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# National Assembly approves a deficit budget, winds up term

## Two MPs file to grill PM, debate next term

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** In a hectic day yesterday, the National Assembly passed a deficit budget, debated the state's financial status then Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem declared the term closed. Before that, two opposition MPs filed to grill the prime minister but it will be debated at the start of the next term in October. The state budget for 2018/2019 fiscal year, which began April 1, projects the shortfall at KD 6.4 billion before adding around KD 1.5 billion which will be taken from revenues and transferred to the next generation's fund.

Revenues are estimated at KD 15.1 billion, 12 percent higher than estimates last year, with oil income projected at KD 13.3 billion or 88 percent of total public revenues. Oil income is calculated at \$50 a barrel with a daily output of 2.8 million barrels. Oil revenues are expected to be higher at the end of the year because market oil prices are much higher now and Kuwaiti production is expected to rise after the recent OPEC deal to ease output cuts and pump more.

Expenditures are estimated at KD 21.5 billion, around KD 1.7 billion higher than projections last fiscal year. Around 18 percent of spending is slated for development projects. The state budget was debated in a secret session along with the discussion of the financial status of the country. Ghanem came out of the session and said that the Assembly approved the state budget for 2018/2019 and also the final accounts of 2016/2017

despite a recommendation by the budgets committee to reject the accounts.

During the budget debate, MPs accused the government of squandering public funds and not forging a cohesive policy on reforms. After debating infrastructure services at Sabah Al-Ahmad area in the south of the country, Ghanem declared the Assembly's current term closed and said that the next term will start in October. But before the final day closed, opposition MPs Mohammad Al-Mutair and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri filed to grill Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on a variety of charges including sending activists to jail and illegally revoking the citizenship of opponents. Ghanem said the grilling will be listed on the agenda of the first session next term in October.

In their grilling, the two lawmakers charged the prime minister of not applying the law on corrupt people especially the so-called bank deposits scandal in which 13 MPs were charged of accepting huge bribes for political reasons. They accused the government of adopting a double-standard policy while dealing with political cases as it sent dozens of activists to court and jail for tweets deemed a threat to national security but failed to do the same with influential people who committed more serious crimes. They also charged the government of revoking the citizenship of opponents for political reasons and for violating the constitution by arresting and sending to jail MPs breaching their parliamentary immunity.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait lawmakers exchange greetings at the end of the session. The National Assembly passed a deficit budget yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Over 200 killed as violence erupts in central Nigeria

**JOS, Nigeria:** More than 200 people were killed in violence against farming communities last weekend in Plateau state, central Nigeria, according to a speech by the governor published yesterday. Simon Lalong said after a closed-door meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari in the state capital Jos on Tuesday night that the clashes had left "the painful loss of over 200 people". The police, who blame suspected cattle herders, have said 86 people were killed.

However, multiple local sources from the communities affected maintained more than 100 people died. The main association representing the largely nomadic herders has

denied its community had any involvement in the killings and said its members had been repeatedly targeted for months. The violence-an apparent reprisal after ethnic Berom farmers allegedly killed five Fulani-is the latest bout in months of bloodletting in Nigeria's so-called "Middle Belt".

The clashes are rooted in tensions over access to land between the pastoral herders and sedentary farmers but have generated sectarian friction between Muslims and Christians. Lalong suggested "criminal elements" were exacerbating hostilities, including "conflict merchants" involved in "cattle rustling, theft, banditry, gun running" and other crimes. Both he and Buhari have also warned about politicizing the conflict or giving it a religious dimension.

Buhari came to power in 2015 on a promise to curb insecurity across the country, in particular Boko Haram, whose Islamist insurgency has killed at least 20,000 since 2009. But a resurgence of violence in the long-run-

ning conflict between herders and farmers has put that under scrutiny as elections approach in February next year. Analysts predict the extent of the unrest could eclipse that of the jihadists in the northeast.

Lalong said the latest attacks in Plateau were carried out with "sophisticated weapons" that were "reflective of a terrorist invasion". "It (the bloodshed) therefore demands a justified response like that which was undertaken to address the Boko Haram insurgency," he added. Lawmakers earlier this month threatened Buhari with impeachment because his security chiefs had repeatedly failed to protect lives and property.

The 75-year-old leader on Tuesday said he would "continue to pressurize members of the law enforcement agencies directly under me by the constitution as the commander-in-chief". He also said it was an "injustice" to imply he was doing nothing because he was also Fulani and Muslim.

Continued on Page 24

## Bahrain's dinar, bonds rebound; GCC promise to avert debt crisis

**DUBAI:** Bahrain's dinar recovered from 17-year lows and its bond prices rebounded yesterday after the country's diplomatic allies in the Gulf pledged to prevent its ballooning public debt from triggering a financial crisis. Bankers said the pledge of aid to Bahrain by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait eased fears that Manama might be unable to redeem a \$750 million Islamic bond that will mature in November. "It's time to buy Bahrain," Barclays said in an analyst report, predicting the aid pledge would ease international investors' wor-

ries about the country's solvency.

However, the cost of insuring Bahrain's debt against default remained high yesterday, suggesting many investors were still skeptical about the country's ability to stabilize its finances over the long term without repeated injections of aid. The dinar bounced to 0.37850 against the US dollar in early spot market trade. On Tuesday, it had dropped as low as 0.38261, moving away from its official peg of 0.37608 as hedge funds dumped Bahraini bonds.

Continued on Page 24

## Germany crash out of World Cup



**KAZAN, Russia:** Supporters of the German national football react at a public viewing event at the Fanmeile in Berlin to watch the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between South Korea and Germany where the reigning world champions were defeated 0-2 yesterday. — AFP (See Page 28)

## Syrian offensive knocks hospitals out of service

**BEIRUT:** Bombardment by pro-government forces forced four medical centers out of service overnight in rebel-held southwestern Syria as a Russian-backed offensive gathered pace, a medical relief group said yesterday. President Bashar Al-Assad has already driven rebels out of all areas near the capital Damascus this year and aims to restore control over rebel-held areas at the borders with Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The United Nations says the 10-day-old offensive has uprooted at least 45,000 civilians. Its humanitarian coordination agency OCHA said "indiscriminate strikes against civilian infrastructure continue to characterize the conflict".

Government forces are thrusting into rebel areas with Russian support, despite warnings from Washington which brokered a "de-escalation" deal with Moscow for southwestern Syria last year. Washington had warned Assad of serious repercussions, but there has been no sign of action to stop him. Warplanes hit the towns of Dael and Saïda for the first time since the assault began, opposition activists said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the offensive had killed 47 people so far. UOSSM, a medical charity that operates in the area, put the death toll at 68.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was "concerned about the safety of tens of thousands of civilians caught in the line of fire or fleeing violence in the southern governorate of Deraa". Northeast of Deraa, the pro-government forces captured three more villages yesterday, a military media service run by Assad's ally Hezbollah reported, after

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# Crown Prince receives senior state officials



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received retired Lieutenant General Ali Mohammad Al-Momen, as well as Sheikh Ali Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

## News in brief

### Envoy congratulates minister

**KUWAIT:** On behalf of the Palestinian community in Kuwait, Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub expressed congratulations to the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the successful surgery he recently underwent. Tahboub also expressed hopes that Sheikh Nasser would return home safely and in good health.



Rami Tahboub

### Kuwaiti envoy meets Iraq's VP

**BAGHDAD:** Kuwait's Ambassador in Baghdad Salem Al-Zamanan held talks Tuesday with Iraq's Vice-President Nouri Al-Maliki on political developments in Iraq. Speaking following the meeting, Al-Zamanan said they also discussed regional and international political developments. He said they talked about means of boosting bilateral relations and cooperation. Maliki's office said in a statement the vice-president commended Kuwait for hosting an international conference for the reconstruction of Iraq, during which participants pledged up to \$30 billion. Maliki meanwhile he supported coalition between political parties. —KUNA

### Knowledge-based economy

**BEIRUT:** A knowledge-based economy has turned into a strategic choice to keep up with the meteoric rise of digital technology, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. The principles of a knowledge-based economy form the basis of Kuwait's development plan, the secretary general of the country's Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khaled Medhi said on the sidelines of the 30th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA). "We have shared in this meeting some of Kuwait's efforts to meet its 2030 sustained development goals," he said, emphasizing that a digital economy is more likely create better opportunities for employment. — KUNA

## Kuwait welcomes Afghanistan's plan to hold elections

**NEW YORK:** The State of Kuwait has welcomed Afghanistan's announcement of parliamentary elections to be held on October 20, 2018. Kuwait also commends progress in the preparation for the election, despite the security incidents in some provinces, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said Tuesday at a special UN Security Council session on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

He noted that for the first time since 2003, voters had been registered, a process conducted within a national election campaign that featured the distribution of smart national identity cards and voting lists that were linked to polling stations - efforts that demonstrated a genuine desire to achieve 'something tangible'.

Ambassador Otaibi hoped the elections would allow political parties and chieftains to create coalitions that reduced tensions. Expressing concern over the 5,675 security incidents between 15 February and 15 May, he argued that such acts sought to delay the elections. He urged Afghan authorities to continue to fight those elements. Some 75,000 people had been displaced due to armed conflict in 2018 and he expressed concern over 11 attacks against schools and the unabated Taliban violence that had led to many school closings.

Urging all parties to participate in a diplomatic solution, the only way to achieve peace and security, he also welcomed the joint Afghanistan-Pakistan action plan for peace and solidarity, encouraging more regional cooperation in that context. — KUNA

# Prime Minister returns home after attending economic forum in Germany

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah returned home Tuesday from Germany where he participated as a guest of honor in the 21st Arab-German Economic Forum.

Before leaving Germany, His Highness the Prime Minister visited in the hospital First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who underwent a successful surgery to remove a tumor in his lung. His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak wished Sheikh Nasser good health and safe return back home. His Highness the Prime Minister was received at the airport by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, Sheikhs, Ministers and senior state officials.

### Gratitude

Meanwhile, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad yesterday cabled Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, expressing gratitude for inquiring about his wellbeing. Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad appreciated Prince Khalifa's message in which he expressed brotherly sentiments and sincere compassion following the successful surgery he underwent. Sheikh Nasser, in the cable released by the Ministry of Defense, expressed good wishes to Prince Khalifa, his country and people.

On Tuesday, the ministry announced that Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad had undergone a successful lung surgery abroad. The minister has to stay at hospital for a few days, followed by a period of convalescence before returning to the country. The successful surgery was conducted to remove a lung tumor. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah returns home from Germany on Tuesday night. — KUNA

## UK, Kuwait ink task blueprint effecting signed accords

**LONDON:** The United Kingdom and the State of Kuwait inked yesterday a task blueprint for the Joint Guidance Committee, primarily aimed at effecting all previously signed agreements between the two countries. The plan, valid throughout the coming six months, covers activating the memorandum of understanding on cyber security, signed during the commission 10th session, held in London in July last year, for backing Kuwait's national information security strategy.

The joint action plan was co-signed by Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and British State Minister for the Middle East and North Africa Alistair Burt. It was inked after the 12th meeting of the joint guidance team: during which cooperation in various sectors was discussed.

The two sides, during the current session, addressed means for elevating cooperation to the level of the distinguished Kuwaiti-British ties, according to a joint statement. At the political level, the Kuwaiti and British officials agreed on increasing reciprocal visits by Kuwaiti and British leaders to the two countries, pursuing coordination for settling global and regional struggles.

The coordination will be boosted, particularly during Kuwait's mandate as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in the economic field, they affirmed necessity of increasing trade exchanges, stimulating mutual investments and holding exhibitions in the two countries. Moreover, Kuwait will study the British experience in privatizing the public sector. On the military front, the Kuwaiti-British statement called for employing British expertise to upgrade Kuwait Army's capabilities.

In Security, they addressed cooperation between British and Kuwaiti apparatuses, particularly on immigration, aviation security, combating terrorism and cyber security. Furthermore, they agreed on enhancing cooperation between Kuwaiti and British universities and academic institutions, furnishing Kuwaiti students with scholarships with more facilities in the UK. Additionally, they will increase cooperation for boosting quality standardization systems in academic programs, expertise swap and courses for cadres specialized in running museums and exhibitions.

At another level, the British and Kuwaiti sides discussed holding workshops in the field of sciences and examined means for better management of Kuwaiti medical facilities. The statement added that they also agreed to continue providing facilities to the Kuwaiti patients and their companions in the UK.

The 13th session will be held in Kuwait later this year. The signing ceremony, held at the British Royal Air Force Museum, coincided with new expansion of the facility with funding from Kuwait, amounting to five million sterling pounds (\$6.6 million).

### 'Deal of the century'

Meanwhile, Jarallah affirmed Kuwait's political and financial support at the government and public levels for the Palestinian people and leadership. Speaking



**LONDON:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the Kuwaiti teams participating in the 12th meeting of UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group. — KUNA

after co-signing the joint task plan, Jarallah said he held talks with Minister Burt on the Middle East peace process, including the reported 'deal of the century'. Media have been abuzz with rhetoric about the said aspired deal, indicating at some American ideas to settle the protracted conflict. However, there has been no official word about it from the stakeholders.

The State of Kuwait stance toward the Palestinian issue, which he described as the "Arabs' top cause," needs not to be reiterated at all. "Our stand (in this regard) at the Security Council is clear and embodied with continuing support and coordination with our brothers .. (advocates) of the cause."

This cause must be resolved on basis of the international legitimacy (resolutions) and the Arab peace initiative as well as recognizing East Jerusalem as capital of the State of Palestine, the Deputy Foreign Minister said. On regional files, he said the talks touched on the Gulf dispute, conditions in Yemen, Syria, Iran-Gulf ties in light of the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal. Turning to the joint group meetings, he lauded works' results of the group which meets in Kuwait and Britain on rotating basis every six months, noting that its tasks address interests of Kuwaiti citizens, particularly those who come to England for studies or medical treatment. Moreover, it deals with Kuwait's higher interests, namely London's commitment to its security and stability. Shedding light on the historic Kuwaiti-British relations, he noted that in 1920, Britain dispatched the first batch of arms to the Gulf to defend the State of Kuwait in line with an agreement to protect it.

Jarallah, who co-signed the plan at a ceremony held at the British Royal Air Force Museum, said he was told by officials at the museum that Kuwait donated a military aircraft to Britain in 1940 to use it in the second world war. "We are relieved for the cooperation with Britain, which is a faithful ally, committed to the

(Gulf) region security and stability," he said.

Meanwhile, Burt said that the Gulf crisis "has started to impose an atmosphere of great challenges," reaffirming London's unwavering obligation to the Gulf stability. He reiterated the British Government support for the Kuwaiti mediation to resolve the crisis-under leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Minister Burt affirmed significance of the British relations with the friendly and allied Gulf states, adding that the bonds with Kuwait constitute the foundation of London's relations with these countries. Cooperation between London and Kuwait has risen to higher levels, particularly with respect of consultations on regional and international causes, Burt elaborated.

### 12th meeting

On Tuesday, Jarallah met with the Kuwaiti teams participating in the 12th meeting of UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group. During the meeting, the Kuwaiti and British sides reviewed results of the meeting held earlier during the day.

Jarallah praised the efforts exerted by the various teams in their respective fields within the framework of the Joint Steering Group, and the results which will contribute to strengthening Kuwaiti-British relations and achieving the interests of both countries in all fields.

The UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group was formed during His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to London in 2012. The group is headed by Jarallah while the British side is headed by Secretary of State for East and North Africa Alistair Burt. The group's membership includes a number of Kuwaiti and British state ministries and bodies. It holds its meetings alternately in Kuwait and London. — KUNA

Local

# Govt approves proposal to merge bedoons' agency with Interior Ministry

## Two Iraqis used fake Kuwaiti passports to travel to Turkey

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The government has approved a proposal submitted by the parliament's legislation affairs committee that calls for merging the central agency for stateless residents with the Interior Ministry, well-informed sources said. Following this approval, the parliament is set to vote on the proposal by the beginning of the next parliamentary term in October, the sources added.

Further, the sources explained that Saleh Al-Fadhlah, the current acting president of the agency, might be substituted since he was initially appointed to serve for five years before his tenure was extended to two more years which expired last November. The sources added that unlike Fadhlah, his successor would likely be given the 'secretary general' title.

The central agency for stateless residents was established nearly a decade ago with the goal of finding a solution to the decades-old problems of Kuwait's community of stateless residents, or 'bedoons', which numbers between 120,000 and as high as 150,000 according to international reports' estimations. Bedoons demand citizenship as well as civil and social rights they are deprived from given their illegal residence status, but the government argues that only 34,000 qualify for consideration. The rest are considered Arabs or descendants of Arab people who deliberately disposed of their original passports after coming to Kuwait to seek citizenship in the oil-rich country.

The government says that the agency has helped provide many privileges to stateless residents, such as residencies valid for five years for family members in addition to free educational and health services, provided that the applicants seek to legalize their status first.

Despite a reportedly increasing number of people who legalized their status over the years, it still pales in comparison to tens of thousands who possess official 1965 census documents which the government deems key for naturalization claims. Furthermore, security concerns surrounding a large number of bedoons greatly narrows the list of those eligible for citizenship.

The work of the central agency has received a lot of criticisms over the years, including from lawmakers who believe that it has not lived up to its duties as it was supposed to provide a final solution within five years from its establishment. Furthermore, the two sides have butted

heads multiple times over the years regarding the topic of setting a specific limit for how many stateless residents can be naturalized a year.

Established in 2010, the central agency was given a five-year ultimatum to sort out the bedoons' community and find those who meet conditions of naturalization, including residents whose bedouin ancestors failed to register for citizenship following Kuwait's independence in 1961. The agency adopted measures within a year after its creation to grant stateless residents numerous rights such as obtaining marriage, birth and death certificates as well as driving licenses. But all measures failed to provide significant improvement in living conditions or cut unemployment rates among bedoons, prompting several protests in the past few years which saw hundreds of stateless

men arrested for illegal gathering.

### Fake passports

Iraqi authorities have arrested two Iraqi nationals holding fake Kuwaiti passports which they used in travelling to Turkey via Iran, Iraq's borders authority announced yesterday. The suspects, who were arrested in Istanbul and returned to Iraq, had left from Irbil to Iran using their Iraqi passports, which they then destroyed and used the fake Kuwaiti passports to go to Turkey, the authority explained in a statement.

### Report denied

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh strongly denied reports claiming that she was referred to the permanent investigation committee at the ministers' court on charges of failure to implement a court order concerning Sabahiya Co-operative Society's board of directors. Stressing full adherence to the law, Sabeeh explained that court rulings operate in gradual litigations steps which she intends to follow thoroughly. Furthermore, she stressed that she would fully respect any final rulings made by the court. Sabeeh is reportedly accused of failure to implement a court order that overturned her decision to dissolve the Sabahiya Co-operative Society's board of directors, the plaintiffs' lawyer Mohammad Al-Ansari said.

### Violating companies

Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hosam Al-Roumi plans to form a special committee to investigate the contracts signed between

Kuwait Municipality and cleaning companies, due to violations reportedly committed by some of those companies. In this regard, parliamentary sources said that, with the

help of some municipality managers, some cleaning companies had violated the contracts signed with them in terms of the number of workers deployed in each area.



**KUWAIT:** The headquarters building of the central agency for stateless residents.



## Minister denies 'investigation' reports

## EPA to launch public awareness campaigns

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Environment Public Authority (EPA) announced launching public environmental awareness campaigns during the summer at various malls and beaches around the country. The campaigns would focus on protecting the environment and natural resources for future generations, EPA explained. In this regard, EPA's public relations and media manager Shiekah Al-Ibrahim said that the campaigns' activities include field activities and lectures about the environment law and the penalties it includes. Furthermore, Ibrahim added that special brochures and publications

explaining the importance of environment protection would be distributed.

### Duo sentenced

The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced two citizens to two years in prison each and a bail to suspend the verdict in the case of promoting the speech of former MP Musallam Al-Barrak.

### Cereal recalled

The supreme committee for food safety recommended during a recent meeting recalling Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereals from local markets, pending tests at Ministry of Health labs to make sure they were Salmonella-free and decide whether they were safe of human consumption, secretary general Adel Al-Suwait announced. The committee also urged the imported food department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition to apply strict control over the aforementioned product, namely with 15.3 and 23 oz. packages produced on June 14, 2018 and holding expiry date on June 14, 2019, Sowait added.

## No insurance deposit required for home licenses

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi announced that the municipality's safety committee approved a proposal to cancel the mandatory insurance deposit paid when issuing private residence construction licenses, which citizens are required to obtain in order to build their houses in government-home areas.

Speaking after a meeting with committee members, Manfouhi explained that the municipality had conducted a field study which showed that paying the limited KD 250 insurance requires a lot of complicated transactions that need to be processed with other state departments, whereas the contractor already pays insurance for the contract he is executing. "This step is made to put an end to bureaucracy and reduce the paperwork needed," Manfouhi underlined.

On another concern, Manfouhi said that the committee decided to amend the bank guarantees contractors pay in executing private, investment and commercial residence projects, in addition to government projects and co-op societies' projects. The guarantee was changed to become one percent of the contract's value for projects costing over KD 1 million.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi chairs a meeting for the municipality's safety committee.

### E-passports

The Interior Ministry's relations and security media department warned citizens that new electronic passports (e-passports) would be damaged in case the old ones are stapled to them, urging nationals to avoid this practice that could impede passengers' crossing e-gates at various airports around the world.

### Fodders fire under control

Firefighters controlled a fire that broke out in tons of fodders at the western Salmi road, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS) said yesterday. Flames spread over an area

estimated at around 1,000 meters. KFS's public relations department said in a statement, adding that the wind's speed contributed to the spread of the fire in more than one place.

Firefighting teams tackled the blaze and used bulldozers to cut off the spreading flames. One firefighter was injured in the eye and was taken for treatment in Al-Jahra hospital, the statement adds. KFS pointed out that the operations center received a message at 3:55 p.m. of a fire two kilometers into Al-Salmi road. Firefighting teams were directed from Jahra, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Mishref and KFS supporting units.

## Conflict zones fertile ground for terrorist groups: Kuwait

**RABAT:** Kuwait has raised alarm about the grave ramifications of wars and conflicts on international security and stability. Wars and conflicts are fertile ground for rogue groups, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Ambassador Nasser Al-Subeeh warned in a speech at the Regional meeting of the Political Directors of the Global Coalition to defeat the so-called Islamic State (IS) group, kicked off Tuesday in the Moroccan city of Skhirat.

He urged the coalition members to join efforts to confront these organizations, especially in the Syrian and Iraqi areas, by providing the necessary support for the development of these areas and the 'eradication of terrorism'.

In this regard, he lauded the contributions of the coalition member states at the Kuwait-hosted International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq. He expressed the hope that these contributions would be translated into projects and services, to help restore stability and not to allow terrorists to use people's sufferings to recruit mili-

tants and promote militancy. He highlighted the international community moves to deal with the return of foreign fighters to home countries.

Subeeh pointed out that Kuwait was tackling the file of returnees from judiciary and security angles. Kuwait also gather as much information as possible about any returnee in cooperation with friendly countries, the International Criminal Police Organization and the relevant committees of the United Nations and the Security Council, he said. He unveiled that Kuwait would host late this year, in coordination with the United Nations, the special international meeting "Review of the Madrid Guidelines", which focus on the mechanism of dealing with foreign terrorist returnees. He reiterating Kuwait's eagerness to contribute any effort to retain security and achieve international peace.

Subeeh said that Kuwait is one of the active countries in the anti-IS coalition. He reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to implementing guiding principles adopted at the ministerial meeting of the coalition in Kuwait on February 13. The anti-IS coalition meeting, which brought together a select group of the coalition member countries, was an opportunity for coalition partners to discuss the next steps to ensure a lasting defeat of the IS, as well as ways to speed up the collective approach to combat the global ambitions of this terrorist group. It tackles priorities for the coalition's multiple lines of action, notably stabilization, foreign terrorist combatants, counter-terrorism funding and anti-radicalization messages. — KUNA

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## Local

# Dust storm hits Kuwait, expected to continue through weekend

## Flights affected by dusty weather at Kuwait Airport: DGCA



KUWAIT: Cars drive during a dust storm that hit Kuwait yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat, Joseph Shagra and Fouad Al-Shalkh

KUWAIT: A dust storm hit Kuwait yesterday, forcing a number of flights to be diverted to neighboring countries and prompting authorities to issue a warning for motorists, while the official weather forecast predict the bad weather to continue at least through the weekend.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced that five flights at Kuwait International Airport were diverted to neighboring countries due to dusty weather conditions. Landing was affected by low visibility, but takeoff was normal, head of the airport's air navigation department Emad Al-Sanousi said. He added that the five flights were diverted to Doha and Manama airports. The visibility level

dropped to less than 500 meters in some parts of Kuwait, with wind reaching 70 km/h, Sanousi noted.

### Indian low pressure

The bad weather conditions were caused by the Indian seasonal low pressure, said official at Kuwait Metrological Center Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi. The low pressure is causing active northwestern winds loaded with dust coming from abroad and within the country. Qarawi added that the sea state would witness waves rising to more than 7 feet. The Meteorological Department has called on citizens and residents to follow the weather bulletin through its web page at <http://www.met.gov.kw>, to see the latest weather developments.

### Caution urged

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry has issued severe weather warnings across the country, calling on drivers to take extra precaution due to impaired visibility. Motorists were encouraged to strictly abide by traffic regulations and should not hesitate to ask for assistance by dialing the emergency number 112. In the meantime, maritime traffic has also been paralyzed in Kuwaiti ports as a result of the deteriorating weather conditions, Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) announced. Navigation operations have been suspended indefinitely at Shuwaikh, Shuaiba and Doha ports, KPA said in a statement. Meteorologists had earlier predicted heavy dust storms throughout the summer this year due to limited rainfall in the winter. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials attend an exhibition on the Interior Ministry's drug combatting efforts.

## Interior Ministry urges societal participation in fighting drugs

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry has called for greater synergy among security agencies and civil society organizations to protect society from drug smuggling and trading. Greater cooperation is needed among government and non-government organizations and other societal player to stand up against the malicious schemes to spread drugs among youth, Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dieen said in a statement during the opening of an exhibition on the drug combatting efforts.

The exhibition coincides with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, marked June 26. The event shed lights on the optimal means to protect the country and its people, especially youth from this evil, Dieen said. He warned that drug smugglers were working vigorously to penetrate societies, so the whole society must work collectively to nip in the buds their schemes and raise people awareness about the dangers of drug addiction. Dieen called for strengthening strategic partnership with the relevant UN organizations and civil society organization to back the security



agencies efforts in this regard. He noted the significant role of research and studies in combating drug smuggling and rehabilitating its victims. — KUNA

## Burgan Bank sponsors high school graduation ceremony

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the most progressive banks in Kuwait, enriches the new graduates' educational experience through its recent participation at Fatima Al-Hashimya school graduation ceremony held at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya on June 21, 2018.

