. Civil war erupted in South Sudan - the world’s youngest nation, created in 2011 when it gained independence from Sudan - after clashes in 2013 between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and others supporting his former deputy Riek Machar.

The violence, including gang rapes and attacks on civilians, has forced a third of the country’s 12 million people to flee their homes. Tens of thousands sought safety as close as they could get to bases housing United Nations’ peacekeepers. These “Protection of Civilians” (PoC) sites were intended as temporary refuges, said Rob Simpson, country director for aid agency ACTED who manages three such camps. Yet stalled peace negotiations, together with rampant state corruption and no let-up in fighting, mean many people still cannot go home - and young people are bearing the brunt.

The United Nations runs six civilian protection sites across the country, housing more than 200,000 people. In the past five years, four of the camps have been attacked by armed mobs, resulting in more than 180 deaths, according to the London-based Overseas Development Institute. Thomas Makur Ruop, head teacher at Barar’s school, is worried for the first generation that will come of age in South Sudan.

“They are addicted to alcohol, crime and all those things. One day, they are going to be robbers (and) they may take the power,” Ruop said, watching children selling dried fish, rolling rusty bicycle wheels and playing in muddy puddles. “They may develop something different, like what there is in Nigeria - Boko Haram,” he said, referring to the Islamist militant group active around Lake Chad. Using tactics from suicide bombings to abductions and theft, most Boko Haram members are unemployed, frustrated youths from under-developed parts of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

### ‘Crime center’

ACTED’s Simpson said some children who were born in the PoC camp have never left its confines. “You’re living within a razor wire fence. It’s all you see,” he said. Having escaped from the ranks of a rebel group that took him from his village, Barar is one of the luckier ones. About 19,000 minors are still being used by armed forces and groups in South Sudan, according to the United Nations. The UN children’s agency UNICEF has announced the release of more than 500 child soldiers from captivity since February, but recruitment of children by militias continues.

At the PoC sites, crime has dropped by close to a third in the past year due to interventions by peacekeepers and community police. But gangs - mostly made up of young men aged between 15 and 20 - are still causing trouble, from vandalism and brawling to domestic violence, said Francesca Mold of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). A lack of opportunities stemming from entrenched poverty is a driving force behind the problem, she said. The situation in the PoCs is worse in other parts of South Sudan, said ACTED’s Simpson. One camp in Bentiu in Unity State has a reputation as “the youth gang crime centre”, he added. “In Juba, there’s a fear it could go the same way,” he said.

### Aid shortages

International aid agencies are struggling to assist displaced people as they would in camps elsewhere, said



Vendors and customers walk through a market in a Protection of Civilians (PoC) camp on the outskirts of Juba, South Sudan. —Reuters

### Out of school

Barar sees going to school as his best bet for the future. “Those who have studied well ... are not recruited (by armed groups) because they are working,” he said. Today 2 million South Sudanese children are out of school and more than 70 percent of the population are illiterate, according to the United Nations and Human Rights Watch. PoC3 has three schools run by foreign aid agencies, including the one Ruop heads. But they suffer from a shortage of materials, including secondary-level books, noted the teacher. The government is unwilling to help and widespread corruption prolongs the suffering, Ruop said, urging the international community to step up efforts to bring peace. “South Sudan is a very rich country - we have oil resources, we have agriculture, we have brains,” he said. “We cannot be like this.” —Reuters

## Madagascar PM makes way for ‘consensus’ premier

**ANTANANARIVO:** Madagascar’s prime minister announced his resignation yesterday in the first step towards the naming of a “consensus” premier to resolve a political crisis sparked by controversial electoral reforms. The Indian Ocean island nation has been rocked by protests that initially sought to oppose new laws the opposition said were crafted to bar their candidates from participating in elections planned for later this year.

The Constitutional Court has ordered President Hery Rajaonarimampianina to form a government of national unity with a “consensus prime minister” to avert a full-blown crisis. For that to happen, the current government was required to resign and the president was ordered to name a new prime minister by June 12. “I will tender my resignation to the president today. As a statesman, I cannot be an obstacle to the life of the nation,” Olivier Mahafaly Solonandrasana told a press briefing. “I resign willingly and with happiness. I have no regrets today and I can leave with my head held high. I will leave this magnificent palace, (but) I tell you this is not ‘goodbye,’” he added without giving details of his future plans. No successor to Solonandrasana has yet been named. —AFP

## Nigeria’s Senate chief summoned over robbery

**LAGOS:** Nigerian police on Sunday summoned the head of the upper house of parliament for questioning after members of a criminal gang implicated him following a brutal bank robbery that left 33 people dead. Senate President Bukola Saraki, the third-most powerful politician in the country who has denied the allegation, served from 2003 to 2011 as state governor of Kwara, where the brazen daylight robberies took place in the central town of Offa on April 5.

National police spokesman Jimoh Moshood said 22 suspects have been arrested over the robbery of six Offa banks, including five ring leaders who alleged Saraki’s involvement in the gang. “Senate President, Senator Bukola Saraki is being invited by the Nigeria Police Force... to answer to the allegations levelled against him from the confessions of the five gang leaders,” Moshood said in a statement.

He said the gang leaders confessed to be working for Saraki as “political thugs under the name Youth Liberation Movement aka ‘Good Boys.’” They also “admitted and confessed to have been sponsored with firearms, money and operational vehicles by the Senate President, Senator Bukola Saraki and the Governor of Kwara State, Alhaji Abdullatah Ahmed.” Moshood said a Lexus jeep purportedly owned by Saraki and used during the robberies had been traced to the government office in Ilorin, Kwara’s state capital, and two of the governor’s personal aides had also been arrested. —AFP

## Bosnia struggles to cope with migrant influx

**BIHAC, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Bosnia, one of Europe’s poorest countries, is so ill-equipped to cope with a surging influx of refugees that aid workers here fear the tiny nation could be on the brink of a humanitarian crisis. The impoverished Balkan country has seen a sharp rise in the number of arrivals, particularly young men hoping to cross over into the European Union via neighboring Croatia. But with next to no cash, decrepit infrastructure and fragile institutions that are divided along ethnic lines, Bosnia is in no position to cope with the numbers.

And aid workers say they are already at breaking point. “It’s exhausting. We will do our best, but we have our limits,” said Red Cross official Selam Midzic, who reckons he sees around a hundred migrants arriving here every day on buses from Sarajevo. According to Bosnia’s Minister for Security, Dragan Mektic, 5,100 illegal entries were registered in 2018. And an additional 3,300 people have been “turned back at the border” with Serbia and Montenegro.

## Slovenia set for instability after inconclusive polls

**LJUBLJANA:** Slovenia yesterday faced a period of political instability after the party of veteran rightwinger Janez Jansa, who invoked the spectre of a migrant invasion on the campaign trail, won snap elections but fell far short of a majority. With virtually all the votes counted, Jansa’s SDS secured just under 25 percent - giving it 25 seats in the 90-seat assembly - and the “anti-establishment” LMS party of comedian-turned-politician Marjan Sarec came second with 12.7 percent and 13 seats, the State Election Commission said. The Vecer daily headlined: “Jansa won, what now?”

Columnist Matija Stepisnik said the result left “no one with any real cause for celebration” adding that “the path to Slovenia’s 13th government will be demanding and unpredictable.” During the campaign, Jansa made common cause with fellow right-wing firebrand Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, evoking memories of more than 500,000 migrants who crossed Slovenia in late 2015 and early 2016 - even though all but a handful of them continued on to northern Europe.

In a televised statement on Sunday evening, delivered with little triumphalism, the 59-year-old Jansa said his Slovenian

Mektic has asked the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) for one million euros (\$1.2 million) to handle the crisis. But one aid worker, who asked not to be named, said the EU cash could come too late to avoid a humanitarian crisis. Red Cross official Midzic agreed. “The state simply cannot wait any longer to get involved” and handle the situation “in an organized way,” he said.

### Allegations of police violence

For the past month, around one hundred volunteers have been taking care of the migrants in the northwestern town of Bihac, distributing food in the dilapidated university campus where many of them are squatting. Two weeks ago, the number of meals the volunteers prepared was 200. That number has since grown to 550. Among the migrants are families with children. But most of them are young men, stopping here before trying to cross over into Croatia. Nawab, a 26-year old Pakistani who did not want to give his last name, said he had been on the road for two years. “I will try to cross the border tonight. I will first go to Italy, once I’m there I will go to my uncle who is in Spain, in Barcelona.”

According to Peter Van Der Auwerart, head of the Bosnian mission of the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), around 2,500 migrants were currently in Bosnia, which meant that many man-



BIHAC: Approximately 500 migrants sit for a meal during lunchtime at a makeshift migrant center in this northwestern Bosnian town on May 31, 2018. —AFP

aged to cross over into the EU. Another Pakistani, 27-year-old Hamid, said he had tried three times to reach the EU, but failed. He accuses the Croatian police - an allegation frequently made by others, including NGOs - of violence. “They take our money,

our telephones, or wreck them by submerging them in water.” A Bosnian police officer explained that refugees who succeeded in getting across the border used the telephones to text the details of the route to their friends following them.—AFP



LJUBLJANA: Former prime minister and president of Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) Janez Jansa gives a statement after the first official results of the parliamentary elections on Sunday. —AFP

an “unlucky winner” and said his history of feuds and confrontation with other political actors will come back to haunt him. Jansa’s political career stretches back to the country’s struggle for independence from Yugoslavia and has already seen its fair share of drama. In 2013 he was forced to step down from a second term as prime minister over a corruption scandal and ran in the 2014 elections from jail - the conviction was later overturned.

In this campaign he promised to tackle

the thorny issues of healthcare reform and disputes with neighbor Croatia, as well as promising tax cuts. But it was his combative personality, anti-immigration rhetoric and alliance with Orban that dominated the closing stages of the campaign. “Thanks to its (migration) policy, Hungary is a safe country while Belgium, due to its wrong policy, isn’t,” read a recent, typically provocative, Jansa tweet. Last month Orban said a SDS victory “would ensure the survival of the Slovenian people”. —AFP

Democratic Party’s “door for talks and coalitions is open” to all other parties. The only party which has so far said it would work with Jansa, the centre-right Nova Slovenija, won just 7.1 percent and seven seats, leaving the two parties short of the 46 needed for a majority. Just under 52 percent of Slovenia’s 1.7 million eligible voters turned out.

### ‘Red lines’

Once parliament is officially convened later this month, President Borut Pahor is expected to ask Jansa to form a government, but analysts warn negotiations could drag on for months. Sarec and his second-placed LMS party will now play a crucial role, and on Sunday Sarec reiterated his opposition to Jansa and his anti-immigrant rhetoric. Speaking to the POP TV station, Sarec said he was “very happy” with the results, hinting that he could band with other parties to keep Jansa out of power.

The center-left Social Democrats finished third on 9.9 percent, followed by the SMC party of outgoing prime minister Miro Cerar on 9.7 percent and the left-wing Levica party with 9.3 percent. Early elections were called in March after Cerar threw in the towel following months of public-sector strikes and internal wrangling within his coalition. On Sunday Cerar told POP TV that the “results show that we (SMC) remain an important player on the political stage”.

### Fear of migrants

Writing in the Delo daily yesterday, historian Luka Lisjak Gabrijelcic called Jansa



International

# US urges China to account for ‘ghosts’ of Tiananmen

## Hong Kong independence duo given jail term

**BEIJING/HONG KONG:** The United States urges China to make a full public account of those killed, detained or who went missing during a crackdown on student-led pro-democracy protests in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. The Chinese government sent tanks to quell the June 4, 1989 protests, and has never released a death toll. Estimates from human rights groups and witnesses range from several hundred to several thousand.

The Tiananmen crackdown is a taboo subject in China and 29 years later it remains a point of contention between China and many Western countries. In a statement on Sunday the recently appointed Pompeo said he remembered "the tragic loss of innocent lives". "As Liu Xiaobo wrote in his 2010 Nobel Peace Prize speech, delivered in absentia, 'the ghosts of June 4th have not yet been laid to rest'," Pompeo said referring to the Chinese dissident who died last year while still in custody. "We join others in the international community in urging the Chinese government to make a full public accounting of those killed, detained or missing," Pompeo added.

In response to Pompeo's comments, China had lodged "stern representations" with the United States, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said yesterday. China long ago reached a clear conclusion about the events of

that era, but the United States every year issues statements of "gratuitous criticism" and interferes in its internal affairs, Hua said. "The US Secretary of State has absolutely no qualifications to demand the Chinese government do anything," she added.

Hu Xijin, editor of nationalistic tabloid the Global Times, called Pompeo's statement a "meaningless stunt" that "represents a wish of the Western world to meddle in China's political process". The Chinese Communist Party no longer mentions the Tiananmen incident in order to help Chinese society move on, which it has successfully done, Hu added, writing in English on Twitter, which is blocked in China.

Tens of thousands of people gathered later in the day in Hong Kong to mark the anniversary, the only place in China where such large-scale public commemorations happen. On Tiananmen Square, security was tight as is usual for the anniversary, with no signs of any protests or other memorial events. Foreigners' passports were checked by Chinese police at a checkpoint nearly a kilometre from the square. A Reuters reporter was turned away and told that unapproved "interview activities" were forbidden in the square yesterday.

In their annual open letter, the Tiananmen Mothers, who represent the families of those who died, said the government was guilty of serious disrespect by ignoring their requests

for redress. "Such a powerful proletarian dictatorship apparatus is afraid of us: the old, the sick, and the weakest and most vulnerable of our society," they wrote in a letter addressed to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In Taiwan, the democratic and self-ruled island China claims as its own, President Tsai Ing-wen said that if China could face up to what had happened it could become the bedrock for China's own democratic transformation. "I hope that both sides of the Taiwan Strait can enjoy the universal values of freedom and democracy," she said in a statement on her Facebook page written in the simplified Chinese script used in China. Facebook is also blocked in China.

Meanwhile, two Hong Kong independence activists who were stripped of their status as lawmakers in 2016 were sentenced to four weeks in prison yesterday for their role in a fracas that disrupted proceedings in the city's parliament. Baggio Leung and Yau Wai-ching belong to Hong Kong's embattled independence movement, which is calling for the semi-autonomous city to split from China as its freedoms come under threat from Beijing.

The pair were told they had "directly hurt the dignity of the legislative council" by judge Wong Sze-lai, who went on to grant them bail pending appeal. They were both held in custody after the sentencing while the court awaited their bail money. —Agencies



**BEIJING:** People arrive in Victoria Park ahead of a candlelight vigil yesterday to mark the 29th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown in Beijing. — AFP

## Delhi slum drowning in plastic

**NEW DELHI:** A sea of plastic spreads through the New Delhi slum of Taimur Nagar, a symbol of the grime and waste that makes the Indian capital one of the world's most polluted cities. The plastic bottles, bags, food wrappers and other detritus have gushed out of a drain that ends in the shanty, leaving stinking sewer water clogging the roads. Stray dogs, goats and cows munch the plastic waste as toddlers run around trying to retrieve footballs and water bottles.

India is to be the focus of World Environment Day today, but it is far from the minds of the long-suffering inhabitants of Taimur Nagar. "You can see how bad the conditions are here. It's completely choked with plastic," said Bhola Ram, shaking his head. Taimur Nagar is one of many slums in Delhi and countless other Indian cities struggling to cope with waste, particularly the plastic pollution that is the main theme of World Environment Day.

India is to organize beach cleanups, an exhibition of green technology and art installations - symbols of its growing economic clout. One engineer, Rajagopalan Vasudevan, has developed a process where plastic waste is shredded up and used in new roads.

### A plastic hell

But a sweeping look over Taimur Nagar underlines the challenges the country faces with its waste. India generates around 5.6 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, according to government figures, with Delhi among the worst cities for plastic consumption. The city banned plastic bags in 2009 and later expanded it to all plastic packaging and single-use disposable plastic. But the ban is rarely enforced. Plastic bags are still the staple for carrying vegetables, fruit, meat and restaurant takeaways.

Taimur Nagar's residents know little of the hazards of non-biodegradable plastic to the water supply and the animals sat around. Used to the filth, residents say they are resigned to their fate. "It's like living in hell. You can see there is plastic garbage everywhere. We are poor and we have no choice but to live and die here," said Shreepal Singh, a waste dealer. Conditions were not always not so bad. "When I came here 40 years ago the drain had clean water. The area was not so dirty. —AFP

## Bomber kills 14 after Afghan clerics outlaw suicide bombings

**KABUL:** At least 14 people were killed in a suicide bombing yesterday near a gathering of top clerics in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, roughly one hour after the group proclaimed such attacks a sin, police said. The blast in the western part of the city, near universities and a police academy, is the latest demonstration of the militants' chilling ability to carry out attacks in the heart of Kabul, which is now the deadliest place in the country for civilians.

The bomber detonated at about 11.30 am (0700 GMT) at the gates of Kabul's Polytechnic University, police and officials said. The Loya Jirga tent where thousands of clerics from across Afghanistan were meeting on the campus. The tent is a huge venue often used for top religious or government gatherings. "Loya Jirga" means "grand assembly" in Pashto. Most of the casualties were civilians.

Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish confirmed it was a suicide attack, and said the bomber had been on foot when he detonated his explosives at the university gate. Police spokesman Stanikzai said the blast was outside the tent. No group has claimed the attack, but the Taliban issued a statement on Twitter saying its fighters had "nothing to do" with the bombing. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group have stepped up their headline-grabbing assaults on the heavily fortified capital in recent months. —AFP

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## Italy's eurosceptics and currency ideas take centre-stage

If Italy leaves the euro, it will be late on a Friday night. Government officials will have planned the move in the utmost secrecy, telling their European partners only that same evening while simultaneously ordering the shutdown of banks and financial markets to prevent a stampede of capital out of the country. This is "Italy's Plan B", an eye-popping contingency scenario drawn up by the team at a website specializing in economic issues, for how the euro zone's third-largest economy should go about returning to the lira if necessary.

The 80-page pamphlet was overlooked when it first appeared in October 2015, and would ordinarily have stayed that way. But then one of the best-known contributors to the website, 81-year-old economist Paolo Savona, was put forward last week as a candidate for economy minister under the new anti-establishment coalition between the right-wing League and the 5-Star Movement. The government forged on Thursday has since relegated Savona to the more junior European affairs portfolio after the head of state refused to allow an arch eurosceptic to occupy the key economics ministry.

And inside the League, which is dominant in the wealthy Lombardy and Veneto regions in the north, sources say there are no signs of anxiety that leader Matteo Salvini would ever risk the chaos of pulling the country out of the single currency. Nevertheless, "Plan B" remains on the list of compulsory reading for those seeking to understand the intellectual foundations of the new coalition. Salvini in particular has been instrumental in bringing Savona and several other eurosceptic economists and their ideas out of intellectual obscurity and into the cabinet for the first time, people familiar with the situation said.

The new economy minister, Giovanni Tria, economics professor at Rome's Tor Vergata University, was not involved in outlining "Plan B", but he too is no fan of the euro. Last year he wrote that "not even European Central Bank president Mario Draghi is right when he says the euro 'is irreversible', unless he clarifies the conditions and timings of the reforms needed to save the euro". On Friday night, however, he told Reuters that he "never said that Italy must leave the euro". "A debate on how to reform Europe is going on all over the block and in Italy too. There is no political force in Italy that wants to leave the euro," he added.

### Monetary 'slavery'

Salvini has cited the work of eurosceptic thinkers in characterizing the currency union as a form of monetary "slavery", a view not promoted by the League and its heavily business-based supporters until he became its head in 2013. "Eurosceptic economists have been very able to build up a consensus on social media. Thanks to Salvini, they have now emerged from the academic shadows," said Riccardo Puglisi, a political economy professor at the University of Pavia and one of the most vocal critics of the idea of leaving the euro.

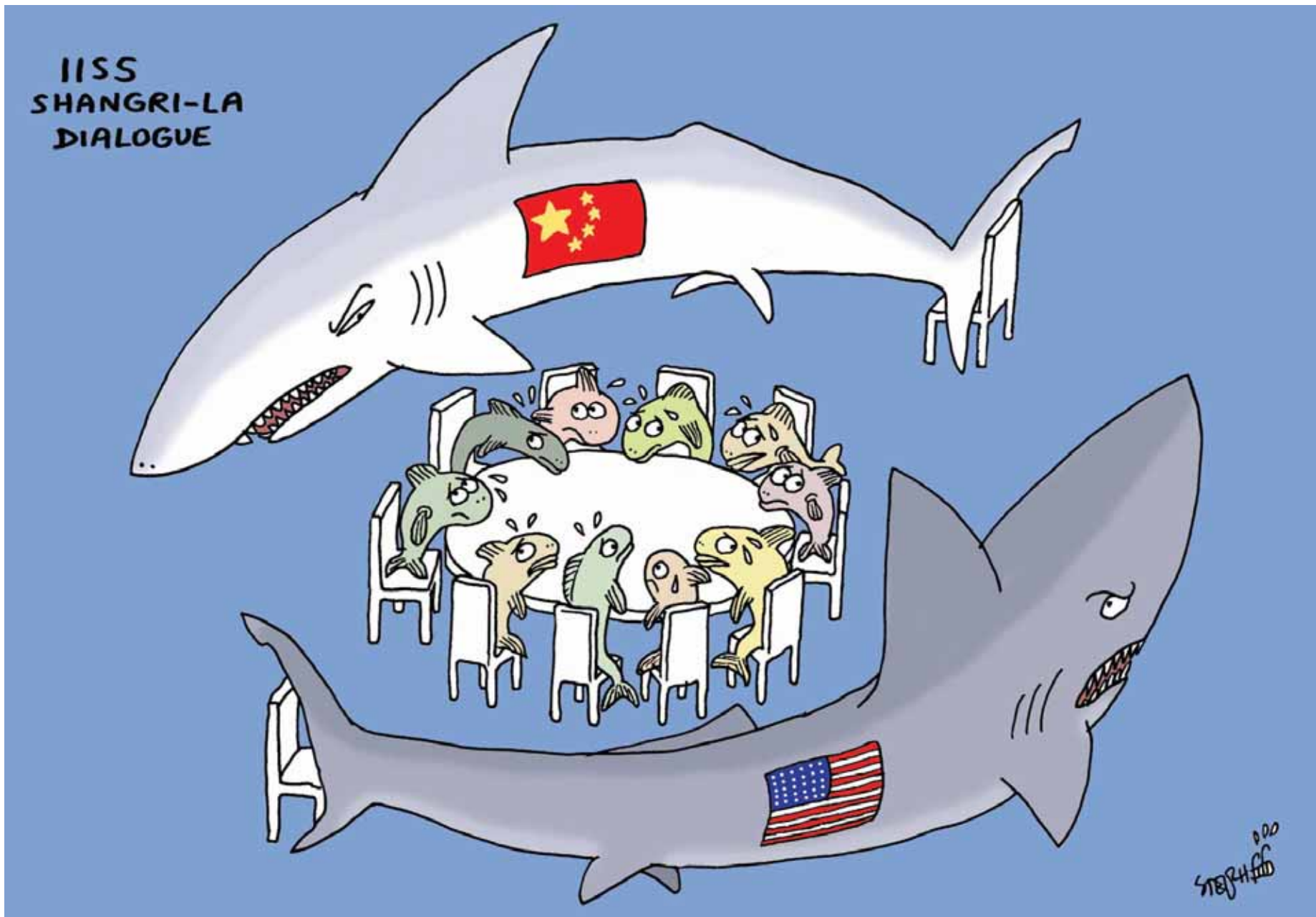
Another economist who has moved into Salvini's intellectual circle is Alberto Bagnai, who entered parliament as a senator for the first time in the March 4 elections. An associate professor in economic policy at Gabriele d'Annunzio University, Bagnai published "Il tramonto dell'euro" ("The sunset of the euro") in 2012, a book considered by Salvini as a must for any library. In it, Bagnai described the euro as "an economic monster" and German chancellor Angela Merkel "as intransigent as a League member" for advocating austerity for recession-hit European countries during the global financial crisis rather than letting them spend more to support internal demand.

At the centre of Salvini's eurosceptic circle is League economics policy chief Claudio Borghi, an economist and former managing director of Germany's Deutsche Bank who just before 2014 European election wrote "Basta euro" ("Enough Euro"), the party's policy on the single currency. In it, Borghi claimed the European single currency would inevitably come to an end and expressed his hope that this would happen sooner rather than later. Savona did not respond to requests for comment. Bagnai did not comment, and Borghi said he was an economist coming from the business world rather than from academia.

### Remaking the league

Economists in favor of leaving believe that a devalued currency would revive Italy's exports and that by throwing off the shackles of EU fiscal rules the country could ramp up public spending to boost growth and create jobs. Salvini's outspoken attacks on the fiscal rules governing the euro zone, which Italy agreed to in the 1992 Maastricht Treaty, appear to be polling well with Italian voters who traditionally have been among the strongest supporters of the single currency.

But few inside the League believe he would ever take the plunge and pull the country out of the currency. "The League's leaders are radical but not mad. In the era of social media strong language helps to attract followers on the web, but we are in good hands," said a long-time member of the party who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. Those who want to stay in the euro say leaving it would trigger a surge in interest rates and inflation, capital flight, a banking crisis and possibly a default on Italy's public debt. —Reuters



## Threatening wilderness, dams fuel protests in the Balkans

For almost a year, a clutch of Bosnian women has kept watch over a wooden bridge to disrupt the march of hydropower - part of a Balkan-wide protest against the damming of Europe's wild rivers. From Albania to Slovenia, critics fear the proposed run of dams will destroy their majestic landscape, steal their water and extinguish species unique to the Balkans.

So the village women stake out the bridge around the clock, listening out for the telltale sounds of diggers on the move. "We are always here, during the day, at night, always," said Hata Hurem, a 31-year-old housewife, in the shadow of the towering mountains that dominate the Balkan landscape. Clustered by a creek on the edge of the village of Kruscica, about 40 miles north west of Sarajevo, the local women have taken turns to stand firm, blocking trucks and scrapers from accessing the construction sites of two small plants.

Investment in renewable energy is growing worldwide as countries rush to meet goals set by the Paris Agreement on climate change. But from China to South America, dams cause controversy for flooding fragile ecosystems and displacing local communities. Plans to build almost 3,000 hydropower plants were underway across the Balkans in 2017, about 10 percent of them in Bosnia, according to a study by consultancy Fluvius. Authorities and investors say boosting hydropower is key to reducing regional dependency on coal and to falling in line with European Union energy policies as Western Balkan states move towards integration with the bloc.

The energy ministry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of Bosnia's two autonomous regions, where Kruscica is located, did not respond to a request for comment. The government of Bosnia's other region, Republika Srpska, said building dams was easier and cheaper than shifting towards other power sources. "The Republic of Srpska has comparative advantages in its unused hydro potential and considers it quite justified to achieve

the goals set by the EU by exploiting its unused hydropower," said energy ministry spokeswoman Zorana Kisic.

### Dams and pickets

Yet, critics say the "dam tsunami" - a term coined by anti-hydropower activists - endangers Europe's last wild rivers, which flow free. If rivers stop running freely, they say dozens of species, from the Danube Salmon to the Balkan Lynx, are at risk. About a third of the planned dam projects are in protected areas, including some in national parks, according to the 2017 study, commissioned by campaign groups RiverWatch and Euronatur. Most plants are small, producing as little as up to 1 MW each - roughly enough to power about 750 homes - but their combined impact is large as activists say they would cut fish migration routes and damage their habitat.

"Three thousand hydropower plants ... will destroy these rivers," said Viktor Bjelić, of the Center for Environment (CZZS), a Bosnian environmental group. "Many of the species depending on these ecosystem will disappear or will be extremely endangered." Some local communities fear displacement and lost access to water they've long used for drinking, fishing and farming. In Kruscica, protesters say water would be diverted through pipelines, leaving the creek empty and sinking hopes for a revival of nature tourism that attracted hikers, hunters and fishing enthusiasts before war intervened in the 1990s.

"(The river) means everything to us, it's the life of the community," said Kruscica's mayor Tahira Tibold, speaking outside the barren wooden hut used as base by demonstrators. Locals first heard about the plants when construction workers showed up last year, added the 65-year-old. Women have led protests since fronting a picket to shield men during a confrontation with police last year, said Tibold. Campaigners have taken their plight to court, alleging irregularities in the approval process, and works have stalled. But

demonstrators keep patrolling around the clock, said Bjelić of CZZS, as it is not known when or how the case will end.

### Shades of green

The protest was backed by US clothing company Patagonia as part of a wider campaign to preserve Balkan rivers and dissuade international banks from investing in hydropower. Banks and multilateral investors including the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), fund hundreds of projects, according to a 2018 study by Bankwatch, a financial watchdog. "It's a waste of money and a moral travesty that some of the world's largest financial institutions have embraced this out-dated and exploitative technology," Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard said in a statement in April.

The World Bank, EBRD and EIB said their investments have to comply with environmental and social standards, which



People are seen rafting on the Vrbas River in Bosnia and Herzegovina. — Reuters

## Caffeine high? Climate-hit Ethiopia shifts coffee uphill

above the norm. That could help mitigate some of the climate change pressures Ethiopia faces, said Birhanu Tsegaye, who heads extension services for coffee, tea and spices for the Ethiopia Coffee and Tea Development Marketing Authority (ECTDMA), a government body tasked with overseeing the sector.

As temperatures rise, "even areas not (formerly) suitable for coffee growing have become suitable, presenting an opportunity for the country to cope with climate change," he said. Pressures from warming conditions have been noticed in other parts of the country too.

Aman Adinew, chief executive of Metad Agricultural Development, which manages two large plantations in Oromia and SNNP regional states, said changing weather patterns in the country's south had affected exports.

The annual harvest, which normally takes place in November and December at his Hambela and Gedeb coffee farms, was delayed by a month because the beans had not ripened, he said. "Since the coffee beans were still green by the beginning of 2018 due to a shortage of rain, it led to a delay in coffee processing and export, effectively meaning breach of contract with our North American, Asian and European customers," he said.

### Small farms, big business

Around 90 percent of Ethiopia's coffee-growers are small-scale farmers, and the industry directly and indirectly employs up to 20 percent of Ethiopia's 100 million population, ECTDMA said. Exports in the 2016-2017 production year totaled just over 220,000 tons, figures from the trade ministry show. Coffee exports have fluctuated over the last five years, making it difficult to discern any downward trend, Tsegaye told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. But with the country adding tens of thousands of coffee hectares in new growing areas each year, that is offsetting many of the losses in traditional areas, he said.

Tsegaye said the government also was working to combat the effects of climate change in traditional coffee growing areas by offering small-scale farmers training on using shade trees to help hold down temperatures, and on irrigation and better crop handling after harvest. He said the authority was also introducing harder varieties of coffee, resistant to diseases and weather extremes. However, Tsegaye admitted that current levels of assistance to traditional small-scale coffee farmers might not be enough to save the industry in those areas, which is why the coffee marketing authority is looking at growing coffee at higher altitudes.

### Shifting coffee culture

Tadesse Woldemariam, a technical advisor at the Environment, Climate Change and Coffee Forest Forum, said growing coffee in areas previously unfamiliar with the crop could work, but it needed to be done carefully - and could have side effects.

"When traditional coffee-producing areas disappear, thousands of years of coffee-growing culture disappear," he said. "Highland areas of Ethiopia with little history of coffee production can be an alternative only if there are agricultural extension packages that make growing high-quality coffee sustainable," he said. He said Ethiopia was racing against time to save its coffee sector. The areas of the country suitable for coffee production are shifting higher each year, he said, which means "by the end of the century most coffee-growing areas, especially those below 1,500 metres above sea level, will no longer be suitable for coffee production."

In places that has already happened, with some traditional coffee-growing areas, especially in the east, now covered in khat trees. The plant's leaves, chewed by millions in the Horn of Africa, contain a psychoactive drug that is used as a mild stimulant. —Reuters



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**13** Airlines adjusting hedges, fares and capacity as oil price jumps



**13** Global shares shrug off trade tensions as US data reassures



**15** The long-soaring smartphone market is heading back to earth



QUEBEC: The Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu hotel, the location for the G7 summit. —AFP

# Canada's G7 turns into six-plus-Trump

## Trudeau insists he can handle the challenge

**OTTAWA/WASHINGTON:** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau this week plays host to a summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations with six of the seven members outraged at the United States over a slew of recent moves by President Donald Trump. This year's meeting is likely to be overshadowed by Trump's planned summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, tentatively scheduled for June 12 in Singapore, where Pyongyang's nuclear program is expected to be discussed.

Trudeau, who wants the June 8-9 meeting to focus on economic growth, insists he can handle the challenge, though insiders and analysts say he will have to fight to keep the grouping together at a time when Trump's trade and diplomatic moves have isolated the United States and risk undermining the G7's relevance.

"What this G7 is going to show is that the United States are alone against everyone and especially alone against their allies," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told reporters on Friday before a meeting of his counterparts in British Columbia. Trump's disdain for diplomatic niceties and his "America first" policies have created a rift with countries whose alliance with

the United States dates to the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Trump has infuriated Canada and European Union members of the G7 by imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum and pulling out of a deal to monitor Iran's nuclear activities. Japan fears being sidelined in its own backyard as Washington seeks to improve ties with North Korea. The three-day G7 finance ministers' meeting, where the closest U.S. allies vented anger over the Trump administration's metal import tariffs, wrapped up on Saturday with a stern rebuke of Washington.

**'More open rupture'**

Trudeau played down the talk of divisions at the summit, in the Quebec town of La Malbaie. "These questions get asked every time," Trudeau told Reuters

in a May 24 interview. He said the G7 was "extraordinarily valuable because it's an opportunity for like-minded nations to come together and talk about shared challenges." A spokesman for Trudeau said the prime minister's position had not changed despite the tariffs.

University of Ottawa international affairs professor Roland Paris, who served as Trudeau's first foreign policy adviser, has a less upbeat view. "The primary challenge for this summit is to maintain the integrity of the G7 itself," he said. While the most likely scenario was that the leaders gloss over their differences, he added, "there is the real possibility of a more open rupture."

Heather Conley, a former US State Department official now with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said the divisions on trade

meant it would be hard for leaders to focus on the other issues. "They're either going to struggle through this and remain relevant to the management of the international system as it continues to evolve - or they're not," she said.

Trudeau and the European Union condemned the steel and aluminum tariffs, and tempers will no doubt be high on June 8 when leaders hold a traditional discussion about trade. "Obviously it has the potential to be much more robust this year," said a senior Canadian government official, who conceded this year's meeting would be charged. "Is it more challenging this time than before? Yes, but everyone is showing up," said the official, who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the situation.

At the G7, Trump will defend his insistence on "fair and reciprocal trade," said a White House National Security Council official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow described the tensions over trade as a family quarrel. "This thing can work out. I'm the optimist," he told reporters on Friday. —Reuters

## Commonwealth Bank agrees to fine over money-laundering

**SYDNEY:** The Commonwealth Bank yesterday agreed to the largest civil penalty in Australian corporate history to settle claims it breached anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws. The Aus\$700 million (US\$530 million) fine—which is subject to court approval—comes after mediation between the nation's biggest lender and the country's financial intelligence agency AUSTRAC.

It follows the bank being taken to court last August for "serious and systemic non-compliance" of anti-money laundering laws more than 53,000 times, with AUSTRAC filing 100 further claims in December. CBA was also accused of failing to adequately monitor suspected terrorist financiers. "While not deliberate, we fully appreciate the seriousness of the mistakes we made," said CBA chief executive Matt Comyn in a statement. "Our agreement today is a clear acknowledgement of our failures and is an important step towards moving the bank forward. On behalf of Commonwealth Bank, I apologise to the community for letting them down."

The bank, which in the fallout has replaced senior leadership overseeing financial crimes and pumped millions of dollars into improving its systems, also agreed to pay AUSTRAC's Aus\$2.5 million legal fees. After slumping more than 10 percent over the past month, during which it admitted losing financial records for almost 20 million customers, CBA's share price rallied 1.44 percent on the settlement to close at Aus\$69.69.

The scandal is only the latest issue to damage the repu-

tation of Australian banks, which have been under intense scrutiny amid allegations of dodgy financial advice, life insurance and mortgage fraud, and rigging benchmark interest rates. Last week, ANZ Bank was accused of "cartel arrangements" over a multi-billion-dollar capital raising, along with its advisers Deutsche Bank and Citigroup. They face potential criminal charges. The scandals led the government early this year to launch a royal commission into misconduct in the finance industry.

**Criminals exploit system**

The fine for Australia's largest company appears to be far larger than expected by the bank, which in reporting its half-year cash profit in February said it had put aside Aus\$375 million to pay potential penalties. CBA admitted last year to the late submission of 53,506 reports to AUSTRAC for cash transactions of Aus\$10,000 or more at ATMs, blaming a "systems-related error".

It also failed to report 149 suspicious transactions on time, or at all, and breached its obligations to perform checks on 80 suspicious customers. According to AUSTRAC's 583-page statement of claim, some of the allegations included suspected members of a crime syndicate using fake names and IDs to make separate cash deposits to CBA accounts.

"CBA's disregard of its... obligations allowed criminals to exploit its systems and put the Australian community at risk," said Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton. "This very large number of breaches over several years is unacceptable and should never have been allowed to happen." He said some of the suspicious financial transactions not reported were linked to "the international drug trade" and "may have been associated with terrorism financing".

AUSTRAC chief Nicole Rose said the outcome was a strong message to the financial industry that non-compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism



MELBOURNE: Australia's minister of home affairs, immigration, and border control Peter Dutton (L) speaks during a press conference with Nicole Rose (R), CEO of Australia's financial intelligence agency AUSTRAC. —AFP

financing laws would not be tolerated. "As we have seen in this case, criminals will exploit poor business practices to launder the proceeds of their crimes," she said. "This has real impacts on the everyday lives of Australians and puts the community at risk by increasing opportunities for terrorists to support attacks here and overseas, and enabling organised crime groups to peddle drugs to our families and friends. "I hope this result alerts the financial sector to the consequences of poor compliance, and reinforces that businesses need to take their obligations seriously." AUSTRAC said it would be the largest civil penalty in Australian corporate history if approved by the Federal Court. —AFP

## Turkey's inflation rate surges again

**ISTANBUL:** The inflation rate in Turkey jumped in May, official statistics showed yesterday, increasing pressure on the central bank to again raise interest rates as fears persist over the strength of the economy. Three weeks ahead of snap presidential and parliamentary elections on June 24, which would give President Recep Tayyip Erdogan beefed up powers, consumer prices climbed 12.15 percent from the same period in May last year, according to the Turkish statistics office.

The figure was up sharply on the 10.85 percent reading in April. Investors have raised concerns that the government is not doing enough to fight inflation amid signs the economy is overheating, with the lira down almost 20 percent for the year to date. The central bank last month sought to prop up the currency with an emergency 300 basis points rate hike and also by simplifying its monetary policy. The currency slightly gained 0.7 percent in value against the dollar to trade at 4.6 against the greenback.

Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek sought to play down the rise, saying that "to a large extent" it reflected base effects as well as oil price and currency movements. He vowed monetary and fiscal policies would be increasingly coordinated, and that would help inflation trend downwards in the second half of the year. "With the post-election structural reforms and macro precautionary measures, our set of policy instruments will become stronger," he said. —Agencies



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## Business

## Airlines adjusting hedges, fares and capacity as oil price jumps

## Some airlines say fuel hedges just delay impact

**SYDNEY:** Airlines are locking in fuel hedges, lowering capacity, raising fares and retiring older jets to cope with rising costs alongside the highest oil prices since 2014, industry executives say. The squeeze from fuel costs, which have risen much faster than ticket prices, poses a particular threat to the industry's profitability. The International Air Transport Association yesterday forecast airlines' combined profits would be 12 percent lower than it had expected in December, at \$33.8 billion in total, in large part because of costlier fuel.

Brent crude is trading at around \$76 a barrel, up nearly 50 percent from a year ago. "At this point with rising fuel, you control costs, raise prices and you may have some fall off in demand and reduce capacity," Air New Zealand chief executive Christopher Luxon told Reuters yesterday. "I think we are seeing pricing move up internationally and certainly yields come up as well," he added. IATA forecast passenger yields, a proxy for airfares, will rise by 3.2 percent this year, in the first annual gains since 2011, as airlines look to recoup rising costs. American Airlines CEO Doug Parker also forecast that fares could rise as capacity is reined in amid higher oil prices.

## Hedging strategies

China Eastern Airlines Corp Ltd has said it would consider using newly launched yuan-denominated oil futures to hedge oil for the first time in a decade, but others, like Emirates and Delta Air Lines have no plans to return to hedging as a result of the recent oil price increases. "I think rushing to get hedged when the prices go up is a bit dumb and when they go down they get complacent again," CAPA Centre for Aviation Executive Chairman Peter Harbison said.

IATA chief economist Brian Pearce said hedging only delays the impact. "It stabilizes earnings; it doesn't stop the rising costs happening," he said. Other carriers, such as Singapore Airlines Ltd and Air New Zealand Ltd, are well-hedged at lower prices but are being forced to hedge at higher prices as those contracts end, in keeping with their



**SYDNEY:** International Air Transport Association (IATA) chief executive Alexandre de Juniac speaks at the opening of the annual meeting of global airlines. —AFP

internal policies. For example, London-listed IAG, the parent of British Airways, hedges up to three years in advance on a rolling basis. That means 80 percent of its fuel is hedged for the current first three months, a number that drops to 10 percent in the final quarter of the three-year period.

"Whilst most of us have hedging in place, that hedging eventually runs out or gets replaced by new positions you have got, and it is a question then of what do you do?" Virgin Australia Holdings Ltd CEO John Borghetti said. "If you look at history, typically some of that cost has to be passed on at some point because you just simply can't absorb it."

European carriers are also hedged between 50 and 90 percent as a way to give them better control of costs. "We take a simple view that hedging is about buying time; it gives you time to address volatility," said IAG's chief executive, Willie Walsh.

## Fleet renewal

The higher oil price is also expected to drive a new cycle of airlines' replacing older jets with more efficient newer generation models like the A320neo and 737 MAX narrow bodies and the A350, A330neo and 787 wide bodies. Australia's Qantas Airways Ltd is retiring gas-guzzling Boeing Co 747s more quickly than it had originally forecast and replacing them with twin-engine 787s.

"It will be a bittersweet moment when those aircraft will go but it also helps us manage the increase in fuel prices," Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said yesterday. "The 787s are going to give us a big benefit this year on our international operation." Boeing Commercial Airplanes vice president of marketing Randy Tinseth said on Sunday that replacement makes sense for airlines when oil reaches \$65 a barrel. —Reuters

import tariffs, setting the tone for a heated G7 summit next week in Quebec.