Long dedicated to create a lasting and positive impact through social integration and engagement in the Kuwaiti community, Burgan Bank congratulated the graduates on their outstanding performance and familiarized the students on the numerous financial benefits of its dynamic Youth Account as they prepare for university life.

The ceremony, which took place in the midst of over-joyed parents and families, was also attended by Burgan Bank's management who wished each student the very best in the road ahead. Burgan Bank management also encouraged the new graduates to adopt the art of saving to future-proof their lives amid an ever-changing environment.

As the students enter the next phase of their academic career, the Youth Account by Burgan Bank provides a multifaceted account that caters to their lifestyles. The Youth Account, entitles its account holders to



cash rewards and higher interest on their savings. There is no KD limit to open an account and no minimum balance required to maintain it.

Furthermore, surpassing expectations through innovative promotions, account holders also receives discounts at selective merchants along with an exclusive discount at Grand Cinemas Theatres, Al Hamra Luxury Centre and The Gate Mall.

## Zain main sponsor of National Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the National Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign in partnership with the Ministry of Interior's General Department of Public Relations and Media Security.

Zain participated in the opening ceremony of the campaign's awareness exhibition at the Avenues mall, which came on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26 of every year. The event witnessed the attendance of the Ministry of Interior's Assistant Undersecretary for Reformatory Institutions and Executing Sentences Khalid Al-Dieen, representing the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Essam Al-Nahham, as well as the attendance of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan and a number of the ministry's officials and representatives.

Zain sponsored this awareness campaign as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy that aims at serving the community. The company will always be keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards

enhancing the society's welfare in partnership with the various ministries and public authorities, including the Ministry of Interior.

The 'Panorama' exhibition held at the Avenues Mall mainly aims at spreading awareness amongst visitors, especially young people, about the various types of illegal drugs, their dangers, and how to prevent them. The exhibition includes a number of awareness activities that contribute to delivering a positive message in a creative way.

Zain will continue to find ways to serve the community as to foster a better world and be a productive member of the society, being a leader in the Kuwaiti private sector. The company is proud to be one of the first organizations to partner with the Ministry of Interior to make this event a success and contribute to saving lives.

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference in people's everyday lives, reflecting its brand 'Zain A Wonderful World'.



KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior's Assistant Undersecretary for Reformatory Institutions and Executing Sentences Khalid Al-Dieen and Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan pose for a group photo with a number of ministry's officials during the opening ceremony.



Local

# Ambassador grateful for increased vacationers from Kuwait to Greece

## Greek's 'Peach Garden' promotes fresh peaches in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait and Greece need to establish more trade and investment between each other in order to balance the value of trade between them, Ambassador of Greece to Kuwait Andreas Papadakis said yesterday.

The trade value currently favors Greece, according to Papadakis, explaining that Greece can only send products and services to the Kuwaiti market, but there are no goods coming from Kuwait to Greece. "Kuwait has oil exports, but Greece does not receive those products," he told a press conference yesterday. "We have other sources for oil, and hopefully we can balance the trade in other forms." In the meantime, Ambassador Papadakis said that Greece benefited greatly from the annual vacation season in Kuwait, which he described as the 'annual summer exodus of people from Kuwait during summer'. "I thank Kuwaitis for choosing our country to be their vacation destination," he said. "We have increasing visitors of different nationalities traveling from Kuwait."

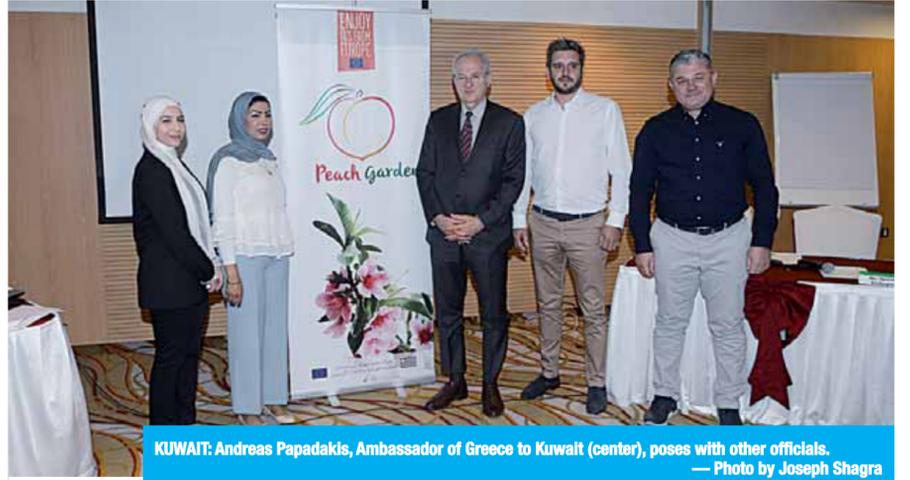
The ambassador was speaking during an event to promote the 'Peach Garden' project, which takes place for the third year in a row in Kuwait, and this year with the presence and support of the Greek embassy. The project promotes fresh peaches that are produced in Greece, and allows producers to meet with industry decision makers to further boost trade relations between both countries. The 2018 version of the project was launched in a press conference in presence of Papadakis, representatives from the Greek Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers' Organization, Jordanis Kiratllidis and Lujain Al-Khaldit-dietitian at Calories Control, Kuwait media representatives and Novacert Ltd.

**Promotional activities**

By next month, the Greek Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers' Organization will be organizing several promotional activities in about 20 locations aimed to communicate the authenticity of Greek fresh peaches to Kuwait's residents. Activities include free tasting of fresh products, and many more. "Kuwait is our new market, and we are trying our best to get through new partners," Ambassador Papadakis said. "We have the chance to promote our products here. We are launching several promotional activities by next month. Peach from Greece are of high quality and we try to preserve that reputation."

During the press conference, the speakers shed light on the importance of this project in tying up business relations with Kuwait while providing an unparalleled opportunity to Kuwaiti importers to diversify their offerings to consumers. It also provided an insight for a nutrition angle on the importance of the goldstone fruit to maintain a healthy lifestyle system. 'Peach Garden' is a European project promoting and increasing the marketing value of Greek fresh peaches in markets in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Kuwait. It was established in cooperation with European Union and Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food, and the Greek Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers Organizations as a result of the many Greek agriculture cooperatives that are active in the fresh produce sector. The main purpose of this project has to do mainly with the wide recognition and presentation of Greek fresh peaches in these targeted countries. The participating companies come from a province of Greece which represents the vast majority of production from the peaches and general stone fruits.

More importantly, the project for Kuwait enlists a



**KUWAIT:** Andreas Papadakis, Ambassador of Greece to Kuwait (center), poses with other officials. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

series of promotional actions that have to do mainly with product sampling in supermarkets, event presentation, as well public relations that include business missions from Greece to the targeted countries, and visits to production units in Greece.

One of the projects' main priorities is to better inform, introduce and increase daily consumption of fresh fruits from Greece while also develop and increase their qualitative value. To the same extent, the high priority of 'Peach Garden' is that Greek fresh fruits can obtain a high market

share and can create a competitive advantage in the most populated area across Europe due to their premium quality.

All companies represented in 'Peach Garden' are specialized to some extent in the export of all kinds of fresh fruits. The participating companies of this European project, under the legal form of Greek Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers Organizations, consist of the following: Coop Mesi, Venus Growers, AC Meliki, AC Neos Aliakmon, ACN Naousa, ASOP Episkopi, AC Episkopi, ASEPOP Naousa.

## Commercial Bank staff visit patients at Mubarak Hospital



**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently visited patients hospitalized at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital to congratulate them on the advent of Eid Al-Fitr. The trip came as part of the bank's social responsibility activities and in collaboration with

Hawally governorate. In this regard, CBK assistant manager for public relations and publicity Amani Al-Wer'a stressed that CBK was always keen on promoting the concept of social responsibility and on bringing joy to patients on such occasions.

## Minister underlines congenial youth environment

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri stressed yesterday interest in creating

an encouraging atmosphere for young people and offering them developed services. This interest comes at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, instructing that due care be given to young people, empowering them and involving them in decision-making. Jabri, who doubles as Minister of Information, said in a press statement after the 13th meeting

of the Public Authority for Sports. The authority's strategic executive plan for 2018-2019, which involves 52 youth-bearing programs, projects and activities, were endorsed during the meeting, he added. These activities mainly aim at building technical and institutional capabilities, and developing and promoting young leaders' participation in public affairs, the minister pointed out. —KUNA





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US judge orders separated migrant families be reunited

## Turkey's Erdogan may reward nationalists with cabinet jobs



AHMEDABAD: Mohnidevi Nath, center, and her family react following the death of her cousin Shantadevi Nath, who was killed by a mob that falsely believed she was intent on abducting children, at their home on the outskirts of Ahmedabad in India's western Gujarat state. — AFP

# One killed, dozen hurt in latest mob attacks

## Kidnap rumors spark Indian mob attacks

AHMEDABAD: Indian police urged people yesterday not to believe false rumors spread on WhatsApp after a woman was killed and a dozen hurt in the latest mob attacks to leave authorities looking powerless. In the worst of the five assaults in the western state of Gujarat on Tuesday, a destitute woman, Shantadevi Nath, and three others were attacked by around 100 people in the main city Ahmedabad. "Half a dozen people surrounded the women as they were about to board an auto-rickshaw and started questioning them. Soon the crowd swelled and pulled Shantadevi and her companions out of the rickshaw and started thrashing them," police official JA Rathwa said. "People in the crowd rained punches and kicked the four women. Some even hit them with sticks and pulled them by their hair." The women were finally rescued by local traffic policemen and taken to hospital but Nath, 45, was declared dead on arrival. The same viral message which sparked that incident, alleging that 300 people had descended on Gujarat looking to abduct and sell children, appears to have triggered four other mob attacks there the same day. Six people were injured in two separate incidents in Rajkot, 225 kilometers from Ahmedabad, including a family of five visiting to discuss a

relative's marriage prospects. In two assaults in Surat, 275 kilometers from Ahmedabad, five women were attacked by local villagers while a 45-year-old woman was assaulted after locals suspected she had kidnapped her toddler. "It was a mostly male crowd which took away her daughter as they suspected her to be a kidnapper," a police officer told journalists. "Both of them were brought to the police station where it became clear that she was indeed the child's mother," the officer added.

**Plodding response**  
Twenty-two people are believed to have perished in the past year, media reports say, because of the same or similar WhatsApp rumors in at least five Indian states. "Guys please be on high alert," reads one such message quoted by media. "Three kids were kidnapped from my friend's area this morning. There were 10

guys giving biscuits... Parents pls be on high alert." Another video—actually a Pakistani road safety video—which did the rounds is of a child apparently being snatched by two men on a motorbike. The victims are usually outsiders. People have also been beaten to death on suspicion of stealing cattle.

Often videos of the attacks go viral on social media and are shown, albeit in pixelated form, on India's many rolling TV channels—including, in one case, victims covered in blood and pleading for their lives.

The Gujarat incidents prompted police to issue a press release, urging people not to "get carried away by fake social media messages". The rash of attacks has left the authorities scrambling to mount an effective response in a country where the use of smartphones and WhatsApp, the messaging service, is exploding, including in remote areas.

"Everyone uses WhatsApp and it is the best platform for spreading fake news. Internet data is dirt cheap (to download or send) and everyone in India has access to smartphones," Pankaj Jain from fact-checking organization SMHoaxSlayer said. There has been no coordinated and centralized effort to counter the attacks, with authorities in several states taking largely localized initiatives. In the southern state of Tamil Nadu local authorities used loudspeakers in May to warn people about false rumors. In Uttar Pradesh police have taken to WhatsApp themselves to disseminate short video messages.

Nikhil Pahwa, the editor of news and analysis website Medianama, said the authorities must raise their game, including becoming savvier about tracking social media and responding quickly to false rumors. But he also said the onus was on WhatsApp, in the Facebook-owned company's biggest market, to ensure that the original sender of a message can be identified and to help authorities communicate more with citizens. "We have all kinds of messages circulating on the social media. Misinformation today is a global issue and there is no one way to address it. Multiple things need to be done," Pahwa said. — AFP

“Crowd swelled, pulled and thrashed them”

## Rescuers seek to drill hole in hunt for boys missing in Thai cave

CHIANG RAI, Thailand: Thai rescue workers will drill a narrow shaft into a cave where 12 schoolboys and their soccer coach are believed to be trapped by flood waters. Thailand's interior minister said yesterday, the fourth day of a search that has been hampered by heavy rain. The boys, aged between 11 and 16, and their 25-year-old assistant coach, went missing on Saturday after soccer practice when they set out to explore the Tham Luang cave complex, even though it is known to be prone to flooding in the rainy season.

Thai volunteers and military teams, including 45 navy SEAL unit members, have been deployed at the flooded cave complex, which runs 10 km (6 miles) under a mountain in the northern province of Chiang Rai. "Tomorrow we can drill into the mountain but we won't drill too deep. Just enough to allow people through," interior minister Anupong Paochinda told reporters in Bangkok. "We are trying every way to find the children," he added. While distraught relatives and friends gathered at the mouth of the cave, rescue workers pumped water out, but the persistent heavy rain has slowed their progress. "Water is the biggest challenge. There is a lot of debris and sand that gets stuck while pumping," Army officer Sergeant Kresada Wanaphum said. "We have to switch out units because there is not enough air in there," he added, before heading back down the cave. According to messages the boys exchanged before setting off, they had taken flashlights and some food. Apart from some footprints and marks left by their muddy hands near the cave entrance, nothing has been seen or heard of them since Saturday evening, and the race to find them has dominated Thai news cycles. "I'm confident all are still alive," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters.

**Massive amounts of water**  
Vern Unsworth, a British cave explorer based in Chiang



CHIANG RAI, Thailand: Rescue personnel are seen at the opening of the Tham Luang cave in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in Chiang Rai. — AFP

Rai who has joined the search, said a lot of water was seeping into the cave from two directions. "There is a watershed inside, which is unusual, it means there is water coming in from two directions," Unsworth said. "The biggest challenge is the water. Massive amounts." Three foreign divers coming from Britain were expected to reach Thailand on Wednesday evening to join the search, the interior minister said.

Thailand has asked the United States for survivor detection equipment, said Tourism Minister Weerasak Kowsurat. "We hope this equipment will allow us to locate the spots that we need to reach faster," Weerasak told reporters. A guide book described the Tham Luang cave as having an

"impressive entrance chamber" leading to a marked path. It then describes the end of the path and the start of a series of chambers and boulders.

"This section of the cave has not been thoroughly explored. After a couple of hundred meters the cave reduces in size to a mud floored passage 2 meters wide and 3 meters high," author Martin Ellis wrote in 'The Caves of Thailand Volume 2'. Nopparat Kantawong, the head coach of the team who did not attend practice on Saturday, said the boys had visited the caves several times, and was hopeful that the boys would stick together and stay strong. "They won't abandon each other," Nopparat told reporters. — Reuters

## Member states allow chemical watchdog to assign blame for attacks

THE HAGUE: In a diplomatic victory for Britain, countries voted by a wide margin yesterday to give the world's chemical weapons watchdog new powers to assign blame for attacks with banned toxic munitions. In a special session, member states of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) voted in favor of a British-led proposal to grant the new powers by a 82-24 margin, easily reaching the two-thirds majority needed for it to succeed.

The motion was supported by the United States and European Union, but opposed by Russia, Iran, Syria and their allies. "The international community has come together to strengthen the ban against chemical weapons use," Britain's foreign office said in a statement immediately following the vote. Though the use of chemical weapons is illegal under international law, the taboo on deploying them has been eroding after their repeated use in the Syrian civil war, but also in Iraq, Malaysia and Britain since 2012.

From 2015 to 2017 a joint United Nations-OPCW team had been appointed to assign blame for chemical attacks in Syria. It found that Syrian government troops used nerve agent sarin and chlorine barrel bombs on several occasions, while Islamic State militants were found to have used sulphur mustard. But at a deadlocked UN Security Council, the joint team was disbanded last year after Moscow used its veto to block several resolutions seeking to renew its mandate. The British proposal declares the OPCW will be empowered to attribute blame for attacks, though details of how it will do so will still need to be further defined by the organizations' members. — Reuters

International

# Turkey's Erdogan may reward nationalists with cabinet jobs

## Erdogan promises to lift state of emergency

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan could give his nationalist allies cabinet posts, sources said, rewarding their support for his AK Party in parliament and signaling a tough line against US-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria and militants at home. Erdogan won 53 percent of the vote in Sunday's presidential election, extending his rule until at least 2023 - but now with the sweeping executive powers that Turks narrowly backed in a referendum last year.

The ruling AKP he founded fared less well, taking 43 percent in the parliamentary election held on the same day. But, allied with the hard-right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), which won 11 percent, it will have a parliamentary majority. The AKP, an Islamist-rooted, pro-business party which in its early years in power from 2002 appealed to the centre-right and worked to bring Turkey closer to Europe, is now allied with a deeply nationalist party suspicious of foreign powers.

The MHP, founded by an ex-colonel involved in a 1960 military coup, is hostile to the Kurdish political movement and its base is seen as closely tied to the "Grey Wolves", a nationalist youth group that fought street battles with leftists in the 1970s. Mehmet Ali Agca, who tried to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981, was a member of that movement. "It is possible for there to be some names close to the MHP that the president deems appropriate in the cabinet," an MHP official said, adding: "In the end, Erdogan will decide."

A source close to Erdogan's office said it would "not be a surprise" if the president appointed ministers close to the MHP to Turkey's new cabinet. Both sources spoke on the condition of anonymity. Erdogan's office declined to comment. The MHP's deputy chairman, Mustafa Kalayci, said any cabinet decisions would be taken by Erdogan. "We will not have any expectations such as 'We gave you this support, so give us five ministries'," Kalayci told broadcaster CNN Turk.

Together, the two parties won 343 of parliament's 600 seats, according to unofficial results. Although parliament has lost some of its powers under the new executive presidency, an opposition-controlled assembly would have been able to slow down lawmaking for Erdogan.

### Nationalist voters

For the AKP, the alliance marks the culmination of a drive to woo nationalist voters that began in earnest

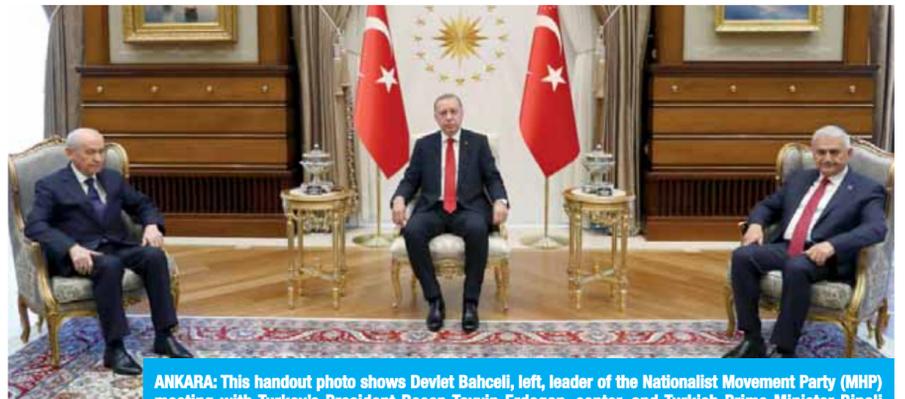
after a 2015 election setback and intensified after a 2016 attempted coup. Nationalist sentiment has also been bolstered by security operations against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants in the mainly Kurdish southeast and a campaign against US-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria. "Having failed to secure a parliamentary majority, Erdogan, who has to rely on support from the far-right MHP, will be hostage to their hardline agenda," said Aykan Erdemir, a former lawmaker from the secular opposition and a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

"Turkish nationalism, in part fuelled by the rise in anti-Kurdish sentiment, is the real winner in the twin elections." The government rejects any notion that anti-Kurdish sentiment informs its policies. The AKP has broad support among conservative Kurds in the south-east. In his victory speech, Erdogan pledged that authorities would act more decisively against terrorists - the country is already in the throes of a crackdown since the coup. Turkey's forces would continue to "liberate Syrian lands", he said.

Ankara's operation against the YPG Kurdish militia in northern Syria has complicated relations with the United States, a NATO ally. Turkey sees the YPG as an extension of the outlawed PKK. Washington has backed the group in the fight against Islamic State. The MHP's head, Devlet Bahceli, has warned that Turkey is surrounded by enemies, singling out the Kurdish militants at home and the fighters in Syria.

"Turkey is facing economic attacks and international conspiracies," he said at a recent rally. "If we don't unite ourselves, we are doomed to suffer bitter results." There have also been signs of differences in policy. Erdogan has promised to soon lift the state of emergency that was imposed after the 2016 attempted coup. It limits some freedoms and allows the government to rule by decree, bypassing parliament. Critics say it has been used to stifle dissent.

But Kalayci, the MHP deputy chairman, has said emergency rule should continue. In a separate twist on Wednesday, the MHP said it had dismissed a deputy leader, Sefer Aycan, without giving a reason. Media reports cited Aycan as telling party members on Tuesday that the MHP had "saved" Erdogan and would now use its strengthened position in parliament to enforce its views. MHP leader Bahceli was scheduled to meet Erdogan at 4 pm yesterday.—Reuters



ANKARA: This handout photo shows Devlet Bahceli, left, leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) meeting with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, center, and Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, right, at the presidential palace in Ankara. —AFP

## Congolese doctor helps Yazidi women overcome rape stigma

DOHUK, Iraq: At the Yazidi minority's holiest site in Iraq, Congolese gynecologist Denis Mukwege pays homage to a spiritual leader who has decreed women raped by the Islamic State group should not be stigmatized. The renowned doctor shakes hands with white-bearded Khurto Hajji Ismail, the Yazidis' Baba Sheikh or spiritual leader, in the Lalish temple where two conical roofs symbolize the journey from earth to heaven.

Yazidis are followers of an ancient religion with more than half a million believers in northern Iraq, but in 2014 IS kidnapped thousands of the sect's women and girls as sex slaves. "In many communities, women are excluded-stigmatized just after being raped", the 63-year-old gynecologist said, just ahead of his visit to the temple in Nineveh province. "But Baba Sheikh has said we are human... and women should not be stigmatized" after

what they have suffered, he added.

The sexual enslavement of Yazidis is a tragedy Mukwege is especially qualified to talk about. Back home in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) he runs a hospital that has treated tens of thousands of women in South Kivu province. The patients are victims of a brutal 1998-2003 war and subsequent conflicts, where mass rape has been used as a weapon of war. Thanks to Baba Sheikh's stance, Yazidi women can break "the silence" and give their testimony, Mukwege said.

"I think there is a way to share this experience... to join our forces to fight against rape as a weapon of war", Mukwege said. "When this happens, don't say 'It's Iraq, Congo, Colombia, or Korea', we have just to say our humanity was abused", the doctor added. He also called on the international community "to take responsibility" for the Yazidis' treatment by IS, which the United Nations has branded a genocide. "If there is no justice, if you let this happen without punishment", it can be repeated, he said. A UN report published in August said Iraq was responsible for prosecuting perpetrators and helping victims, while warning that women who were married off to IS fighters risked discrimination.—AFP

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<p><b>1.120</b> <b>0.395</b></p> <p>Cheetos Assorted 16gm 20's/pc (Loops Chilli/ Loops Salt &amp; Vinegar/Curls Cheese)</p>	<p><b>0.550</b> <b>0.275</b></p> <p>Maggi 2M Noodles Curry 79gm 5's/ Chicken 77gm 5's <small>From 27 to 01.07.2018</small></p>	<p><b>1.450</b> <b>0.660</b></p> <p>Kellogg's Disney Cars Honey Flavour Multi Grain Cereal 350gm</p>	<p><b>1.580</b> <b>0.840</b></p> <p>Heinz Tomato ketchup 20 oz 2's (570gm2's)</p>
<p><b>1.795</b></p> <p>Farmed Prawns /kg (Saudi) <small>From 27 to 29.06.2018</small></p>	<p><b>2.890</b> <b>2.190</b></p> <p>New Zealand Lamb Forequarter /kg <small>From 27 to 29.06.2018</small></p>	<p><b>5.780</b> <b>3.290</b></p> <p>Tide Washing Powder 3 Kg 2's <small>From 27 to 30.06.2018</small></p>	<p><b>12.825</b> <b>6.410</b></p> <p>Huggies Diaper 40,44,46,56s 3's</p>
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## International

# US judge orders separated migrant families be reunited

## Trump scores big win on immigration

LOS ANGELES: A US judge has ordered that migrant families separated at the border with Mexico under President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy be reunited within 30 days. For children under five, reunification must take place within two weeks of the order issued Tuesday by US District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego. Sabraw made the sternly worded decision in response to a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of a seven-year-old girl who was separated from her Congolese mother and a 14-year-old boy who was separated from his Brazilian mother.

The judge also issued an injunction against any more family separations, which was part of a policy under which anyone crossing the border illegally is detained and referred for criminal prosecution. US federal authorities have 10 days to allow parents to call their children if they are not already in touch with them, the judge said. Trump last week signed an executive order halting his government's practice of taking children away from parents who cross the border without papers, even to seek asylum. Many are destitute people fleeing gang violence and other turmoil in Central America.

It was a rare retreat for Trump, who has made fighting immigration-both illegal and legal-one of the most sacred mantras of his fiercely US-centered policy agenda. But the order made no specific provisions for families already separated under the policy, which sparked heated criticism in America and worldwide as inhumane and even a form of child abuse. More than 2,000 children taken from their families remain under the care of federal authorities. Some are just toddlers, or even infants.

The ACLU argued that the administration has no real plan for reuniting families. Every night small children "are crying themselves to sleep wondering if they will ever see their par-

ents again," said ACLU lawyer Lee Gelernt. Now, the policy of detaining parents who cross illegally with children has been suspended, with authorities saying that among other factors they do not have space for all the families coming over from Mexico. Judge Sabraw was scathing in his criticism of the Trump policy of taking children away from their parents.

"The facts set forth before the court portray reactive governance-responses to address a chaotic circumstance of the government's own making," Sabraw wrote in the 24-page ruling. "They belie measured and ordered governance, which is central to the concept of due process enshrined in our Constitution," the judge added. The attorneys-general of 18 mainly Democratic states also filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging the Trump family separation policy.

“ Children are crying themselves to sleep ”

### Separation inhumane

They argued that Trump's order halting the practice has so many caveats it is meaningless. It calls for money to be appropriated to reunite families but does not say how much or by when, and depends on a judge allowing indefinite detention of children, the officials wrote. "Keeping children separated

from their parents is inhumane, unconscionable and illegal-and we're filing suit to stop it," wrote Attorney General Barbara Underwood of New York. Some 200 protesters turned out in Los Angeles to protest a visit by US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, one of the most visible faces of the Trump border control policy.

Around 20 were arrested after defying police orders to disperse. Trump did score a big win on immigration Tuesday, however, as the US Supreme Court upheld the latest version of his travel ban targeting people from some Muslim-majority countries. By a 5-4 vote, the court's conservative majority said Trump was within his legal authority as president to issue such



TEXAS: In this file photo an immigrant from El Salvador and his 10-year-old son pass the time after being released from detention through 'catch and release' immigration policy at a Catholic Charities relief center in McAllen, Texas. —AFP

a ban. Trump pounced on the decision as an endorsement of his authority to defend national security and "a tremendous success and victory for the American people."

Immigration has been among the thorniest issue in American politics for decades, with Congress repeatedly failing to pass comprehensive reforms. The House of Representatives intends to vote Wednesday on a broad immi-

gration bill that ends family separations, but passage is in doubt. Should the bill fail, it would be a dramatic embarrassment for Trump's party. Hannah Hammer, who was protesting with her baby in Los Angeles, said she was angry the government was trying "to remove human dignity from immigrants" arriving with children. "I want to be one of the people who said no," the 26-year-old said. —AFP

## As migration row flares, Merkel's enemies smell blood

BERLIN: Almost three years after German Chancellor Angela Merkel's fateful welcome to a million migrants, her boldest move has come back to haunt her, with opponents at home and abroad smelling blood. US President Donald Trump, always an uneasy partner, openly attacked Merkel on immigration last week, declaring on Twitter that "the people of Germany are turning against their leadership". Now, as Merkel heads into a crucial EU summit starting Thursday, she must fight for solutions to the flashpoint issue to resolve a deep political crisis threatening her at home.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) has long chanted "Merkel must go", but now her traditional allies the conservative Bavarian CSU are flirting with the same idea. The open challenge against Merkel is led by CSU boss and Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, who has cultivated ties with anti-immigration hardliners in Austria, Hungary and Italy. Seehofer has threatened to defy Merkel and order border police from next week to turn back asylum seekers already registered in other EU countries-unless Merkel reaches an agreement on how to handle them with other member states.

Such open defiance would give Merkel little choice but to fire Seehofer, likely sparking a split between her CDU and the CSU that would cost the chancellor the wafer-thin governing majority she stitched together after a much weaker than expected performance in September elections. Merkel, having long ago moved her CDU party to the political centre, now faces "a putsch from the right", said a leader of the far-left Die Linke party, Bernd Riexinger, watching the spectacle from the sidelines. Another gleeful onlooker, Christian Lindner of the Free Democrats, pointed to Merkel's "dramatic loss of authority", while also accusing the CSU of "holding hostage an entire continent". Amid growing fears of a government collapse, the CDU and CSU have toned down their rhetoric and on Tuesday both stressed their "common destiny"-but the core issue remained unresolved after four hours of late-night talks. —AFP

## Spain sexual abuse victim speaks out for first time

MADRID: A young woman who was sexually abused by five men in a lurid case that shook Spain spoke out for the first time yesterday, calling on rape victims not to "stay silent". "Tell a friend, a relative, the police, in a tweet, do it as you wish, but tell it," she wrote in an emotional letter read out on a popular Spanish television program. "Do not stay silent, because if you do, you are letting them win. 'Nobody has to go through this. No one has to regret drinking, talking to people at a party, going home alone or wearing a miniskirt.'"

The five men, in their late twenties, were accused of gang-raping the victim, then aged 18, at Pamplona's bull-running festival in July 2016. They videoed it on their smartphones and bragged about it within their WhatsApp group, calling themselves "The Pack". The men insist she consented and have only admitted to stealing her mobile phone.

In April, they were sentenced to nine years in jail for sexual abuse but acquitted of the more serious crime of sexual assault, which includes rape-a ruling that sparked nationwide protests. More protests broke out last week when they were released on bail pending an appeal by prosecutors who say the sentence was too lenient. —AFP

## EU's Tusk warns time is short to beat populists

BRUSSELS: EU leaders are running out of time to reassure their citizens the European Union can control migration before authoritarian politicians win the high-stakes debate, the bloc's president Donald Tusk warned yesterday. In a letter inviting the leaders to the EU summit starting today, Tusk proposed new steps to bolster external borders, including setting up migrant reception centers in north Africa.

"More and more people are starting to believe that only strong-handed authority, anti-European and anti-liberal in spirit, with a tendency towards overt authoritarianism, is capable of stopping the wave of illegal migration," Tusk said. "If people believe them, that only they can offer an effective solution to the migration crisis, they will also believe anything else they say," Tusk added. "The stakes are very high. And time is short," the European Council president warned.

Tusk said the EU collectively reduced

illegal border crossings by 96 percent from the peak of more than one million in 2015, when Europe faced its worst migration crisis since World War II. In order to bolster the external border, he proposed the summit endorse "disembarkation platforms outside Europe" to separate genuine refugees from economic migrants, who can legally be sent back to their home countries.

### Break the business model

He said such platforms could help "break the business model" of the smugglers by ensuring rescue ships do not automatically take migrants to Europe, their goal. EU officials say the platforms could be set up with the help of UN agencies in north African countries such as Tunisia, although no formal proposal has been made. Tusk also called for increased cooperation with countries of origin and transit, and in particular EU support for the Libyan Coastguard.

His comments came after a German charity rescue vessel was expected to dock in Malta later yesterday following a six-day standoff over which countries would take in the more than 200 North African migrants on board. Cooperation deals with Libya and Turkey, the main transit countries, have been credited with having sharply reduced migration.



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, right, talks with European Council President Donald Tusk inside 10 Downing Street in central London at the start of their meeting. —AFP

Tusk also invited the leaders to discuss the threat to western unity posed by Donald Trump, particularly after the G7 summit in Canada when he insulted host Justin Trudeau and refused to sign a final statement.

"Despite our tireless efforts to keep the unity of the West, transatlantic rela-

tions are under immense pressure due to the policies of President Trump," he wrote. He said the "divisions go beyond trade," where Trump has imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum. "While hoping for the best, we must be ready to prepare our union for worst-case scenarios," he warned. —AFP

## IAA 45th World Congress to be hosted in Saint Petersburg in May 2020

NEW YORK: The International Advertising Association, Government of Saint Petersburg and IAA Russia Chapter signed a definitive Agreement that confirmed that the 45th IAA World Congress will be hosted in the historic Saint Petersburg, one of most beautiful cities in the world.

The agreement between the three parties was signed by IAA Chairman and World President Felix Tataru, IAA Senior Vice President Srinivasan Swamy, Governor of Saint Petersburg Georgy Poltavchenko and IAA Russia Chapter President Boris Eremin, at the Intercontinental Carlton Cannes hotel during the Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity last week. A champagne reception was hosted by IAA Russia and St Petersburg to celebrate this momentous occasion.

The IAA World Congress, a world-renowned gathering of leaders in the marketing communications industry, is a forum of authoritative opinion, stimulation, motivation, and exchange of ideas with industry leaders of global standing. It is expected that over 1500 delegates from marketing, advertising, media sectors from across the globe would participate in this premier event in St Petersburg.

In officially announcing Saint Petersburg and IAA Russia Chapter as the hosts of the 2020 IAA World Congress, Felix Tataru, IAA Chairman and World President said: "Ten years after the successful IAA World Congress in Moscow, we are glad that we will be organizing the 45th World Congress of IAA in Saint Petersburg. As creativity is one of the key priorities of IAA, we will be inspired by one of the most creative and culturally rooted cities in the world. We have already seen the warm hospitality of IAA Russia



during the Congress at Moscow in 2010, and I am confident the 2020 Congress in Saint Petersburg will set a new standard for stimulative intellectual exchange in our industry."

The Governor of St Petersburg, Georgy Poltavchenko, expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to bring this important event to his city: "Advertising is not merely a motor of commerce. It's the motor of business itself, acting as a catalyst of market and economic life. Advertising catalyzes creativity in many forms. When the delegates of the Congress meet in St. Petersburg their intent to create something unique will be further encouraged by the beauty of our city and our hospitality," he said.

IAA Russia Chapter President, Boris Eremin stated that "Since the very beginning IAA has been the strategic platform for all advertising practitioners comprising advertisers, agencies and media, be it at the global, regional or the national level. IAA, as the compass of the global communications industry will help practitioners grasp the new trends in advertising

and help companies navigate to reach their business goals. IAA Russia is honored to host our colleagues from all over the world at the 45th World Congress towards end of May 2020. The IAA compass pointed this time to St. Petersburg, in a manner of speaking."

The IAA is proud to invite global delegates to participate in the 45th IAA World Congress in Saint Petersburg - a city of grandeur that has all the ingredients to provide an unforgettable creative ambience for delegates to experience high art, lavish architecture, vibrant nightlife, and an extraordinary history with rich cultural traditions that have inspired and nurtured some of the modern world's greatest literature, music, and visual art.

This Congress will follow the 44th IAA World Congress scheduled in Kochi, India from 20th to 22nd February 2019. The India Congress has an interesting theme under the overall direction of 'What's coming next' - Brand Dharma - where brand's righteousness and their higher purpose will be discussed.



## International

# Ronaldo pics, 'ghostly' officials draw voters in Indonesia polls

## Authorities tighten security across the archipelago

**JAKARTA:** Tens of millions voted yesterday in local elections seen as a gauge of Indonesian President Joko Widodo's re-election prospects, with free food, football stars and fancy dress on offer to lure electors. Polling stations were decorated with posters of pin-up football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo and election officials in one location even dressed as ghosts to boost the turnout. Widodo, known as Jokowi, is popular across the 17,000-island archipelago. But he has struggled to keep his economic growth plans on track, while the growing power of hardline Islamist groups who oppose him could throw up a formidable challenge.

Some 152 million registered voters—more than half of Indonesia's 260 million-strong population—were eligible to cast a ballot for 171 mayors, regional leaders and provincial governors. Some polling station were decked out in a World Cup theme to attract voters including posters of the Portuguese footballer and of Argentina's Lionel Messi—as local staff donned team jerseys and small nets filled with balls were set up around the ballot boxes.

A polling station near a cemetery in the central Javanese city of Semarang took on a "spooky" theme as officials strapped on ghost costumes, local media reported. Voters in Depok, also on Java, got free fried tofu for their efforts. Indonesia's three most populous provinces—West, East and Central Java—are seen as key battlegrounds in the race, along with North Sumatra. The way they fall could have implica-

tions for 57-year-old Widodo as he gears up for an expected repeat next year of the 2014 contest which saw him beat retired general Prabowo Subianto for the presidency.

Subianto is believed to be planning to run again in the April 2019 presidential election. By early afternoon, exit polls showed former Bandung mayor Ridwan Kamil—a Jokowi ally—had won the majority of votes in West Java. "What really matters in Indonesia is perception—you don't want the president to show himself as having a weak hand," said Yohanes Sulaiman, a political analyst at Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani.

Authorities tightened security across the archipelago as voting began yesterday morning. Results are expected by

July 9. Indonesia has been on edge since a series of suicide bombings last month stirred fears about Islamist militancy in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country. Last week a cleric seen as a top messenger for the Islamic State group in Indonesia was sentenced to death for masterminding a 2016 suicide-and-gun attack in central Jakarta—raising concerns about retaliatory attacks by his supporters.

The political power of hardline Islamist groups is at unprecedented levels in officially pluralist Indonesia. That power was highlighted when Jakarta's first ethnically Chinese and Christian governor—a key Jokowi ally—lost his re-election bid last year over blasphemy allegations that later sent him to prison.—AFP



**SURABAYA:** An Indonesian voter casts her ballot at a football-themed polling station decorated to attract voters with the ongoing Russia 2018 World Cup, during regional elections in Surabaya, East Java.—AFP

### Free food, football stars lure electors

## As North, South Korea cosy up, human rights groups struggle for cash

**SEOUL:** Human rights and North Korean defector groups in South Korea say they are struggling to raise money, cutting jobs and programs, and facing pressure to avoid criticism of Pyongyang as Seoul and Washington focus on diplomatic outreach to the isolated country. Activists say they were disappointed but unsurprised human rights has seemingly disappeared from the agenda as South Korean and American leaders met with Kim Jong Un in recent months.

"As South and North Korea have promoted this 'mood for peace', the defectors and North Korean human rights activist groups feel excluded," said Kim Tae-hee, a defector who heads the Coalition for North Korean Refugees. The South Korean government recently closed the office of a human rights foundation, and representatives of several non-governmental organizations told Reuters they have struggled to secure funding.

Citing a lack of financial backing, as well as recent clashes between police and groups trying to send leaflets into North Korea, Kim said she feels the government is undermining the work of human rights and defector NGOs. "I feel that an invisible hand is at work," she said. The Unification Ministry said its stance remains that it "will strive to comprehensively protect the civil liberties and social rights of the North Korean people". A spokesman yesterday highlighted efforts to help North Korean defectors settle in the South.

But President Moon Jae-in's administration has moved away from criticism of Pyongyang's rights record in favor of engagement. Senior aides to Moon have told Reuters they believe confronting Pyongyang could be counterproductive and possibly harmful to North Korean citi-

zens, who will continue to suffer if their government remains isolated.

### Ambivalence

UN investigators have reported the use of political prison camps, starvation and executions in North Korea, saying security chiefs and possibly even Kim Jong Un himself should face international justice. Between 80,000 and 120,000 people are held in political prison camps, the UN's top North Korea rights official reported last year. The North Korean mission at the United Nations did not respond to requests for comment, but state media has released a steady flow of commentaries this year, warning taking issue with rights could undermine the detente.

Even before Moon responded to Kim Jong Un's overtures in January, there were signs support for some defectors and human rights activists was waning. The South Korean government ended nearly 20 years of funding for the Association of North Korean Defectors in December, forcing the organization to end most of its programs, move to a smaller office, and lay off staff, said Seo Jae-Pyung, the association's secretary general. "Only two people... are both working here now," Seo said. "We have been working unpaid since earlier this year."

Seo said some South Korean citizens told his group to stop launching propaganda leaflets into North Korea because it would "throw a wet blanket on improving inter-Korean relations". Officials with the International Coalition to Stop Crimes against Humanity in North Korea (ICNH), which is affiliated with international organizations like Human Rights Watch and Freedom House, said they have struggled to win new government grants.

"There have been no direct restrictions or notices by the government, as far as I know," said Kwon Eun-Kyung, Secretary General of ICNH. "But I feel that there is definitely ambivalence among some working level government officials and even the press, who don't proactively talk about North Korean human rights." Joanna Hosaniak, deputy director general at the Citizen's Alliance for North Korean Human Rights, said her organization had also seen donations from South Korean corporations dry up over the past year, amid changes in the domestic and international political climate.

When Thae Yong Ho, a former North Korean diplomat to the UK who defected in 2016, stepped down from his position at a government-affiliated think tank after North Korea media called him "human scum," some in South Korea saw it as an attempt by the government to distance itself from defectors. Thae did not respond to a request for comment, but told media at the time the decision was his own and he thought it would boost inter-Korean relations.

### Foundation delayed, ambassador not appointed

Just after the summit between Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump on June 12, the South Korean government announced it was ending funding for an office for a new organization called the North Korean Human Rights Foundation. The foundation was established under the 2016 North Korean Human Rights act to lay "the legal and institutional foundation for protection of human rights in North Korea" but has yet to become fully operational.

While the Unification Ministry says it is still working to get the foundation up and running, critics say the delays highlight the administration's lack of commitment to addressing human rights abuses. "I am worried that the South Korean government is tiptoeing around North Korea amidst the mood for dialogue, being careful about the issue of human rights," Hong Il-pyo, a right-wing South Korean lawmaker, said.

Without the foundation, other aspects of the law, including funding for projects, may be harder to implement, said Kim Tae-hoon, head of Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea. "This was one of the cornerstones of the North Korean Human Rights act," he said. North Korean state media has called recently for Seoul to repeal the act and abolish the foundation, as they are only "good for doing harm in light of the current trends of the North-South relationship".

The position of Ambassador-at-large on North Korean Human Rights, meanwhile, has been empty for nearly 10 months. "This role enabled us to form a community to work closely with other North Korean human rights activists and experts," said Yonsei University professor Lee Jung-hoon, who held the ambassador role until last September. "Nobody is against the dialogue with North Korea," he said.—Reuters

## Myanmar military leaders oversaw crimes against humanity

**NEW YORK:** Myanmar's military chief and other top brass have been accused by Amnesty International of crimes against humanity for overseeing a "systematic" attack against Rohingya Muslims, according to a report by the rights group yesterday calling for prosecution at the International Criminal Court. More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims were forced to flee Rakhine state after a military crackdown that the United Nations has said amounts to "ethnic cleansing". Myanmar's military has denied targeting the stateless minority and said it was defending itself against Muslim militants who attacked police posts in August 2017.

But a new report from Amnesty said army commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing and 12 other senior military and security officials oversaw an orchestrated campaign of violence in the restive state where the Rohingya have been historically marginalized. It is the first time senior military officials have been named and implicated in the violence. "The ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya population was achieved by a relentless and systematic campaign in which the Myanmar security forces unlawfully killed thousands of Rohingya, including young children," said the report.

"The bulk of these crimes were not the actions of rogue or out-of-control soldiers or units," it added, rejecting previous claims by the military that some soldiers may have broken the rules of engagement. It also accused security forces of sexual violence, torture, forced displacement and burning markets and farmland that starved communities and forced them to flee. "These crimes amount to crimes against humanity under international law, as they were perpetrated as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the Rohingya population," the report said. The report said some senior military figures and border guard police oversaw units that directly carried out alleged atrocities, while others knew of subordinates' actions and failed to prevent, stop or punish the crimes.



**MAUNGDAW, Myanmar:** In this file photo, smoldering debris of burned houses are seen in abandoned Muslim village in Warpait in Rakhine state during intensified government security operations following attacks on border police outposts by Muslim militants.—AFP

### Humanitarian crisis

The 186-page report is the most detailed account of the crisis yet and follows fresh sanctions from the European Union this week against seven security officials accused of serious crimes including sexual violence and killings. Min Aung Hlaing was not hit by the sanctions but six people on the EU list are named in the Amnesty report, including Major General Maung Maung Soe, the former head of the western command in Rakhine.

In a rare move, Myanmar's military said this week he had been sacked for "weakness" in his role. But some said it was a piecemeal gesture. "They are now grasping for ways to draw a line under international pressure," Aaron Connelly, director of the Southeast Asia project at the Lowy Institute in Australia, said. "But none of these attempts are likely to work, short of prosecutions for

crimes against humanity and the eventual return of large numbers of Rohingya to Rakhine State under improved legal and humanitarian conditions."

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have settled in squalid camps in neighboring Bangladesh, many too scared to go back despite a repatriation agreement with Myanmar that rights groups have said does not guarantee a safe return. Amnesty said it has not received a reply to its request for comment from Myanmar officials. AFP's request for comment also went unanswered. The Amnesty report is based on more than 400 interviews in Myanmar and Bangladesh from September 2017 to June 2018 and satellite imagery, forensic analysis and confidential military documents. It also details alleged abuses carried out by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), the Muslim militant group that attacked police posts on August 25, 2017.—AFP

### News in brief

#### S Sudan foes agree ceasefire

**KHARTOUM:** South Sudan President Salva Kiir and arch-foe Riek Machar agreed yesterday to a "permanent" ceasefire to take effect within 72 hours, raising hopes of a deal to end their country's devastating war. "All parties have agreed on a permanent ceasefire within 72 hours of signing the Khartoum Document," Sudan's Foreign Minister Al-Dierdiry Ahmed announced following talks in the Sudanese capital. Kiir and Machar then signed the document in the presence of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. The latest push for peace in South Sudan comes as part of a fresh bid launched by East African leaders with the two fighting factions facing a looming deadline to avert UN sanctions.—AFP

#### Tokyo passes anti-smoking law

**TOKYO:** Tokyo, Japan's capital and host of the 2020 Summer Olympics, passed a tough anti-smoking law yesterday that will effectively ban smoking in most of the city's bars and restaurants in the run-up to the games. Japan lags many countries in efforts to fight smoking, with attempts to tackle tobacco often stymied by pro-smoking politicians, restaurateurs and Japan Tobacco, which is one-third owned by the government. Tokyo was set to be the smokiest Olympic games in years if no action was taken. The new city law, which takes full effect several months before the Olympics open on July 24, 2020, bans smoking in any bar or restaurant with hired employees.—Reuters

#### Morocco jails protesters

**RABAT:** The jailing of demonstrators for up to 20 years over unrest in 2016 sparked anger in Morocco yesterday, with some warning it could threaten further instability. At the end of a nine-month trial the figurehead of the Al-Hirak al-Shaabi or "Popular Movement", Nasser Zefzafi, was sentenced to 20 years along with three others for "plotting to undermine the security of the state". A further 49 people were sentenced late Tuesday to jail terms of one to five years, along with fines, at the Casablanca Court of Appeal.—AFP

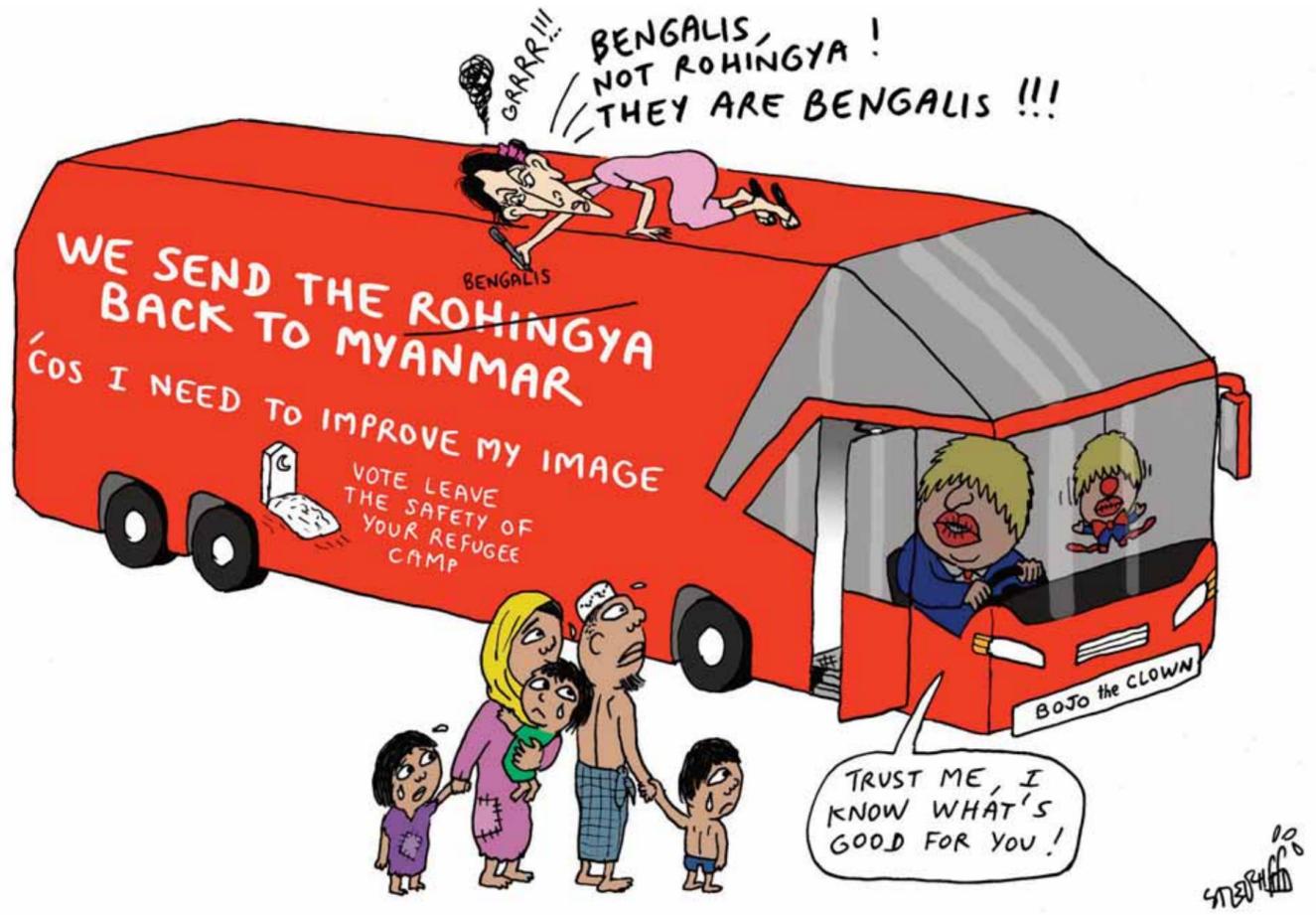
#### Heterosexual couple win legal bid

**LONDON:** A heterosexual couple fighting to enter into a civil partnership—created for gay couples in Britain—won a legal challenge yesterday to do so, opening the way for others to follow suit. Charles Keidan, 41, and 37-year-old Rebecca Steinfeld, academics in a long-term relationship but with ideological objections to marriage, argued that restricting civil partnerships to same-sex couples conflicts with equality law. The couple's claim was rejected by several lower courts, but the Supreme Court agreed that legislation restricting civil partnerships is "incompatible" with their human rights. The court ruled the pair's entitlement to respect for private and family life guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights is contravened by the law.—AFP

#### Wildfires threaten N California

**CALIFORNIA:** Four wildfires burned in Northern California on Tuesday, threatening hundreds of homes, while another blaze in an area of New Mexico hard hit by drought will force most of a sprawling national park to close, fire officials said. The fire has forced about 1,500 people to evacuate, said Lieutenant Corey Paulich of the Lake County Sheriff's Department. California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for Lake County on Monday, freeing up resources. By Tuesday more than 1,400 firefighters battled the blaze, Cal Fire said.—Reuters

## Analysis

Kuwait Times  
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## Indonesian election season is a gauge of rise of political Islam

About 100 residents of a gritty commercial district of Indonesia's capital listen intently as a man roars into a microphone: "Are you ready to change our president? Are you ready for new leadership?" But this is not a political rally. Dressed in white robes and a turban, Novel Bamukmin of the Jakarta chapter of the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), a hardline Islamist group, addresses evening prayers in a mosque. As a year of local and then national elections begins this week in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country, some Islamic leaders have emerged as the most vocal opponents of President Joko Widodo, who is expected to seek a second term next year.

They belong to a loose grouping of Islamists behind protests that culminated in the election defeat and jailing for blasphemy in 2017 of Jakarta's ethnic-Chinese and Christian governor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, a Widodo ally. The case of Purnama, who had said political rivals were deceiving people by using a verse in the Koran to say Muslims should not be led by a non-Muslim, showed how Islam had crept into politics in the officially secular country.