In a rare open show of divisions among the club of wealthy nations, six of the G7 member countries issued a statement asking U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to convey their "unanimous concern and disappointment" to President Donald Trump. "The G7 summit this weekend could be equally terrible. There's even talk that Trump may not go. Concerns on trade frictions are likely to continue to weigh on markets," said Norihiro Fujito, senior investment strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities. Washington also remained at odds with Beijing after US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross met Chinese Vice Premier Liu He either. China warned the United States on Sunday that any bilateral agreements reached on trade and business would be void if Washington implemented tariffs and other trade measures. But this did not stop Asian shares from rallying. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gained 1.3 percent to a high last seen on May 17, while Japan's Nikkei rose 1.4 percent. Likewise stocks futures pointed to a positive start for Wall Street, with EMini futures for the S&P 500 up 0.3 percent.

## US economy powers ahead

Signs of strength in the US economy helped keep bears at bay. Data released on Friday showed US job growth accelerated in May and the unemployment rate dropped to an 18-year low of 3.8 percent, indicating a rapidly tightening labour market. "We had strong headline figures on employment but the rise in wages was still well-contained and did not point to a sharp acceleration in inflation," Hirokazu Kabeya, chief global strategist at Daiwa Securities. The strong report added to a string of upbeat economic data, including consumer spending, industrial production and construction spending, making the Federal Reserve all but certain to raise interest rates at its policy meeting next week. US Treasury yields edged higher, with 10-year paper at 2.9076 percent, while the dollar eased 0.4 percent against its currency basket to 93.802. US crude futures traded lower at \$65.40, back at their lowest levels in nearly two months. —Reuters

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report					
At 02:00 PM Previous Day					
Global Stock Indices					
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	24,415.84	24,635.21	219.37	▲	0.90
NASDAQ	7,442.12	7,554.33	112.21	▲	1.51
S&P 500	2,705.27	2,734.62	29.35	▲	1.08
Financial Times	7,701.77	7,769.21	67.44	▲	0.88
DAX	12,724.27	12,737.33	13.06	▲	0.10
CAC 40	5,465.53	5,484.91	19.38	▲	0.35
Swiss	8,618.54	8,654.09	35.55	▲	0.41
Nikkei 225	22,171.35	22,475.94	304.59	▲	1.37
Topix	1,749.17	1,774.69	25.52	▲	1.46
Hang Seng	30,492.91	30,997.98	505.07	▲	1.66
Straits Times	3,427.51	3,467.48	39.97	▲	1.17
MENA Stock Indices					
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	6,603.51	6,633.44	29.93	▲	0.45
Saudi Arabia	8,329.55	8,390.17	60.62	▲	0.73
Dubai	2,987.25	3,034.64	47.39	▲	1.59
Abu Dhabi	4,566.05	4,577.15	11.10	▲	0.24
Bahrain	1,265.65	1,265.32	-0.32	▼	-0.03
Qatar	8,930.98	9,117.39	186.41	▲	2.09
Oman	4,602.08	4,584.95	-17.13	▼	-0.37
Lebanon	49,832.27	1,101.39	-48,730.88	▼	-97.79
Jordan	2,081.59	2,078.36	-3.23	▼	-0.16
Egypt	16,675.31	16,542.04	-133.27	▼	-0.80
Morocco	12,247.40	12,265.95	18.55	▲	0.15
Tunisia	7,647.64	7,675.37	27.73	▲	0.36
Global Currencies Exchange Rate					
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.2920	3.2916	2.8076	2.4594
Saudi Riyal	0.08135		0.2678	0.2284	0.2001
US Dollar	0.30380	3.7343		0.8530	0.7472
Euro	0.35618	4.3781	1.1724		0.8762
Sterling Pound	0.40661	4.9980	1.3384	1.1413	
Swiss Franc	0.30858	3.7931	1.0157	0.8664	0.7590
Japanese Yen	0.00277	0.0341	0.0091	0.0078	0.0090
Australian Dollar	0.23250	2.8579	0.7653	0.6527	0.5718
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate					
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal
US Dollar		0.30380	3.7343	0.3748	3.6270
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2916		12.2920	1.2337	11.9388
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08135		0.1004	0.9713
Bahraini Dinar	2.6681	0.81057	9.9634		9.6772
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08376	1.0296	0.1033	
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79296	9.7471	0.9783	9.4670
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08307	1.0211	0.1025	0.9918
Egyptian Pound	0.0562	0.01707	0.2098	0.0211	0.2038
Global Interest Rates					
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.13	1.75	2.00	2.19	2.44
US Dollar	1.75	2.00	2.31	2.47	2.72
Euro	-0.42	-0.40	-0.35	-0.30	-0.23
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.49	0.61	0.72	0.89
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.79	-0.73	-0.64	-0.52
Australian Dollar	1.65	1.87	1.84	1.85	1.89
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.06	-0.03	0.02	0.12
Global Bond Yields					
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year	
United States	2.49	2.76	2.91	3.06	
Europe	-0.65	-0.21	0.40	1.08	
United Kingdom	0.63	1.00	1.29	1.75	
Commodities					
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	72.83	72.88	0.05	▲	0.07
Brent	74.50	73.94	-0.56	▼	-0.75
West Texas	65.81	65.81	0.00	-	0.00
Gold	1292.74	1294.66	1.92	▲	0.15
Silver	16.35	16.45	0.09	▲	0.57

## Global shares shrug off trade tensions, US data reassures

**LONDON:** Global shares rose yesterday as worries over a trade war between the United States and other major economies took a back seat, with investors focusing on an easing of political risks in Europe and strong US jobs data. The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, climbed 0.4 percent, while European stocks continued on their road to recovery with a 0.5 percent rise by 1107 GMT as tensions calmed in Italy and Spain.

"The mood is mainly positive due to better U.S. job creation seen in (Friday's) NFP data, which has carried stocks higher despite headwinds such as escalating trade disputes," analysts at FX Pro Insights said. "The risk is that sentiment shifts and catches traders off balance as volatility increases." Following a week in which Italian stocks hit their lowest since July, Italy's anti-establishment parties formed a coalition government on Friday to end three months of political deadlock. Italian bond yields fell. They soared last week on fears a snap election would be called that might effectively become a referendum on euro membership. The spread on Spanish bond yields over benchmark German Bunds also narrowed after a new prime minister was sworn in in Madrid, though Socialist Pedro Sanchez's minority administration faces a tough baptism from a revived independence drive in Catalonia. The euro traded at \$1.1723, well clear of Tuesday's 10-month low of \$1.1506.

While the risk of political crisis receded in Europe, concerns over a possible global trade war rumbled on in the background. Finance ministers of the closest U.S. allies vented their anger on Saturday over Washington's imposition of metal

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# Bayer to ditch Monsanto name after mega-merger

## ‘An issue for some time for Monsanto management’

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** German chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant Bayer will discard the name Monsanto when it takes over the controversial US seeds and pesticides producer this week, it said yesterday. But Bayer executives insisted Monsanto practices rejected by many environmentalists, including genetic modification of seeds and deployment of “crop protection” technologies like pesticides, were vital to help feed a growing world population.

“The company name is and will remain Bayer. Monsanto will no longer be a company name,” chief executive Werner Baumann told journalists during a telephone conference. Bayer’s \$63 billion (54 billion euro) buyout of Monsanto—one of the largest in German corporate history—is set to close Thursday, birthing a global giant with 115,000 employees and revenues of some 45 billion euros.

Bosses plan to name the merged agrichemical division Bayer Crop Science once the merger is complete, German business newspaper Handelsblatt reported, citing “industry sources”. The Monsanto brand “was an issue for some time for Monsanto management,” noted Liam Condon, president of Bayer’s crop science division, adding that the US firm’s employees were “not fixated on the Monsanto brand” but “proud of what they’ve achieved”.

### Weedkiller arms race

Producing high-tech genetically modified seeds, many designed to grow crops resistant to its proprietary pesticides, Monsanto has been a target for environmentalist protests and lawsuits over harm to health and the environment for decades. “It’s understandable that Bayer wants to avoid having bought Monsanto’s negative image with the billions it has spent on the firm,” said Greenpeace campaigner Dirk Zimmermann. “More important than giving up the Monsanto name would be a fundamental transformation in the new mega-company’s policies,” he added, accusing Bayer of having “no interest in developing future-proof, sustainable solutions for agriculture”.

Activists fear the firm’s addition to Bayer will further reduce competition in the hotly-contested agrichemical sector, limiting farmers’ and consumers’ choices if they want to avoid GM and chemically treated crops. What’s more, in recent years weeds have begun to emerge that are resistant to products like Monsanto staple glyphosate, marketed as Roundup alongside “Roundup-ready” seeds beginning in the 1990s.

As agrichemical firms scramble to respond with new pesticides and resistant seeds, there are fears of an arms race with ever-more-potent weedkillers. Some scientists already suspect glyphosate could cause cancer, with a 2015 World Health Organization study determining it was “probably carcinogenic”—although Bayer and other defenders of the chemical have contested the research.

In 2017, attempts to block the European Union’s five-year renewal of its approval for the weedkiller were unsuccessful. But activists are lobbying governments and France has vowed to outlaw the substance within three years. When launching the Monsanto takeover bid, Bayer also promised it would not introduce genetically modified crops in Europe.

“We will listen to our critics and work together where we find common ground,” Baumann said, but added that “agriculture is too important to allow ideological differences to bring progress to a standstill”. With the world population set to reach almost 10 billion people by 2050, Bayer argues its products and methods are needed to meet demand for food.

### ‘Number one in seeds’

Bayer has put massive resources behind the deal, raising \$57 billion in financing including a new share issue worth six billion euros announced Sunday. It will also sell large parts of its existing agrichemical and crop seeds business to BASF in concessions to competition authorities on both sides of the Atlantic. Once the buyout and the sales to BASF are completed, Leverkusen-based Bayer’s crop science business plus



Monsanto will account for around half its turnover, with the remainder coming from pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter health products.

At around 19.7 billion euros in 2017, Monsanto and Bayer’s combined agriculture sales outweighed those of competitors ChemChina, DowDuPont and BASF, according to figures provided by Bayer. “We estimate that Bayer will become number one in seeds and num-

ber two in crop protection globally” following the merger, analysts at Standard and Poor’s wrote yesterday. Nevertheless, the ratings agency downgraded its score for Bayer’s debt from “A-” to “BBB”, while upgrading the outlook to “stable”. “Bayer’s stronger business position in agriculture products... does not fully offset the increased debt in its capital structure,” the analysts wrote. —AFP

## In El Salvador, coffee farmers turn to bourbon after blight

**NEW YORK:** For Alberto Ferracuti, a coffee grower in El Salvador, bourbon really does grow on trees. Ferracuti and many other farmers in the Central American country have turned to specialty coffee trees – identified by fanciful names such as bourbon, geisha and pacas – in hopes of reviving a local industry devastated by crop disease just a few years ago.

The trees produce some of the world’s highest quality coffee, beans with distinctive tastes prized by consumers in the United States and elsewhere who are willing to pay up for top-drawer coffee. Specialty coffee can earn farmers more than twice what they make selling standard varieties. The result is that El Salvador, though a small producer by size, has one of the world’s most diverse coffee crops. This year, El Salvador harvested about 740,000 bags, roughly 1 percent of what Brazil, the world’s biggest producer, will produce.

But specialty coffee accounts for a rapidly increasing share of its production, giving it an outsized role in the high-end coffee market. Last year, specialty coffee made up about 65 percent of its exports, a figure expected to rise to 80 percent by 2025, according to Salvadoran Coffee Council data.

The strategy comes with a shot of risk: The trees are highly susceptible to the very crop disease, roya, that cut El Salvador’s harvest by 60 percent four years ago. And the threat remains, with four new strains of roya

just identified in neighboring country Honduras, a U.S. attache reported last month. “Some people think we’re crazy to pursue this,” said Ferracuti, whose family farms 75 hectares (185 acres) in central and western El Salvador.

Elsewhere in Latin America, where 60 percent of the world’s beans are grown, many farmers have avoided specialty trees and reduced their crop diversity. Instead, they have concentrated on planting trees bred to increase yields and resist roya. An air-borne fungus, roya thrives in warm and wet conditions, latches onto leaves and eventually damages or kills trees. An outbreak that hit production in the 2013/2014 crop year, the worst on record, cut coffee output in Central America by 10 percent. El Salvador was among the hardest hit, and has yet to fully recover.

Ferracuti and farmers like him aim to keep their trees safe from future roya outbreaks through a combination of improved husbandry and increased fertilizer and fungicide use.

Some said they are planning to replant trees every 10 to 12 years, rather than let them stand for decades, which is typical on many farms. This is potentially costly, but young trees have a better chance of fighting off the blight, they said.

**Milk chocolate and citrus zest**

The global dollar-denominated benchmark coffee price for commercial grades of arabica beans, known as the “C” market, has hovered around \$1.20 per pound the past year. That is about the same actual price that the coffee garnered in the 1980s, and is close to the cost of production in some mountainous countries such as El Salvador. The cost of production is higher on steep hillsides, where crops must be harvested by hand. —Reuters

## Panasonic urges to ‘bring quality home’ this Ramadan season

**KUWAIT:** Cooking up sumptuous suhoors and celebratory iftar feasts shouldn’t involve a lot of time or stress. Thanks to Panasonic, every meal preparation this Ramadan is a breeze with the help of its premium kitchen appliances.

Launching its Ramadan Campaign in Kuwait, Panasonic aims to ‘bring quality home’ as family kitchens across the Middle East region get busy preparing a spread teeming with great-tasting platters of sumptuous meal. The campaign features Panasonic’s premium line of kitchen appliances, known for its excellent Japanese craftsmanship, innovative features and reliable performance, which are sure to bring memorable family time together not only this Ramadan but all through the year!

“Panasonic’s continuing commitment to its customers is to make their lives better with distinctive products that offer the best and most reliable features. Noting how special Ramadan is, we want our Middle Eastern customers to enjoy effortless and seamless cooking experience with our top-class kitchen appliances. As it has always been since Panasonic’s beginnings 100 years back, our products are developed with the highest standard of Japanese craftsmanship and quality, designed to deliver ease of operation, which is extremely helpful during the Holy Month of Ramadan,” commented Keisuke Nakagawa – Director, Consumer Marketing, PMMAF.

“We all believe that companies who value customer satisfaction and quality assurance in their retail business are more likely to consider themselves successful than those who don’t. That is why here at BEST Al-Yousifi Electronics, we always make sure that we offer products with the highest reputation for quality and performance like Panasonic and that we deliver the best customer service across Kuwait market in our showrooms and through our sales force of the entire organization,” commented Omar Massouh – Director, Corporate Marketing & Public Relations at Easa Husain Al-Yousifi Company.

The campaign intended to allow consumers to build a personal connect with Panasonic this Ramadan, will be seen on digital and broadcast media across the region captivating the audiences with its engaging con-

tent. This along with a dedicated social media campaign targeting consumers is set to bolster Panasonic’s brand equity and market share. So, whether it is about cooking big-batch dishes for a large gathering or whipping up special family favorites for a small family affair, efficiency and quality is guaranteed with these Panasonic products:

### Meat Grinder MK-ZJ3500

Enjoy mouthwatering homemade minced meat made with fresh ingredients with Panasonic’s powerful and easy to use meat grinder. This made in Japan appliance offers professional performance in the comfort of your home with its innovative features such as 3500W Ultra Powerful Motor, stainless steel Samurai Blades and versatile, interchangeable cutting plates and attachments for perfectly ground meat. Also featured in this line up are meat grinder models MK-ZJ2700, MK-G1800 and MK-ZG1500. Panasonic meat grinders are ideal for preparing traditional Ramadan dishes such as meat samosa, kubbe and kabab.

### Juicer MJ-DJ31

Drinking fresh juice is essential in Ramadan to prevent dehydration and revive your body with nutrients after a long day of fasting. Panasonic offers the innovative MJ-DJ31 with unique features that meet a wide variety of needs, including precise and durable full metal S-shaped cutter that firmly holds fruits in place as they are being juiced, large 75mm diameter feeding tube that eliminates the need to cut up fruits and vegetables into smaller pieces, plus a 120-degree swivel spout for easy pouring. With models MJ-DJ01S, MJ-SJ01W and MJ-H300 also featured in the lineup, you’re sure to find the juicer that is ideal for you.

### Microwave Oven NN-CD997

Enjoy 5-star cuisine with Panasonic’s best-in-class microwave oven. Built with the brand’s ingenious inverter technology, NN-CD997 offers five versatile cooking modes – convection, grill, microwave, 2 level convection and combination – that help deliver delicious, healthy cooking results in less time. It also has a Turbo Defrost feature for faster food thawing. Other models featured in this line up are NN-ST785S, NN-GD37 and NN-CD671.

## EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
Europe			
British Pound	0.397960	0.411860	
Czech Korune	0.005763	0.015063	
Danish Krone	0.043582	0.048582	
Euro	0.347231	0.360931	
Georgian Lari	0.122182	0.122182	
Hungarian 0.001020	0.001210		
Norwegian Krone	0.033220	0.038420	
Romanian Leu	0.059235	0.076085	
Russian Ruble	0.004884	0.004884	
Slovakia	0.009039	0.019039	
Swedish Krona	0.030486	0.035486	
Swiss Franc	0.300678	0.31678	
Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.222882	0.234882	
New Zealand Dollar	0.206209	0.215709	
America			
Canadian Dollar	0.229092	0.238092	
US Dollars	0.299000	0.303400	
US Dollars Mint	0.299500	0.303400	
Asia			
Bangladesh Taka	0.002999	0.003781	
Chinese Yuan	0.045713	0.049213	
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036540	0.039290	
Indian Rupee	0.003914	0.004641	
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023	
Japanese Yen	0.002679	0.002859	
Korean Won	0.000272	0.000287	
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072654	0.078654	
Nepalese Rupee	0.002734	0.003074	
Pakistan Rupee	0.002004	0.002774	
Philippine Peso	0.005606	0.005906	
Singapore Dollar	0.221305	0.231305	
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001557	0.002137	
Taiwan	0.010053	0.010233	
Thai Baht	0.009133	0.009683	
Arab			
Bahraini Dinar	0.797090	0.805590	
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd			
Rate for Transfer			
US Dollar		302.740	
Canadian Dollar		234.750	
Sterling Pound		406.210	
Euro		355.385	
Swiss Frank		301.690	
Bahrain Dinar		805.100	
UAE Dirhams		82.825	
Qatari Riyals		84.060	
Saudi Riyals		81.625	
Jordanian Dinar		428.275	
Egyptian Pound		16.939	
Sri Lankan Rupees		1.913	
Indian Rupees		4.516	
Pakistani Rupees		2.616	
Bangladesh Taka		3.624	
Philippines Pessio		5.760	
Cyprus pound		18.015	
Japanese Yen		3.760	
Syrian Pound		1.590	
Nepalese Rupees		2.828	
Malaysian Ringgit		76.965	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi		47.595	
Thai Bhat		10.445	
Turkish Lira		65.380	

## Burgan Bank offers free eideya delivery service to customers

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the free Eideya Delivery service to Premier Banking Customers in collaboration with “Qiblah” company for concierge services. This service enables Premier Banking customers to receive new bank notes before the Eid holidays at their offices or homes, avoiding the hassle of waiting in the branches at that time of the year.

To request this service, Premier customers can simply contact Qiblah concierge services starting 10 am until 4 pm, by calling 22317755 or emailing Burganpremier@qiblah.com.kw to request the

amount of Eid money required and state their address in order for the concierge messenger to deliver it accordingly noting that this service is available from 03 till 12 June 2018 (Except Friday). It is worth mentioning that the Eideya delivery service comes as part of the bank’s wide range of valuable privileges and benefits that is especially designated for its Premier customers.

Additionally, the bank’s collaboration with “Qiblah” for concierge services stems from its commitment of supporting its customers’ everyday requirements with unmatched personalized experience. Burgan Bank’s premier customers can avail instant concierge services from a selected list of more than 20 services such as travel bookings, airport transfers, visa assistance, party planning, valet parkers and others. The free concierge services has been introduced as part of the bank’s wide range of valuable privileges and benefits that is especially designated for its Premier customers.



## Technology

# The long-soaring smartphone market is heading back to earth

## Should rely on shrewd competitive moves to ramp up revenues

**SAN FRANCISCO:** After a decade of sizzling growth, the smartphone market has suddenly cooled. Surveys show smartphone sales last year shrank slightly for the first time since the 2007 debut of the iPhone, and preliminary data this year suggests further deceleration. Analysts say several factors have hit the smartphone market including the lack of new features that wow consumers, people holding their devices longer and the saturation of key markets including China, which had been driving growth.

"The market has peaked, that is the bottom line," said Bob O'Donnell, analyst and consultant with Technalysis Research. "It is for sure not the death of the smartphone; it is the death of the growth of the smartphone market." The smartphone market began to hit saturation in 2016 much the way the tablet and personal computer markets did years earlier. "It doesn't mean it is not a strong market-it is a huge market-but it means vendors have to think differently," O'Donnell said. Smartphone sellers with slices of the market should no longer count on a fast-growing pie and instead rely on shrewd competitive moves to ramp up revenues, according to analysts. Samsung remains the market leader, according to surveys, but its lead over Apple has slipped. China's Huawei is holding the number three spot and rival Chinese maker Xiaomi has been growing rapidly despite the lack of a US presence.



### Market began to hit saturation in 2016

that the smartphone market in China would flatten out next year, while sales in India were expected to continue to boom on low-priced handsets. "China remains the focal point for many given that it consumes roughly 30 percent of the world's smartphones," IDC analyst Ryan Reith said. A catalyst for a smartphone rebound may be the arrival next year of devices tailored for ultrafast 5G telecommunications networks, according to IDC. For now, the sector appears sluggish.