Widodo has pledged to protect Indonesia's tradition of pluralism and moderate Islam, and he has banned Hizb ut-Tahrir, a hardline group with ambitions for an Islamic caliphate. But a senior government official conceded there are limits to how much the government can control political messaging in mosques. "Any action against this phenomenon is blasted as anti-Muslim so our actions are restricted," said the official, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue.

## 'Change the president'

A former furniture maker and Indonesia's first president from outside the political and military elite, Widodo - known as Jokowi - has remained popular since he took office in 2014. He is widely seen as an honest man of the people, rare for a leader in a country where the political class is scorned as corrupt and aloof, and his push for infrastructure and cutting red tape has burnished his image as a hands-on leader. A recent opinion poll gave him a double-digit lead over the opposition Gerindra party's Prabowo Subianto, a retired general who is expected to run a second time against Widodo in 2019.

Opponents and hardline Muslim groups, including the FPI, accuse Widodo of failing to stem income inequality or deliver higher growth, but the most incendiary attacks have often been around religion and ethnicity. False accusations have spread on social media that the president is not actually Muslim and is a descendant of ethnic Chinese communists. Widodo has sought to strengthen his ties with moderate Islamic leaders and he recently appointed a controversial hardline cleric as a communications adviser.

"The only way for the opposition to win is to debunk the argument that Jokowi is one of the masses, and to attack his weakest spot, which is his shyness in showing his religion," said Achmad Sukarsono, a political analyst at Control Risks. Ahead of local elections across much of the country, the anti-Widodo sentiment has crystallized into a movement called "#GantiPresiden2019" or "Change the president in 2019". The movement's founder, Mardani Ali Sera, a member of parliament from a conservative Islamic party, says he has no connection with political messaging in mosques. But he says the majority of those affiliated with his movement are from Islamic parties and the groups that opposed Jakarta's Christian governor. "We don't use mosques but if the hashtag and the movement works for you, then go ahead and use it," Sera, who is active on social media, told Reuters. The FPI's Bamukmin supports the #GantiPresiden2019 movement and said he and other preachers push that message in sermons. "It is the duty of Muslims to try and replace the current president who has betrayed the country and his religion," he said, accusing Widodo of "selling the country to foreigners" and "empowering communists and deviant religious sects".

## No campaigning allowed

Indonesia's election laws prohibit political campaigning in places of worship ahead of polls. Vice President Jusuf Kalla told media political discussion is allowed in mosques because they are places of education as well as worship, but campaigning is not. The government can do little to stop such activity in mosques, said a spokesman for the religious affairs ministry. "If there are clerics who use mosques for political interests, it's better that the public itself persuades them to stop. It is not in the ministry's capacity to identify or stop them," said Mastuki, who goes by one name.

Tens of millions of Indonesians voted in 171 elections for mayors, regents, and governors yesterday, an important barometer ahead of presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019. Opinion polls suggest candidates backed by parties supporting Widodo will win in many parts of Java, Indonesia's most populous island, but observers will be watching for signs of Islamist influence. One man who attended FPI preacher Bamukmin's sermon in Jakarta this month, said even if clerics were becoming more political, their congregations were smart enough to decide for themselves. "People just listen to the good points and ignore the rest," said Huda, 27. —

## Moroccan fruit pickers exploited, harassed in Spain

Ten women who left their children at home in Morocco to earn money picking strawberries in southern Spain have said that they were lied to, exploited and even sexually harassed. They told AFP how their seasonal jobs turned into a nightmare, with punishing work schedules, "free" accommodation they had to pay for, and in one case attempted rape by a manager. The claims have prompted fears that such exploitation may be more common across the industry in Spain's south, which is Europe's top fruit and vegetable exporter.

The women are currently living in the southern region of Andalusia, housed by the local SAT union which is supporting them, in an area they asked not be made public. Five have filed official complaints and the others are planning to do so. They are all mothers-having children is a condition to get the job, a guarantee they will return to Morocco at the end of the February-June picking season. "What is in the contract has nothing to do with reality," says Layla, 31, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, as was those of the others who spoke to AFP.

## 'No one defended us'

Layla is one of 16,000 Moroccan women who came to Andalusia to pick strawberries earlier this year, compelled by poverty back home. Like the other nine women, Layla worked in the province of Huelva in

Andalusia for the large Donana 1998 company, which categorically denied the allegations and had accused the women of creating a scandal to try to stay in Spain. Adiba, 35, says the contract she signed in Morocco

offered a salary of 39 to 40 euros (\$46 to \$47) a day for six-and-a-half hours of work, with one day off every week. But instead she says "we were told it was the second harvest" and they would be paid for how much they picked - 75 cents for every five-kilogram crate. And they had to "pick strawberries very, very quickly" or they were banned from working for several days, she adds. The contract also said there would be free accommodation, but she says she was charged three euros a day. Charifa, 23, says no one defended them "as women" and bursts out crying as she describes how her manager offered her 50 euros in exchange for sex.

The room becomes quiet when Fadila, 29, speaks of the time she accepted an offer by the "chief" to give her a ride in his car. "I had to fight him in the front seat, he grabbed me and kissed me forcefully, he touched my breasts and..." she says, without finishing the sentence. A petition denying the women's accusations and defending the company has been signed by 131 other Moroccan seasonal workers. Donana 1998 itself has refused to answer questions, with a spokesman saying "everything is in line with regulations."

But in a radio interview, Manuel Matos, one of the company directors, accused the SAT union of manipulating the women into lying for political reasons. Prosecutors in Huelva say at least 12 complaints have been filed by eight Moroccan and four Spanish women who were picking fruit in three different farms. A spokesperson for prosecutors in Huelva said several managers have been charged with alleged "sexual abuse", but did not say how many. Belen Lujan, a lawyer for some of the



Moroccan strawberry pickers, who denounced their working conditions and filed sexual harassment complaints, gesture during an interview at their shelter near Malaga. Thousands of foreign women are temporarily employed in Andalusia from February to May to pick berries under contracts that force them to return to their country at the end of the season. — AFP

workers, says dozens more women would like to press charges but "are scared to do so" or have already returned to Morocco.

## 'Zero tolerance'

As Spanish workers are increasingly drawn away from seasonal work, the number of Moroccans hired has risen from 200 in 2001 to more than 16,000. To be eligible, they must be women aged 18 to 45, "from a rural area", "healthy" and "with children under 14," according to Morocco's Anapec governmental job agency.

Diego Canamero, a lawmaker for the far-left Podemos party and a farmer in Andalusia, says there is "no control" over the compa-

nies. The Cepaim foundation, which works to ease migrant integration, says the women find themselves in "situations of huge vulnerability due to their pressing need to keep their families afloat".

Cepaim members visited dozens of strawberry farms and reported "confiscated passports", "women left without work for several days to punish them for not picking enough strawberries," or "salaries only paid on the day of return". The regional government of Andalusia announced on June 13 that it was drafting "zero tolerance" measures for the industry to come into force next year. These include giving the seasonal workers leaflets in their language that lay out their rights. — AFP

## Inmates and ex-cons run for office in Mexico

Voters around the world have been known to complain their politicians are crooks, but Mexico takes it to a whole new level, with multiple current or former prison inmates running for office in Sunday's elections. What's more, even though many voters say crime and corruption are their top concerns, some of these candidates appear to have a good chance of winning. Here are some of the most notable cases.

## Running in place

Francisco Lopez is running for mayor of San Carlos, Tamaulipas from a jail cell.

Standing for the country's current ruling party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), he was mid-campaign when police arrested him on May 19 on murder charges. Lopez, 43, is currently in jail in the state capital, Ciudad Victoria, awaiting trial. In the meantime, Mexican law entitles him to continue his candidacy. "He remains our candidate. We're sure he'll get through this situation he's going through," said state party leader Sergio Guajardo.

"We're sure he's going to win the election from prison," he said. He argued that Lopez was not "directly" accused of murdering anyone-though in fact he is, a social services official in San Carlos who was shot dead in May-and asked voters to remember he is considered innocent until proven guilty. Lopez's family is continuing his campaign. "I'm sure my dad didn't do what they're accusing him of.

Not just me, but the whole town of San Carlos is sure my father is innocent," said

his 15-year-old daughter turned spokeswoman, Fernanda Lopez.

## Red card?

Ex-footballer Cuauhtemoc Blanco, a three-time World Cup veteran who is now running for governor of Morelos state, is accused of corruption, embezzlement, forgery and involvement in organized crime. Blanco, 45, is currently the mayor of state capital Cuernavaca. He is running for a coalition led by the left-wing party Morena. The third-highest goal scorer in the history of the Mexican national team, he offered his sporting record as proof of character. "When I represented Mexico, I did it for my country, I did it for all of you. Believe me, I won't let you down. I'm not like this current batch of bastards" in power, he said in launching his campaign.

## 'To err is human'

Enoc Diaz, a former mayor, was jailed in

## Airbnb, Uber woes show Japan does not share easily

Thousands of Airbnb reservations scrapped, Uber reduced to delivering food: life is hard in Japan for giants of the sharing economy, stuck between tough regulation and popular suspicion. Japan may be the world's third-largest economy and a high-tech hub but it has been surprisingly slow to warm to the sharing economy that has disrupted markets across the globe.

According to 2016 figures compiled by research institute Yano the sharing economy accounted for 50 billion yen (\$455 million) in Japan. While that's a 26 percent year-on-year rise, it is a drop in the ocean compared with markets in Europe, the US or China, which are worth tens or hundreds of billions of dollars.

This is partly due to confusion among the public about what the sharing economy is: only 2.7 percent of the population are familiar with the concept, according to a 2017 survey by PwC professional services firm.

Strict local regulations have also held back the sector-

as flat-sharing firm Airbnb found out to its cost recently. On June 15, a new law came into effect that sought to regulate the short-term rental sector. Although welcomed by Airbnb as a way to clear up the legal grey zone in which it was operating, the new law has become a double-edged sword, with thousands of owners forced to remove property after failing to comply with it.

"This stinks-and that's an understatement," fumed Airbnb as it announced it was cancelling thousands of reservations with owners who had failed to obtain a registration number by June 15. In addition, the law prevents owners from renting out properties for more than 180 nights per year and local authorities can impose further restrictions. In the tourist magnet of Kyoto for example, rentals in residential areas are only allowed between mid-January and mid-March, the tourism low season.

## 'Vested interests'

Such restrictions are in effect choking the sector, says Hiroyuki Kishi, a former official at the economy ministry and now professor at Tokyo's Keio University. "Vested interests are so strong in Japan," he told AFP, regretting that such measures are coming into force "only two years before the Olympic Games" when Japan hopes to welcome 40 million tourists. For Airbnb, the laws seek to protect the hotel industry and ryokans-traditional Japanese inns-

whereas the taxi lobby has made it difficult for ride-sharing app Uber to set up shop in Japan. "To promote the sharing economy, we have to loosen regulations" to allow new players to enter the market, said Kishi. He believes that despite the "Abenomics" reform efforts of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government has "no intention" of opening up the sector "for fear of a backlash in sectors which have enjoyed a monopoly until now".

Sharing economy firms have faced pushback elsewhere too, with Uber being accused of skirting regulations and making long-standing jobs obsolete, and Airbnb criticised for pushing up prices and transforming residential areas in many popular tourist destinations. Takashi Sabetto, from an association that aims to promote the sharing economy, said in Japan "public opinion is very much against services like Airbnb and Uber". "We have tried to change this mentality but it is very difficult. It takes time," added Sabetto.

One reason is that "Japanese are very protective of their privacy." The culture of sharing is not ingrained in society and-in the case of Airbnb-they do not like the noise and security risk caused by a procession of tourists in their backyard, he said. In addition, unlike in many developed economies, the quality of service provision is very high in Japan. Hailing a taxi in a major city rarely takes more than a few seconds, lowering demand for Uber-type services. — AFP

## Business

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BEIJING: People walk between stores at a shopping mall. —AFP

# South Africa plugs global pilot shortage

## The idea of contracting out under-used pilots could be just the ticket

**JOHANNESBURG:** The next time you stow your tray table, fasten your seatbelt and prepare for take-off, there's a good chance your pilot could be South African. South African Airways (SAA) is being buffeted by financial turbulence and new chief executive Vuyani Jarana says he has ambitious plans to steer the company to safety.

One of his bold cost-cutting schemes involves leasing out SAA's pilots and cabin crew to foreign airlines battling a global shortage of flight staff. South Africa's flag carrier has been running at a loss for a decade and is grappling with a \$680 million (580-million-euro) debt mountain. It lost 5.6 billion rand (\$420 million) in 2017-18. "We are concerned about the survival of the airline," said SAA spokesman Tlali Tlali, referring to the dire figures.

Tlali added that Jarana's key objective was to protect SAA's "employees and return to positive financial performance"—in other words, reduce overheads without laying off staff. Sackings would be hugely unpopular with the flying public and the government, so the idea of contracting out under-used pilots and first officers could be just

the ticket. It could also help major airlines avoid cancellations such as those that plagued Europe's biggest airline Ryanair which had to cancel thousands of flights from November because of an admin error that led to pilot shortages.

### 'Poor controls'

The crisis facing the industry has become so acute that Japan previously raised the age limit for commercial pilots to 67 to keep planes in the air. Some Chinese airlines have even sought to lure experienced captains with pay of up to \$500,000. The shortage is "becoming a crisis at some carriers, resulting in the cancellation of flights and other serious disruptions," said Patrick Smith, a pilot who runs the "Ask the Pilot" aviation blog.

Seasoned SAA pilot Barry Elsip is one of those in line to be lent out to Air Japan. To sweeten the deal, he has been offered a "very lucrative salary" in US dollars as well as business class flights home every three weeks. But despite the perks on offer, Jarana's plan to lend pilots to

airlines that may include Emirates, Turkish Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Qatar Airways has been met with dismay from SAA's pilots body.

SAA's Pilots' Association said it was "disappointed and dismayed" that some of its members, it claimed, would be forced to take a contract or take unpaid leave "as a result of extremely poor fiscal control and mismanagement". The association's vice-chair, Captain Grant Back, said it would be preferable for SAA to put its pilots to use within its own network. He said the destination airlines were badly short of pilots because of poor conditions, unfavorable work-life balance or in some cases labor relations problems.

### 'Family left behind'

Despite acknowledging the higher salaries on offer, Back warned some pilots would not see their families for three or four weeks at a time. Others would have to move abroad "with children taken out of schools, friends and family left behind", he said. Something will have to give, as

the airline is reputed to be chronically over-staffed at every level compared to competitors like British Airways.

Local media report that the carrier has 50 pilots and cabin crew on the payroll with "nothing to do". Aviation analyst Joachim Vermooten said there were many countries with a shortage of pilots and SAA had many skilled staff ready to fill the gaps. "It's a good way to reduce the cost base, which SAA desperately needs to do," he told AFP. Other cost-cutting measures will include slashing routes and flight frequencies.

But Jarana has warned that employee cuts will be unavoidable with unions criticizing SAA's catering arm, Air Chefs, for preparing to lay-off 118 workers. Time might be running out to rescue the ailing airline—President Cyril Ramaphosa hinted recently that state support will not be limitless. The country's treasury was forced to hand SAA five billion rand earlier this year to keep it airborne, the latest in a string of handouts. Failure could cost Jarana dearly: he has vowed to hand 100,000 rand of his own money to charity if the rescue plan fails to take off. —AFP

## Thrifty Germans look to escape the rat race early

**BERLIN:** Former meteorologist Lars Hattwig has achieved the "frugalist" dream that is gaining ground in ageing Germany: retiring in his 40s and living on the proceeds of a working life lived sparingly. "It was four years ago that I realised I didn't need my salary anymore. I didn't have to work anymore. So I quit my job," the Berliner, now 47, tells AFP.

Hattwig put himself through a sometimes punishing savings regime for 10 years and carefully invested the proceeds, giving himself the resources to make the leap. "For one or two years I was extremely tight-fisted" after the 2008 crisis, he admits, as his share holdings lost some of their value before later recovering. "I avoided turning on the lights at home, I checked the meter regularly, I bought the cheapest food," he recalled. "But that phase is over now." A craze for frugal living is spreading on German-language blogs and internet forums, stoked by those already living the dream or people imagining what might be if they could only scrape the cash together. For example, each step of 29-year-old Oliver Noelting's pilgrimage towards financial freedom is chronicled in detail online.

"I can totally imagine that when I'm 40, I'll say to myself: I've been doing this for 10 or 12 years. Now I want to do something else," the Hanover-based computer programmer says, pooh-poohing the official retirement age of 67. "My goal is just to be happy."

### Making do with less

Known as FIRE—"Financial Independence Retire Early"—in the United States, where it originated, the motives of adherents to the frugalist movement range from the ecological to the political or just personal inclination.



BERLIN: Lars Hattwig, a so-called frugalist, poses for a picture in Tiergarten park. —AFP

Enthusiasts are often middle class and lead simple lives with a focus on health—and nary a cigarette to be seen.

For many, it's about freedom from "existential fear linked to money", like anxiety over losing a job or unhealthy levels of stress that can lead to burnout, says Gisela Enders, author of a book titled "Financial Freedom". Few adherents have any interest in cars, large flats or designer clothes. "Do I really need all these things the consumer society wants to convince me at all costs I can't do without?" Enders asks.

Asking such questions is often a prelude to taking action. "Frugalists live below their means for the long term, aiming to achieve financial independence and in the end realize a specific dream or wish," Hattwig explains. Resources to help seekers along the path are plentiful, meaning budding ascetics don't have to be financial wizards to reach their goals, says Hattwig. A top blogger in the US scene is known as "Mister Money Mustache" for his keen sense for a good investment.

Hattwig too offers coaching on how to invest in financial products and real estate—whenever he feels like it, and only for those who can pay for the privilege although he calls it a hobby. Others gather at "Financial Independence Weeks" (FIWE), regular community meetings organized by a couple who used to live in Germany and moved with their two children to Romania. Their gatherings draw up to 25 adherents, according to Noelting.

### Outside the system

No-one has compiled figures for the number of frugalists living in Germany. "It's a German thing: we don't talk about money," author Enders explains. At a time when Europe's top economy is desperately looking for solutions on how to pay for pensions after 2025 when the post-war baby boom generation heads into retirement, raising the possibility of upping the retirement age, the frugalists seem to have hit upon one solution to the demographic headache. —AFP

## Trump favors tougher foreign investment

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump yesterday said he supported tougher restrictions on foreign investment in sensitive technology, as well as export controls on those goods, but he stopped short of imposing specific restrictions on China. Following a report that raised "very serious issues" on China's trade and investment practices, Trump decided a plan in Congress to enhance the powers of the so-called Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) was "the best approach to protect critical technology."

In a statement, Trump said that if Congress fails to pass strong enough legislation to protect "the crown jewels of American technology and intellectual property" then he will take further action. After a year-long investigation into China's trade policies, the White House on May 29 said it planned to announce "specific investment restrictions and enhanced export controls" by June 30 targeting China's efforts to acquire "industrially significant technology."

However, Trump backed away from singling out China and instead supported broader measures that would apply to any country. The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a bill to boost the authority of CFIUS, an interagency body that reviews potential foreign investment and is led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, and to broaden the types of deals

subject to oversight. The Senate Banking Committee also approved a version of the reform, so the two chambers will have to reconcile them into a single bill for Trump to sign. Trump said the legislation would offer "additional tools to combat the predatory investment practices that threaten our critical technology leadership, national security, and future economic prosperity."

### Clamping down on investment

Even the hint of a possible CFIUS review can kill a potential investment and the committee has blocked Chinese investment in semiconductors and the oil industry but also has targeted Russian nuclear investment, and a Dubai takeover of a US port operator. According to the Rhodium Group, a research firm, Chinese investment in the United States fell 35 percent in 2017 from the record \$45.6 billion in 2016, and has slowed to a trickle, just \$1.4 billion in the first quarter of this year.

Trump also instructed the Commerce Department to look at new export controls to "further ensure a robust defense of American technology and intellectual property." Leading agencies will work with US allies "to combat harmful technology transfer and intellectual property theft."

Trump said the White House may have been prompted to step back from tough restrictions on China after stock markets dropped sharply and as experts warned that strong action against Beijing could open US firms up to severe retaliation.

Still, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin dismissed the idea the administration was going soft on China. "For those who want to say it's us being weak on China, the answer is no," he said. "But on the other hand, this is not intended to target China. —AFP

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Business

# Energy firms rise with oil prices but Asia markets tumble again

## Trade war fears torment investors

**HONG KONG:** Energy firms rallied yesterday after a surge in oil prices but Asian markets struggled to maintain early momentum and extended their recent losses as trade war fears torment investors. Both main crude contracts piled higher after the State Department warned US allies they would be hit with sanctions if they did not halt Iran oil purchases by November 4.

Analysts said that while the announcement was not unexpected, the mere confirmation of the fact was enough to push investors into buying mode. The commodity has enjoyed a healthy run since the weekend, when OPEC and Russia agreed to a moderate lift in their 18-month-old output ceiling. Unrest in producer Libya was also providing support.

The higher oil prices-Brent added more than two percent and WTI more than three percent Tuesday-lifted energy firms. CNOOC soared more than three percent in Hong Kong while PetroChina added 0.4 percent. Woodside Petroleum in Sydney added 1.4 percent, while Tokyo-listed Inpex climbed 1.5 percent and JXTG soared more than six percent. However, trade tensions continue to loom large, with investors on edge awaiting the next

developments. Tokyo ended 0.3 percent lower. Hong Kong lost 1.8 percent and Shanghai closed 1.1 percent down, with the mainland Chinese index now in bear market territory-down 20 percent from its recent highs. Seoul edged 0.4 percent down, while Singapore shed 0.1 percent and Sydney was marginally lower. Taipei and Mumbai fell but Wellington, Manila, Bangkok and Jakarta were up. Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trading at OANDA, said Donald Trump's attack on Harley-Davidson indicated he is not ready to back down on his hardline protectionist America first agenda.

**'No one is safe'**

The president on Tuesday hit out at the motorbike maker after it said it was planning to shift some manufacturing overseas because of European Union tariffs put in place as retaliation for US duties. He said the bikes should "never" be built outside the United States, and tweeted: "Harley must know that they won't be able to sell back into US without paying a big tax!" In a commentary, Innes said: "The only thing I can think of that is more iconic Americana than apple pie is Harley-Davidson.

"So, after the president's recent Twitter tirade directed at the iconic motorcycle manufacturer, it cements the view that, friend or foe, no one is safe from the wrath of the US administration's America First trade policy." He added that, while the US economy remains in rude health, which should provide equities support, "investors are caught between a hammer and anvil on escalating trade wars".

On currency markets, the trade uncertainty is pushing the dollar up against most high-yielding units owing to its safe haven status, though it weakened against the yen, euro and pound. The Chinese yuan also fell and is coming under increasing pressure owing to concerns about the impact of a trade war on the world's number two economy, which is also showing signs of weakness.

The People's Bank of China at the weekend lowered lenders' reserve requirements in a bid to free up cash but while it was welcomed it added to the yuan's weakness and fuelled a sense of unease in the economic outlook. Markets are keeping an eye on US durable goods orders later yesterday "with some interest here in whether the concerns being flagged by various Fed officials about trade worries



SEOUL: A currency dealer monitors exchange rates as a screen (R) shows South Korea's benchmark stock index in a trading room at the KEB Hana Bank. — AFP

leading to deferred investment and hiring decisions are showing up in orders," Ray Attrill, head of forex strategy at National Australia

Bank, said. In early trade London rose 0.3 percent, Paris was flat and Frankfurt edged up 0.1 percent. — AFP

## Legal fight over Bali coal power plant fuels energy dilemma

**CELUKAN BAWANG:** Over the last three years, fisherman Iputu Gede Astawa has watched his daily catch off the northern tip of Indonesia's Bali island fall at an alarming rate. Having swapped his paddle for an outboard motor in a futile effort to fish further out to sea where waters are more dangerous, Astawa blames a nearby coal power plant for harming his livelihood.

"My catch is totally different to what it was before the power plant began operating," said Astawa, a third-generation fisherman based near the port town of Singaraja who heads a group of about 30 other fishermen. Where once they caught 400 buckets of fish a day, they now net just 10. Astawa is one of three local residents fighting a legal battle to stop the planned expansion of the Celukan Bawang power plant, about 120 km (75 miles) from the main tourism hub of Denpasar, which began operating in 2015.

"All the fishermen will be impacted and we will lose our jobs," said Astawa, 43, who now makes furniture to get by. The legal bid, backed by environmental group Greenpeace, claims the planned expansion - which would more than double power capacity at the site - will be a setback to the remote area's fledgling tourism industry. The legal action also warns of worsening air and water pollution, crop damage and a negative effect on wildlife at a nearby national park. PT General Energy Bali, which runs the Celukan Bawang power plant, could not be reached for comment, while the company's majority owner, China Huadian Corporation, did not answer calls.

Building additional coal or gas-fired power capacity at Celukan Bawang or elsewhere on Bali is needed to meet rising power demand, Jisman Hutajulu, a senior elec-

tricity official at Indonesia's energy ministry, said by email. But the decision on whether to opt for more fossil fuel capacity or renewable energy is for local governments to make, he said, adding that energy security, the environment and cost should all be considered.

Central government policy on renewable energy has sought to encourage investment while keeping electricity prices affordable for consumers, he noted. Indonesia is among the fastest-growing countries for energy consumption due to a steadily increasing population, economic development and a rise in urbanisation.

Like other Asian nations, Jakarta also faces the challenge of boosting electricity access while meeting its pledge to cut climate-changing emissions under the Paris Agreement. Indonesia's emissions targets can only be achieved by reducing its reliance on coal power and ramping up investment in clean, renewable energy projects, several power experts said.

**King coal**

Indonesia currently has about 54.6 gigawatts of installed electricity capacity but to meet rising demand, especially on the main power-hungry islands of Java, Bali and Sumatra, the country wants to more than double this over the next decade. With huge coal resources, the archipelago relies heavily on coal-fired power stations to generate more than half of its power, according to experts. Natural gas contributes about 23 percent, renewable energy 13 percent, and diesel the rest. But having committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 29 percent by 2030 under the Paris accord to curb global warming, Jakarta wants renewable



The Celukan Bawang power plant in seen here on the coast of Singaraja located in northern Bali. — Reuters

projects to provide almost a quarter of its power needs by 2025, and nearly a third by 2050. Dolf Gielen, director of innovation and technology with the International Renewable Energy Agency, said Indonesia was focused on coal for power generation as recently as a couple of years ago, but "that seems to be somewhat changing". With more than 17,000 islands scattered atop the volcanic Pacific Ring of Fire, power experts say Indonesia has plenty of options on renewable sources - especially geothermal.

The United States is the world's biggest geothermal energy producer, but largely untapped Indonesia is second since the massive Sarulla geothermal power plant on Sumatra was expanded earlier this year. Hydro-power is another good renewable energy option for Indonesia, said Yuichiro Yoi, head of Indonesia infrastructure finance at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila.

North Sumatra's Asahan hydroelectric power plant, which began operating in 2011, has helped Indonesia reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, he added. Solar, tidal and wind farms are also suitable for many parts of Indonesia, experts said. Indonesia's first wind power project - the 100-hectare (247-acre) Sidrap wind farm on the island of Sulawesi - began operating earlier this year, and is a source of national pride. There are also plans to build the world's largest tidal power plant in East Flores, media reports say.

Although a clean and abundant power source, Indonesia's geothermal resources are often located on or near protected forest areas, which can put off many financial backers.

One solution may be to exploit them on a smaller scale, said Almo Pradana, energy and climate manager at the World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia. — Reuters

## S&P: US debt rating being held down by rising deficits

**WASHINGTON:** The ratings on US sovereign debt is being held down by rising deficits and policies focused too much on the short-term, S&P Global Ratings said Tuesday. The ratings agency said the strengths of the US economy and policy structure, as well as few risks to trade in the near term despite rising trade tensions, prompted it to retain the AA+ rating on US debt, with a stable outlook.

However, S&P cautioned that "high general government debt, rising deficits, relatively short-term-oriented policy-making, and uncertainty about policy formulation constrain the ratings." And while trade tensions and the exchange of tariffs with key trading partners are not expected "to meaningfully hit the US economy in the near term," S&P said the uncertainty could delay investments and offset the benefits of last year's tax cut. The US economy, supported by a buoyant consumer and strong housing market, is expected to grow by about three percent this year and 2.5 percent next year following 2.3 percent growth in 2017, S&P said. However, political divisiveness has hampered the US government's ability to pass needed legislation.

The US lost its AAA rating in 2011, following battles among lawmakers in Washington over whether to lift caps on US sovereign borrowing, raising the likelihood of a US default. The agency said it expects budget and debt ceiling debates to be resolved at the last minute as they have been in recent years. "In our view, disagreement across and within political parties has resulted in slower decision-making and has limited the government's ability to enact forward-looking legislation, particularly fiscal policy," S&P said. "These factors - along with the government's high level of debt - constrain the ratings." Earlier Tuesday, the Congressional Budget Office said US sovereign debt is expected to reach 78 percent of GDP this year, its highest level since World War II, and 152 percent by 2028, the highest in history, while revenues are held down by the massive corporate tax cut approved last year. — AFP

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## Business

# Lufthansa sets new fuel efficiency record as fuel consumption drops by 4.5 percent

**KUWAIT:** The Lufthansa Group has set a new fuel efficiency record. In 2017, the aircraft of the passenger fleets required an average of just 3.68 liters of kerosene to transport a passenger 100 kilometers (2016: 3.85 l/100 pkm). This represents an improvement of 4.5 percent compared to the previous year. The Lufthansa Group has thus more than satisfied the airline industry target of annual efficiency gains of 1.5 percent. All airlines belonging to the Group contributed to this achievement.

"This is the welcome result of our continuous fleet modernization and efficiency programs. To make our operations as environmentally friendly as possible, we will continue to invest in economic, fuel-efficient and quiet aircraft. We also want to take a leading role within our industry in the important area of sustainability," says Carsten Spohr, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, in his foreword to the Sustainability Report "Balance" published this month.

The Lufthansa Group works continuously and systematically to improve the environmental compatibility of the services it offers internationally. In 2017, the aviation group commissioned 29 new aircraft, including the highly efficient A350-900, A320neo and Bombardier C Series models. In total, the Lufthansa Group currently has on order around 190 aircraft that are expected to be delivered by 2025.

#### Positive financial effect

Moreover, Lufthansa Group's fuel efficiency experts implemented a total of 34 fuel-saving projects in 2017, which sustainably reduced CO2 emissions by around 64,400 tons. The amount of kerosene saved was 25.5 million liters, equivalent to the amount consumed by about 250 return flights on the Munich-New York route with the Airbus A350-900. The positive financial effect of these measures amounted to EUR 7.7 million.

Extensive information, key figures and interviews on these and other topics of corporate responsibility can be found in the 24th Sustainability Report "Balance" published by the Lufthansa Group. Reporting is in accordance with the internationally recognized GRI standards of the Global Reporting Initiative. The report's cover story entitled "Creating value sustainably" provides Lufthansa Group stakeholders and the interested public with insight into how the Group operates sustainably and responsibly along its value chain, thereby generating added value for the company, its customers, employees, shareholders, partners and society at large.

With more than 130,000 employees worldwide, the Lufthansa Group is one of Germany's largest employers and most attractive companies. Workforce diversity is a key aspect of the company's success: 147 nationalities are represented in the company around the world. The Lufthansa Group supports its employees and



executives with an attractive work environment and flexible working-time models, models which take into account their different needs in different phases of their lives, eg part-time and home-

office arrangements. The Group places particular emphasis on the promotion and qualification of its employees, because they stand for the corporate success of the Lufthansa Group.

## The clash behind GE's quick exit from Baker Hughes stake

**HOUSTON:** When General Electric Co bought oilfield services giant Baker Hughes last July, it created a global industry colossus with \$22 billion in annual revenue. GE promised to digitalize oilfields worldwide, marrying its expertise in big data, analytical software and subsea equipment with Baker Hughes' experience in drilling services, chemicals and tools.

Less than a year later, GE is bailing out of the deal, the firm announced Tuesday, planning to sell its 63 percent stake in the combined firm over time as part of a larger move to simplify its business and reduce debt. The retreat comes amid slipping market share, management missteps and culture clashes that have unsettled employees and frustrated suppliers and customers, according to data reviewed by Reuters and interviews with more than 30 employees, former employees, recruiters, analysts, suppliers and customers.

GE managers initially took 11 of the combined firm's top 15 posts and ushered in a by-the-book culture more like its aviation business than that of oil industry, where relationships are more prized and handshake deals are still common, said people who have had dealings with both. In a Tuesday note to employees seen by Reuters, Baker Hughes GE Chief Executive Lorenzo Simonelli complimented his "amazing team" and reassured them about the path ahead, but acknowledged "the last year has not always been easy for you, or our customers and partners."

#### Bittersweet

"I recognize that this moment is bittersweet for some, welcomed perhaps by others," he wrote. Baker Hughes GE lost market share in 12 of 19 services and equipment sectors between 2016 and 2017, according to a Reuters analysis of data from prominent oilfield services consultancy Spears & Associates. In one area where Baker Hughes has been a pioneer, drill bits, its share fell to 17 percent from 20 percent between 2016 and 2017. In a statement to Reuters, Baker Hughes GE attributed the market share losses to "challenging market dynamics" and said most of the losses occurred before the merger closed in summer of last year. Since the merger, suppliers have chafed under strict cost-cutting demands, and some customers shifted to competitors after abrupt service-fee increases and contract changes, according to suppliers, customers and former Baker Hughes executives. The choppy transition also has driven out veteran Baker Hughes managers in key departments and rattled staff.

Revenue for the combined company last year was \$21.9 billion, well below the \$23.8 billion estimated in its 2017 merger proxy. Baker Hughes GE oilfield services and equipment revenues declined by \$700 million. Rivals Schlumberger and Halliburton posted higher revenues on a resurgence in the North American hydraulic fracturing market, said Chirag Rathi, a consulting director at market researcher Frost & Sullivan. Baker Hughes sold a majority of its hydraulic fracturing business in 2016.

Baker Hughes GE said its financial performance reflects broader industry trends and called itself a "strong and differentiated company" that now has a "defined path" to unwind the merger over the next two or three years. It said it would stay focused on supporting workers, customers and boosting shareholder value. Baker Hughes GE's shares were up 2 percent to \$33.13 on Tuesday, but still down nearly 18 percent since the merger closed.

The company will now set about dividing itself before ever fully integrating the two firms. While the combined culture remains a work in progress, "the old Baker Hughes structure has been torn apart," said Edward Muztafago, director of equity research at Societe Generale. It remains unclear whether Baker Hughes will continue to benefit from GE's financial clout and advanced manufacturing over the long term.

Last year, Baker Hughes landed a major deal with Twinza Oil to provide oilfield services, equipment and financing for an offshore development near Papua New Guinea. Analysts say access to credit and lending from GE Capital, a unit GE is now planning to shrink, helped that deal come together. For now, Baker Hughes will continue to have access to valued GE technologies that were cited as key advantages in the original merger, including the GE Store, a technology and manufacturing exchange, and GE's Predix operating system, which links and monitors equipment through the internet, the

## NBK announces the quarterly Al Jawhara winner of KD 250K

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait announced Mohammad Amin Nasimias the Al Jawhara winner of KD 250,000, which is considered the biggest in the Al Jawhara draw. Since 2012, National Bank of Kuwait has rewarded loyal customers with Al Jawhara weekly, monthly, and quarterly prizes, totally reaching up to KD 2,200,000 yearly.

Mohammad Amin Nasimi was announced as the winner of the Al Jawhara Quarterly prize live on air during a draw that took place at FM 88.8 Kuwait Pulse Radio Station on Tuesday. The draw was held in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, as well as representatives from the National Bank of Kuwait.

"NBK always strives to provide customers with the best and most advanced banking experience. We also look to reward our customers with unique and valuable prizes," said Suresh Varadarajan, Head of Liabilities & Insurance, Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "Al Jawhara quarterly draw is much anticipated as it grants customers the chance to win KD 250,000. NBK customers can easily and securely open Al Jawhara account on NBK Online Banking and Mobile Banking."

During June 2018, NBK has awarded three KD 5,000 weekly winners of the Al Jawhara: Fawaz Nasser Abdullah AlShatti - Abdullah Ahmad Al Mesri - Hamed Hussain Hamed Al Hamed. Al Jawhara weekly, monthly, and quarterly draws are all conducted in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the name of all the winners are announced. NBK believes in rewarding its most



loyal customers through transparent prizes and promotions as part of its long term strategy to create lasting relationships with customers built on trust and confidence.

For every KD 50 deposited into an Al Jawhara account, the account holder receives one chance in the draw. If no withdrawal or transfers occur in the account during the required period, customers will get an additional 1 extra chance for each KD 50 held in the account and double their chances of winning. The National Bank of Kuwait offers a variety of cash prizes and rewards as part of its long term focus on building lasting relationships with customers. To learn more about NBK's Al Jawhara account, visit nbk.com.

## A golden opportunity to buy gold

**KUWAIT:** The dip in the gold rate will definitely encourage the customers to come back to the stores & we expect the customers will make a full use this season. This is a golden opportunity for the customers to buy gold.

We are witnessing a significant increase in the customer footfalls in the past few days as customers are increasingly buying gold, taking advantage of the recent dip in gold price and keeping the price movements in mind.



## Trade war or not, China Inc reining in American brands

**SHANGHAI:** As Beijing and Washington veer towards a full-blown trade war, American brands in China face what may be an even bigger threat: local rivals armed with innovative products and the Chinese government's blessing. American household names like Apple, Starbucks and Procter & Gamble's Pampers are seeing their dominance challenged, a potential threat to the hundreds of billions of dollars US firms make in China.

According to an analysis of data from Bain and Kantar, local brands snatched almost three-quarters of China's 639 billion yuan (\$97 billion) market for fast-moving consumer goods - a category that includes items like soft drinks and shampoo - last year, up from two-thirds in 2013. The data, shared with Reuters, shows that U.S. products like Pampers, Colgate toothpaste and Mead Johnson infant formula saw their market share drop around 10 percentage points in the past five years. The data was based on a survey of 40,000 urban households.

At the same time, savvy Chinese brands like SeeYoung, offering a popular silicon-free shampoo, and Pechoin, a maker of skincare products that plays up local ingredients, gained rapidly. "Local competition is now extremely high on the agenda of foreign firms in China," said Bruno Lannes, Shanghai-based partner with Bain & Co, the consultancy that co-authored the report. "In order to win in China now they need to beat not just traditional competitors," he said. "But they need to win against local companies that are faster and more innovative than they had realized."

American brands have long enjoyed a vaunted status in China. US fast food, beverages and

coffee chains are ubiquitous in China's cities, while consumers lap up US-branded infant formula, designer jeans, cars and smartphones. That dominance, however, is threatened by China's push to bolster domestic brands by creating champions in certain categories and weeding out weaker players to improve quality.

Brewing trade tensions could exacerbate this slippage, threatening more than \$180 billion in sales by US firms in China last year, according to an analysis of 121 U.S.-listed American firms that broke out data for China sales in the most recent fiscal year. The total is likely far higher as many U.S. firms with a major China presence - including Starbucks, McDonald's and Walmart - don't break out China sales. Apple made \$44.8 billion in China in the last fiscal year, P&G around \$5.2 billion and the sports apparel maker Nike \$4.2 billion. A trade war now looks more likely after talks in Beijing and Washington failed to defuse grating issues between the two countries over a trade imbalance, technology transfers and barriers that firms face doing business in China.

#### Growth to zero

But the bigger threat might be the advances made by Chinese rivals. Apple's iconic iPhone has seen its share of the country's smartphone market stall at around 10 percent since 2012, according to data from the analytics firm Canals, and has been overtaken by upstart domestic phone makers like Oppo, Vivo and the more established Huawei.

Starbucks, which boomed in China on the back of a budding coffee culture, said its same store sales growth in the country slowed to zero in the second quarter of 2018. The firm cited delivery issues, but it has also been facing a rising tide of small, fast-growing domestic rivals in China's big cities. It's not only US brands that are feeling the squeeze. A European trade body recently cited "stiffer competition" from Chinese rivals as one of the main anxieties felt by European brands. — Reuters

National Bank of Kuwait		البنك الوطني NBK						
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	24,252.80	24,283.11	30.31	▲	0.12			
NASDAQ	7,532.01	7,561.63	29.62	▲	0.39			
S&P 500	2,717.07	2,723.06	5.99	▲	0.22			
Financial Times	7,537.92	7,548.29	10.37	▲	0.14			
DAX	12,234.34	12,245.58	11.24	▲	0.09			
CAC 40	5,281.29	5,289.76	8.47	▲	0.16			
Swiss	8,477.98	8,458.41	-19.57	▼	-0.23			
Nikkei 225	22,342.00	22,271.77	-70.23	▼	-0.31			
Topix	1,731.07	1,731.45	0.38	▲	0.02			
Hang Seng	28,881.40	28,356.26	-525.14	▼	-1.82			
Straits Times	3,280.87	3,254.77	-26.10	▼	-0.80			
MENA Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait	4,905.59	4,906.32	0.73	▲	0.01			
Saudi Arabia	8,298.89	8,304.12	5.23	▲	0.06			
Dubai	2,836.01	2,814.89	-21.12	▼	-0.74			
Abu Dhabi	4,565.78	4,544.67	-21.11	▼	-0.46			
Bahrain	1,302.03	1,306.26	4.24	▲	0.33			
Qatar	8,895.21	8,928.74	33.53	▲	0.38			
Oman	4,570.18	4,576.73	6.55	▲	0.14			
Lebanon	1,063.21	1,056.46	-6.75	▼	-0.63			
Jordan	2,078.72	2,074.37	-4.35	▼	-0.21			
Egypt	16,197.44	16,159.32	-38.12	▼	-0.24			
Morocco	12,015.63	11,987.25	-28.38	▼	-0.24			
Tunisia	8,026.90	8,062.41	35.51	▲	0.44			
Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.2842	3.2895	2.8253	2.4886	3.2599	361.35	4.4531
Saudi Riyal	0.08141		0.2678	0.2300	0.2026	0.2654	29.42	0.3625
US Dollar	0.30400	3.7344		0.8589	0.7565	0.9910	109.85	1.3537
Euro	0.35395	4.3480	1.1643		0.8810	1.1541	127.91	1.5764
Sterling Pound	0.40183	4.9361	1.3218	1.1351		1.3103	145.22	1.7898
Swiss Franc	0.30676	3.7683	1.0091	0.8665	0.7632		110.87	1.3660
Japanese Yen	0.00277	0.0340	0.0091	0.0078	0.0069	0.0090		0.0123
Australian Dollar	0.22456	2.7586	0.7387	0.6344	0.5587	0.7321	81.15	
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30400	3.7344	0.3757	3.6270	0.3831	3.6575	17.8095
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2895		12.2842	1.2360	11.9309	1.2603	12.0313	58.5839
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08141		0.1006	0.9712	0.1026	0.9794	4.7690
Bahraini Dinar	2.6615	0.80909	9.9391		9.6532	1.0197	9.7344	47.3997
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08382	1.0296	0.1036		0.1056	1.0084	4.9103
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79346	9.7471	0.9807	9.4668		9.5464	46.4842
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08312	1.0210	0.1027	0.9917	0.1048		4.8693
Egyptian Pound	0.0561	0.01707	0.2097	0.0211	0.2037	0.0215	0.2054	
Global Interest Rates								
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year			
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.13	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50			
US Dollar	1.98	2.10	2.33	2.50	2.77			
Euro	-0.42	-0.39	-0.36	-0.31	-0.23			
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.50	0.66	0.78	0.96			
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.78	-0.73	-0.64	-0.52			
Australian Dollar	1.71	1.99	1.88	1.87	1.90			
Japanese Yen	-0.08	-0.07	-0.04	0.02	0.12			
Global Bond Yields								
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year				
United States	2.51	2.72	2.85	3.00				
Europe	-0.71	-0.30	0.32	1.08				
United Kingdom	0.71	1.01	1.26	1.73				
Commodities								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait Oil	72.40	74.17	1.77	▲	2.44			
Brent	73.34	75.09	1.75	▲	2.39			
West Texas	76.48	73.98	-2.50	▼	-3.27			
Gold	1258.64	1258.36	-0.28	▼	-0.02			
Silver	16.25	16.20	-0.05	▼	-0.31			

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

Technology

# The rockets that are pushing the boundaries of space travel

## They represent a revolution in space travel

WASHINGTON: Tomorrow morning at 5:24 am (0924 GMT), a rocket owned by the US company SpaceX will blast off from Florida carrying two and a half tons of gear from NASA, only to dock three days later and 250 miles (400 kilometers) above Earth at the International Space Station. The rocket itself is not new. It launched a NASA satellite into orbit two months ago, then landed back on Earth—upright—on a barge in the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Canaveral.

Even the Dragon capsule, carrying the cargo and affixed to the top of the rocket was used before, having flown a mission to the ISS in 2016. Tomorrow flight will be the 15th SpaceX mission for the US space agency since 2012, one of which exploded in flight. Another company, Orbital ATK, has completed nine supply trips, with one explosion as well.

These missions may appear routine, but they represent a revolution in space travel. Before SpaceX, only national governments resupplied the space station. Today, NASA is so dependent on the private sector that the US space agency has signed contracts with SpaceX and Boeing to send astronauts to space beginning next year, as soon as their capsules are ready.

NASA has been unable to send people to space since the space shuttle program ended in 2011. Instead, the world's space agencies buy seats aboard Russia's Soyuz spaceships, which launch from Baikonur, Kazakhstan. "The combination of government and private sector activity is unrivaled," said John Logsdon, professor emeritus of political science and international affairs at George Washington University.

### 'American resurgence'

SpaceX, founded by Tesla CEO and space enthusiast Elon Musk, has shaken up the satellite launch sector, with more than 55 launches of its Falcon 9 rocket since 2010. Thanks to SpaceX, the United States has taken the global lead in launches once again, after losing ground for more than a decade to Russia and China, which launched even more rockets. "The Russians have certainly been one of the countries that have had the greatest loss in terms of launch market share," said Tom Stroup, president of the Satellite Industry Association.

The number of satellite launches is expected to surge in the coming years. Never before has low-Earth orbit been

so accessible. Miniature satellites weighing a few pounds (kilograms) can be made quickly and launched for tens of thousands of dollars. These CubeSats make up 292 of the 345 satellites launched in 2017, according to the Satellite Industry Association. "They are almost disposable," said Claude Rousseau of Northern Sky Research, explaining that their operational life expectancy is about seven years and they can be easily replaced.

In the coming months, SpaceX and the startup OneWeb want to send into orbit constellations of hundreds of small satellites that will provide internet access. Competition is fierce in the Earth observation market, with multiple companies at work on constellations to offer military or civilian clients high resolution imagery of infrastructure, farming areas and military installations. To meet the demands on the small satellite market, companies are working on smaller rockets. One, made by the US venture Rocket Lab, is to try its first launch from New Zealand yesterday. China and India, whose space programs are mainly backed by public funds, also aim to boost market share. China has already launched more rockets this year than it did in all of 2017, according to Northern Sky Research.

### 'Tourism, Moon and Mars'

The age of space tourism is also approaching. Virgin Galactic is ramping up tests for its piloted SpaceShipTwo VSS Unity, which is launched from an airplane. A seat will cost \$250,000.

And Blue Origin, founded by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, will sell tickets next year for a seat on its New Shepard spacecraft, which is designed to carry six people to space. These two vehicles will not go into orbit around Earth, but will allow passengers to experience spaceflight and weightlessness for several minutes before returning to Earth. Finally, NASA is working on a space station that would orbit the Moon, as a stepping off point for missions to Mars in the coming decades.

NASA is building the Orion capsule and Space Launch System (SLS) rocket to send people around the Moon for the first time since 1972. The SLS will be the most powerful rocket ever built by the United States. Its first lunar orbit mission is planned for 2020, with astronauts on board by 2023. — AFP



CAPE CANAVERAL: In this file NASA handout taken on April 18, 2018 NASA's next planet-hunter, the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), successfully launching on a SpaceX Falcon 9. — AFP

## Cybersecurity is paramount in GCC's digital transformation

DUBAI: Majority of the Middle Eastern countries, especially those in the GCC, are hot target for cyberattacks. According to a newly-released report by Trend Micro Incorporated (TYO: 4704; TSE: 4704), a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, ransomware remains a widespread threat in the UAE with the country accounting for 2.4 million of the 1.7 billion ransomware attacks detected globally in Q1 of 2018. The same trend was seen in Kuwait where 1.9 million of the worldwide threats were detected, while Bahrain and Oman accounted for 1.2 million and 534,806 respectively of the total ransomware in the same period. Gulf countries have been leading the charge in the region's massive modernization plans, which primarily aim to accelerate economic diversification and achieve sustainable growth.

The rapid pace of digitization among the GCC naturally brings with it growing exposure to risks and vulnerabilities of cyberattacks, and Trend Micro cautions that data



breaches and cybercrimes have the potential to derail the progress of these modernization initiatives. "As GCC economies shift to digital, securing the cyberspace becomes all the more paramount as there is an increasing risk of calculated and premeditated cyberattacks. What we are witnessing now in the Gulf is a long-term transformation and stakeholders ought to regard security as a key infrastructure necessary for a smart city to thrive. Device penetration, interconnectivity, massive data - all of these have started to proliferate and more so in the near future."

Governments and businesses should continue to strengthen their cybersecurity capabilities in order to truly evolve and realize the desired outcomes of these initiatives," commented Cherif Djerboua, Regional Tech Leader, Trend Micro AMEA. The security vendor reported a spike in the number of malwares detected in the first quarter of the year. UAE had a total of 1.6 million malwares, while Kuwait had 465,058 infected files. Bahrain, meanwhile, had 202,241 malwares, with Oman coming in close with 161,055 malware threats. An uptrend in online banking



Cherif Djerboua

malware was reflected in the Trend Micro report with UAE getting 433; Kuwait, 90; Bahrain, 56; and Oman 46. Macro malware figures during the same period are: UAE - 263, Kuwait - 46, Bahrain - 45, and Oman - 7. A worrying concern for Trend Micro is the increasing number of malicious URL victims. UAE registered close to a million with 988,264 URL victims; Kuwait had 224,916; while Bahrain and Oman have 26,860 and 83,388 detections respectively. For malicious URLs detected in the GCC, Trend Micro got 5,314 in the UAE and 214 in Kuwait. In Bahrain, the company detected 523 and for Oman, 37. "It is encouraging to see that both government entities and corporations are recognizing the need to step up their cybersecurity game. Still we have to be on guard at all times and be prepared to handle major attacks as cybercrimes are also evolving. Trend Micro is committed to raise awareness and share best practices in order to beef up the industry's cybersecurity capabilities." Djerboua said.

## Facebook, Google 'manipulate' users to share data despite law

OSLO: Facebook and Google are pushing users to share private information by offering "invasive" and limited default options despite new EU data protection laws aimed at giving users more control and choice, a government study said yesterday. The Norwegian Consumer Council found that the US tech giants' privacy updates clash with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which forces companies to clarify what choices people have when sharing private information.

"These companies manipulate us into sharing information about ourselves," the council's director of digital services, Finn Myrstad, said in a statement. "(This) is at odds with the expectations of consumers and the intention of the new Regulation," the 2018 study, entitled "Deceived By Design", concluded. Myrstad said the practices showed "a lack of respect for their users,

and are circumventing the notion of giving consumers control of their personal data". The case for the new laws has been boosted by the recent scandal over the harvesting of Facebook users' data by British consultancy Cambridge Analytical for the 2016 US presidential election.

Information for the report was collected from mid-April to early June, a few weeks after the EU rules came into force. The report exposed that Facebook and Google often set the least privacy-friendly option as a default and that users rarely change pre-selected settings. Privacy-friendly choices "require more clicks and are often hidden," it said. "In many cases, the services obscure the fact that users have very few actual choices, and that comprehensive data sharing is accepted just by using the service," the study said.

The EU has billed the GDPR as the biggest shake-up of data privacy regulations since the birth of the web. The social media giant and Google separately already face their first official complaints under the new law after an Austrian privacy campaigner accused them of forcing users to give their consent to the use of their personal information. Companies can be fined up to 20 million euros (\$24 million) or four percent of annual global turnover for breaching the strict new data rules for the European Union, a market of 500 million people.—AFP



File photo shows Google and Facebook logo. — Reuters

## Facebook easing ban on cryptocurrency ads

WASHINGTON: Facebook said Tuesday it was easing a ban on ads for cryptocurrencies while keeping a prohibition on initial coin offerings to raise assets. The move comes five months after the leading social network said it was banning all ads related to cryptocurrencies like bitcoin as a way to curb scams. To place ads on Facebook for cryptocurrencies, companies will need to be pre-approved and offer proof they have licenses or are traded on a public exchange, the company said.

"Given these restrictions, not everyone who wants to advertise will be able to do so," Facebook product management director Rob Leathern said in a statement. "But we'll listen to feedback, look at how well this policy works and continue to study this technology so that, if necessary, we can revise it over time."