Counterpoint Research said the handset market dropped three percent in the second quarter compared with a year earlier, a second straight quarterly decline. "The waning smartphone demand is due to a slowdown in developed markets where replacement cycles are lengthening with overall smartphone features and design reaching its peak," said Counterpoint analyst Tarun Pathak. "However, emerging markets still offer a sizeable opportunity."

Handsets powered by Google-backed Android mobile were expected to continue to dominate the smartphone market, with a share of about 85 percent remaining relatively stable during the coming five years. "There is no question that Android is the OS (operating system) of choice for the mass market and nothing leads us to believe this will change," IDC said in its forecast.

#### Whither Apple?

While smartphone shipments will ebb this year, the average selling price will rise more than 10 percent to \$345 and remain on an upward trend, said IDC research manager Anthony Scarsella. "This year will continue to focus on the ultrahigh-end segment of the market as we expect a surge of premium flagship devices to launch in developed markets," Scarsella said.

As economies improve in countries around the world, more people can afford to switch to premium models. Premium smartphones, however, will be under



**GUIYANG:** Photo shows the Huawei smartphone production line at Foxconn, Gulyang New Area, Guizhou province, on the 28th of May. —AFP

pressure to show they are worth the price paid to upgrade from budget-friendly models, according to analysts. Apple has weathered the market slump better than its rivals but remains under pressure to impress consumers after introducing its iPhone X priced at \$1,000 and up.

"With its exclusive focus on premium smartphones, Apple needs to significantly raise the overall experience of its next-generation iPhones to trigger replacements and lead to solid growth in the near future," Gartner research director Anshul Gupta said. Apple could unveil some of its strategy at its developers conference opening Monday in California. But some ana-

lysts warn that Apple is not thinking ahead to how consumers will interact with technology beyond the smartphone.

ABI Research analyst David McQueen said in a December report that Apple is lagging rivals like Google and Amazon in developing new kinds of devices and that Apple will be a "follower" in the "post-smartphone era." "This next wave of innovation in the smart device ecosystem will be led by Google and Amazon, as their apparent strength in major growth sectors, notably computer science, allows for a more flexible approach to next-generation user experiences," said McQueen. —AFP

## Lithuania holds hackathon to mint digital collector coin

**VILNIUS:** Lithuania's central bank on Saturday held a hackathon aimed at issuing the world's first digital collector coin to mark this year's centenary of independence for the Baltic eurozone state. The programming prototype designed by a team of IT developers from Ukraine that won the event, held in the capital Vilnius, was not based on existing blockchain, or so-called distributed ledger technology.

The peer-to-peer computer platform which underpins trading in bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies is decentralised, making it impossible for any single administrator to control it. But Lithuania's central bank was keen to have a more private and manageable system. "The winners have come up with a tech-

nology allowing central banks to maintain control," Egidijus Paleckis, who is in charge of the project, told reporters.

Marius Jurgilas, a member of the executive board of the Central Bank of Lithuania, encouraged the hackers to "make history" by bringing "numismatics and the digital world together" as he launched the event on Saturday. The hackathon attracted eight IT teams including some from Cyprus as well as Lithuania. Julius Jankauskas, a numismatist and coin collector who was part of the jury, explained that the project is aimed at "issuing a digital currency linked to a physical coin".

"The buyer can buy this digital currency, it can be sold several times. If he decides to exchange it for a real coin at the bank, the digital currency will have no value," he explained. The central bank must still decide on the mintage, denomination, price and date of issue, which will come before the year's end. The coin's release constitutes one of the events to mark 100 years since Lithuania's rebirth as a nation in 1918 after being wiped off the map for 123 years. It also



falls under the eurozone nation's bid to become a northern European hub for financial technology or fintech firms and blockchain-based start-ups, especially for those that may be seeking to relocate due to Brexit. —AFP

## Toshiba completes \$21bn sale of chip unit

**TOKYO:** Embattled conglomerate Toshiba on Friday completed the \$21 billion sale of its prized chip unit to an investment consortium, a move seen as crucial to keeping the Japanese firm afloat. The deal had been delayed while Chinese regulators examined whether it could violate anti-trust laws, but they finally granted approval in mid-May. "Toshiba hereby gives notice that the closing of the sale has been completed today as scheduled," the group said in a statement.

It added that the deal was worth about 2.3 trillion yen (\$21 billion). The business was sold to KK Pangea, a special-purpose company controlled by a consortium led by US investor Bain Capital. The Bain-led group includes US tech giants Apple and Dell, as well as South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix. Toshiba said it was reinvesting a total of

350.5 billion yen in Pangea, acquiring a 40.2 percent stake.

The sale and reinvestment will give Toshiba a pre-tax profit of 970 billion yen, though the bump was already built into forecasts it announced last month. Toshiba agreed in September to sell its memory chip business in a bid to stay afloat after multi-billion-dollar losses. It struggled after the disastrous acquisition of US nuclear energy firm Westinghouse, which racked up billions of dollars in losses before being placed under bankruptcy protection.

In order to survive and avoid delisting, the cash-strapped group decided to sell the chip business—the crown jewel in a vast range of businesses ranging from home appliances to nuclear reactors. Toshiba said last month it had bounced back into the black, avoiding a humiliating delisting from the Tokyo stock exchange. The firm booked a record net profit of 804 billion yen for the year ending March 31, compared with a loss of 965.7 billion yen a year earlier. That marks the first net profit for the firm in four years, and was helped by one-off revenue from tax cuts linked to the sale of its nuclear units. —AFP



**TOKYO:** Toshiba Memory Corp. President Yasuo Naruke (R) and head of Bain Capital's operations in Japan, Yuji Sugimoto (L), bow at the end of a joint press conference. —AFP

## Final Fruit-ier: Thailand sends smelly durian into space

**BANGKOK:** It's one small step for Thailand, one giant leap for Southeast Asia's smelliest fruit. Thailand plans to shoot durian into orbit to test its durability in a project that could see the staple "king of fruits" consumed in zero-gravity conditions. "In the future we want astronauts to be able to eat Thai food," said a spokesperson for Thailand's Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA).

"We want to see whether there are any physical changes after it returns to earth, for example it might get smaller, or cracked." The sticky snack is eaten across the region and is both famous for its popularity and infamous for its pungent smell, prompting bans on duri-

ans in hotel rooms, elevators and airplane cabins. The fruit's reputation raises questions about how it will be received inside such close confines as a spaceship. But the test, carried out with an organization that has yet to be named publicly, will use a dried and vacuum-sealed version of the fruit, which packs much less of an odor.

Liftoff is scheduled for July, when packages of durian will be sealed, placed in a box and rocketed into space for five minutes. Different kinds of Thai rice will also make the daring journey. Advances in technology and the growing number of countries sending their citizens into space have enriched astronauts' controlled cuisine with new flavors. And with Asia catching up with more established space programs, menus are diversifying. The pickled dish kimchi boldly went where few fermented vegetables have gone before when a South Korean astronaut brought it with her in 2008. —AFP



**BANGKOK:** A Thai fruit vendor waits for customers behind a display of durians. —AFP

## Trio reach Earth from ISS with football slated for World Cup

**ASTANA, Kazakhstan:** Russian cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov made it back to Earth Sunday along with an official match football that could be used later this month in the opening game of the World Cup in Moscow. Shkaplerov, Scott Tingle of the United States and Norishige Kanai of Japan touched down on the Kazakh steppe on time at 1239 GMT after a 168-day mission aboard the International Space Station.

Footage from the Russian space agency Roscosmos showed the Soyuz descent module carrying the three touch down as recovery helicopters circled over the landing site. Shkaplerov was out of the capsule first and was pictured munching grapes as the support crew tended to him ahead of his journey back to Moscow. "We are a bit tired but happy with what we have accomplished and happy to be back on Earth. We are glad the weather is sunny," said Shkaplerov in footage broadcast from the landing site. Tingle came out next, to whoops and cheers, followed by Kanai.

Both Kanai and Tingle are now bound for Houston via the Kazakh city of Karaganda where they will undergo further medical tests to complete their mission. Roscosmos posted on Thursday a video of Shkaplerov and fellow cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev practicing in the ISS with an Adidas Telstar 18 football. Russian news agency TASS reported that the ball is planned to be used during the opening game of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Moscow on June 14, although FIFA has not confirmed that information.

#### First-time flyer

Shkaplerov, Tingle and Kanai spent more than five months in space working on a variety of scientific experiments. First-time flyer Tingle also completed a spacewalk to replace the hand on the station's robotic arm. Kanai of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency made life on the space station more accessible to Japanese-speakers by tweeting in the language most days. But one Kanai tweet in January caused confusion after he mistakenly claimed to have grown taller by nine centimeters just weeks after arriving on board the ISS.

He later tweeted a correction and apology, clarifying that he had actually only grown by two centimeters. The US space agency NASA says that astronauts can grow up to three percent taller in space but return to their normal height when back on Earth. Serena Aunon-Chancellor of NASA, Alexander Gerst of the European Space Agency and Sergei Prokopyev of Roscosmos are set to launch to the ISS from Baikonur on Wednesday. They will join NASA pair Drew Feustel and Ricky Arnold and Russian Oleg Artemyev aboard the orbital lab. The space laboratory has been orbiting Earth at about 28,000 kilometers per hour since 1998. Space research has been one of the few areas of international cooperation between Russia and the West that has not been wrecked by the Ukraine crisis. —AFP



# California on front line as STDs run rampant in US

## Increasing cases sheds light on poor health system

**LOS ANGELES:** A billboard on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood screams out a stark warning: "drug-resistant gonorrhea alert!" The words are set against a black background and accompanied by a microscope shot of the gonococcus bacteria, which causes the illness now running rampant in California. Sexually transmitted diseases have made an alarming resurgence across the United States, where 2016 saw a record two million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, including 628 cases of congenital syphilis.

But California, the most populous US state, stands out for its willingness to tackle the crisis head-on, with cases of the three ailments up 45 percent in 2017 from five years ago. Thirty babies were stillborn amid 300 reported cases of congenital syphilis, more than in any other US state last year. "These are incredibly alarming numbers," said Heidi Bauer, chief of the STD control branch of the California Department of Public Health. She said it amounts to an epidemic.

Congenital syphilis had been essentially eliminated from the United States, as it had in developing countries such as Cuba, Thailand and Moldova in the former Soviet Union, said Jeffrey Klausner of the UCLA school of medicine. "But you know the fact that congenital syphilis is roaring back in the states and in California is a shameful reminder of our inadequate public health programs," he said. The cases of the still-born babies are 100 percent preventable and this is "a slap in the face," he added.

Herein the problem seems to lie: the US health system is more reactive than preventive. And there is a lack of prevention and public awareness campaigns in a society in which people do not like to talk about sex.

### Government not a help

The striking billboards in Los Angeles are sponsored by an NGO called the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which aims to prevent or diagnose HIV and provide medical care for those who have it or other sexually transmitted diseases in free clinics. Another sign about syphilis shows a torso ravaged by open wounds. The foundation's president, Michael Weinstein, said the NGO's campaign has boosted visits to its clinics by 50 percent in Los Angeles.

By comparison, in south Florida, where cities such as

Miami Beach or Fort Lauderdale are considered hotbeds of STDs, such campaigns are barred because they are deemed to be bad for tourism. "You educate, you prevent, you test. You treat. You contact partners," said Weinstein. "We're not doing any of those things adequately." The discouraging figures will keep rising and "the government is not helping," he warns.

The financial crisis of 2008 — at the time STDs were not of particular concern-led to deep cuts in health care spending, so many clinics shut down. Add to this an increase in poverty, homelessness, drug use and pregnancies undertaken without proper healthcare-all considered risk factors for congenital syphilis. California has the world's fifth largest economy but the budget for fighting STDs is a paltry \$20 million, which includes money that comes from the federal government.

"There's a fire burning in California. And when a fire is burning, you don't ask how much it costs to put it out. You supply whatever's needed to put it out," said Weinstein, insisting this is not

happening in the case of STDs. He said most of the NGOs patients are under age 25, and that with gonorrhea and syphilis-which are harder and harder to cure because of bacteria's resistance to antibiotics-a higher proportion of cases involve gay men.

### Not enough talk about sex

Sex education is mandatory in California schools. Many teachers are reluctant to talk about it, but not Leticia Jenkins. She speaks of it freely to her high school freshmen in the Los Angeles suburb of North Hills, who are working on posters to draw attention to STDs. They use precise scientific language and are not at all skittish. They write down symptoms of STDs and ways to treat or prevent them. Jenkins said STD figures are out of control these days, and that talking about sex is essential.

"Schools don't talk enough about sex. We do," said Jenkins. Some students said that in fact they do not talk about sex with their parents. "They're old," said Norberto Osorio, 14 — although he had talked about sex with his older brother. "We didn't talk and I wouldn't like to talk now. I think it would make us both uncomfortable," fellow student Jessie Flores said of his parents. "I didn't know any of this stuff before I had her," the 15 year old said of his teacher.—AFP



Health Education teacher Leticia Jenkins speaks to her class of ninth graders at James Monroe High School in North Hills, California, where the students learn lessons on life amid a skyrocketing surge in sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in California.—AFP

## Vietnam beach awash with tide of blue waste

**THANH HOA, Vietnam:** There's almost more plastic than sand on this long, tree-lined beach: Plastic helmets, plastic furniture and the plastic leg of a shop mannequin all jut out of an ocean of blue plastic bags. Just south of the capital Hanoi, the once-peaceful and clean beach of Da Loc in Vietnam's Thanh Hoa province, has been slowly suffocating under the weight of plastic waste for decades. "Plastic bags have been waste here since the first day we started using them," said Pham Thi Lai, 60, a local seafood processor.

"They put everything in a plastic bag. If they're preserving shrimp or preserving fish, they put it in a plastic bag," Lai said of local fishermen, many of whom shuck clam shells and dry shrimp between the mounds of plastic waste on the beach. "When they finish they just throw the bags into the ocean. The trash floats to wherever the sea level rises," she said. Vietnam is the fourth-largest contributor to marine plastic pollution globally, a 2015 study by the University of Georgia showed. Globally, eight million tons of plastic is dumped into the ocean every year, killing marine life and entering the human food chain, according to the U.N. Environment Program. The latest example was a pilot whale that died in Thailand with some 80 pieces of plastic rubbish found in its stomach. The theme of World Environment Day on Tuesday is beating plastic pollution, with a call for citizens, companies and civil society groups to organize the "biggest-ever world-wide cleanup". —Reuters

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## Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

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What's On

ACK wins 'Best Paper', 'Best Presentation' Awards at Boston's ICSV/ICECE 2018

The 'Best Paper' and 'Best Presentation' Awards at the 20th International Conference on Sound and Vibration and the International Conference on Electronics and Communication Engineering in Boston - USA, were rewarded to the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK). The winning paper award was presented by Dr Nader Ghareeb - Assistant Professor - Mechanical Engineering Department at ACK, and the winning presentation award was presented by Dr Mohamad Farhat - Assistant Professor - Electrical Engineering Department at ACK.

These International Conferences bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to

exchange and share experiences and research results on all aspects of mechanical and electrical engineering. They also provide a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the related fields.

When asked about the achievement, Dr Nader Ghareeb and Dr Mohamad Farhat stated: "We are very proud of this achievement which wouldn't have been possible without the continuous support from ACK. We will continue to participate in such events, while exchanging knowledge and expertise with the local and international community."



Dr Nader Ghareeb



Dr Mohamad Farhat

Graduation

Rashed Al-Assoussi celebrated the graduation of his daughter Mariam, who received a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Louisiana in the United States of America. Her father and mother shared the joy of graduation with her colleagues and friends who celebrated the joyous occasion and wished Mariam a successful and rewarding future.



New outdoor ambiance with Al-Ahmadi Terrace

Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Kuwait Al-Thuraya City have opened the all-new Al-Ahmadi Terrace as an extension to the renovated renowned restaurant. The notorious buffet is back with the holy month of Ramadan. The new decor and the exceptional food will let your senses travel around the world. Doing things right, a new covered terrace for the restaurant is created to host everyone in the best way possible. You can enjoy all the delicious meals in a spaciouly designed terrace in front of a beautiful waterfall. The modern elements reflected in the carefully selected finishing, gives the new Al-Ahmadi restaurant a luxury-hip approach that appeals to almost anyone who dines there. Live oriental music is played to enhance the ambiance of any occasion. Every detail is pretty stylized to make all your moments unforgettable.

Al-Thuraya City is not only known for its famous Al-Ahmadi restaurant but also for its unrivaled array of specialty restaurants. Ramadan will be celebrated throughout all the outlets with Iftar and Ghabka buffets at Al-Ahmadi and Al Noukhaza, as well as set-menus at Ayam Zaman, Jamawar, Sakura and Shabestan. Any guest may invite family and friends and enjoy the broad choice of cuisines the Hotels' have to offer.



Fare'a Bint Abi Salt High School celebrates graduates

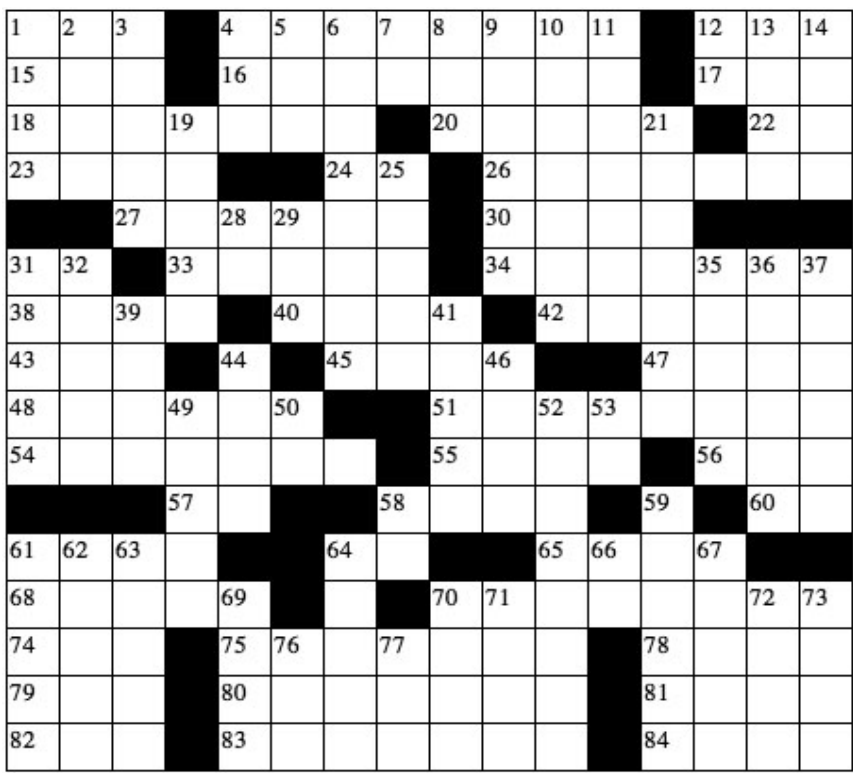


Under auspices of Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah and with the attendance of Sheikh Sabah Thamer Al-Sabah, the Fare'a Bint Abi Salt High School for Girls held a graduation ceremony recently to honor its 2017-2018 graduates. The ceremony was held at Jumeirah hotel and was attended by educational area officials, the school's teaching and administrative staff members, as well as the students' parents.





CROSSWORD 1927



ACROSS

1. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.  
4. A naval battle in the Russo-Japanese War (1905).  
12. A master's degree in business.  
15. A rapid escape (as by criminals).  
16. Not normal.  
17. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.  
18. Perversely irritable.  
20. Any of numerous perennial bulbous herbs having linear or broadly lanceolate leaves and usually a single showy flower.  
22. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.  
23. A Loloish language.  
24. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.  
26. The ninth month of the Moslem calendar.  
27. On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.  
30. Type genus of the Aceraceae.  
31. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.  
33. Similar to the giraffe but smaller with much shorter neck and stripe on the legs.  
34. An ancient Assyrian city on the River Tigris across from the modern city of Mosul in the northern part of what is now known a Iraq.  
38. A collection of things (goods or works of art etc.) for public display.  
40. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.  
42. The territory of Athens in ancient Greece.  
43. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.  
45. The part of an organism that connects the head to the rest of the body.  
47. An Eskimo hut.  
48. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.  
51. Type genus of the Coraciidae.  
54. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).  
55. Taking place over public roads.  
56. A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.  
57. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.  
60. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.  
61. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.  
65. A German art song of the 19th century for voice and piano.  
68. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.  
74. Tag the base runner to get him out.  
75. An ugly evil-looking old woman.  
78. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.  
79. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.  
80. A republic in the western Balkans in south-central Europe in the eastern Adriatic coastal area.  
81. Rock that in its molten form (as magma) issues from volcanos.  
82. A light touch or stroke.  
83. A person who lacks good judgment.  
84. Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
2. Tough protective covering of the woody stems and roots of trees and other woody plants.  
3. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.  
4. The bill in a restaurant.  
5. The compass point that is one point east of due south.  
6. Support from beneath.  
7. Conforming to truth.  
8. Hormones (estrogen and progestin) are given to postmenopausal women.  
9. An immunosuppressive drug (trade name Imuran) used to prevent rejection of a transplanted organ.  
10. A state of abnormal softening of tissue.  
11. A source of materials to nourish the body.  
12. A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.  
13. A small cake leavened with yeast.  
14. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.  
19. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.  
21. A person afflicted with paresis (partial paralysis).  
25. A river in northern Italy that flows southeast into the Adriatic Sea.  
28. (informal) Being satisfactory or in satisfactory condition.  
29. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.  
32. (botany) Relating to or attached to the axis.  
35. A period of sleeplessness.  
36. Oblong cream puff.  
37. Valuable source of caviar and isinglass.  
39. Marked by the reception of pay.  
41. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.  
44. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.  
46. Someone regarded as eccentric or crazy and standing out from a group.  
49. A mechanical device used for dicing food.  
50. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.  
52. A railroad depot in a theater of operations where military supplies are unloaded for distribution.  
53. A public promotion of some product or service.  
58. A unit of information equal to 1024 bytes.  
59. (formal) A person who announces important news.  
62. A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.  
63. A wealthy man (who made his fortune in the Orient).  
64. The fourth or lowest deck.  
66. A state in midwestern United States.  
67. Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.  
69. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).  
70. The officer below the master on a commercial ship.  
71. Type genus of the Amiidae.  
72. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.  
73. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).  
76. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.  
77. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.

DOWN

1. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are full of energy today. Today is a great day to get to the root of anything that has been bothering you. Even though you may find yourself lost in a day-dream, focus a bit and do not hold back from sharing your ideas. You are full of wisdom and knowledge. Your strong communication skills will come in to play in getting your point across. Aries, today is a day of recognition for you in the workplace. You will be able to clearly and easily present all of the projects and proposals you have been waiting to put into motion.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You seem to have placed great focus not only on your sexual desires but also you long for power and control. This seems to be a time of curiosity in your life. Trying new things may lead to new levels of satisfaction and a sense of completion. You have a deep desire to earn the respect of someone close to you. Their feelings of admiration and respect may be revealed to you today. You are driven by your determination and desire today. You may discover close colleagues have much more respect for you than you once thought.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Shoot it straight or don't shoot it towards me at all pretty much sums up your attitude for the day. You have zero respect for those who turn to you with gossip and petty drama. This is a no-nonsense attitude is admired by others and leads them to confide in you their personal issues and admire you as a leader. Today may find you very serious and focused. You are excellent in the workplace. You are quick with your words but watch the sharpness of your tongue today as to avoid conflict.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today may be a day you impress yourself by the level of self-control you are able to exhibit. You may find yourself involved in a conflict with someone. Keep your cool and take a deep breath. Do not reward the button pusher with the reaction they are seeking. Instead, change your focus and surroundings. Walk away and clear your mind. You will find others will admire you for your reaction to this situation and place great value in your advice and opinions in the future, cancer. You may find yourself being the object of someone's admiration today.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It may have taken some time for you to realize your mind is your strongest weapon. You begin to discover the opportunities are endless for you when you take some time deep in thought and actually think through every problem that comes your way. All doubts about your career path will diminish as your decision will become crystal clear. This is a great time to spend with friends and co-workers. All is great in the work place as you are beginning to be noticed as that go-to person for special projects and you start to receive much admiration from your peers. Leo, you are on the right track.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a time where you place new emphasis on your personal love life. This above all else seems to be your main focus. This seems to be where all your time and attention are focused. You are in a great place to be able to communicate and share your feelings. You may find your loved one to be very receptive and agreeable with what you have to share. Peace and harmony me the most to you and you are well on your way to establishing a relationship that is overflowing with both. Spend the evening not only spoiling yourself but spoiling your special someone. Virgo, you well be on your way to a happily ever after.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Old West 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 30 letters spell a Will Rogers quotation.

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

ASSAY OFFICE DOCTOR DRESSMAKER MINE SHAFT SCOUTS  
BANK ROBBER BILLY THE KID BOOT HILL BRAND CAMPFIRE CATTLE DRIVE CHAPARRAL COAL CORRAL COWBOY DOC HOLLIDAY  
FUR FURS GOLD MINE GOLD PANNING GRAZE HIRED GUN HOGS HOMESTEAD HOTEL JUDGE LARIAT  
GENERAL STORE GUNSlinger HATS HIRED HAND HORSES ICE HOUSE LASSO MARSHALL  
PIG PIGS PIONEERS POST OFFICE RANCH HAND REVOLVER RUSTLER SADDLER SALOON GIRL SCHOOLHOUSE  
SHOOTOUT SHOTGUN SPURS STIRRUP TOWN HALL TRADING POST TUMBLEWEED WAGON WANTED POSTER WHISKEY WILD BILL HICKOK



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have an opportunity to spend some quality time with someone you love. This could be a great experience and provide your emotional needs. This is a great time to do some soul searching as you are struggling with the balance between career and home life. Seems your emotions are very clear to you now and you are able to find answers to questions and solutions to situations that have been bothering you. This is also a great time for you career-wise. You are being looked at for a new position or to lead a new project. You may find offers coming your way soon. Libra, you are being noticed for your hard work and this is a nice time in your life.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Scorpio, your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today is a great day to spend with someone you love. You may find yourself very emotional and deep in thought. You are focused on the meaning of life and what your true purpose in this life is. You will find great satisfaction and peace with where you are in life and comfort in the arms of your love one. This should prove to be a very satisfying day for you and one that is overall productive. Barriers may be crossed in your relationship and you may feel you have reached a new level with this person. Your ability to speak and truly be heard will play a major role in this connection being made today.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Understanding is a good word to represent what today may bring to you. A deep understanding of yourself, your thoughts, and your moods! A day of understanding of those who surround you. An ability to communicate and captivate all who are in your presence. Life is becoming uncomplicated and simple to you. From dreams to the super natural all these things stir deep emotions within you Capricorn. Today is a great day to let your creativity.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

All that is dear to your heart takes priority today. You need to love and be loved. Take a chance today. You may receive a great reward. Love is a huge factor in your life today. You are learning to love yourself and pay close attention to the needs and want of those close to you. Getting in touch with your emotions and the emotions of those around you will cause others to be drawn to you. Aquarius, others will value your opinions and sense of independence.

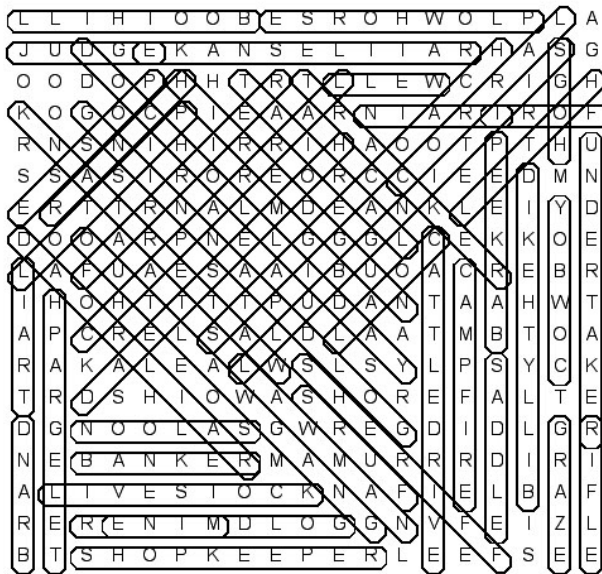


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have a desire for a deeper connection in your personal relationship. This is a priority in your life now. You need to feel needed. You desire the comfort of knowing someone loves and needs you. The lack of this close connection causes stress and anxiety for you. This is a wonderful time to work on that bond. Perhaps, recently you have felt a need to have personal time. You have only felt the need and desire to surround yourself with those closest to you. This is not a great time to spend with the outside world as you are extremely introverted and have a great need for privacy. Pisces, you are feeding the relationships that will be long lasting and stand the test of time.

Yesterday's Solution

Old West 1



BANKER BARKEEP BILLY THE KID BOOT HILL BRAND CAMPFIRE CATTLE DRIVE CHAPARRAL COAL CORRAL COWBOY DOC HOLLIDAY  
FARRIER FORT FURS GOLD MINE GOLD PANNING GRAZE HIRED GUN HOGS HOMESTEAD HOTEL JUDGE LARIAT  
LAWMAN LIVESTOCK MINER OUTLAW GANG PISTOL PLOW HORSE POSSE RAILROAD RANCH RATTLESLAKE RIFLE SADDLE  
SALOON SHERIFF SHOPKEEPER SITTING BULL STAGECOACH TELEGRAPH TRACKER TRAIN UNDERTAKER WATER TANK WELL

The hidden message is: A GOOD HORSE MAKES SHORT MILES

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018



Tania Met, of Spain's Gardener's theatre rehearses her moves for the Rosita character during the Living Statues International Festival, in Bucharest, Romania. — AP

## Mughal exhibition in Kabul highlights its artistic glory

Disfigured by four decades of war, the Afghan capital Kabul offers few reminders of its former glory in Islamic art or religious tolerance but a rare exhibition of Mughal paintings is seeking to change that. Dozens of enlarged reproductions of miniatures—highly detailed paintings the size of a school notebook—that were created in Kabul during the 16th century have gone on display in Babur Gardens, where the first Mughal emperor is buried among roses and pomegranate trees.

For American historian and Islamic art expert Michael Barry, the exhibition of more than 60 paintings is the culmination of a promise he made to himself while working in Kabul over the past decades. “When I was standing in this garden, shattered under mortars and rockets in the 1990s (civil war), I swore to myself that one day I would bring back its glory,” Barry said recently during a tour of the display he curated. “It’s a way to restore the legitimate cultural pride of a country that has lost so much, to show what its ancestors were able to create and what they are still able to give to the world.”

The original miniatures are held in private and institutional collections around the world and are so delicate they need to be kept in the dark most of the time, Barry

said. To enable ordinary Afghans to see the precious works and appreciate the richness of their country’s artistic heritage, the American Institute of Afghan Studies ordered enlarged, high-resolution copies of the paintings on metal to be made in Paris. “This imaginary museum restores in Kabul what made its glory,” Barry said, as he walked around the hall of reproductions.

**Universal peace**

In the mid-16th century, several painters from the western city of Herat, where miniature painting had flourished under the Timurid empire, were invited to Kabul by Emperor Babur’s son, Humayun. The paintings created in Kabul gave birth to the Mughal art of India, Barry said. Babur is one of the last Mughal gardens and has been described by UNESCO as “an outstanding example of a cultural landscape”. It was designed by Emperor Babur before he conquered northern India and it eventually became his final resting place.

The garden was devastated during the Afghan civil war in the 1990s but has since recovered with the help of the Aga Khan Foundation to become a popular place for young couples and family outings. Barry hopes the exhibition will remind Afghans that their country once



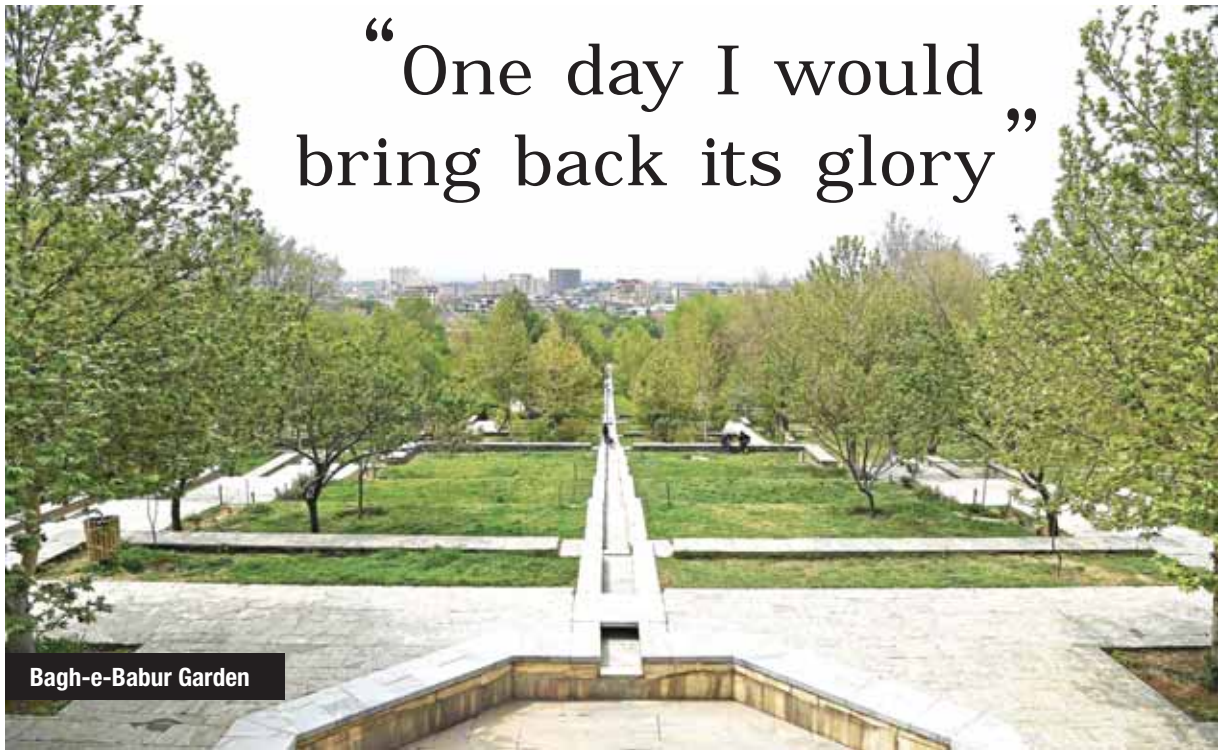
Visitors walk past a display of Mughal paintings at the ‘King Babur’s Kabul, Cradle of the Mughal Empire’ exhibition at the Bagh-e-Babur Garden in Kabul. — AFP photos

boasted “tremendous wealth of extraordinary opulence, extremely refined arts and... a policy of religious tolerance like no other in the world”. This tolerance was expressed in the proclamation of “Universal Peace” by the third Mughal emperor Akbar, who was deeply opposed to discrimination.

“Hindu generals and ministers served the emperor in equal rank with Muslims, both Sunni and Shiite,” Barry said. “The emperor was so interested in religion that he also invited Portuguese Jesuits from Goa to the court.” The exhibition also shows the connection between the Mughal dynasty and Renaissance Europe: golden halos flatter portraits of emperors while cherubs, chubby and frizzy, cling to powdery clouds. The miniatures also show women’s faces as symbols of spirituality—a very

different image to the one of heavily veiled women seen in Afghanistan today.

The apparent harmony on display provides a stark contrast to the discord in 21st century Afghanistan, which is divided along ethnic lines and haunted by religious extremists such as the Islamic State group that are intolerant of other faiths. Barry said he hoped the exhibition would send a positive message to ordinary Afghans. “This symbolic art is a wonderful signal to today’s Afghans about the role played by an empire known for its diversity, religious tolerance and profound philosophy.”—AFP



Bagh-e-Babur Garden

“One day I would bring back its glory”



American historian Michael Barry gestures during an interview.





Halsey



2 Chainz



US singer Karen O



Silk City

# TOP DJs FUSE STYLES AT NEW YORK'S GOVERNORS BALL



Travis Scott

Two of the most sought-after producers in pop music, Mark Ronson and Diplo, have walked different paths, with Ronson reviving retro funk and Diplo reaching eagerly across the globe. The two have fused their brands of dance music to create a new duo, Silk City, which made its debut Saturday to the sweaty masses at New York's Governors Ball. In its eighth year, Governors Ball—which brings some 150,000 people over three days to tiny Randall's Island, where the New York boroughs of Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx come together—remains the longest-running of a proliferating number of summer music festivals in the metropolis.

This year's festival took on daily themes, with Friday rekindling the flame of early 2000s indie rock and Saturday drawing a significantly younger crowd with a heavy emphasis on hip-hop. Silk City—so named after a Philadelphia diner where a young Diplo built his name as a DJ—kicked off a set with a distinct feel of Ronson as funk-infused beats merged with snippets of soul.

Diplo and Ronson—who produced for the late Amy Winehouse and collaborated with Bruno Mars on blockbuster hit “Uptown Funk”—in the course of an hour incorporated decades worth of samples from artists ranging from disco-era titan Van McCoy to young rap heroine Cardi B. While bringing in some of the soaring sheets of electronica and pumping drums now associated with Diplo, Silk City shied away from the stage theatrics of Diplo's Major Lazer project with the two veterans spinning like classic DJs.

Diplo, who has explored the Jamaican and Brazilian dance scenes and more recently crafted a fresh sound for Justin Bieber, described Silk City on Instagram as “an homage to some of the greatest dance music cities in the world ... Chicago, London, Detroit, Paris.” Silk City ahead of the show released a first single, “Only Can Get Better,” a

track of old-school, dance-club house with vocals by Australian R&B singer Daniel Merriweather.

### Return of 2000s rock

Coachella in California, the biggest-name US festival, made waves this year by for the first time not booking any rock acts as headliners. Not so for Governors Ball, whose main stage Friday was led by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs followed by Jack White. Music nerds quickly noted a historical parallel. The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, one of several indie bands who revitalized the New York music scene at the turn of the century, played their first show in 2000 as the opening act to White's duo The White Stripes in the city's cozy Mercury Lounge.

In one of their first shows in New York in recent years, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs tore through its back catalog led by the stage-dominating presence of frontwoman Karen O, her voice searing through the festival grounds before switching gears for the intensity of “Maps,” the breakup roller-coaster that has become the band's most identifiable song.

White, again proving the monstrous volume possibilities on a sole guitar, played from his proudly weird new album “Boarding House Reach” but closed with White Stripes anthems—with the festival set-up meaning he could not enforce his recent diktat that concert-goers surrender their phones to focus on his music.

### Hopeful message from Halsey

Halsey found some of the most enthusiastic crowds of the festival Saturday as she showed off graceful dance moves and her new flowing blonde hair in a set that featured a stripped-down piano take of dance hit “Closer” and saluted the gay rights movement on the start of pride month. Urging the young generation to stay hopeful, the 23-year-old told the crowd that she had signed a record

“Halsey urges young generation to stay hopeful”



deal exactly four years ago—and then had attended Governors Ball, broke and anonymous.

The lineup was heavy on hip-hop with Travis Scott headlining before a massive audience Saturday, opening with his soon-to-be-released track “Stargazing,” and Eminem closing on Sunday. Other rappers at the festival included 2 Chainz, Post Malone, Lil Uzi Vert and Pusha T, who performed in the midst of his ever-escalating, social media-dominating feud with Drake. The crowd obliged him by shouting obscenities directed at Drake, one of the top-grossing stars in recent years. Pusha T passed up on the opening to insult Drake other than to perform “Infrared,” in which he accuses Drake of not writing his own music.—AFP



People attend the eighth annual Governors Ball Music Festival on Randall's Island in New York. — AFP photos



## Eminem fuels Nicki Minaj dating rumors

Eminem on Sunday fueled rumors that he was dating Nicki Minaj, creating an ultimate hip-hop power couple—and one which few would have anticipated. Eminem, the top-selling rapper of all time, addressed speculation of the relationship as he headlined the Governors Ball festival in New York—although his phrasing was odd enough to leave lingering doubts. “I’m going to tell you something about Nicki that she don’t even know,” Eminem told the crowd.

“We go together!” he said to cheers. “That’s all I wanted to say. Thank you for letting me get that off my chest.” Minaj, one of the most influential women in hip-hop, suggested a relation-

ship with Eminem late last month when she contributed a verse to the song “Big Bank” by rapper YG. “Told ‘em I met Slim Shady / Bag the Em / Once he go black he’ll be back again,” she said, using one of the alter ego character names of the white rapper.

Posting the verse on Instagram, Minaj was asked by a fan whether she was in fact dating Eminem and she replied, “Yes.” But the unusually direct response stirred social media chatter that the relationship was little more than teasing between the two, and Eminem was coy on the subject when addressing an earlier concert. Eminem, 45, has generated headlines for his turbulent personal life—and often violent lyricism

about women—since he emerged in the 1990s. He twice married and divorced Kim Scott, his high school sweetheart from Michigan.

The Trinidad-born Minaj, 35, last year said she had ended a two-year relationship with fellow rapper Meek Mill. The eight-year-old Governors Ball drew some 150,000 people over three days to the city’s tiny Randall’s Island. Other performers included garage rocker Jack White, boisterous rap star Travis Scott and fast-rising pop singer Halsey.—AFP





## Lifestyle | Features



Mohammed Alaa al-Jaleel carries a cat on his shoulder at Ernesto's Cat Sanctuary that he runs in Kfar Naha, an opposition-held town in Aleppo province in Syria. — AFP photos



Mohammed Alaa al-Jaleel holds a feline patient on her back as an ultrasound probe is rolled across her pregnant belly.



A cat sits at the entrance of the sleeping area.

# In war-torn Syria, 'cat man' starts rare animal clinic

**A**t an unlikely cat shelter in rebel-held northern Syria, Mohammed Alaa al-Jaleel gently holds a feline patient on her back as an ultrasound probe is rolled across her pregnant belly. In a time of war, she is one of hundreds to have received medical attention at the makeshift animal clinic in Kfar Naha, an opposition-held town in Aleppo province. "If you want to show mercy to people, start by showing mercy to everything else," says Jaleel, who runs Ernesto's Cat Sanctuary-named after his favorite furry friend.

**“Start by showing mercy to everything else”**

The 43-year-old, who grew up in Syria's second city Aleppo, has been mad about cats since he was a boy. As a young adult in the city, he would drop by the butchers on his way home from work as an electrician to ask for scraps to feed street cats in his neighborhood. When war broke out in 2011, he put down his tools to become an ambulance driver to help ferry the wounded-but never stopped bringing food to his feline friends.