Facebook and other online platforms began cracking down on ads for crypto-related businesses amid concerns over fraud in the burgeoning and largely unregulated sector where currencies can see huge swings. Fraud is common in the world of red-hot digital currencies such as bitcoin. Earlier this year, the US Securities and Exchange Commission shut down an initial coin offering by a Texas company called AriseBank.

AriseBank was accused of relying on celebrity endorsers such as boxer Evander Holyfield and social media to cheat investors out of \$600 million of its goal of \$1 billion for a currency it called "AriseCoin." Initial coin offerings—used by some startups to raise billions of dollars—still won't be able to advertise on Facebook. Twitter, Google and Snapchat have announced similar bans. The British government early this year called for global regulation of controversial virtual currencies like bitcoin.

Bitcoin and similar forms of virtual cash are independent of governments and banks and use blockchain technology, where encrypted digital coins are created by supercomputers. The virtual currency is not regulated by any central bank but is instead overseen by a community of users who try to guard against counterfeiting.

### Facebook halts production of drones

In other news, Facebook is ending a program launched in 2014 to build a fleet of drones that could deliver internet to underserved areas of the world. The huge social network said it has not abandoned the idea of using high-altitude aircraft to connect remote areas of the globe, but would concentrate its efforts with manufacturing partners. Facebook will close its facility in Bridgwater, southwest England, which has been working on the solar-powered Aquila drone, according to a statement late Tuesday.

"When we started the Aquila program back in 2014, very few companies were involved in this area," said Facebook engineering director Yael Maguire. But in the past four years a number of aerospace companies have been investing in the technology, he noted. "Given these developments, we've decided not to design or build our own aircraft any longer, and to close our facility in Bridgwater."

Maguire said Facebook would work with partners including the European consortium Airbus on high altitude platform station (HAPS) connectivity "and on the other technologies needed to make this system work, like flight control computers and high-density batteries." Facebook had touted the Aquila program as one of several aimed at bringing the internet to remote areas and last year announced a successful second test flight. Google, meanwhile, has its own Project Loon which aims to deliver connectivity to remote areas using high-altitude balloons. — AFP

## Twitter to confirm new accounts in spam fight

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter on Tuesday said it will begin asking for email addresses or phone numbers to confirm new accounts as part of a battle against manipulation, particularly by automated bots. Adding a way to check that a real person is behind new accounts was described by Twitter as being among measures to fight abuse, trolls, and hateful content.

"This is an important change to defend against people who try to take advantage of our openness," Twitter executives Del Harvey and Yoel Roth said in a blog post. The requirement will be rolled out later this year, and Twitter promised to make sure the change does not harm aspiring users in "high-risk" places. Twitter recently began taking more steps to clean up spam and automated activity, and "close the loopholes they'd exploited," according to Harvey and Roth.

"We're also now automating some processes where we see suspicious account activity, like exceptionally high-volume tweeting with the same hashtag, or using the same @handle without a reply from the account you're mentioning," they said. Twitter systems identified and challenged more than 9.9 million "potentially spammy or automated accounts" weekly in May, according to Harvey and Roth.

Twitter last month said that it was stepping up its long-running battle against online trolls, trying to find offenders by looking at "behavioral signals." The new approach looks at behavioral patterns of users in addition to the content of the tweets, allowing Twitter to find and mute online bullies and trolls. Even if the offending tweets are not a violation of Twitter policy, they may be hidden from users if they are deemed to "distort" a conversation, Twitter said.

Twitter already uses artificial intelligence and machine learning in this effort but the latest initiative aims to do more by focusing on the actions of certain users in addition to the content. Twitter is among online platforms under pressure to do more to safeguard against being used to spread misinformation or promote division, as proved the case during the US presidential election in 2016, in which US intelligence says Russia meddled to help Donald Trump win. — AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE





248 33 199



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### DR KHALED ALMERRI

Consultant interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center



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### Know your Doctor

#### Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)

### Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj

ENT Specialist



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada</li> <li>◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head &amp; Neck Surgery</li> <li>◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head &amp; Neck Surgery</li> <li>◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association</li> <li>◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head &amp; Neck Surgery</li> <li>◆ Member of the European Laryngological Society</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specialized in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.</li> <li>◆ Vocal cord augmentation.</li> <li>◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.</li> <li>◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.</li> <li>◆ Thyroid surgery.</li> <li>◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.</li> <li>◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.</li> <li>◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.</li> <li>◆ Treatment of snoring.</li> <li>◆ Treatment of vertigo.</li> </ul>
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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



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



What's On

# Ooredoo honors its distributors and retail shops during an event at its headquarters

Top official distributors awarded with cheques up to \$100,000



Samir Shehab

Mejbel Al-Ayoub (left) and Tamer Shebl.

Ooredoo Kuwait hosted a special event earlier this week targeting its distributors and sub dealers. The event is the second edition of the Smart 2.0 program, which is an incentive program for the company's distributors and sub dealers that was launched earlier this year. The event was held at Ooredoo's Headquarters and was attended by a number of Distributors and Retail representatives along with Ooredoo Senior Management. This ceremony comes to reiterate Ooredoo's commitment to its partners in success, expressing gratitude for their outstanding performance in the first half of 2018 and the desired results they achieved.

During the ceremony, Senior Director of Retail and Franchise Sales Ahmed Dardab, and Senior Manager,



Saud Al-Fozan

Channel Development and Indirect Sales Samir Shehab awarded 60 of the distributors and retail shops with the highest sales figures on the most recent prepaid products launched during this year, along with certificates of appreciation and trophies. The top official distributors received up to \$100,000 worth of cheques as well as trophies of appreciation. Fun and entertaining contests included a number of prizes.

The level and standards of performance were measured by the latest inventory management systems and sales monitoring systems that are used exclusively by Ooredoo Kuwait operations department to secure the highest sales through different point of sales.

During the event, Senior Director of Retail and Franchise Sales Ahmed Dardab stated, "We at Ooredoo believe in the vital role our partners play in selling and promoting our products, despite the challenges that arise. We will continuously improve as well as create programs that aim to raise the bar and motivate everyone with no exceptions. We strongly believe that our partners are well rounded centers that cater to the needs of our customers."

Senior Manager, Channel Development and Sales Indirect Sales Samir Shehab added: "We are pleased to host our partners and official distributors in this event to honor them for the ongoing support they provide us with and their contribution to the success of our business. Ooredoo and its partners have been working together for so many years and we are looking forward to further collaborate with each one of them in the very near future."

It is worth mentioning that the company has obtained a unique method in distributing products to retail shops through a Kuwaiti team who are trained and educated to develop new and effective distribution methods to different locations that have a positive impact on the sales results.



## Jumeirah Hotel hosted celebrities

As a long-term favorite with celebrities seeking a luxurious stay in Kuwait, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa welcomed a number of regional celebrities through-out the holy month of Ramadan as part of its exclusive partnership with Marina FM Radio Station.

For a full month, the luxurious resort hosted a series of actors, musicians, and singers visiting Kuwait. Some of the famous figures included Lebanese Composer Michel Fadel, Saudi Arabian Actress Lojain Omran and her sister Aseel Omran, Lebanese music producer Hady Charara, as well as the iconic Egyptian actress Ragaa El Gedawi to name a few.

Each celebrity was warmly welcomed by the hotel team upon arrival and made to feel at home with the resort's signature Stay Different experiences. Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa has been the destination for numerous celebrity retreats since its opening offering its trademark hospitality that aims to exceed all guests' expectations.



## Marina Hotel Kuwait special summer offers

Marina Hotel Kuwait introduces the summer promotion package for guests to make the most of the sunshine allowing them to enjoy a relaxing holiday when the temperatures rise in Kuwait. Guests along with their families and friends can avail a number of activities in the heart of one of the most prominent places in Kuwait.

The summer package includes a luxurious stay in one of the hotel's spacious and renovated rooms with a lavish breakfast buffet. Guests will also have free access to many facilities at the hotel: The Coral Reef Health Club, the squash court, as well as the hotel's secluded beach and all three pools; lap, Kid's and family.

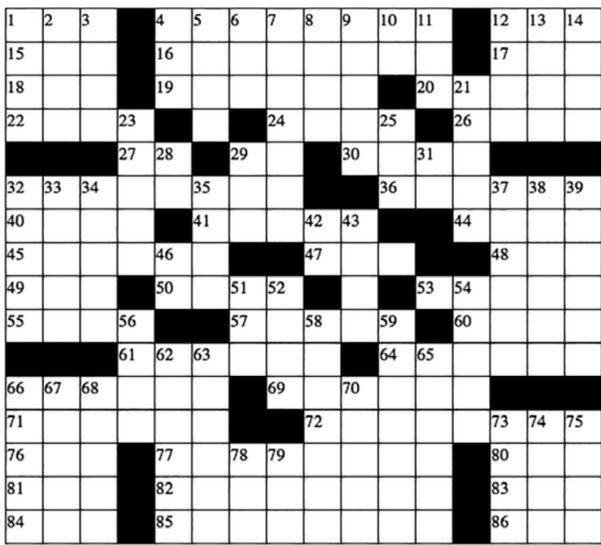
To satisfy everyone's palate, Six Palms Restaurant offers a daily breakfast buffet featuring distinctive international cuisine while Atlantis restaurant serves a premium lunch and dinner buffets with an amazing spread of traditional Arabic and International dishes. Additionally, a tempting selection of Arabic sweets and mouth-watering desserts are available. Summer package includes a 20% discount on lunch and dinner buffets at the Atlantis Restaurant.

Set among the scenic charm of the Arabian Gulf, with a walking distance to the Marina Mall and Marina Crescent, one can enjoy a complete holiday with easy access to their favorite shopping destinations. Make sure you book your room at the award-winning Marina Hotel Kuwait for a unique getaway experience and excellent standard of quality service.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1945



ACROSS

- Characteristic of a mob.
- Tropical American heron related to night herons.
- The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
- Wildly disordered.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- Having leadership guidance.
- Synopated music in duple time for dancing the rumba.
- A support that steadies or strengthens something else.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Prevent from being included or considered or accepted.
- (legend) Chalice used by Christ at the last supper.
- (poetic) "the orient sun" n l.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 100 thebe equal I puia.
- Opinion or judgment.
- A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A member of a people living in southern Benin and Togo and southeastern Ghana.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- Enthusiastic approval.
- Not easy.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- Affected manners intended to impress others.
- Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
- An attendant who carries the golf clubs for a player.
- Trade name for an oral contraceptive containing estradiol and norethindrone.
- A source of danger.
- Of or concerning this.
- Pejorative terms for an insane asylum.
- A machine-readable version of a standard dictionary.
- Genus of woody Asiatic vines.
- An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
- One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Estonia or its people or language.
- Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
- An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
- A chemical substance that is present at the start of a chemical reaction.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

DOWN

- A master's degree in library science.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- English monk and scholar (672-735).
- The rate at which heat is produced by an individual in a resting state.
- An island of central Hawaii (between Molokai and Kauai).
- (Babylonian) The sky god.
- Individual serving of minced e.g. meat or fish in a rich creamy sauce baked in a small pastry mold or timbale shell.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- A three-year law degree.
- Weight to be borne or conveyed.
- Type genus of the Alciidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
- The again or anew.
- (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
- Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
- A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- An extreme state of adversity.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
- Himalayish language spoken in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal.
- Blood-sucking African fly.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- Payment due by the recipient on delivery.
- A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- A group of Plains Indians formerly living in what is now North and South Dakota and Nebraska and Kansas and Arkansas and Louisiana and Oklahoma and Texas.
- Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
- Not capable of being swayed or diverted from a course.
- An early French settler in the Maritimes.
- Small hairless caterpillar having legs on only its front and rear segments.
- Teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions.
- A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
- A region marking a boundary.
- (often plural) A command given by a superior (e.g., a military or law enforcement officer) that must be obeyed.
- A city in north central Nigeria.
- Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- Being the one previously mentioned or spoken of.
- Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may be putting a great emphasis on your sex life. A desire for intimacy and a partner are strong on your mind. It is a great time for you to reflect and discover how you truly feel about yourself and what is driving your focus. Today will be a nice day for you. You may be tempted to be too strict on yourself. Loosen up a bit and enjoy what this world has to offer. You may find yourself in the company of someone who eager to follow your lead. Do not hesitate to take control. Your ambition will be your driving force today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You know exactly what you want, and you know exactly how you plan on accomplishing your goals. Your mind is made up and you are more determined now than ever to make things happen. You may want to sit down with your journal and put these ideas on paper; this will help you keep your focus and limit the chance of any distraction. Your ambition is so intense at this time they you may find yourself dismissing all that does not play a direct role in your success. Put some of your focus on balance and making time for those closest to you. This will prevent resentment and conflict in the future.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today may find you in a very serious mood dismissing all that you find trivial in this world. You have a no-nonsense attitude and a strong desire to succeed. You may find yourself in an extremely strict and disciplined mode and very ambitious. You are driven and passionate about your career and this is being noticed in the workplace to the point you may be approached to take on a special project. You are an excellent manager of yourself and your time and this may lead to an opportunity to excel as a manager of others. Gemini, you are on a prosperous and successful path.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your personality is magnetic today. Others are drawn to you and you may find yourself the center of attention. You are creative and so expressive. Putting your feelings into words so naturally helps others have great understanding of who you are, and your transparency makes it easy for others to put their trust in you. Ease up on yourself a bit. You have to be strict lately without enough emphasis on entertainment and taking the time to enjoy life. Stop and smell the roses, grab tickets to that concert, or just enjoy a nice dinner out. We all need to be rewarded for our efforts. Cancer, it is time to reap your rewards.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Loosen up. You take life, and all involved extremely serious. Every now and then you need to take some time to sit back and relax and let the chips fall where they may. This is a great time in your life for just that. You have been thinking about life and mortality. Life is short, create that bucket list and start marking it off line by line. Be sure and take time to smell the roses and take time for you. You work hard and now is the time to play hard. Pack a bag and hit the road. What you need most is a break from reality and to go have some fun.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find things seem to be going your way in the workplace today. You have a sense of discipline about you. You are able to focus and get down to the nitty gritty and get the job done. There is not anything or anyone that can distract you today. Emotionally you are extremely serious and focused. Today is not a great day for personal relationships or time with loved ones as you would not be able to relax and enjoy yourself. You may be put in a position where you have to act with no time think today. Virgo, Follow your gut instinct on this one! All will end well.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This a great time to sit back and reflection on your past experiences and discover what you led you to the point in life you find yourself now. You may find yourself in a situation where your only solution will come from putting things in reverse. Rethink and reevaluate your decisions to prevent negative long-term consequences. These matters may involve some of your deeper secrets and this may be a time to spent alone working through these problems. Libra, this is a great time to make the right choice. Your mind is clear, and you are deeply in touch with your inner self.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your mood may be quite somber and serious. Your focus seems to be drawn to the nature of time. You have yourself on a strict schedule and have a seriousness about you that is undeniable. If something isn't conducive to your long-term goals you have begun to dismiss it as nothing more than a distraction and see it as trivial. You may be feeling somewhat frustrated with life. You aren't feeling very much support from those around you as they are adjusting to the changes you have made and may be seeing you in a new light. You should be able to explain your views and new outlook on life easily to others.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself ready to get serious about something you have been dreading or putting off. Today is a great day of focus and determination for you and the perfect day to dig your heels in and tackle this. You may find your mood serious and find yourself deep in thought. A great time to make decisions you have been avoiding. You may be analyzing details of your past to discover what led you to the point in your life you are at now. This provide you with a sense of completeness and lead you in the right direction. You live, and you learn, Sagittarius, and you are wise beyond your years.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may be feeling more at peace spending time to yourself lately. This could lead to a sense of loneliness. You may find yourself frequently deep in thought. You seem to be watching your life pass by. These deep feelings are drawing you closer to love ones. You may be putting more emphasis than ever before on your close relationships. You may find a strong sense of ambition come over you as feel you ready to conquer the world.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are really starting to consider yourself a "people person" at this point. You may long to be included in group activities and want to part of the crowd. You may see others being drawn to you as you are very easy to get along with. You find yourself being admired by others today. They find your unique qualities and ability to easily communicate with others intriguing. Aquarius, you are a person that others want to call friend. You may find yourself surrounded by others and not only included but asked to lead in many situations.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today may be a day of deep reflection. You may find answers to problems you are experiencing by simply reflecting on similar situations in your past. You made it through last time and are able to look back and realize the problem looks smaller now that you realize you conquered it once before. Keep your focus and positive outlook and by putting things into perspective you will find this obstacle to be a mere bump in the road and you will come out on top. You may find yourself very ambitious today and be in a very serious mood. This may be a great time to keep to yourself and focus solely on your career.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Shakespeare: Hamlet

Find and circle all of the words relating to Hamlet that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Hamlet quotation.

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

- |             |              |            |             |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| AMBASSADORS | FRANCISCO    | MARCELLUS  | REGICIDE    |
| BARNARDO    | GERTRUDE     | MELANCHOLY | REVENGE     |
| CASTLE      | GHOST        | MESSENGER  | REYNALDO    |
| CHALICE     | GRAVEDIGGERS | MURDER     | ROSENCRANTZ |
| CLAUDIUS    | GUILDENSTERN | OPHELIA    | SKILL       |
| CORNELIUS   | HAMLET       | OSRIC      | SWORD       |
| DEATH       | HAUTBOYS     | POISON     | THE PLAYERS |
| DENMARK     | HORATIO      | POLONIUS   | TRAGEDY     |
| DUEL        | KING         | PRIEST     | VOLTEMAND   |
| ELSINORE    | LAERTES      | PRINCE     | WINE        |
| FORTINBRAS  | MADNESS      | QUEEN      | YORICK      |

Yesterday's Solution

Sewing

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

- |            |                  |               |               |
|------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| AWL        | HEM              | PINS          | SPOOL         |
| BOBBIN     | HOOKS            | QUILTING      | STITCH        |
| BUTTONS    | LACE             | RIBBON        | TAILOR        |
| CLOTH      | MAGNIFYING GLASS | RIPS          | TAPE MEASURE  |
| DARNING    | MENDING          | ROTARY CUTTER | TEARS         |
| DRESSMAKER | NEEDLES          | SCISSORS      | THIMBLE       |
| ELASTIC    | PATCH            | SEAM RIPPER   | THREAD        |
| EMBROIDERY | PATTERN          | SEAMSTRESS    | TRACING PAPER |
| EYES       | PENCIL           | SHEARS        | TRACING WHEEL |
| FABRIC     | PINCUSHION       | SNAPS         | ZIPPER        |
| GROMMETS   |                  |               |               |

The hidden sentence is: A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018



This photo shows a member (center) of teamLab posing at the two-year-long exhibition of teamLab, at the teamLab planets in Tokyo. Collective teamLab, known internationally for their innovative 'digital art' that combines projections, sound and carefully designed spaces to create immersive experiences, launched the teamLab Planets in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

## Louvre Abu Dhabi sets Da Vinci unveiling for September

The Louvre Abu Dhabi said yesterday it will unveil its most prized acquisition on September 18 — a very rare painting attributed to Leonardo da Vinci that was bought for a record \$450 million last year. The "Salvator Mundi", a portrait of Jesus Christ painted in 1500, was the only one of the fewer than 20 paintings believed to be the work of the famed Renaissance Old Master still in private hands when it went under the hammer at Christie's in November. It was only six years ago that it was declared authentic after long being dismissed as a copy by one of Da Vinci's students.

"Lost and hidden for so long in private hands, Leonardo

Da Vinci's masterpiece is now our gift to the world," the chairman of Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, Mohamed Khalifa al-Mubarak, said in a statement announcing the public unveiling. The Louvre Abu Dhabi has kept tight-lipped over the identity of the painting's buyer, saying only that the emirate's Department of Culture and Tourism had "acquired" it.

Last December, the New York Times identified the buyer as an obscure member of the Saudi royal family, Prince Badr bin Abdullah. The Wall Street Journal later reported Bin Abdullah was acting on behalf of Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. He has never

confirmed or denied the report. Prince Badr saw his stature rise this month, when he was appointed to head the kingdom's culture ministry in a government shakeup. Asked by AFP whether the buyer himself would be present for the unveiling, the museum said only that "representatives from Abu Dhabi will welcome the world to the unveiling of the painting". Saudi Arabia and the neighboring United Arab Emirates are very close allies who are both engaged militarily in the war against rebels in Yemen, and diplomatically and economically against Gulf rival Qatar. — AFP



In this file photo Christie's employees pose in front of a painting entitled Salvator Mundi by Italian polymath Leonardo da Vinci at a photocall at Christie's auction house in central London. — AFP



A man walks past a recent artwork by street artist Banksy in Paris.



A man takes a photograph of a recent artwork by street artist Banksy in Paris.



A man walks past a recent artwork by street artist Banksy in Paris.

## Banksy's Paris street art 'blitz' a tribute to rebels of 1968

Street artist Banksy has confirmed that he "blitzed" Paris with a dozen murals as a tribute to the May 1968 uprising, taking aim at the French government's hard line on migrants in some of them. Stencilled images in the style of the mysterious British graffiti star began appearing on walls across the French capital last week. All were unsigned, leaving a lingering doubt that they might have been by an imitator. But late Monday the Bristol-based artist posted his latest two Paris murals on Instagram—neither of which had yet been found by his fans. "Fifty years since the uprising in Paris 1968. The birthplace of modern stencil art," he quipped under a self-portrait as a masked rat carrying a utility knife that he uses to cut out his stencils.

Cheekily he sprayed it on the back of a road sign outside the Pompidou center modern art gallery, which houses Europe's biggest collection of contemporary art. Banksy took on the rat as his avatar—a symbol of the vilified and downtrodden—in homage to the Paris street artist Blek le Rat, who started out in 1986 when a general strike by students and workers brought France to a halt. The movement produced an explosion of street art and ingenious graffiti slogans, some of which have become legendary. Banksy sprayed another rat wearing a Minnie Mouse bow under the caption "May 1968" near the Sorbonne university over the weekend, one of the centers of the uprising, which was read as a wry take on the decline of French revolutionary spirit.

### Mural defaced

The Disneyland Paris theme park just outside Paris is now one of the French capital's biggest employers. The artist, known for his sharp political and social commentary, made headlines Sunday with another Paris mural of a refugee child covering up a swastika sprayed over the patch of pavement on which she was sleeping. Placing it right next to a former refugee centre closed down in March by the French government was seen as an attack

on President Emmanuel Macron's crackdown on migrants.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, who set up the centre, was quick to hail the mural. "Sometimes an image is worth a thousand words. Humanity and pragmatism rather than populism," she tweeted in a dig at Macron, who had argued the shelter was making Paris a magnet for migrants. In his first clandestine "blitz" of the French capital, Banksy also created a image of girl huddled in mourning in a fire exit next to the Bataclan concert hall, where 90 people were massacred by jihadist gunmen in November 2015. His final stencil—which he posted to his Instagram account on Monday evening—shows a genteel

old rat couple out for a walk along the River Seine near the Eiffel Tower.

Banksy's work has sold for more than \$1 million at auction, and fans have already covered some of the new Paris works with Plexiglass to protect them. However, his mural of the migrant girl was defaced with blue spray paint late on Sunday after news of its discovery spread on social media. Many believe Banksy to be musician Robert Del Naja, a 52-year-old member of the Bristol-based trip hop trio Massive Attack. The band are playing the French city of Lyon on Sunday. — AFP



A boy looks at a recent artwork by street artist Banksy in Paris. — AFP photos

## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

## Prince estate signs fresh deal to release catalog

Sony Music yesterday announced a deal with Prince's estate to reissue the bulk of his catalog, the latest attempt to monetize the legacy of the pop legend. Ironically for an artist who famously battled the music industry, with the latest announcement Prince's estate has struck deals with all three major record label groups since his sudden death in April 2016. Sony said that its Legacy Recordings imprint, which focuses on the archives of classic artists, would immediately have rights to 19 albums from 1995 to 2010 — when Prince bolted from longtime label Warner Brothers.

Starting in 2021, Sony will also obtain the rights to 12 albums from Prince's golden era including "Controversy," "1999" and "Around the World in a Day." The contract notably excludes soundtracks—namely 1984's "Purple Rain," Prince's best-known work. "A true artist and vision-

ary, Prince changed the world with his music, bringing love, joy and inspiration to millions," said Richard Story, president of the Sony Music Entertainment Commercial Music Group.

"Sony Music is honored to play a part in keeping Prince's music alive and making it available for generations of lifelong listeners and future fans," he said in a statement. Prince was a fervent critic of music labels and later the internet, describing corporations as putting artists into virtual slavery. When he left Warner in the mid-1990s, angered at the controls the label wanted to put on his prolific output, he wrote "slave" on his cheek and changed his name to an unpronounceable "love symbol." But Prince reconciled with Warner late in his life. After his death, Warner reissued "Purple Rain" with a second record of new music—part of a vast trove of unreleased songs

believed to be stored at Prince's Paisley Park estate in Minnesota.

Universal Music, the largest record group, last year announced a \$31 million deal to bring to the world some of the music from the trove. But in an unusual twist, a judge months later voided the contract at Universal's request after the label group said that the estate was unclear about its rights to the vault, which could overlap with Warner. — AFP



In this file photo taken on June 16, 1990 shows musician Prince performing on stage during his concert at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. — AFP



In this file photo Bruno Mars receives a second Grammy for Record of the Year during the 60th Annual Grammy Awards show in New York.



In this file photo Lady Gaga arrives for the 60th Grammy Awards in New York. — AFP photos

## Grammys expand nominee field after criticism on diversity

The Grammys will expand the number of nominees in main categories for music's most prestigious awards as organizers try to counter a backlash over how few women and minorities are winning. In one of the biggest changes at the Grammys in years, the Recording Academy—which administers the prizes—said Tuesday in a letter to members that next year's awards will boost the field of hopefuls from five to eight for the top four categories. The prizes are Album of the Year; Record of the Year, which recognizes overall song; Song of the Year, which honors songwriting; and Best New Artist.

Other categories will remain at five nominees. The 2019 Grammys will take place at the Staples Center in Los Angeles at the start of the year, though an exact date has not yet been announced. The change echoes the 2009 decision of the Academy Awards to double the number of contenders for the Best Picture Oscar from five to 10 at the most. But while the film academy was largely trying to find a place at the televised gala for crowd-pleasing blockbusters alongside critically acclaimed fare, the Recording Academy is facing quite a different dilemma.

Criticism has mounted that the Recording Academy's tastes are consistently old-fashioned, more in line with the older, mostly white male professionals who vote and out of tune with contemporary culture. Hoping to bring more diversity, the Recording Academy made another key change in time

for this year's awards by switching to online ballots, broadening its pool to itinerant musicians who are not waiting at their mailboxes.