As the war raged on and cat lovers fled the city, Jaleel was left with 170 cats to feed and a new nickname: the Cat Man of Aleppo. With the help of donations from friends and social media fans, he set up his first cat sanctuary in the city. But in late 2016, the regime ramped up its deadly bombardment of Aleppo's opposition-held neighbourhoods as it sought to regain control of the

whole city. "We started fleeing from neighbourhood to neighbourhood until, in the end, we escaped the city altogether," Jaleel recalls.

### Sukhoi, the cat

Determined not to leave them behind, he and fellow feline fans managed to save 22 of the city's cats. "We gave each family two cats in a plastic vegetable basket," Jaleel says. Among them was Sukhoi, named after the stealth fighter jets of regime ally Russia. "He would zip in and grab food from right under the noses of the other cats, just like a Sukhoi jet," he said. Syria's war has killed more than 350,000 people and displaced more than half its pre-war human population, as well as many of its domestic animals.

After fleeing Aleppo, Jaleel set up his second shelter-named after Ernesto-in early 2017 and housed 18 of the 22 smuggled cats in the animal oasis. "The cats don't just stay in just one house. They swap with each other and sleep in all of them," Jaleel says, referring to rows of marble cubes with cat-sized entrances, engraved with names like Pouncer and Rose. Nearby, a grinder churns out streams of bright pink mincemeat that is then scooped out onto plates spread out on the ground for lunchtime.

Eyes closed, a cat with a stripy, light ash coat dips its snow-white nose in, nibbling away. But the shelter, financed by online crowdfunding campaigns, does more than provide twice-daily meals: it also serves as an animal clinic with its in-house vet. "We treat all sorts of animals here for free: horses, cows and even chickens," Jaleel says. During an inventory in January, he and his colleagues discovered they had handed out 7,000 medical prescriptions for free in less than a year.

### Really beautiful

Mohammad Watar was blown away when he brought in his cat for treatment after food poisoning. "There are no vets where I live. I asked people and they pointed me to the sanctuary," he says. "I was so surprised to find this



Cats feed on mincemeat at lunchtime.

kind of thing existed during this war we're all living," says Watar. "I saw them treating all sorts of animals. It's really beautiful." Still, war is never far away: the sanctuary's main building bears the marks of gun fire.

Last month, it cancelled a children's party after a young boy was shot near the shelter, according to its English-language Facebook page. Footage posted online depicted a man in a cat sanctuary t-shirt carrying a child with blood streaming down his calf. Even the shelter's cats are treated for war wounds, says the centre's vet, Mohammed Yusuf. "Just like many people are wounded by all the different weapons in the area, animals too suffer the same injuries," he said.

Some stay under observation at his clinic for weeks, but not all get the treatment they need. "We're living in a war and facing severe shortages of veterinary medicines for wounds as well as vaccines," Yusuf says. In a time of death and destruction, the pride of the sanctuary is its ability to carry out sonograms of animal mothers-to-be. "We examine them and diagnose how many fetuses there are and when they are due, and we prepare to welcome the new births," Yusuf says.—AFP

## At war's doorstep, Yemen's equestrians ride high

**W**ith rebel fighters on the ground and warplanes in the sky, the stakes could not have been higher for Yemen's equestrians-and their horses-at a stadium in the capital Sanaa. In a rare respite from the country's grim reality, 180 equestrians donned their riding breeches and walked their horses out onto a plot of land in the heart of a city controlled by the Huthis, the



Yemeni youth compete in the National Horse Jumping Championships in the capital Sanaa. — AFP photos

Iranian-backed rebels locked in war with the government and its Saudi-led allies.

Riyadh regularly carries out air raids on the capital in a campaign to drive out the rebels who seized control of Sanaa in 2014. "It was impossible to host the championship at the Sanaa Riding Club. It's just too exposed to planes," Najib al-Adri, vice president of Yemen's Riding Federation, said. Organizers of the May 30-June 3 event settled instead on the smaller Al-Wahda Club, with its astroturf surface and relative safety.

### Unafraid

A mere 230 kilometers to the west-just over a two-hour drive the Huthis and government loyalists backed by the Arab military coalition have been battling for control of Hodeida port. The Red Sea port, the main conduit for humanitarian supplies into a country where 22 million people are in dire need of food and medical aid, is controlled by the rebels. But in Sanaa, dedicated riders and fans are determined to try to live a normal life.

"We are not afraid, despite the bombing. We want to prove that life goes on here in Sanaa," Adri said. In the bleachers, dozens of men and women applauded enthusiastically as riders walked out with their horses-some of the animals noticeably gaunt. The "Unity and Peace" competition, as organisers dubbed it, brought together civilians with the rebel police academy and military equestrian teams for Yemen's first organised show jumping event since 2015.

Horseback riding is much less popular than football in Yemen, where the national team in March qualified for the Asian Cup finals for the first time in the country's history. But show jumping is one of the few distractions available to the two million Yemenis caught in the capital, where water, power and food shortages have become a way of life.

### Impossible is nothing

On its Facebook page, Yemen's equestrian federation made a bold statement: "'Impossible' is not a word that exists in Yemen. 'No matter the challenges, our willpower and our faith are strong enough to overcome.'" Long the most impoverished Arab state, Yemen is now the scene of what the UN has dubbed the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe. Both the rebels and Saudi-led coalition stand accused by rights groups of failing to protect civilian lives, while the UN has blacklisted Riyadh and its allies over the maiming and killing of children.

And for some residents of Sanaa, sports has provided brief solace from that harsh reality. "This championship is our way of challenging the bombings," spectator Nasser Hamadi said at one of the shows. Loyalist forces are now fighting to close in on rebel-held Hodeida. The battle for Hodeida has left more than 100 soldiers and insurgents dead in less than a week, according to medics and military sources.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia led a regional military coalition into the Yemen war, in a bid to restore the government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. Some 10,000 people have since been killed, with more than 55,000 injured and millions displaced.—AFP



A picture shows a skeleton of an indeterminate carnivorous dinosaur on display at the first floor of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.—AFP photos

## T Rex snarls at visitors to Paris botanical garden

**T**rix, an eight-tonne Tyrannosaurus rex, will find a home at Paris' Jardin des Plantes for three months from Wednesday, greeting visitors in attack mode, with her terrifying, toothy snarl mounted at eye level. The female in her 30s, unearthed in Montana in the United States in 2013, has a fully intact skull and is among the best preserved T rex fossils ever found-the first real skeleton of the species ever to be displayed in France, according to the Natural History Museum behind the exhibit.

At 12.5 meters in length and four meters high, Trix can be viewed at the botanical garden's Gallery of Mineralogy and Geology from Wednesday to September 2. "This specimen is one (of three) of the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeletons in the world, with nearly 75 percent of the bones

in excellent form," said the museum. Travelling around Europe, the ferocious carnivore's remains will be mounted in typical T. rex attack pose, bent over with its neck low to the ground, its massive jaws stretched wide in a 1.5-metre skull, staring straight into the visitor's face.

The skeleton is estimated to be about 67 million years old, which means Trix died shortly before the presumed asteroid strike that wiped out most life on Earth, and all non-avian dinosaurs, some 65.5 million years ago. The exhibition will also include reconstructed examples of Trix' favourite prey, including a duck-billed, vegetarian hadrosaur, said the museum.—AFP



French paleontologist Ronan Allain arranges the bones of the skeleton of an edmontosaurus regalis -a species of comb-crested hadrosaurid (duck-billed) dinosaur- being assembled to be displayed as part of the 'A T-REX in Paris' exhibition at the paleontology gallery of the French museum of Natural History in Paris.





# Living statues festival wows Romania's capital

Wait, did that statue really move? It may have been the question many people asked while taking a walk in Bucharest over the past week, during the International Living Statues Festival. Artists from eight countries embodied 64 statues in the old quarter of Romanian capital, in popular parks and in the garden of the spectacular Filipescu-Cesianu residence, built in 1892 in the Belle Epoque period.

Actors of the Romanian Masca Theatre, the festival's organizer, brought to life Parisian street vendors from the 17th and 18th centuries in performances seen by an estimated 30,000 people. Bucharest is one of several Eastern European cities known as the "Paris of the East" because of its French-inspired architecture and gardens. Children, some very young, were the most visibly fascinated spectators.

The characters' vividly colored outfits, some inspired by the famous Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi's iconic Endless Column, were the main attraction. While the high-pitched screaming involved in some performances scared a few, others enjoyed the interaction and even offered to share their ice cream with the actors. The living statues from Britain, Germany, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Ukraine engaged in sudden moments of interaction with the public, often startling the spectators.

"We hope to enhance the Romanian public's abilities to truly understand and appreciate this art form, regarded in the past as a mere occupation associated with amateurs or even begging," Masca Theatre director Mihai Malaimare said, describing the event as "the largest European festival of the genre."—AP



Artists perform their characters during the Living Statues International Festival, in Bucharest, Romania.  
— AP photos





# Classifieds

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear later on.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 35 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	43 °C	32 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	44 °C	28 °C
ABDALY	45 °C	27 °C
BUBYAN	** °C	** °C
JAHRA	45 °C	30 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	39 °C	27 °C
SALMIYAH	36 °C	30 °C
AHMADI	35 °C	31 °C
NUWAISIB	38 °C	28 °C
WAFRA	43 °C	26 °C
SALMY	45 °C	28 °C

SFC. CHART	04/06/2018 0000 UTC

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	06/05	Partly cloudy and Relatively humid specially over coastal rising dust over open areas	45 °C	30 °C	SE-S	12 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	06/06	Hot and some high clouds will appear	46 °C	31 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	06/07	Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	49 °C	32 °C	N-NW	15 - 45 km/h
Friday	06/08	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	49 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:15
Sunrise	04:49
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:44
Isha	20:15

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	32 °C
MAX. RH	60 %
MIN. RH	15 %
MAX. Wind	NE 53 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
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

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## Flight Schedule

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

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 5/6/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 5/6/2018							
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	221	Bahrain	14:10	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC	516	Tehran	14:15	AXB	552	Alexandria	14:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	KNE	286	Dhaka	14:20	FEG	394	Kozhikode	14:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	SVA	537	Jeddah	14:25	KAC	342	Sohag	14:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	500	Jeddah	14:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:45	ETD	9890	SGN	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:50	KNE	234	Riyadh	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	KNE	538	Jeddah	15:25
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	15:20	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JZR	534	Cairo	16:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	FDB	8511	Doha	16:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	051	Dubai	16:20	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	KAC	118	New York	16:20	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FEG	241	Alexandria	16:45	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:55	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	8512	Beirut	17:45
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JZR	145	Doha	17:35	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
MSC	403	Asyut	05:00	JZR	177	Dubai	17:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
PAL	668	Manila	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	266	Beirut	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	GEL	616	Baku	19:30	WAN	135	Doha	18:40
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:35	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35	WAN	117	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	1539	Cairo	06:55	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
JZR	561	Sohag	08:00	WAN	966	Tbilisi	20:05	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	KAC	117	New York	09:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
WAN	352	Luxor	08:30	KAC	166	Rome	20:25	WAN	133	Doha	09:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	553	Alexandria	20:50	JZR	535	Cairo	09:45
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
JZR	529	Asyut	10:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
SAW	703	Damascus	10:30	KAC	168	Paris	21:20	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	564	Amman	21:50	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	617	Doha	10:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	AZG	565	Baku	22:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
JZR	703	Taif	11:00	ICV	675	Luxembourg	22:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	IRA	674	Lar	10:40
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15	SYR	342	Damascus	11:00
ETD	0995	Abu Dhabi/Bahrain	13:00	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	SAW	704	Damascus	11:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	WAN	136	Doha	22:30	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
WAN	134	Doha	13:20	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
WAN	312	Asyut	13:45	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	MSC	501	Alexandria	23:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	THY	764	Istanbul	23:15	MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30	WAN	965	Tbilisi	13:50
KNE	233	Riyadh	14:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
				JZR	241	Amman	23:40	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
								JZR	560	Sohag	23:45





**NAJAF:** Muslim children participate in a collective Quran reading session during the month of Ramadan, at the Imam Ali Ibn Abi Taleb shrine in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf. Muslims throughout the world are marking the month of Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar during which devotees fast from dawn till dusk. —AFP

## ‘Guidelines’ for deployment of...

Continued from Page 1

current Charge d’Affaires Noordin P Lomondot, Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Rustico Dela Fuente and Assistant Labor Attache Ma Teresa Olgado. “This morning, 04 June 2018, the Embassy received guidelines on the resumption of the deployment of Domestic Workers to Kuwait from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration or POEA,” Lomondot said.

“The guidelines were issued pursuant to the Agreement on Employment of Domestic Workers between the government of the Philippines and that of Kuwait, which was signed in Kuwait on 11 May 2018, and the Administrative Order No 254-A, Series of 2018, signed by Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III lifting the deployment ban for Kuwait-bound domestic workers.

In view of this development - and beginning today (04 June 2018), our Labor Office or POLO will start accepting deployment documents of domestic workers (Visa 20 workers) for processing,” the statement said. “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, through the office of the Deputy Foreign Minister, expressed appreciation for this new development, which is considered a good step for the two countries to move forward and re-strengthen their friendly bilateral relations,” Lomondot added.

Dela Fuente clarified that by July 1-3, there will be joint committee meetings to be held in Kuwait (first round) and the second round will be hosted by the Philippines. “In the joint committee meetings, there will be more issues to be discussed. We hope that some suggestions like the ‘Day Off centers’, the cost of payment for the recruitment agencies, enhancement training programs and lots more will be tackled,” he said.

In the new guidelines however, the Philippine Recruitment Agencies (PRAs) shall comply with the following rules:

(1) Only medically fit domestic workers free from infectious diseases as certified by medical clinics accredited by the Department of Health to conduct medical examination for OFWs shall be deployed for overseas employment.

(2) Only domestic workers within the allowable age properly trained in accredited training institutions; on household work and received and properly certified satisfactory orientation on Kuwaiti law, customs, traditions, morals, and values shall be deployed. PRAs shall ensure that their workers are cognizant of the terms and conditions of their employment contracts and oblige them to strictly observe Kuwaiti laws, morals, ethics and customs while in Kuwait.

FPA (Foreign Recruitment Agencies) shall allow their domestic workers to undergo training in a training center of their own choice except if they pay for their domestic workers’ training costs. Training centers with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) approved curriculum for domestic work shall only charge reasonable training costs and ensure livable and sanitary accommodations for their trainees. The POEA shall issue separate guidelines for the regulation and monitoring of training centers for domestic workers.

(3) Only domestic worker with good behavior - and without criminal record as certified by the National Bureau of Investigation shall be deployed.

(4) FRA and employers shall neither collect unauthorized fees nor impose charges to the salaries of domestic helpers in connection with the workers recruitment and employment.

(5) The recruitment and deployment of newly hired domestic workers shall only be through legal process and procedures.

(6) Domestic workers shall have free access to legal assistance and counseling from concerned offices of both the Kuwaiti and Philippine government. For this

purpose, the PRAs shall provide the contact details of the responsible government offices.

(7) The employer shall allow the domestic worker to possess and use a mobile phone or other communication devices to communicate with the worker, family and the authorities. This arrangement, including all other protective measures stated in the Agreement on Employment of Domestic Workers shall be included in the employment contract.

(8) The employer shall not retain any of the domestic workers’ personal documents including the passports. A passport is the property of the Philippine government and must only be in the possession of its rightful holder.

(9) The contracting parties shall have the right of recourse to competent authorities in case of contractual disputes in accordance with the applicable laws, rules and regulations.

(10) After the domestic worker has completed the employment contract and the worker opts to be employed by another employer: or in cases where the worker without completing the employment contract but with the consent of the current employer finds a new employer. A new employment contract verified by the POLO shall be signed by the domestic worker and the new employer. The domestic worker must appear before the POLO, to ensure that the domestic worker consents the transfer of employment.

Asked if the embassy has the power to recommend the amount to be charged by the recruitment agencies for local employers (cost of hiring Filipino Domestic helper), Dela Fuente said - “No, because it is solely in the hands of Kuwaiti government. We are not in any-ways taking money from the recruitment agencies. Our rules and policies as to the deployment of worker are clear; we do not charge workers of any placement fee. If they want the cost to be decreased they have to do something about it not the Philippine government,” he added. In the guidelines, in order for the recruitment agencies to put up recruitment companies that will hire workers, the following must be followed:

(11) An escrow account (US\$50,000) in accordance with Section 96(B) of the 2016 POEA Rules and regulations and governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Workers and the guidelines under POEA Governing Board Resolution No 10, Series of 2016. PRAs are obliged to inform their PPAs on the procedures for escrow deposit account.

(12) All documentary requirements for the recruitment and deployment of workers must be verified by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Kuwait. Individual contracts should be signed by the Foreign Placement Agency, the direct employer, the domestic worker, and the PRA.

For purposes of verification and accreditation, the POLO shall require the FRAs or employers to submit the following additional documents: (A) Employer’s proof of capacity to pay salary of the domestic workers. (B) Employer’s, residential address and contact details. (C) Number of household members and their age. (D) Relevant information of work area/type of employer’s residence.

(13) Pending the issuance of a unified contract under the agreement, there shall be dual verification of Kuwait-prescribed contract and the POEA standard employment contract.

Regarding the implementation of the MOA, Dela Fuente said that the PRAs shall submit to the POEA Welfare and Employment Office (WEO) a quarterly report of their regular monitoring of deployed domestic workers regarding their condition, food, accommodation, clothing etc. The PRAs are also directed to monitor if their workers have reasonable opportunity to remit, and if necessary assist the workers in remitting their salaries.

(14) Any violation of the provisions of these guidelines and the employment contract shall be reported to the POEA Welfare and Employment Office for proper action under the Revised POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land based Overseas Filipino Workers of 2016.

## Qatar’s World Cup weathers crisis but fresh storms brew

**DOHA:** Qatar’s World Cup organizers have ridden out the initial shock caused by the country’s ongoing confrontation with its powerful neighbors, but experts warn bigger crises may lie ahead. FIFA is looking at a proposal to expand the 2022 football tournament from 32 to 48 teams, an increase that could pose the greatest risk yet to Qatar’s plan to host the first World Cup in the Arab world.

Qatar has already come under scrutiny over allegations of corruption and human rights abuses-but that may be nothing compared with pressures it faces in the run-up to 2022. “I think FIFA’s proposal represents the biggest threat to the tournament simply because it would wrong-foot Qatar into sharing the tournament with other countries,” said Simon Chadwick, a sports and geopolitics expert at

Britain’s Salford University. Sharing the cup, he said, would represent “something of a defeat for Doha”.

In the year since Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and their allies including Egypt abruptly froze relations with Qatar-accusing it of supporting terrorism and being too close to Iran-World Cup organizers have proved resilient. The embargo, in place since June 5, 2017, cut off the supply of construction materials from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, but they were swiftly replaced by imports from Malaysia and China.

By the end of 2018, three of the eight stadiums earmarked for 2022 will be completed. The design for Lusail, the stadium set to host World Cup 2022 final, is expected to be unveiled by the end of the year. Qatar’s colossal weekly budget of \$500 million (428 million euros) on World Cup infrastructure has built new roads, hotels, neighborhoods even towns-its \$36 billion metro system is on track to open in 2019. “Our projects are going ahead as scheduled,” said Hassan Al-Thawadi, one of the World Cup organizers, after the crisis began. “This is no risk in relation to the hosting of the World Cup.” — AFP

## Kuwait sovereign issuance: The fund...

Continued from Page 1

If Kuwait were able to issue longer term paper of 30 years, it would be beneficial to the credit curve, and directly benefit corporates and banks looking to follow the sovereign. In that case, we’d be likely to see names

such as Equate Petrochemicals, NBK or Kuwait Projects attempting to tap the market. The only real risks for a sovereign issuance today are considerably higher US Treasury yields and a massively lower oil price environment. How likely are either of these scenarios? Not very. The time is right to issue, and there is an appetite to match it.

*Good is CEO and Head of Portfolio Management at Fisch Asset Management.*

## Jordanian King replaces PM to...

Continued from Page 1

Public anger has grown over government policies since a steep general sales tax hike earlier this year and the abolition of bread subsidies, both measures driven by the International Monetary Fund. Political sources earlier said Abdullah had summoned Mulki for an audience in the king’s palace. In a sign the tax hikes could be shelved, the Petra news agency, citing the speaker of parliament, said lawmakers were on course to ask the king’s permission to hold an exceptional session, with a majority demanding the changes be withdrawn.

Mulki, a business-friendly politician, was appointed in May 2016 and given the responsibility of reviving a sluggish economy and business sentiment hit by regional turmoil. The tax increases have caused his popularity to plummet. The protests widened on

Saturday after Mulki refused to scrap a bill increasing personal and corporate taxes, saying it was up to parliament to decide. Demonstrators who have converged near the Cabinet office have said they would disband only if the government rescinded the tax bill it sent to parliament last month.

### Strike call

Unions representing tens of thousands of employees in both the public and private sectors have also called for a general strike on Wednesday after their demands for the bill to be scrapped were rejected by the government. The government says it needs more funds for public services and argues that the tax changes reduce social disparities by placing a heavier burden on high earners. Opponents say a tough IMF-imposed fiscal consolidation plan has worsened the plight of poorer Jordanians and squeezed the middle class. Jordan’s economy has struggled to grow in the past few years in the face of chronic deficits, as private foreign capital and aid flows have declined. Protesters have also criticized politicians for squandering public funds and corruption. — Reuters

www.dorar.net.) Who are they that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) guaranteed Paradise? Sahl Bin Sa’d As-Saa’dey (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, “Whoever guarantees to me to safeguard what is between his jaws and what is between his legs, I will guarantee for him Paradise.” (Al-Bukhari # 6, 474).

*Courtesy of the TIES Center: the TIES Center aims at empower Kuwait’s expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.*

## Guard your tongue (1)...

Continued from Page 1

(A) Stay in your house performing supererogatory acts of worship instead of going out to gossip and wasting your time in useless activities and talks. Since it is Ramadan, seize the opportunity to read the Noble Quran, repeat various types of supplication, etc.

(B) Stay indoors during the times of mutiny and unrest - among others - lest you get caught up in the midst of chaos that would bring you harm and loss in your religious matters as well as in various aspects of your life. (Refer to the interpretation of the Hadeeth on



Sports

# Ariya survives rollercoaster round to win US Women’s Open

## Warning signs were there for Ariya, says Faxon

**SHOAL CREEK:** Ariya Jutanugarn’s collapse at the US Women’s Open on Sunday ranked among the most memorable in major championship history, eight-times PGA Tour winner Brad Faxon said after watching the Thai squander a seven-shot lead before winning in a playoff. Faxon, who followed Ariya for the final 36 holes at Shoal Creek, compared the meltdown to that of Arnold Palmer at the 1966 U.S. Open at Olympic Club in San Francisco.

Palmer also squandered a seven-shot lead over the final nine holes but while Ariya managed to right the ship and win in sudden death, the American great lost in a play-off to Billy Casper.

Ariya had looked poised to stroll to the title, padding her lead at the turn after starting the day four in front, but Faxon said the warning signs were there. “The first tee shot she hit was the first really bad tee shot I saw her hit in two days,” Faxon, who was working at the championship for Fox Sports, told Reuters. “It was a low push, low and off the toe. It didn’t have any height to it and then she hit a bad iron shot on two, a big pull-hook.” But those errant shots did little to hint at what was to come as Ariya improved to 16-under-par at the turn, matching Juli Inkster’s 1999 record as the most under par at any point of a US Women’s Open.

And then came the par-four 10th. Ariya blocked a tee shot into a hazard and ran up the only triple bogey at the

hole by anyone all week. “She then hit a low snap hook at 11,” Faxon said, recalling an observation of former US Open champion Ken Venturi. “Ken said when somebody’s playing great they have great distance control, great accuracy and great trajectory, and the first thing they lose is their trajectory. I noticed Ariya lost her trajectory.” Ariya does not carry a driver in her bag but has such power that she hits her three-wood further than most women do with the ‘big stick’.

“She’s battled having to deal with driver yips, or whatever she had,” Faxon said. “Today they showed up in three-wood.” So much so that Ariya resorted to hitting her two-iron down the stretch, but even that she struggled to hit straight with any regularity.

Faxon said that Ariya, at her best, evoked comparisons with a young Tiger Woods, and with nine LPGA victories, including two majors, the 22-year-old seems capable of dominating the women’s tour. But while Woods always seemed impervious to pressure, Ariya has sometimes struggled to close the deal.

Paul Azinger, the 1993 PGA Championship winner, said Ariya’s confidence would have taken a real blow had she not found a way past Kim Hyo-joo in the playoff. “She was that close to getting her heart ripped out,” he told Fox. — Reuters



**SHOAL CREEK:** Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand poses with the trophy after winning the 2018 US Women’s Open at Shoal Creek on Sunday in Shoal Creek, Alabama. — AFP



Kuwaiti jet skier Yusuf Al-Abdulrazzaq (left).

## Kuwaiti jet skier ranked 2nd in world jet ski championship

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti jet skier Yusuf Al-Abdulrazzaq came second in the second round of the World Jet Ski Championship in the Italian island of Sardinia.

In statements to KUNA, via phone, Al-Abdulrazzaq pointed out that he topped the tournament’s ranking with points after this achievement as he had snatched the first place in the first round. He expressed pleasure with this success and the elevation of the Kuwaiti

flag at international sports events. He thanked the Minister of Information, the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and the Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah for their support to Kuwaiti athletes.

The third and fourth rounds will be held in China in September while the fifth and sixth rounds will be held in December in the United Arab Emirates. — KUNA

## Fury back in love with boxing

**LONDON:** Troubled former world heavy-weight champion Tyson Fury equated boxing to a marriage and that after a rocky period he is back fully in love again with the sport. The 29-year-old-who has battled with depression which led to heavy drinking sessions and taking drugs-is set for his first bout in over two-and-a-half years on Saturday against Albanian Sefer Seferi in Manchester.

Fury, who dramatically took the world title (WBA/IBF/WBO belts)beating long-time holder Ukrainian Wladimir Klitschko in November 2015, told the BBC he has worked hard to resurrect his passion for

boxing. “Boxing is like a marriage-you have to work at it. You do fall in and out of love,” said Fury.

“But I have spiced it back up again, bought her some sexy lingerie and we are back at it, better than ever,” Fury, who was cleared to fight again last December by UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) after accepting a backdated two-year ban for testing positive for the banned steroid Nandrolone, says this comeback is about “inspiring others who are suffering” with mental health issues.

“I woke up every day wishing I would not wake up any more,” said Fury. “But I am living proof anyone can come back from the brink. “There is a lot of people out there suffering with mental health problems who think all their days will be grey, but life can improve again and you will start to

enjoy the little things again.”

Fury’s ambition is to regain the world crown with compatriot Anthony Joshua presently holding the WBA, IBF and WBO belts whilst American Deontay Wilder is the WBC titleholder. “They are all afraid to fight one another,” said Fury. “If any of us are going to be great champions, let’s knock one another about. Let’s have Royal Rumbles. The days of Ali, when he fought, Frazier, Foreman, everyone.

“Ali had three years out of the ring, had two fights and then lost to Frazier. Was it enough fights on his return? I don’t know. But he got back to his glory. “I’m not going to rush it. “I’m 29, in the prime of my life and have never felt fitter, stronger or better. Rome wasn’t built in a day. This is my second career now, coming back after nearly 1,000 days.” — AFP



## Motul introduces stunning new ki’win livery design concept

**TOKYO:** Motul and McLaren GT have collaborated for the launch of a stunning new livery design concept - “Ki’Win”. The new design is driven by the pioneering spirit of Motul for 165 years in the world of lubricants and McLaren’s half century experience to set benchmarks on racetracks around the world.

Since 2016, Motul and McLaren GT the division of the company set up to develop, build and support its GT race activities have been linked, with Motul as official lubricant partner to the manufacturer. The prestigious McLaren GT cars use the Motul Motorsport line of products that include 300V engine oil, ideal for use with the McLaren’s V8 Twin Turbo power plant.

McLaren GT has a range of models for different types of competition and track use, the 570S GT4, 650S and 570S Sprint models and the 650S GT3 which has won races in every championship in which it has entered including the 2016

Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup title. In the 2018 edition there will be two McLaren 650S GT3’s racing, a stunning new livery has been revealed for them which wholly reflects the relationship between McLaren GT and Motul. The new design is by Adrien Paviot, the well-known and highly sought-after Frenchman who has put his design mark on racers in F1 as well as in record breaking racing cars. The designer commented “I wanted a special link between Motul and the livery so I decided to find some close-up shots of how 300V looks like on an engine piston and from that I created this very modern pattern. The Ki’Win name is a tribute to Bruce McLaren, a Kiwi, and ‘Win’ as a tribute to the success story of McLaren.

The beautiful lines of the McLaren 650S GT3 lend themselves particularly well to the design, which uses the corporate racing colors of McLaren GT and Motul’s iconic red and white which is prominently displayed on the nose and flanks of the car.

ALSAYER Engineering, a subsidiary of ALSAYER Holding is the authorized distributor for Motul in Kuwait, world class lubricants with global presence in 160 countries. Technologically leading products from Motul lubricants will be available for customers at ALSAYER Engineering’s wide network of five centers for tires, oils and paints as well as in authorized dealers, co-ops, garages and Auto-repair shops across Kuwait.

## Buttler glad he can serve England again in Test cricket

**LEEDS:** Jos Buttler believes he belongs in Test cricket after justifying the faith of new national selector Ed Smith during England’s drawn series with Pakistan. Buttler’s blistering 80 not out was central to England’s innings and 55-run win over Pakistan inside three days at Headingley on Sunday that saw them end a two-match series all square at 1-1.

Having played himself in, Buttler accelerated in style on Sunday during an innings where he faced 101 balls in total, including 11 fours and two sixes. Buttler was just five runs shy of equalling his Test-best score of 85, made on debut against India at Southampton in 2014, when last man James Anderson was dismissed.

Smith raised eyebrows by recalling talented ball-striker Buttler, who prior to the Pakistan series had last played Test cricket some 18 months ago, purely on the basis of his form in the Twenty20 IPL. The 27-year-old Buttler hit five successive fifties for the Rajasthan Royals, culminating with two unbeaten 90s. There were doubts though as to whether the white-ball form of Buttler, who has made 170 appearances in international limited overs cricket, would carry over into the Test-match arena.

But Buttler, given the freedom to attack as a specialist number seven, made 67 in

England’s nine-wicket defeat by Pakistan in the first Test at Lord’s before starring in Leeds. “There were lots of unknowns coming into this series so it’s especially pleasing to have put in some decent performances and especially here to be part of a winning side,” Buttler said.

Buttler’s 20-match Test career has often been overshadowed by the question of whether he should keep wicket-Jonny Bairstow is now England’s red-ball glove-man-as he does in one-day cricket. But asked if he had proven to himself he could succeed as a Test batsman, Buttler replied: “I think so. “Over the last couple of years I’ve had some great experiences all round the world in different competitions,” added the batsman, who has also played in Australian cricket’s Twenty20 ‘Big Bash’. “That’s really helped. Coming into the series with someone (Smith) putting so much faith in me as a real wildcard pick gave me a hell of a lot of confidence. For someone to say ‘I’m backing you, you’re good enough’.

“I arrived confident having had a great few weeks in India, so I felt in a really good place and wanted to continue that and wanted to play the situations in front of me.” Buttler though could find himself in trouble with the International Cricket Council after television cameras highlighted the words “fuck it” written on the top of his bat handle. All such “personal messages” have to be approved by the ICC-something highly unlikely to have happened in Buttler’s case-before they can be displayed by a player. Now it will be up to former New Zealand captain Jeff Crowe, the match referee at Headingley, to decide whether Buttler should face action for a breach of the ICC’s clothing and equipment rules. — AFP



# Atlanta heads west following walk-off win over Nationals

## Braves retain first place in National League East

WASHINGTON: Atlanta's Charlie Culberson has two home runs this season, both of them for walk-off victories. He delivered his second game-winning shot on a pinch-hit homer with one out in the ninth inning to give the Braves a 4-2 victory over visiting the Washington Nationals on Sunday. Culberson connected against reliever Tanner Roark (2-6), who was the starting and losing pitcher in the first game of the series on Thursday night. Culberson's homer scored Dansby Swanson, who reached second on a hustle double by sliding past the tag of Wilmer Difo. Swanson was originally called out, but the verdict was reversed on video review. The Braves won three of four games in the series and retained first place in the National League East by 1 1/2 games over the Nationals.

### CARDINALS 5, PIRATES 0

St. Louis' Michael Wacha lost a no-hitter in the ninth inning against visiting Pittsburgh when pinch hitter Colin Moran hit a leadoff single to right on an 0-2 pitch. Wacha (7-1) was up to 111 pitches. He immediately left for reliever Jordan Hicks, who preserved the shutout. Marcell Ozuna hit a grand slam in the first for all the runs Wacha and the Cardinals needed, and they added another in the eighth. Wacha was bidding to throw the Cardinals' first no-hitter since left-hander Bud Smith accomplished the feat against the San Diego Padres on Sept. 3, 2001.

### MARINERS 2, RAYS 1

Felix Hernandez (6-4) pitched eight innings of one-run ball, and Seattle rallied to overcome a record-equaling start from visiting Tampa Bay's Blake Snell to sweep a three-game series. The Mariners scored both of their runs in the eighth inning off left-hander Jose Alvarado (0-2). Denard Span and Dee Gordon had RBI hits. Snell fanned the first seven batters of the game, matching the AL record held by two Chicago White Sox pitchers: Joe Cowley (May 28, 1986) and Carlos Rodon (Sept 30, 2016). Snell wound up striking out 12 in six shutout innings.

### TWINS 7, INDIANS 5

Eddie Rosario slugged his third homer of the game when he hit a two-run blast with no outs in the bottom of the ninth inning off Cody Allen as Minnesota beat visiting Cleveland with his family watching from the stands. Rosario capped his second career three-homer game by driving a 2-1 fastball from Allen (2-2) 400 feet over the center field fence and into the lower rows of seats above the high scoreboard. Rosario's 13th homer occurred after Brian Dozier opened the inning with a walk on the ninth pitch. Minnesota emerged with a third straight win over the Indians. It was the third walk-off win for the Twins, who have sustained eight such losses already.

### GIANTS 6, PHILLIES 1

Buster Posey's go-ahead single in a five-run sixth inning gave Dereck Rodriguez his first major league win as host San Francisco beat Philadelphia to complete a three-game sweep. Andrew McCutchen followed up

Posey's hit with a three-run homer to right field, his fourth of the season, two batters after Joe Panik's RBI single tied the game. Posey added a solo shot in the eighth, his fourth. Making his first major league start, the 25-year-old Rodriguez (1-0) struck out six over six innings of one-run ball. Phillies starter Jake Arrieta (5-3) knocked a home run and carried a shutout into the sixth on the mound before coughing up five runs.

### RED SOX 9, ASTROS 3

Andrew Benintendi paced the assault on Charlie Morton as Boston earned a four-game series split against host Houston. Benintendi finished 2-for-5 with two runs and his second home run of the series, a fifth-inning blast into the upper deck in right field. The Red Sox slugged two mammoth home runs off Morton (7-1), who had his streak of 15 consecutive starts without a loss, dating to last season, snapped. Morton was tagged for six runs in 5 1/3 innings. Mitch Moreland also homered for Boston, and he and Eduardo Nunez each had three hits. Rick Porcello (8-2) allowed three runs (two earned) in 6 1/3 innings.

### DIAMONDBACKS 6, MARLINS 1

David Peralta homered for the third consecutive game, and Matt Koch struck out six in seven scoreless innings as Arizona completed a three-game sweep of visiting Miami. Peralta had two hits in the game and homered in a three-run eighth inning. Ketel Marte had two hits and an RBI and Daniel Descalso drove in two as the Diamondbacks finished a 5-1 homestand and regained first place in the NL West. Brian Anderson had two hits and Justin Bour added an RBI double in the ninth inning for the Marlins, who have lost six in a row.

### CUBS 2, METS 0

Jon Lester carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning and earned the win by allowing two hits over seven scoreless innings as Chicago completed a four-game sweep of host New York. The Cubs have won eight of 10. The Mets have lost 11 of 14 and 29 of 45 since an 11-1 start. Lester (6-2) walked three and struck out seven. The Cubs rewarded Lester in the top of the seventh by scoring in unique fashion. Javier Baez led off the inning with a single and went to third on a single by Wilson Contreras. When Mets starter Steven Matz (2-4) made a casual pickoff throw to first, Baez broke for home and crossed the plate easily with what was scored a stolen base.

### DODGERS 10, ROCKIES 7

Justin Turner's slow roller in the ninth drove in the go-ahead run, Yasmani Grandal added two more with a homer, and Los Angeles rallied to beat Colorado in Denver. Max Muncy homered twice and Tony Cingrani (1-2) pitched 1 1/3 innings in relief for the win. Ian Desmond homered for the Rockies, who lost catcher Chris Iannetta to an undisclosed injury in the top of the ninth. The Dodgers scored three times off Rockies closer Wade Davis (0-1) in the ninth. Turner's groundout to Davis drove



ANAHEIM: Mike Trout #27 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim beats the throw to Joey Wendle #18 of the Tampa Bay Rays for a stolen base in the fifth inning of the game at Angel Stadium on Sunday in Anaheim, California. —AFP

in Logan Forsythe and Grandal followed with a two-run shot to center. Kenley Jansen got the last three outs for his 14th save.

### ANGELS 3, RANGERS 1

Tyler Skaggs gave up four hits over six scoreless innings and got just enough offensive support to lead Los Angeles to a win over visiting Texas in the rubber game of a three-game series in Anaheim, Calif. The Angels had only four hits, but one of them was a two-run double by Luis Valbuena and another was a solo homer by Justin Upton. Skaggs allowed two doubles to Shin-Soo Choo and also walked three batters but was able to make pitches when the Rangers threatened to score. Texas was 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position when Skaggs (4-4) was in the game.

### A'S 5, ROYALS 1

Matt Olson continued his hot streak with a three-run home run in a four-run eighth inning, and Oakland beat host Kansas City. The A's took two of three from the Royals. Olson has four home runs and nine RBIs in his past four games. With the score tied 1-1, Oakland's Dustin Fowler led off the eighth inning with a single and then stole second. Jed Lowrie brought Fowler home with a single up the middle to give the A's a 2-1 lead and knock Kansas City starter Jakob Junis out of the game. Reliever Burch Smith walked the first batter he faced, Khris Davis, and Olson followed with his three-run shot.

### BLUE JAYS 8, TIGERS 4

Justin Smoak and Randal Grichuk each hit a two-run home run and drove in three runs, Aaron Sanchez allowed

one run in six innings and visiting Toronto defeated Detroit to avoid a three-game sweep. The Blue Jays ended a five-game losing streak with the victory. They completed a nine-game road trip at 3-6. Leonys Martin hit a solo homer for the Tigers, who had their four-game winning streak ended. Sanchez (3-5) held the Tigers to two hits and three walks while striking out seven. He recorded his first win since April 30, a span of five winless starts.

### WHITE SOX 6, BREWERS 1

Back-to-back homers from pinch hitter Daniel Palka and Adam Engel in the sixth inning powered host Chicago past Milwaukee in the rubber match of a three-game series. With one out in the sixth, Palka delivered a tiebreaking, two-run shot, his sixth of the season, to right field. Engel followed with a solo blast, his second, to center. The White Sox had lost seven of their previous nine games. Milwaukee scored its only run when an error by Chicago third baseman Yolver Sanchez allowed Christian Yelich to reach on a force attempt and Manny Pina to score with one out in the top of the fifth.

### PADRES 6, REDS 3

Hunter Renfroe hit a pinch-hit grand slam in the fifth inning to power San Diego past visiting Cincinnati. The Padres took the final two games in the three-game series. The Padres trailed 2-0 going into the bottom of the fifth, and Reds starter Luis Castillo was working on a two-hit shutout. San Diego starter Tyson Ross (5-3) allowed two runs on seven hits and two walks with three strikeouts. Kirby Yates picked up his first save of the season, getting Joey Votto to ground out to end the game with two on. — Reuters

## Soccer-mad Brazilians rush to buy TVs

SAO PAULO: While still more than a week away, the World Cup has already had a major impact on retailers in the self-described "Country of Soccer," as football-mad Brazilians feverishly scoop up new televisions. Brazilian TV production - much of it by international companies like Panasonic Corp and LG Corp in a tax-free zone in Amazonas state - has risen 25 percent by some measures, while the country's leading electronics retailers are reporting a spike in sales in recent months.

Stores are also coming up with novel methods to get Brazilians to pull the trigger on new TV sets, with many offering major discounts. Electronics and appliance chain and local e-commerce standout Magazine Luiza SA, for instance, is allowing customers to pay for new TVs in part by trading in their old sets.

"We're seeing sales get stronger week after week as we get closer to the Cup," said commercial director Fabio Gabaldo. The boost is not unique to Brazil, which is the only country to have appeared in every tournament in history.

In neighboring Peru, which will make its first World Cup appearance in 36 years, first-quarter TV sales rose 25 percent from a year earlier, according to pollster GfK. That nation's congress came under fire recently for planning to buy 60 TVs and a number of mini-fridges, purchases that many Peruvians suspect are related to the World Cup, a charge legislators have denied.

The rise in sales in Brazil shows how enthusiasm for the Cup shows no signs of fading even after an embarrassing exit from the 2014 tournament, which was played at home and sparked a number of major corruption investigations. Various other sectors, including brewing and food retail, are set for a major boost during the Cup itself, potentially providing a small shot of adrenaline for an economy that has struggled to recover from a deep recession and most recently has been roiled by a truckers strike. — Reuters

## Fans, sponsors make it a World Cup with Chinese characteristics

SHANGHAI: True to form, China failed to qualify for the World Cup but the planet's most populous country will be far from absent: thousands of its fans will fly to Russia, and Chinese sponsors will loom large on global TV screens.

Despite not being able to cheer on their home side, many Chinese supporters are undeterred, and they are expected to arrive in numbers that will dwarf the followers of many competing teams. The growing presence of fans and sponsors can be linked to China's consumer boom, while excitement for football has been spurred on by President Xi Jinping's ambitions to make 73rd-ranked China a world power in the sport.

China have only qualified once for the World Cup - when they exited goalless in 2002 — but expectations are high that it will bid to hold the tournament, with 2030 and 2034 often mentioned as possibilities. One Chinese fan, Dai Qian, said he will spend nearly \$10,000 to visit Russia and watch the tournament.

"We appreciate football as an art and we like the feeling of watching live football," said the 38-year-old, a university professor in energy engineering who will travel as part of a 400-strong Chinese tour group. According to the latest FIFA figures, nearly 37,000 tickets out of 1.7 million went to Chinese fans, the second-largest showing from countries that didn't make the tournament, after the United States. Dai said that in the absence of their own team, Chinese fans back the countries of their favourite players. For him, it's Argentina because he grew up watching Italy's Serie A on TV and was a fan of Gabriel Batistuta, the former Fiorentina and Roma striker.