Likely due to the reform, the 2018 Grammys for the first time saw hip-hop dominate the top categories. But the night's big winner was ultimately Bruno Mars, the party-loving funk revivalist, rather than politically aware rappers Kendrick Lamar, Jay-Z or Childish Gambino. And the latest Grammys was strikingly devoid of women, with Lorde the only nominee for Album of the Year and none earning a nod for Record of the Year, at a time that the growing #MeToo movement was raising concern about the gender biases and harassment holding back women.

## Backlash from women

Asked after the January 28 awards in New York why more women were not winning, Portnow said that female musicians needed to "step up," while also speaking of the need for more mentorship. His remarks generated a furor, with stars including Katy Perry and P!nk taking him to task and a group of women music executives demanding that he quit. Portnow said on May 31 that he was stepping down next year, meaning that the expansion of Grammy nominations will likely be one of the final decisions under his watch.

In a statement announcing the expansion of nominees, Portnow said that the

Recording Academy was seeking to adapt to an "ever-changing industry." The expansion "creates more opportunities for a wider range of recognition" and "gives more flexibility to our voters when having to make the often challenging decisions," said Portnow, a record executive who has led the academy since 2002.

## Change on world music

The Recording Academy also announced reform of the Grammy for Best World Music Album, one of the categories that draws the most eye-rolls among aficionados. Starting next year, a review committee will determine the five nominees out of the top 15 put forward in nominations by the Academy's 13,000 members. Despite aiming to represent the whole planet, the World Music category has been dominated by a handful of favorites.

The South African all-male choir Ladysmith Black Mambazo, popularized abroad by Paul Simon's 1986 "Graceland" album, won this year for the fifth time. Other perennial nominees include pop flamenco veterans Gipsy Kings. Between 2004 and 2011, the award was split into two categories—one for traditional and one for contemporary world music—before they were merged again.—AFP

## Shaq on his Hollywood plans: 'I want to be the next Rock'

Shaquille O'Neal is already known by many names. Superman. The Diesel. The Big Aristotle. But he would like to add another to the list: Movie Star. In "Uncle Drew," which opens Friday, he plays one of the former basketball stars (all of them real pros under heavy old-man makeup) reunited by Kyrie Irving's titular character (first created for a TV ad) to compete in a street-ball tournament at Harlem's Rucker Park. Shaq's character, known as Big Fella, is found running a martial arts dojo.

But post-NBA life has been far more successful for the four-time NBA champion. He's an analyst on TNT's "Inside the NBA," a popular pitchman and an active entrepreneur and investor. He has dabbled in everything from professional wrestling to law enforcement. He's even a voice setting on the Waze navigation app. This summer he will tour under the name DJ Diesel.

"Uncle Drew" is just one of the projects that the 46-year-old O'Neal has going. Among his favorites is a TBS show he's developing with Ken Jeong. Comparing their chemistry to Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan, O'Neal says it will be "Seinfeld"-epic-ish." In an interview, O'Neal spoke about his big plans in Hollywood, why the NBA has gotten soft and where he hopes LeBron James lands this off-season.

**AP: What do you miss about playing in the NBA?**

**O'Neal:** I miss all of it. I miss interacting with the fans. I miss having the unexpected adrenaline rush, the doubts, the fear, overcoming the fear. I miss everything.

**AP: Do you play anymore?**

**O'Neal:** No, not at all.



This image released by Lionsgate shows Shaquille O'Neal as Big Fella in a scene from the film, 'Uncle Drew.' — AP photos

**AP: How come?**

**O'Neal:** I ain't got it. Right now, I'm relinquishing all my powers to my son who's going to UCLA.

**AP: That's a shame. I'd love to see you and Charles Barkley play one-on-one.**

**O'Neal:** Yeah, Charles would lose.

**AP: Your post-NBA career has been uncommonly busy. Why?**

**O'Neal:** Seventy percent of all professional athletes have nothing, not even a job, after they're done. The fact that I couldn't even call a franchise to get an interview to be a coach frightened me. So nothing was simple. Educate yourself, be nice to people and save your money. If you do that, you should be OK.

**AP: You have numerous TV shows and films in development. What are your Hollywood aspirations?**

**O'Neal:** I want to be as big as Rock.

**AP: Dwayne Johnson is the biggest movie star on the planet. That's setting a high bar.**

**O'Neal:** We come from the same place: athletes that transition. That's my goal. I want similar type movies. I want to get thrillers. I want to get dramas. I want to do comedies. I want to be the next Rock. I want to do a thriller where I'm like a hero and beat up all the bad guys.

**AP: It's been 24 years since your big-screen debut, "Blue Chips." Do you feel like a veteran actor?**

**O'Neal:** Well, I have shot 15 movies. I always tell my friends I shot 15 movies but they say, "Yeah, but if you play Shaq in nine of the movies, that's not really acting." I say, "You make a good point." I'm just happy to have the opportunity.

**AP: Favorite movie?**

**O'Neal:** Oh, "Stepbrothers." All day, every day. I know that movie by heart.

**AP: What else do you like?**

**O'Neal:** I just got done watching "Justice League." I thought it was pretty good. But they held Superman out too long.

**AP: In vogue in today's NBA are big men who can shoot from the perimeter. Could you have developed a three-point game?**

**O'Neal:** No, I would have played the same way. Because you can't score 40 points a night shooting jumpers. Nobody has, nobody will. But you can score 40 points a night shooting 60, 70 percent inside the paint. The fact that guys are shooting jumpers, that's just telling me they don't like physical contact. Shooting jumpers is easy. Anybody can shoot a jumper. But can you bang a guy four of five times and then still have enough to score two points for your team?—AP

## Review

## NBA greats go geriatric in formulaic 'Uncle Drew'

For a few shining minutes, "Uncle Drew" is the movie it surely intended to be: funny and clever, quick and snappy, and most of all, fun — all infused with love for the great sport of basketball. Unfortunately, those minutes come during the closing credits, a sequence entertaining enough to be its own viral video. But wait — that's what "Uncle Drew" originally was, anyway: a series of web videos from a Pepsi ad campaign starring NBA great Kyrie Irving as a white-haired senior citizen who shows up on a playground court and blows all the "youngblood" hotshots away. Combining Irving's talent with the satisfying element of age trumping youthful hubris, they couldn't lose.

It's perhaps not surprising that someone sought to make it into a full-length movie — and why not? Alas, the resulting film, made in association with Pepsi and directed by Charles Stone III, falls into a disappointingly formulaic lull for large stretches, squeezing all spontaneity from the proceedings. Don't fault the talented cast, which includes a squad of hard-working NBA luminaries in heavy aging makeup, and comedy stars including the delightful Tiffany Haddish and Lil Rel Howery, so memorable in "Get Out." Fault the unimaginative script they've been given.

## Different ideas

The premise: Dax (Howery), is a downtrodden Foot Locker employee trying to make a buck. As a teen, he was a talented player, but quit altogether when he missed a crucial game-winning shot, and lost his nerve. He's also an orphan, who never had a sense of family. (Can you start writing the ending of the script right now? Of course, Dax is also an amateur coach hustling to get a team ready for a tournament at Harlem's storied Rucker Park (where many NBA greats have played), and win a hefty cash prize. But his nemesis, Mookie, has different ideas.

Mookie — a nasty-funny Nick Kroll, more nasty than funny here — steals Dax's team from under him, including his young star Casper (Aaron Gordon of the Orlando Magic). It hardly comes as a surprise when Mookie steals Jess, Dax's girlfriend, too. Jess (an underused Haddish) boots Dax from their apartment, and when he hits the street with a suitcase, she calls him back: she needs the suitcase. He re-emerges with a garbage bag. Ouch.

Locals at the barber shop suggest Dax, now teamless, go find Uncle Drew. And the old man agrees to play — on condition that he choose his own teammates. Road trip! The two set out to gather up a team of Drew's old cohorts — emphasis on old. Dax is initially uncertain, but as Drew likes to say: "You don't stop playing because you get old. You get old because you stop playing."

First stop: the Preacher, aka Chris Webber, hamming it up quite impressively as an actual preacher who sounds something like James Brown. Preacher says yes, but his wife, Betty Lou (WNBA great Lisa Leslie) is not happy; as her guy makes a getaway in Drew's

van, she follows with a baseball bat. (The women in the film, unfortunately, are often either angry, batty, or mere eye candy. At least Leslie will eventually get to show her stuff.) The group then recruits Lights (Reggie Miller): the joke is that he's legally blind, but believes in his ability to hit any shot. At an old-age home, they bring in Boots (Nate Robinson), who's been sitting silently in a wheelchair for years. But he only needs one thing to cure all that. Do we need to tell you what it is?



This image released by Lionsgate shows Boston Celtics basketball player Kyrie Irving, left, portraying Uncle Drew in a scene from the comedy "Uncle Drew."



This image released by Lionsgate shows Lisa Leslie in a scene from the comedy "Uncle Drew."

## Emotional issues

Finally, we get to towering Shaquille O'Neal, game as always. Shaq's Big Fella, now a Kung Fu instructor, has an axe to grind against Drew, who will have to address this and other emotional issues if this underdog team will ever coalesce enough to win.

Teamwork. Friendship. Family. Playing for the game's sake, not money. All these themes come together in a warm-hearted but highly predictable way. It's undeniably fun to watch these guys do their thing under gallons of makeup, and the promising Lowery does what he can with the corny script — including one funny "Get Out" reference which we won't spoil for you.

As for Haddish, she's a treasure, but has little to do here, and she's funniest and looost when we're not even guaranteed to be watching: during those closing credits. Make sure to stick around. "Uncle Drew," a Summit Entertainment release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for suggestive material, language and brief nudity." Running time: 103 minutes. Two stars out of four. — AP



This image released by Lionsgate shows a scene from the film, "Uncle Drew." — AP photos



Yuming A-von, an Aborigine from Taiwan's Atayal tribe, tying a bowstring onto a handcrafted bow in the Wulai district of New Taipei City. — AFP photos



Yuming A-von checking bamboo arrows he made in the Wulai district of New Taipei City.



Yuming A-von checking a handcrafted bow that can be used as a spear when needed.



Yuming A-von posing for photo while holding one of his handcrafted bow and arrows.



Yuming A-von crafting a bow.



Yuming A-von hanging a handcrafted bow on the wall in the Wulai district of New Taipei City.

# Taiwan aboriginal craftsman revives ancient archery bow



Yuming A-von checking a crafted bow.



Yuming A-von crafting a bow.

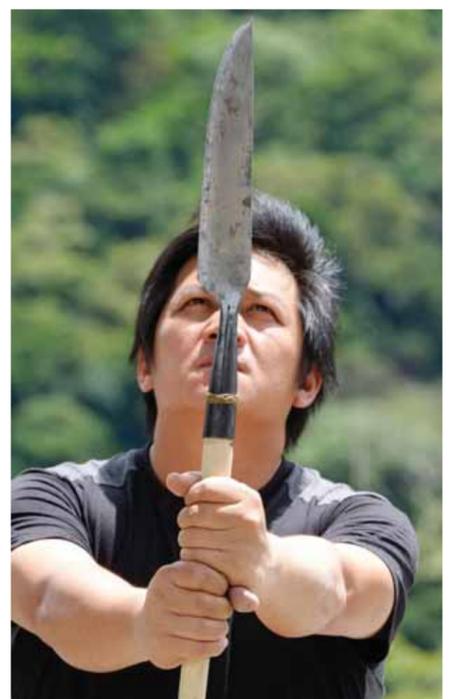
When aboriginal tribesman Yuming A-von got his first taste of Taiwan's ancient archery tradition he was dismayed to see indigenous people using bows and arrows from other cultures. His own Atayal tribe used homemade wooden bows for hunting for centuries, but the craft has fallen out of fashion. The Atayal are one of 16 aboriginal tribes in Taiwan, which together make up about two percent of the population. Hunting is a way of life for many, although rifles have taken over from bows in recent decades. A-von noticed 10 years ago that tribespeople at local archery competitions were now using what he

describes as "Han" bows, referring to ethnic Chinese settlers.

"It wasn't right to me," A-von, 42, told AFP. "All the different types of bows are an evolution of each different culture." Bow shapes and methods differ based on their original purposes, he added, saying Han bows were widely used for battle while Taiwan's indigenous groups predominantly hunted with them. He began to research and experiment to recreate the long-forgotten craft of bowmaking by the Atayal.

Few people still owned traditional bows but he eventually located an uncle who had one hidden away. "He showed me how to make it, but now he says the ones I make go beyond what he thought was possible," A-von told AFP. Today, A-von's small workshop in the mountainous region of Wulai—an hour's drive from Taipei—attracts international buyers, including from Canada, France, and Japan. A-von makes his arrows out of bamboo, which are put through a hot flame to make them pliable before they are straightened.

The bows themselves can take three months to finish, including the time it takes to gather the wood they are crafted from. He refused to disclose the kind of tree or plant used, saying his uncle warned him to keep it a secret. "It can be found in all of Taiwan's mountains," he hinted. "It's a very inconspicuous kind of wood, but few know what it is used for." Some aboriginal tribes fear the tradition of hunting itself is dying out as current laws restrict it and young people living away from their indigenous villages are less willing to learn. A-von said his interest in archery was strengthened because it was a more primitive way of hunting, which gave a "greater feeling of accomplishment". — AFP



## Robotics Barbie aims to inspire young scientists

An inspirational new version of Barbie will encourage young girls to embark on careers in engineering and the sciences, the iconic doll's manufacturer Mattel said on Tuesday. Barbie, who first hit the shelves in 1959, prides herself on trying out jobs where women aren't strongly represented, to add to her more traditional skill set of dancing with Ken and looking fabulous. The company has announced a "Career of the year" Barbie who just happens to be a robotics engineer—a job that in real-life is occupied almost nine times out of ten by men.

Kids aren't just supposed to play make-believe with the newest Barbie, however, as Mattel has partnered with games platform Tynker to provide owners with online coding experiences. "For almost 60 years, Barbie has

exposed girls to roles where women are underrepresented to show them that they can be anything," Lisa McKnight, Mattel's senior vice president for Barbie, said in statement.

"By playing with Robotics Engineer Barbie on and offline, we are giving girls a new platform for play in their imaginary world and teaching them important skills for their real world." The new doll joins a lineup of more than 200 careers held by Barbie, "all of which reinforce the brand's purpose to inspire the limitless potential in every girl," Mattel said in a statement. Only 24 percent of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs in the United States are held by women. — AFP



In this file photo a woman photographs a wall of Barbie dolls in the Mattel display at the annual Toy Fair in New York. — AFP

## Lifestyle | Features

In Western North Carolina:  
*Do go chasing waterfalls*

Some are big. Some are small. Some are wide. Some are narrow. Some crash down. Some are a slow trickle. And some, you can slide right down. There are at least 250 waterfalls in Transylvania County, North Carolina, located about halfway between Asheville, North Carolina, and Greenville, South Carolina. Known as the "Land of Waterfalls," the region has the biggest concentration of waterfalls on the East Coast, according to the local tourism board. The cascades are particularly dramatic now after record-setting rainfall this spring. Unique features include a temperate rainforest in Gorges State Park, where more than 80 inches (200 centimeters) of rain fall annually.

"This is a land of all kinds of superlatives," says Nathan Jordan, a spokesman for the Transylvania County Tourism and Development Authority. With lots of state and national parks in the area, visitors have easy access to other outdoor adventures too, including biking trails and fly fishing. Travelers who do go chasing waterfalls this summer could challenge themselves to hunt down as many as they can, bucket-list style, or they could make a leisurely jaunt to one or two. There's no wrong reason to visit a waterfall.

**Go for the Instagram shot**

Those who want the best #nofilter photos for the least amount of hiking can easily pop into the Pisgah National Forest and take selfies in front of the 60-foot (18-meter) Looking Glass Falls. Five miles past the forest's main entrance, this beast of a waterfall can be viewed within steps of the main road, US 276. A staircase meets the road near the top of the gushing falls. You can park your car and take in the breathtaking view from up there or walk down to get a closer look or even swim.

Movie buffs can pose as Katniss Everdeen, from "The Hunger Games," at Triple Falls and Bridal Veil Falls, in the DuPont State Forest, near where some scenes from the movie were filmed. At Hooker Falls, in the same forest, see the wide, 13-foot (4-meter) falls where Hawkeye's canoe plunged in "The Last of the Mohicans" as he fled Magua's men.

**Go to get wet**

Swimming is permitted at many of the waterfalls in Transylvania County. At Hooker Falls, water from the Little



Photo shows Hooker Falls, located in the DuPont State Recreational Forest between Brevard and Hendersonville, NC.



Photo shows Looking Glass Falls, located in the Pisgah National Forest, between Brevard, NC, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

River pours over the ledge to create a large and popular swimming hole with various depths. Those who want calm can wade in the shallow creek area farther away from the falls, while the more adventurous can swim in the deeper parts or even dare to walk along the rocks underneath the falls. For an even more exhilarating experience, some of the waterfalls are smooth enough to slide down.

At Sliding Rock, less than 3 miles (5 kilometers) down the road from Looking Glass Falls in the Pisgah



Photo shows swimmers wading in at the base of Looking Glass Falls, located in the Pisgah National Forest, between Brevard, NC, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. — AP photos



Photo shows two people riding down Sliding Rock, a natural waterslide located in the Pisgah National Forest, between Brevard, NC, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

National Forest, lifeguards monitor visitors who climb to the top of a giant rock formation and then slide down the natural water slide into a 7-foot (2-meter) pool of water at the bottom. Children can ride on their parents' laps, and life jackets are available for a small fee. Another popular sliding spot is Turtleback Falls, in Gorges State Park. It's a steep drop-off and not monitored by lifeguards, and it's only reached by a strenuous 1.75-mile (2.8-kilometer) hike.

"You need to be a strong swimmer, and it's not the most family friendly thing in the world, but it is awesome," Jordan said. "For somebody that's a millennial and a traveler and a bucket-lister, they're going to get the biggest thrill out of that destination."

Pura Vida Adventures offers canyoneering trips that include rappelling down waterfalls, some as high as 75 feet (23 meters). The company also offers family tours themed on "The Hunger Games," referring to younger participants as "tributes" and teaching survival skills involving fire, shelter, snares, knot-tying and off-trail travel.

**Go to relax**

While waterfalls offer a dose of the unexpected for visitors chasing thrills, they can also be peaceful and meditative. A novice waterfall hunter or serenity-seeker might try Moore Cove Falls. The water spills over a stone shelf in a narrow curtain just a few feet across, but its 50-foot (15-meter) freefall cascade is stunning. It's accessible via a mild 1.4-mile (2.25-kilometer) hike. The water gathers in shallow puddles at the bottom, making it good for small children and those who don't want to get soaked. But even here, intrepid visitors can walk behind the falls and take a shower underneath if they'd like. — AP

## US restaurants host refugee chefs who offer a taste of home

At San Francisco's Tawla restaurant, Muna Anae powdered her hands with flour and gently broke off a piece of golden dough to prepare bread eaten in Iraq, the country she fled with her family. Anae was preparing more than 100 loaves for diners Wednesday night as part of a program that lets refugees aspiring to be chefs work in professional kitchens. The Refugee Food Festival - a joint initiative of the United Nations Refugee Agency and a French nonprofit, Food Sweet Food - started in Paris in 2016 and came to the U.S. for the first time this year, with restaurants in New York participating as well. The establishments' owners turn over their kitchens to refugee chefs for an evening, allowing them to prepare sampling platters of their country's cuisine and share a taste of their home.

Restaurants in 12 cities outside the US are taking part in the program this month. "It's been a big dream to open a restaurant," said Anae, 45, who now has a green card. Anae was among five refugees chosen to showcase their food in San Francisco - each at a different restaurant and on a different night, from Tuesday through Saturday. Organizers say the goal is to help the refugees succeed as chefs and raise awareness about the plight of refugees

worldwide. It's important to "really get to know these refugees and their personal stories," said Sara Shah, who brought the event to California after seeing it in Belgium.

Anae and her husband and two children left Baghdad in 2013 over concerns about terrorism and violence. She



A bowl of fresh pita bread made by guest chef Muna Anae, a refugee from Iraq, beckons from a dining table at Tawla Restaurant.



Muna Anae, prepares a ball of khobz orouk, a flatbread she would eat frequently in her native Iraq, at the Tawla restaurant kitchen in San Francisco during the inaugural Refugee Food Festival. — AP photos

worked as a kindergarten teacher in Iraq, not a chef, but was urged to pursue cooking as a career by peers in an English class she took in California after they tasted some of her food. Azhar Hashem, Tawla's owner, said hosting Anae was part of the restaurant's mission to broaden diners' understanding of the Middle East - a region that inspires some of its dishes. "Food is the best - and most humanizing - catalyst for having harder conversations," she said.

The four other aspiring chefs serving food in San Francisco are from Myanmar, Bhutan, Syria and Senegal. Karen Ferguson, executive director of the Northern California offices of the International Rescue Committee, said San Francisco was a good city for the food festival. "We have so much diversity, and we see the evidence of that in the culinary expertise in the area," she said.

The Bay Area has a high concentration of refugees from Afghanistan, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Eritrea and Burma, though exact numbers are unclear, according to the rescue committee. Its Oakland office settled more than 400 refugees in the Bay Area last year, but the number of refugees settling in the region has fallen dramatically since the Trump administration this year placed a cap on arrivals, Ferguson said.

Pa Wah, a 41-year-old refugee from Myanmar, presented dishes at San Francisco's Hog Island Oyster Co. on Tuesday. She said she didn't consider a career in cooking until she moved to California in 2011 and got her green card. Cooking was a means of survival at the Thailand refugee camp where she lived after escaping civil conflict in Myanmar as a child. Participating in the food festival showed her the challenges of running a restaurant, but also helped her realize she was capable of opening her own, she said. — AP



Chef Muna Anae, from Iraq, drops a ball of khobz orouk bread dough onto a tray to let it rise at the Tawla restaurant in San Francisco during the inaugural Refugee Food Festival.



Diners at the Tawla restaurant in the Mission District enjoy the Refugee Food Festival in San Francisco. San Francisco.



Pa Wah, a refugee from Myanmar, mixes shrimp in a turmeric tempura batter at the Hog Island Oyster Co restaurant in San Francisco during the inaugural Refugee Food Festival.



Gary Peterson, program coordinator for the South Whidbey School Farms Program in Langley, Wash., is shown preparing some plant sets for volunteers to put into the ground. — AP

## Many schools keep gardening efforts going all summer

The school year runs just the opposite of the growing season, making it difficult for educators to teach kids how to garden. But many school systems enlist volunteers to prep garden beds while students are on summer break, making the crops ready to tend when classes resume in September. "We're working against nature but we add a lot of season extenders," said Seth Raabe, South Whidbey (Island) School Farms coordinator in Langley, Washington. "That includes greenhouses and different plant varieties. We want to get the school gardens going as early as possible and then extend them as late as possible in order to fit class schedules."

School gardens have been used as an educational tool in the United States for well over a century, developing from standard vegetable beds into year-round windowsill settings, Grow Labs and hydroponic towers. Fresh student-grown edibles augment public school menus, contribute to healthier nutritional habits and food safety, teach record keeping and marketing, provide exercise and build a life-long appreciation for the environment.

In short, students are encouraged to shift from being couch potatoes to cultivating lunchroom tomatoes. Whidbey's school garden volunteers, like many around the nation, range from parent-child teams to community activists - different generations working shoulder-to-shoulder to plant, fertilize, water, cultivate and then harvest what produce matures early. Raabe said the summer work sessions are twice a week.

"Some of what we harvest we eat immediately after the work sessions," he said. "One of us leaves the garden early to prepare fresh salads or fruit." Surplus edibles are donated to food banks. "We just dropped off 20 pounds of peas to a co-op last week," Raabe said. School gardens get children outdoors, active and engaged in what occupational therapists call "heavy work," said Emily Shipman, executive director of KidsGardening in Burlington, Vermont. "Some teachers find it a challenge to get kids outside, unfortunately," Shipman said.

"Children today are on average 30 percent weaker than children in the 1980s because they are more sedentary - less recess and more iPads," she said. "They're also eating more processed foods leading to obesity (and) diabetes." KidsGardening is an independent non-profit group that provides grants, lesson plans and more. —AP

# Classifieds

Thursday, June 28, 2018

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Visibility will decrease due to dust with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 22 - 60 km/h.

**BY DAY:** Hot and Dusty with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 60 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			Strong Wind	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 27/06/2018 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	34 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	33 °C		
ABDALY	47 °C	33 °C		
BUBYAN	--- °C	32 °C		
JAHRA	46 °C	33 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	43 °C	29 °C		
SALMIYAH	40 °C	33 °C		
AHMADI	44 °C	35 °C		
NUWAISSIB	47 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	46 °C	32 °C		
SALMY	45 °C	30 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	06/28	Hot and Dusty	46 °C	35 °C	NW	25 - 60 km/h
Friday	06/29	Very hot and rising dust over open areas	47 °C	35 °C	NW	15 - 50 km/h
Saturday	06/30	Very hot and rising dust especially over open areas	47 °C	35 °C	NW	15 - 50 km/h
Sunday	07/01	Hot and rising dust and some high clouds will appear later on	46 °C	33 °C	NW	22 - 55 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:16
Sunrise	04:51
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:25
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:24

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	49 °C
MIN. Temp.	34 °C
MAX. RH	23 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 64 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

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ali Asger, Passport No: L3856867, Civil ID No: 287012400395, has changed my name to Aliasger Najmuddin Hakimjiwala. (C 5405) 27-6-2018

I Buseneni Kumar S/o Busineni Ramachandraiah, holder of Indian Passport Number L4907858 and Civil ID 281051204453 have changed my name as Busineni Sivaprasad S/o Busineni Ramachandraiah. Hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5403) 24-6-2018

## MATRIMONIAL

RC boy from Trichur working as Accountant in Kuwait, seeking suitable alliances from qualified girls who work in Kuwait, preferably preparing for marriage in July or August. 30 years old, height 5.7, B.Com., MBA. For details E-mail: jkumarath@gmail.com (C 5404) 26-6-2018

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**112**

**Airlines**

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Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	a22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073

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## Flight Schedule

## DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 28/6/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 28/6/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	692	Muscat	20:25
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
SAI	441	Lahore	00:50	JZR	553	Alexandria	20:50
KAC	102	London	00:50	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	WAN	136	Doha	21:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	168	Paris	21:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	564	Amman	21:50
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15
WAN	714	AGP	02:30	DLH	8456	Frankfurt	22:25
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	WAN	118	Bahrain	22:40
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	JZR	185	Dubai	22:50
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	WAN	874	Istanbul	22:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	TRQ	230	KRT	23:00
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
MSC	403	Asyut	03:05	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR	241	Amman	23:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	WAN	884	Sarajevo	23:59
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	Departure Flights on Thursday 28/6/2018			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:10
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	152	Istanbul	04:15	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
KAC	544	Cairo	04:25	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	FEG	344	Sohag	01:05
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	MSC	406	Sohag	01:05
THY	1414	TZK	05:05	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	417	Manila	01:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	SAI	442	Lahore	01:50
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	WAN	351	Luxor	02:00
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45
BAW	157	London	06:10	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	1269	Istanbul	02:55
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	RBG	216	Sohag	03:45
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	MSC	404	Asyut	04:05
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
WAN	352	Luxor	08:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	PGT	831	Istanbul	04:25
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	540	Cairo	04:40
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
SAW	703	Damascus	09:30	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	JZR	1542	Cairo	06:40
SVR	341	Damascus	10:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
THY	1516	TZK	10:05	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	356	Mashhad	07:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	WAN	133	Doha	07:20
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	167	Paris	07:20
				WAN	311	Asyut	07:25



KAZAN, Russia: South Korea's goalkeeper Cho Hyun-woo (right) speaks with his teammates during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between South Korea and Germany yesterday. — AFP (See Page 28)

## UK's Prince tours West Bank, voices hope for peace

**JALAZONE CAMP:** Prince William paid the first official British royal visit to the Palestinian Territories yesterday, touring a refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and voicing hope for peace in a meeting with the Palestinian president. William, second in line to the throne, received a red-carpet welcome to the Muqata, the Palestinian government headquarters in the city of Ramallah, that included an honor guard and band.