### 'JUMP TO BE A GLOBAL BRAND'

According to research by Britain's Professor Simon Chadwick, Germany are the most popular foreign team in China, with some female fans swayed by the players' looks. It helps that Germany are reigning world champions and among the favourites in Russia. "There is something about 'brand Germany' and the relationship between Germany and China," said Chadwick, profes-



HANGZHOU: File photo shows a man poses for a photo with Zabivaka, the official mascot of 2018 Football World Cup, at a showroom in Hangzhou in China's eastern Zhejiang province on May 31, 2018. — AFP

sor of sports enterprise at University of Salford.

"There are sections of the Chinese population who like to be conspicuous consumers - who like to be seen to be consuming the best brands, the best-quality brands, and that confers a particular status on them. The same is true of their football.

"So if you can be a fan, why not pick the best?" Mark Dreyer, Beijing-based founder of the China Sports Insider website, said the growing ability of Chinese to afford overseas travel is a major reason for the large numbers going to the World Cup.

Russia is also much closer geographically to China than, for example, the World Cup in Brazil four years ago. Television viewers across the globe and fans in World Cup stadiums will also become familiar with three tournament sponsors from China-tech company Vivo, electrical appliance and electronics supplier Hisense, and Mengniu Dairy. There is also FIFA spon-

sor Wanda Group, a Chinese conglomerate and formerly a major stakeholder in Spain's Atletico Madrid.

Zhu Shuqin, brand director at Hisense, declined to tell AFP how much the company paid for its sponsorship. But she said a similar deal at football's 2016 European Championship in France "helped us greatly in our global market expansion". That included a 60 percent surge in television sales in Europe in one quarter, Zhu said.

Already well known in China, Hisense are eyeing the North American, European and Japanese markets. "We want to use such sponsorship to realise our globalisation goal," said Zhu, outlining the company's hopes from the World Cup. "Secondly, we can see in the global market of consumer electronics that the top companies, such as Samsung and Sony, all choose this kind of top event to sponsor so that they can jump to be a global brand from a regional one." — AFP



## Sports

# Neuer in Germany World Cup squad, striker Sane left out

## Neuer key to Germany's hopes of retaining the title

**BERLIN:** Germany have included 2014 World Cup-winning captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer in their final squad for the 2018 tournament, even though he has only just returned from a long-term absence through injury.

But in a surprise omission, coach Joachim Loew left Manchester City striker Leroy Sane out of his 23-player list despite a strong season with the Premier League champions. "Leroy has a huge amount of talent and he will be back in again because from September we will re-double our work with him," Loew said.

"But in his games with the national team he hasn't quite done the business." Bayern Munich goalkeeper Neuer made his first appearance since September in the 2-1 defeat by Austria in a rain-delayed friendly on Saturday and showed no ill-effects. The 32-year-old who is considered key to Germany's hopes of retaining the title had been sidelined for eight months after fracturing a metatarsal in his left foot last September in a recurrence of the same injury he suffered earlier in 2017.

Sane was cut from the squad with Timo Werner and the veteran Mario Gomez included as just two out-and-out strikers. Neuer denied his inclusion was a risk, despite his lack of match practice.

"I'm not worried. I am no more a risk than any other player," Neuer said. The 'keeper said his careful reintroduction had been a deliberate ploy—he didn't play a single match for Bayern before joining up with the

national squad. Apart from an appearance in a specially-arranged match against Germany's Under-20 team last week, the match in Klagenfurt in Austria was his first full appearance since September. "I always thought I would be going to the World Cup and I didn't want to take any risk," Neuer said.

"Every training session is a test for me. If I don't feel good I tell the coach because the success of the team is the absolute priority."

### Germany 23-man squad:

**Goalkeepers:** Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Marc-Andre Ter Stegen (Barcelona/ESP), Kevin Trapp (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA).

**Defenders:** Marvin Plattenhardt (Hertha Berlin), Jonas Hector (Cologne), Matthias Ginter (Moenchengladbach), Mats Hummels (Bayern Munich), Niklas Sule (Bayern Munich), Antonio Rudiger (Chelsea/ENG), Jerome Boateng (Bayern Munich), Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich).

**Midfielders:** Sami Khedira (Juventus/ITA), Julian Draxler (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA), Toni Kroos (Real Madrid/ESP), Mesut Ozil (Arsenal/ENG), Thomas Mueller (Bayern Munich), Sebastian Rudy (Bayern Munich), Julian Brandt (Bayer Leverkusen), Ilkay Gundogan (Manchester City/ENG), Leon Goretzka (Schalke 04), Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund).

**Forwards:** Timo Werner (RB Leipzig), Mario Gomez (VfB Stuttgart). — Reuters



**GIRLAN:** Germany's national football team head coach Joachim Loew (L) and Germany's national goalkeeper Manuel Neuer greet each other during a press conference at the Runggghof training center yesterday in Girtlan, near Bolzano, northern Italy, ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia. — AFP

## Arab football teams pin high hopes on international players at 2018 World Cup

**KUWAIT:** Arab national football teams are pinning high hopes on their international players to help them overcome fierce competitions during the 2018 Russia World Cup. Squads of Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt include international players while local ones dominate the line-up of the Saudi team. Morocco's coach Herve Renard's 23-strong roster included three local players: goalkeeper Mohammed Tagnaouti from IR Tanger, Bader Banoun from Raja Casablanca and Ayoub Al-Kaabi from RS Berkane.

The Lions of Atlas are headed by Juventus international Mehdi Benatia who played 19 games with his team in the 2017-18 season and scored two goals. Hakim Ziyech, the 25-year-old Ajax defender scored nine goals and contributed to four others. Nineteen-year-old Real Madrid international striker Achraf Hakimi was also in the squad.

The Moroccan squad, ranked four on Africa and 42nd on FIFA ranking, included goalkeepers Munir Mohammadi and Yassine Boumou. Renard's defense line-up includes Nabil Dirar, Turkey's Fenerbahce defender, and Istanbul Basaksehir international

Manuel da Costa, as well as Wolver Hampton's Romain Saiss and Lille's Hamza Mendyl. The midfielders are Dutch Feyenoord's internationals Karim Al-Ahmadi and Sofyan Amrabat, and Cannes Youssef Bannasser. Mbarck Bousoula of UAE's Al-Jazeera, Younes Belhanda of Turkey's Galatasaray, Feycal Fajr of Spain's outfit Getafe, Amine Harit of Germany's Schalke 04, and Nordin Amrabat of Leganes, Spain, are also in the squad.

Khalid Boutaib of Turkey's Yeni Malatyaspor, Aziz Bouhaddouz of Germany's St. Pauli and Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez of Belgian Standard Liege will be the strikers. Tunisia's coach Nabil Maaloul's squad mostly play in Arab and European countries. Wahbi Kharzi, 27, the French Rennes striker scored nine goals in 23 games in the French league. Eyes will be on Kharzi in Russia. Turkey's Kasimpasa's defender Syam Ben Youssef will have a huge burden to carry. Tunisia, African's number one team and 14th international, will be in same group of Belgium, England and Panama.

Goalkeepers will be Aymen Mathlouthi, of Saudi Arabia's Al-Batin, Farouk Ben Mustapha of Al-Shabab of Saudi Arabia, and Mouez Hassan of France's Chateauroux. The defense line-up of the Eagles of Carthage includes Dylan Bronn of Belgium's Gent, Yohan Benalouane of English Premier League outfit Leicester City, Belal Mohseni of Scotland's Dundee United, Oussama Haddadi of France's Dijon, Hamdi Nagguez of Al-Ahli and Ali Maaloul of Al-Zamalek. Midfielders are Ellyes Skhiri of France's Montpellier, Saif-Eddine Khaoui of Troyes, Karim Laribi, and Mohammad Amine Ben Omar and Ferjani Sassi who play in Saudi Arabia's Ahli and Nasser teams. Maaloul selected Naim Sliti, of Dijon, Bassem Srafi, of Nice, Fakhreddine Ben Youssef, of Al-

Ettifaq of Saudi Arabia, and Ahmad Akaychi of Al-Ittihad of Saudi Arabia as his strikers. The Egyptian team, however, is facing a setback following the injury of Liverpool international Mohammad Salah. The 25-year-old English Premier League top scorer was injured during UEFA Champions League final against Real Madrid. Salah will need up to three weeks to recover.

Coach Hector Cuper's initial squad includes Arsenal's midfielder Mohammad Al-Neny, West Bromwich's Ahmad Hejazi and Ali Jabr, as well as Stoke City's midfielder Ramadhan Sohy. Egypt, ranking 5th in Africa and 46th internationally, also includes Aston Villa's defender Ahmad Mohammadi, Omar Jaber of Los Angeles and Amro Tareq of Orlando City. Representing Egypt in defense are Karim Hafeedh of Lens, Mahmoud Hassan of Kasimpasa, Wessam Morsi of Wigan Athletic, Amr Warda of Greece's Atromitos and Ahmad Hassan of Sporting Praga.

Egypt's line-up also includes veteran goalkeeper Essam Al-Hadhary, of Tawawun of Saudi Arabia, defender Mohammad Abdulshafi, Al-Fath of Saudi Arabia, midfielder Mahmoud Abdulrazzaq, Al-Raed, Mahmoud Abdumunem of Ittihad and Abdullah Al-Saeed of Al-Ahli of Saudi Arabia.

The fourth Arab team to qualify for the World Cup is Saudi Arabia, which signed a partnership agreement with Spain's La Liga association with the aim of developing football in the Kingdom. This had paved way for transfer of nine Saudi players to seven Spanish clubs in the premier and second divisions. Saudi Arabia coach Juan Antonio Pizzi announced initial roster of 28 players, among them were Yahya Al-Shehri, Fahad Mowalled and Salem Al-Dosari. Saudi Arabia's group includes Russia, Uruguay and Egypt. — KUNA

## Egypt gamble on Salah's fitness for World Cup

**CAIRO:** Egypt have gambled on Mohamed Salah returning to fitness in the coming weeks by naming him in their 23-man squad for this month's World Cup in Russia. Coach Hector Cuper yesterday also included Mohamed Elneny, the midfielder who has not played since April after suffering an ankle injury in action for Arsenal.

Salah is still recovering from the shoulder ligament injury suffered in last month's Champions League final when he went off early in the game in Kiev as Liverpool lost to Real Madrid. Medical staff from Egypt and Liverpool have suggested it will be touch and go for the 25-year-old to be ready in time for the seven-time African champions' opening World Cup Group A game against Uruguay in Ekaterinburg on June 15.

Salah posted a picture of himself exercising his shoulder on social media on Sunday with a teasing caption of "good feelings" but no further comment on his progress. Egypt's squad also includes veteran goalkeeper Essam El Hadary, who will be 45-years-old when his side play Uruguay. Should he feature, El Hadary would become the oldest person to play in the World Cup, beating the record the 43-year-old Colombian keeper Faryd Mondragon set in Brazil four years ago.

Egypt also meet Russia and Saudi Arabia in their group as they participate in the finals for the first time since 1990.

### Squad:

**Goalkeepers:** Sherif Ekrany (Al Ahly), Essam El Hadary (Al Taawoun), Mohamed El Shennawy (Al Ahly).

**Defenders:** Mohamed Abdel-Shafi (Al Fateh), Ayman Ashraf (Al Ahly), Ahmed Elmohamady (Aston Villa), Ahmed Fathi (Al Ahly), Omar Gaber (Los Angeles FC), Ali Gabr (Zamalek), Mahmoud Hamdy (Zamalek), Ahmed Hegazi (West Bromwich Albion), Saad Samir (Al Ahly).

**Midfielders:** Mohamed Elneny (Arsenal), Abdallah El Said (Al Ahly Jeddah), Tarek Hamed (Zamalek), Mahmoud Kahraba (Al Ittihad Jeddah), Sam Morsy (Wigan Athletic), Shikabala (Al Raed), Ramadan Sobhi (Stoke City), Mahmoud Hassan (Kasimpasa), Amr Warda (Atromitos)

**Forwards:** Marwan Mohsen (Al Ahly), Mohamed Salah (Liverpool). — Reuters

## Security Administration wins Sheikh Salwa Al-Sabah Ramadan Soccer Championship

By Hanan Al-sa'doun

**KUWAIT:** Under the auspices of HH the Amir and with the attendance of MOI undersecretary, Lt. General, Mahmoud Al-Doussary, the 13th Sheikh Salwa Al-Sabah Ramadan Soccer Championship which was held from May 20 to June 3, 2018 was recently concluded at Martyr Yusuf Thunayyan Al-Meshari Sports Complex at the Special Forces camp.

The conclusion ceremony was also attended by MOI's acting assistant undersecretary for Special Forces, Maj General Shokri Al-Najjar, Sheikh Duaij Fahad Al-Sabah and other MOI officials.

The final match between the Security Administration and the Security Shields teams was a fierce and exciting match and ended up with the former winning the match and the championship title.



## India match sells out after emotional plea by captain

**NEW DELHI:** India's football international against Kenya yesterday sold out in hours following captain Sunil Chhetri's emotional plea for fans to support the team after barely 2,500 people turned up to watch them play last week.

Chhetri's heartfelt appeal-backed by India's cricket heroes Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar—went viral on social media, prompting fans to shell out for tickets. Every seat in the 15,000-capacity Mumbai Football Arena was quickly sold with one fan buying more than 1,000 tickets for the Intercontinental Cup game. Chhetri's plea came after India thrashed Taiwan 5-0 in front of just 2,569 people in the Mumbai stadium on Friday. The disheartened Chhetri, who scored a hat-trick in the match, said in a Twitter video: "To everyone who has lost hope in Indian football I request you to come and watch us in the stadiums. "It is not fun to criticise and abuse on the internet, come to the stadium and do it

on our face. "Scream at us, shout at us, abuse us, who knows one day we might change you guys," he added in the message that he said was directed particularly at fans of the big European clubs. "Agreed, the level is not the same, not even close but with our desire and determination, we will try our best to make your time worth it." The national football team are 97th in the FIFA rankings, having risen from 166th in 2015 when English coach Stephen Constantine was appointed. But cricket dominates Indian sport and they are number one in the Test rankings.

Cricket superstars Kohli and Tendulkar both took to Twitter to back the football player after previous games opened to near-empty stadiums. Only a few hundred turned up to see Kenya play New Zealand on Saturday. But yesterday, the website selling tickets for the four-nation tournament showed 'Sold Out' for the match against Kenya.

A popular Mumbai social media commentator, Nikunj Lotia, said he had booked an entire stand for the game which will be Chhetri's 100th international. Lotia, whose YouTube channel Be YouNick has more than 1.7 million subscribers, invited fans to use the tickets for free. "Have booked entire STAND NUMBER 4 for all you football fanatics! All you have to do is just be there and cheer!" Lotia, an ardent football fan, wrote on Twitter. — AFP



**MUMBAI:** Indian fans cheer before the start of the Hero Intercontinental Cup football match between India and Kenya in Mumbai yesterday. India's football international against Kenya yesterday was sold out in hours following captain Sunil Chhetri's emotional plea for fans to support the team after barely 2,500 people turned up to watch them play last week. — AFP



**25** Ariya survives rollercoaster round to win US Women's Open



**26** Fans, sponsors make it a World Cup with Chinese characteristics



**27** Neuer in Germany World Cup squad, striker Sane left out



PARIS: Serena Williams of the US plays a forehand return to Germany's Julia Goerges during their women's singles third round match on day seven of The Roland Garros 2018 French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Saturday. — AFP

## Serena withdraws from French Open

### Nadal edges closer to 11th French Open crown

**PARIS:** American Serena Williams withdrew from the French Open yesterday, shortly before she was due on court to face Maria Sharapova in a much-anticipated fourth round showdown. The 36-year-old 23-times Grand Slam champion, making a comeback after a maternity break, told a news conference she had suffered a pectoral muscle injury in her third round victory against Germany's Julia Goerges.

"Unfortunately I'm having some issues with my pec muscle. Right now I can't actually serve it's kind of hard to play," she told a packed press room. "I'm having an MRI (scan) tomorrow, I'm going to stay here to see the doctors and see as many specialists as I can. I won't know (how serious the injury is) until I get those results." Williams had worked hard to get back in shape and was making her Grand Slam comeback at the French Open following the birth of her daughter Alexis Olympia last

September. Despite starting the tournament with a notional ranking of 451 and having played only four matches this year, she played impressively in her three wins in Paris, beating seeds Ashleigh Barty and Goerges in rounds two and three.

However, on Sunday she took part in a third round doubles match with sister Venus losing 6-4 6-7(4) 6-0 to the third-seeded pairing of Andreja Klepac and Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez.

Her clash against twice French Open champion Sharapova, who she has beaten 18 times in a row, had received huge pre-match billing and the American said she was "beyond disappointed" that she could not take to court. "I gave up so much to time with my daughter and my family and put everything on court for this moment," she said. "Physically I'm doing great, it hasn't been easy, I sacrificed so much to be at this event.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal moved a step closer to an incredible 11th French Open title yesterday by seeing off German Maximilian Marterer in straight sets to reach the quarter-finals. The world number one's 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) victory over the world number 70 saw him equal the record of 12 last-eight appearances at Roland Garros, which was set by Novak Djokovic the day before.

Top seed Nadal, who celebrated his 32nd birthday on Sunday, is now on his own in third on the all-time list for most match wins at Grand Slam events with 234 victories after passing Jimmy Connors.

He powered 39 winners past Marterer, who pushed the Spaniard as hard as he could without ever threatening an upset. Nadal will face Argentinian Diego Schwartzman for a semi-final spot, after the 11th seed staged a thrilling comeback to down sixth seed Kevin

Anderson 1-6, 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/0), 6-2.

"The third set was very difficult, Maximilian is a good player," said Nadal, who has now won 37 consecutive sets at Roland Garros, just four short of Bjorn Borg's record set between 1979 and 1981.

Nadal was caught cold in the opening stages as some big hitting from Marterer brought him the first two games. But it didn't take Nadal long to figure out his opponent, reeling off four straight games en route to an inevitable one-set lead. The 16-time Grand Slam champion raced through the second set in just 38 minutes, breaking his opponent's serve twice.

But Marterer — who was playing in the main draw for the first time — moved into a 3-1 lead early in the third as he threatened to become the first man to take a set off Nadal at Roland Garros since the Spaniard's 2015 quarter-final defeat by Djokovic. — Agencies

### Curry's 3-point dazzlers lift Warriors halfway to NBA title

**OAKLAND:** Golden State sharpshooter Stephen Curry delivered a performance for the ages Sunday with an NBA Finals record nine 3-pointers powering the defending champion Warriors over LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Curry's 33 points on 11-of-26 shooting, including 9-of-17 from beyond the arc, lead Golden State to a 122-103 triumph and a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven finals that continue tomorrow in Cleveland. Teams that win the first two games have won the NBA title 88 percent

of the time, a good omen for a Warriors club seeking a third crown in four seasons.

Curry, who already owns NBA 3-pointer records for a season and consecutive games among others, delivered deflating blows time and again to the Cavaliers. The 30-year-old maestro scored 16 points in the fourth quarter, answering a LeBron James 3-pointer with back-to-back 3s for a 96-83 lead. "It was big," Curry said. "Any of those moments when you can come down and answer and keep the momentum on our side, it's big." Curry added an epic desperation heave as the shot clock expired, a corner 3-pointer while being fouled and the record-setter with 3:30 remaining from the left wing. Curry broke the old mark of eight 3-pointers in a finals game set by Boston's Ray Allen in 2010. "That's a pretty cool deal to accomplish, knowing who has held the record for eight years," Curry said. "But at the end of the day, it's all about trying to get a win and doing whatever you can to make that happen. If we focus on that, good things happen individually all across the board. "I

never woke up and was like, 'All right, let's go get nine threes and get the record.' It was more so about playing the game the right way, having good intentions out there on the court and good things happen."

The 3-pointer with the most acclaim came after he fumbled the ball, grabbed it, stepped back with the shot clock about to expire and fired in a miracle with Cleveland's Kevin Love defending. "Tough shot taker, tough shot maker," said Warriors forward Draymond Green. "The one where he was falling away was like, 'Oh, man, he's really got it going.' But we've seen this before where he completely takes the game over with his scoring ability, and he did that tonight."

Coming after a James dunk, Curry's 30-foot stunner gave the Warriors a 103-89 edge. Cleveland never got within 12 again.

"I was trying to get some space," Curry said. "I thought I had a lay-up at first, and I fumbled the ball and tried to see where the defense was. And Kevin Love was right on me. I actually lost the dribble for a

hot second, and the only way to get a shot was to keep going back. "I try all sorts of shots at some point or another, but at that point it's just feel and letting it go, and thankfully it went in. A big moment where we had a significant lead, we could extend it a little bit and create some separation. "It was a cool moment for sure." Love could only watch in amazement.

"No matter where you are on the floor, especially past half court on their side, he always has a chance to make a miraculous shot," Love said. "I felt like it was well contested. We played 23 1/2 good seconds of defense, and he turned around and hit a moon ball.

"It was a great night for him. It's really tough to guard Steph anywhere out there on the floor. He's just so good at finding himself open." Warriors guard Klay Thompson could only marvel as he watched. "He just kept going backwards," said Thompson. "But he just threw it up and I don't think it had any chance of going in, but that was kind of like a dagger shot, and it gave us all the momentum back." — AFP