"I'm very glad our two countries work so closely together and have had success stories with education and relief work in the past, so, long may that continue," William told President Mahmoud Abbas. "My sentiments are the same as yours in hoping that there is a lasting peace in the region," the prince said. William then visited Jalazone refugee camp and its health clinic and a school, administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

A sign banning weapons - a picture of a Kalashnikov assault rifle with red line through it - was on the door of the health centre, which the prince toured before visiting the school and chatting with pupils. Armed Palestinian security men stood on rooftops in the camp, reached via an unpaved road and bordering a large Jewish settlement. More than 9,000 people live in the crowded camp of cinderblock and concrete buildings.

On Tuesday, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin publicly asked the prince to bring Abbas "a message of peace" and tell him it is time to find a way to "build confidence" between Israel and the Palestinians. Rivlin's position is largely ceremonial and in remarks released to the media after his own meeting with William earlier that day Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made no such request. Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed in 2014 and the divide between the two sides has widened in the years since amid bouts of violence.

## Bahrain's dinar, bonds rebound; GCC...

Continued from Page 1

The currency also recovered in the forwards market, which reflects expectations for its value in coming months. One-year dollar/dinar forwards fell to 210 points from Tuesday's peak of 408 points, their highest since September 2016. The rebounding dinar prompted investors to buy back Bahraini debt. The yield on its international bond maturing in August 2023 plunged to 7.58 percent from 8.95 percent though it stayed far above early 2018 levels of 5.22 percent.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait said in a statement released shortly before midnight on Tuesday that they were in discussions on aid for Bahrain and would consider all options to support the country. They promised "an integrated program that will soon be announced to enable the kingdom of Bahrain to support its economic reforms and fiscal stability". No details were given.

Supporting Bahrain makes sense for its neighbors economically and politically - any collapse of its currency could undermine confidence in the rest of the region. Sunni Muslim-led Saudi Arabia and the UAE sent security forces to protect the government in Manama from a Shiite-led uprising in 2011. The small size of the Bahraini economy would make it relatively easy for neighboring states to bail it out. Manama has projected a state budget gap of \$3.5 billion in 2018, far less than the hundreds of billions of dollars which each of its neighbors hold in their sovereign wealth funds.

However, five-year Bahraini credit default swaps dropped only 16 basis points to 529 yesterday, Markit said, remaining near record highs and implying a probability

of around 30 percent of a sovereign default in the next five years. Bahrain's state finances are among the weakest in the region; the International Monetary Fund warned last month that Manama needed to reform its finances urgently, as public debt had jumped to 89 percent of gross domestic product last year.

Domestic political opposition has slowed austerity plans designed to cut the government's budget deficit. Many bankers think that unless authorities can ram through tax increases and spending cuts, its finances will remain shaky. The statement by Bahrain's allies did not say whether they would demand policy commitments along with the aid, but their reference to economic reforms suggested there would be a link. There are signs that Bahraini officials are mounting a fresh effort to break the political impasse over fiscal reform. Last week, the king asked the cabinet to open a dialogue on pension reform with parliament, Bahraini members of parliament said.

The king wants an agreement that would protect retirees and also guarantee the durability of the kingdom's pension funds, parliament's president Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla said in a statement late on Tuesday. "The joint committee will hold its first meeting in coming days," he said. Last month, officials said the cabinet had launched a similar effort to reach a deal on reform of the subsidies which the government pays to keep down living costs for its citizens.

Saudi Arabia, connected to Bahrain on its eastern coast by a causeway, has for years provided political and economic support to its Sunni-ruled neighbor, which has a Shiite majority that rose up in 2011 demanding equal rights and an end to alleged government discrimination in jobs, housing and representation. Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Gulf allies accused Iran of stirring up those protests. More recently, Bahrain joined Saudi Arabia and the UAE in June last year to break diplomatic ties and transport links with Qatar, accusing it of backing terrorism, a charge which Doha denies. — Reuters

**Tel Aviv stroll**  
Before his motorcade crossed into the West Bank, William strolled along a trendy Tel Aviv boulevard with Israeli Eurovision song contest winner Netta Barzilai to the delight of cheering onlookers. But there was no "chicken-dance", Barzilai's signature move performed as part of her women's empowerment hit "I'm Not Your Toy" during the 2018 song-fest. William's four-day tour, which ends on Thursday with a visit to holy sites, also marks the first time a member of the British royal family has paid an official visit to Israel.

In downtown Tel Aviv, William walked with the purple-braided singer along Rothschild Boulevard. The tree-lined avenue at the heart of the city's financial districts contains shops, restaurants and galleries. — Reuters

## Iran vows to punish those 'who disrupt economic security'

**BEIRUT:** Iran's Supreme leader called on the judiciary to punish those "who disrupt economic security" yesterday, following protests earlier this week over the rial's collapse and the prospect of more hardships to come thanks to US measures against Tehran. Business at Tehran's Grand Bazaar was back to normal yesterday after a two-day strike had closed most shops. On Monday traders massed outside parliament to complain about the plunge to record lows of Iran's currency.

Reuters was unable to verify footage showing riot police clashing with protesters. Public protests are rare in Iran but in recent months there have been several over the state of the economy. "The atmosphere for the work, life and livelihood of the people must be secure," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a meeting with judiciary officials, according to his official website. "And the judiciary must confront those who disrupt economic security."

Following Washington's withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Iran, some US sanctions are due to be reimposed in August and some in November. This has caused the rial to collapse, threatening business by driving up the cost of imports. The rial traded at 78,500 against the dollar in the unofficial market yesterday, according to foreign exchange website Bonbast.com. This compares to

## Syrian offensive knocks hospitals...

Continued from Page 1

capturing the nearby town of Busra al-Harir on Tuesday. Assad and his allies are now in their strongest position since the early days of a seven-year civil war in which half a million people have been killed and more than half of all Syrians driven from their homes. Government forces have repeatedly been accused of striking medical facilities. Damascus and Moscow deny intentionally targeting them. The Observatory said three hospitals were struck overnight in the towns of Saida, Al-Jeeza and Al-Musayfra near the Jordanian border to the east of Deraa city. UOSSM said that another medical centre in addition to those three was hit.

State-run TV station al-Ikhabariya said electricity to Deraa city - which is divided between rebels and the government - had been cut because "terrorist organizations" had targeted a power line in al-Musayfra, some 20 km to

## Over 200 killed as violence erupts in...

Continued from Page 1

Police and army reinforcements have been sent to Plateau to improve security, while a dusk-to-dawn curfew remained in place in areas of the state affected by the violence.

Plateau has been the scene of similar violence in the past but in the last three years has been relatively calm, as clashes have spread elsewhere. Benue state in particular has become the epicenter of violence since the start of this year after it banned free grazing by cattle. In April,

around 43,000 at the end of last year.

US President Donald Trump's administration has also told countries to cut all imports of Iranian oil from November, a senior State Department official said on Tuesday. This may cut Iran's hard currency earnings from oil exports, and the prospect is triggering a panicked flight of Iranians' savings from the rial into dollars. The United States' efforts against Iran's oil industry will fail, an Iranian oil official said yesterday. "Iran exports a total amount of 2.5 million barrel per day of crude and condensate and eliminating it easily and in a period of a few months is impossible," the oil official told the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Trump's attempts to cut off Iranian oil imports raises the stakes for President Hassan Rouhani, who on Wednesday moved to appease anger over his government's handling of the economy. A ban on imports of over 1,300 products announced by Iran on Monday in order to prepare its economy for looming US sanctions presented a big opportunity for Iranian companies, Rouhani said. "The government's decision to ban the import of some goods to the country with the goal of protecting Iranian goods is a very big opportunity for domestic producers," Rouhani was quoted as saying on state media.

A senior commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guards said all Iranians were obliged to help the government cope with any financial crisis, according to Fars News. "It is all of our duty to work together to help the respected government and other governmental branches in solving the economic problems," General Yahya Rahim-Safavi, who is also a senior advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader, said yesterday. "We must neutralize the plans of the enemy for an economic war and psychological operations." — Reuters

the east. It also said 450 militants in Shaara, 60 km to the north, had turned themselves in. The southwest is one of just two large areas of Syria still in the hands of rebels seeking to topple Assad, along with a region in the northwest near the Turkish border.

Washington's sponsorship of the truce in the southwest is one of the highest-profile US diplomatic initiatives in Syria since President Donald Trump took office. But the OCHA said the big escalation in hostilities suggested there was "little commitment left to upholding the de-escalation agreement". Washington has told Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebels they should not expect military support against the offensive, according to a message sent to rebel commanders seen by Reuters.

Observatory Director Rami Abdulrahman said a total of five hospitals had been targeted in the campaign so far. Ahmad Al-Dbis, safety and security manager at UOSSM, said the bombardment had caused "material damage" to three hospitals yesterday. A fourth hospital, in Nawa, was also targeted and closed, though it was not directly hit, he said. Jordan, which already hosts some 650,000 Syrian refugees, has said it will not open the border for new refugees. The Norwegian Refugee Council urged Jordan to ensure those fleeing could seek refuge. — Reuters

herders were again blamed for an attack on a Roman Catholic Church that killed two priests and 17 worshippers. In January, attacks on farming communities killed at least 80. In a strongly-worded front page editorial yesterday, the financial daily Business Day questioned why the killings in Plateau and elsewhere had not been prevented.

"President Buhari has failed and continues to fail in his responsibility to protect Nigerians" as security chiefs had not been held to account for repeated attacks, the newspaper said. He also appeared to have shown "high-level disinterest" in making security apparatus more effective to prevent violence, it added. "If the President cannot handle the responsibility of protecting Nigerians he should do the honorable thing and resign from his position," it added. "In a situation like this he should not even be seen talking about a second term." — AFP



## Sports

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# Nishino's born-again Japan aim to keep Honda's dream alive against Poland

## Doubters silenced by Nishino's tightly-organized Japan playing with pace

**VOLGOGRAD:** Akira Nishino might be forgiven for pinching himself if Japan get the draw they need against eliminated Poland today to reach the last 16 of the World Cup. Just over two months ago he wasn't even in charge of the Blue Samurai and their most recognizable player Keisuke Honda was far from certain of being on the plane to Russia.

Now coach Nishino's side need only a point against the Poles in Volgograd to make it to the knockout stages, thanks to a late equaliser from Honda against Senegal. It followed the first World Cup win by an Asian country against a South American side when Japan overcame 10-man Colombia 2-1. Even a defeat may be enough if Senegal beat Colombia, however Japan have their fate in their own hands just months after their World Cup hopes seemed in disarray.

The Japan Football Association took a massive gamble to sack Bosnian coach Vahid Halilhodzic in April following a string of poor performances and reports of friction with senior players. But it has paid off handsomely and the doubters have been silenced by Nishino's tightly-organized Japan playing with pace, guile and no little skill to remain undefeated at the top of Group H in Russia.

### SPIKY-HAIRED LIVEWIRE

Indeed, the former AC Milan and CSKA Moscow striker Honda may not have been at the World Cup at all had Halilhodzic still been in charge, so poisonous had their relationship become. But the instantly recognisable bleach-blond, spiky-haired livewire has been born again

as an impact substitute under Nishino. Honda, who now plays for Pachuca in Mexico, became the first Japanese player to score in three World Cups after he climbed off the bench to secure the 2-2 draw in Yekaterinburg.

It was very different last August when Honda had sat glumly on the bench as Japan secured their spot in Russia with a home win against Australia. Before leaving for Russia, the outspoken striker whose goals at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa shot him to fame, took the opportunity to stick the boot into Halilhodzic.

"To submit myself to the kind of football Halilhodzic played in order to get picked, that would be shameful for me," he told national broadcaster NHK. "I'm proud that I've stayed true to myself." Past meetings between Japan and Poland give little clue as to Thursday's outcome at the Volgograd Arena. They have played just two friendlies with Japan winning both times, the last in 2002.

### BOLD PREDICTION

Poland skipper Robert Lewandowski urged his team to salvage some pride after a sorry World Cup campaign saw them the first European side to be eliminated. The Poles came to Russia with high hopes of reaching the knockout phase for the first time since 1986, but a 3-0 defeat to Colombia confirmed their early exit after an opening 2-1 reverse against Senegal. "Right now we realise we didn't do well enough but that is something we cannot overcome," said the prolific Bayern Munich striker on Tuesday.



**VOLGOGRAD:** Japan's midfielder Keisuke Honda (R) attends a training session on the eve of the Russia 2018 World Cup Group H football match between Japan and Poland at the Volgograd Arena yesterday in Volgograd. — AFP

Lewandowski, who has been unable to make a mark in the tournament, hinted at international retirement when he said that the Japan clash would be "for some of us... our last game for the national team". His strike opponent

Honda, who is as famous for his bold statements as his haircuts and goals, said he would not back down from past predictions that he and Japan would lift the famous golden trophy.—AFP

## Young Nigeria head home with high hopes for next World Cup

**KALININGRAD:** Beaten late on in Saint Petersburg Tuesday night by Lionel Messi's Argentina, Nigeria head home from Russia disappointed to exit at the group stage but full of optimism for future tournaments. Coach Gernot Rohr brought the youngest squad to Russia, and there is a sense with this Super Eagles team that their time is yet to come. "We are a young team and perhaps this World Cup comes a little bit early for them... I think they will be ready for 2022," the German said before Nigeria's first Group D match, a disappointing 2-0 loss to Croatia.

Nigeria were poor first up in Kaliningrad, ponderous in possession and failing to unlock the obvious potential in a team containing several Premier League

regulars. Rohr said after that match that his side had been "naive" in conceding twice from set pieces in a 2-0 loss.

Next up, against Iceland in Volgograd, the Super Eagles looked lost once again as they failed to get a single shot away in the first half. Whatever Rohr said during the interval appeared to have the desired effect, however, and Leicester City striker Ahmed Musa scored twice as Nigeria cruised to a 2-0 win.

Musa, who has struggled to nail down a place in Claude Puel's Foxes side, is a popular figure in Russia due to stints at CSKA Moscow and his brace made him Nigeria's top scorer at World Cups. They even had their chances against Argentina, and stretched the South Americans with their pace and physicality.

But they were profligate up front and paid the price when Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo volleyed home Argentina's winner minutes before full time. For Nigeria, a football-mad nation of 186 million people, the result condemned the national side to yet another World Cup group stage exit and continued a poor run of just two wins in their last 14 games on football's biggest stage.

Yet Rohr insists that Nigerians have



**LAGOS:** Nigerian supporters react in Lagos on Tuesday, as they watch the Russia 2018 World Cup football match between Nigeria and Argentina. — AFP

every reason to be optimistic, with young stars such as Arsenal's Alex Iwobi and Leicester trio Wilfred Ndidi, Kelechi Iheanacho and Musa set to learn and improve ahead of Qatar in 2022.

"Nigerians understand that," he said. "But we want to make them happy and it's not only the results, it's also attitude and fair play. "Football must stay a sport that's bringing values in this big country."—AFP

## Croatia on course to rival stunning run of '98

**SOCHI:** After breezing through one of the hardest groups at the World Cup, Croatia appear to be on course to rival the exploits of their "Class of '98", who were beaten in the semi-finals by eventual winners France.

Croatia's 2-1 win over Iceland on Tuesday, which followed victories over Nigeria and Argentina, secured their place at the top of Group D and a place in the last 16. They can now dream of going one better than their third-place finish in 1998, which marked their first participation in the World Cup finals as an independent nation. "We have to trust in our quality, we respect all our opponents but we don't concede that anyone is better than us," coach Zlatko Dalic said after Tuesday's win. The Balkan side and Uruguay are the only teams to have won all three of their games

so far. Not surprisingly, their sparkle has come in midfield, where players such as Barcelona's Ivan Rakitic and Real Madrid's Luka Modric, both of whom are now in their 30s, are savouring what could be their last shot at World Cup glory.

Modric has been one of the outstanding players of the tournament so far and was sublime in Croatia's 3-0 win over Argentina. Crucially, though, the 'old guard' has been backed up by a younger generation - players like Ante Rebic, Mateo Kovacic and Marcelo Brozovic - all of whom play in Europe's top leagues. Their younger legs have given Croatia a remarkable strength in depth.

Of the 23 players in the squad, 22 have been given playing time in Russia so far and it is a measure of how deep their talent pool is that reserve midfielder Milan Badelj was named man-of-the-match against Iceland. Croatia next face a defensive Denmark side in the last 16 and it is a match that will test their ability to open up a tight defence. Victory would take them to a quarter-final against either Spain or Russia. "I don't think our tournament will end in the last 16 but for now we can only focus on Denmark," Dalic said. "We can only think about what awaits us, but the most important things are still to come."—Reuters

## Iceland disappointed but proud as World Cup saga ends

**SOCHI:** Iceland's Viking mentality meant they arrived at the World Cup without an ounce of fear, despite being dropped into a difficult group, and while they battled bravely every time they stepped onto the pitch their hopes were dashed by a lack of firepower.

Two years after stunning world football by reaching the quarter-finals of Euro 2016, Iceland, the smallest nation by population ever to qualify for the World Cup, got off to a great start in Russia by holding Argentina to a 1-1 draw.

However, Nigeria proved too tough a test in their second match of Group D, a 2-0 defeat, and while Gylfi Sigurdsson missed a penalty Iceland looked like they had no idea how to drag themselves out of a hole.

Sigurdsson, by far Iceland's most creative player, missed three months of action in the leadup to the World Cup due to a knee injury and did not look his sharpest in Russia, and there did not seem to be anyone capable of picking up the slack.

Having just five shots on target and scoring one goal in their first two encounters, Iceland needed a win to have any chance of going through and threw off the shackles in their final game against Croatia, hitting the target six times and scoring through a Sigurdsson spot kick.

They also restricted Croatia to just two efforts on target, but unfortunately for Iceland both went in. While the defeat dumped Iceland out of the tournament and left them bottom of the group with one point, there was plenty of praise to go round.

"I couldn't be more proud of the players, but we are disappointed to not go through," coach Heimir Hallgrimsson told reporters following his side's exit. "It's a beautiful game but sometimes it's really tough."

Iceland's fans once again provided a vibrant dash of colour and noise to the stands as they proudly supported their team, and Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir released a statement shortly after the final whistle summing up the nation's feelings.

"It's been extremely inspiring for all of us in Iceland to see how their belief in the team and its possible success despite the odds, has carried them this far," she said.—Reuters

## Egypt set to clarify coach Cuper's fate

**NIZHNY NOVGOROD:** Hector Cuper's future as Egypt coach is set to be clarified, two days after they ended their World Cup campaign bottom of Group A, but the country's football association has already dropped a broad hint that he is on his way. With Cuper's contract at an end, the Egyptian Football Association seemed to confirm they would not be renewing it after a post on their Twitter feed thanked "the technical staff following the end of its contract".

"We will hold a news conference later to answer all the questions," it added. Cuper had been noncommittal about his future after they lost their last group game to Saudi Arabia on Monday and exited the tournament without a point, saying he would "see what will happen" after meeting with the EFA when they returned to

Cairo. Cuper had looked set to sign a new deal before the World Cup but three defeats in Russia did not sit well at home. Local media reports said the Egyptian government and parliament had called for investigation into the World Cup performance. Parliament's sports committee described the team's showing as a "disgraceful representation" and the loss to Saudi Arabia as "humiliating," accusing the EFA of committing "serious violations," in a statement released on Monday.

Other reports said some angry fans hurled obscenities at the team when they arrived back in Cairo on Tuesday. Cuper, 62, was appointed in March 2015 and ensured Egypt's first qualification to the World Cup since 1990, as well as taking a relatively inexperienced side to the final of the last African Nations Cup in early 2017. A former Argentine international, Cuper made his name as a coach by taking Mallorca to the European Cup Winners Cup final in 1999 and then Valencia to successive Champions League finals in 2000 and 2001. Egypt will have to move quickly to firm up their coaching situation with 2019 African Nations Cup qualifiers coming up in September.—Reuters

## Sports

# Washington Nationals' bats fall flat again in 1-0 loss at Tampa Bay Rays

## Host New York edged Pittsburgh 4-3

**ST PETERSBURG:** Nathan Eovaldi outduelled Max Scherzer on Tuesday as the Tampa Bay Rays polished off a two-game sweep of the Washington Nationals with a 1-0 decision at Tropicana Field in St Petersburg, Fla. Eovaldi (2-3) didn't allow a hit until Bryce Harper doubled off the top of the left field wall with two outs in the top of the sixth inning. Eovaldi rebounded, getting Anthony Rendon to bounce out to third baseman Matt Duffy for the third out. Eovaldi struck out a season-high nine and walked two over his six innings, winning for the first time since his season debut at Oakland on May 30. Sergio Romo fanned Michael A. Taylor on three pitches with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth to pick up his sixth save. Scherzer (10-4) permitted just four hits and a run over seven innings, walking three and fanning four. It marked just the second time in his last 10 starts that Scherzer didn't strike out at least nine batters.

### DIAMONDBACKS 5, MARLINS 3

John Ryan Murphy drove in three runs to lead Arizona past host Miami. Zack Godley (9-5) earned the win, improving to 4-0 in his past four starts. He allowed six hits, four walks and two runs in five innings. Marlins rookie Elieser Hernandez (0-5), making his first start in three-plus weeks, took the loss despite striking out the side in the fourth. He was lifted for a pinch hitter in the bottom of the fourth with Miami trailing 2-1. He allowed four hits, two walks and two runs, striking out a career-high eight batters.



## Boston rout visiting Los Angeles

**GIANTS 3, ROCKIES 2**  
Gorkys Hernandez drew a bases-loaded, two-out, full-count walk from Colorado relief ace Adam Ottavino in the bottom of the eighth inning, breaking a tie and sending host San Francisco to a win in the series opener. The Giants bounced right back after the Rockies had rallied to even the score at 2 in the top of the eighth on a two-out single by Trevor Story and a run-scoring double by Ian Desmond that kicked off the glove of San Francisco right fielder Andrew McCutchen. Ottavino (3-1) surrendered a one-out single to Brandon Crawford and intentionally walked Joe Panik after Crawford stole second. Austin Slater then struck out for the second out before pinch hitter Alen Hanson drew a walk to load the bases and Hernandez worked Ottavino for the go-ahead walk.

### ASTROS 7, BLUE JAYS 0

Charlie Morton twirled seven shutout innings while Jake Marisnick delivered at the plate and in the field as Houston blanked visiting Toronto. Morton (10-1) became the first member of the Houston staff to reach double digits in wins, reclaiming the form that highlighted his sensational start to this season. After scuffling with his command for three consecutive starts, the veteran right-hander displayed a masterful

control of his repertoire, issuing just two walks while surrendering four hits—all singles—and recording 13 strikeouts. The Blue Jays recorded their first hit with two outs in the fifth inning when Russell Martin lined a sharp single to left field. Randal Grichuk followed with another single, but Morton induced a groundball out from shortstop Aledmys Diaz.

### METS 4, PIRATES 3 (10 INNINGS)

Wilmer Flores delivered a walk-off RBI single with one out in the 10th inning as host New York edged Pittsburgh. The Mets snapped a seven-game losing streak and improved to 5-18 in June. The Pirates have lost six of seven. Michael Conforto led off the 10th by drawing a walk against Steven Brault (5-2). Todd Frazier followed with a single before Asdrubal Cabrera's bunt was caught by Brault. Flores then hit Brault's second pitch just fair down the third base line for his third walk-off hit of the season and ninth of his career, tying the team record.

### YANKEES 6, PHILLIES 0

Luis Severino pitched seven scoreless innings. Aaron Hicks and Didi Gregorius each homered and New York breezed past host Philadelphia. Severino (12-2) gave up six hits while striking out nine. He threw 103 pitches, 72 for strikes. Hicks, Gleyber Torres and Giancarlo Stanton each had two hits for the Yankees. Phillies starter Jake Arrieta (5-6) continued his June struggles after allowing nine hits and six runs, three earned, in five innings. Arrieta, who hasn't won a start since May 29, has a 6.66 ERA in June.

### RED SOX 9, ANGELS 1

Jackie Bradley Jr. socked a solo homer and had four RBIs to aid another strong start for David Price as Boston routed visiting Los Angeles. Price (9-5) allowed a run on five hits with two walks and seven strikeouts in six innings, earning his seventh win in nine starts. The southpaw has permitted three or fewer earned runs in each of his last nine outings. Mookie Betts, J.D. Martinez and Christian Vazquez added solo shots, and both Andrew Benintendi and Mitch Moreland drove in one run for the Red Sox, who have won four of their last five games.

### ATHLETICS 9, TIGERS 7

Jed Lowrie had the game-winning hit in the ninth inning for the second consecutive game, and Oakland rallied from a six-run deficit to hand host Detroit its seventh straight loss. Lowrie, who hit a solo homer off Detroit closer Shane Greene one day earlier, smacked an RBI single off Greene (2-5) in the AS latest victory. Lowrie finished with four hits, including a homer, drove in two runs and scored twice. Oakland improved to four games over .500 for the first time since 2014.



MIAMI: Jake Lamb #22 of the Arizona Diamondbacks doubles in the third inning for a score during the game against the Miami Marlins at Marlins Park on Tuesday in Miami, Florida. — AFP

### BREWERS 5, ROYALS 1

Freddy Peralta pitched seven dazzling innings and combined with three relievers on a three-hitter as Milwaukee beat visiting Kansas City. In his fourth career start, Peralta (3-0) only allowed a third-inning double down the right field line to Adalberto Mondesi and struck out 10. The only other baserunner he allowed was a two-out walk to Alex Gordon in the second. Christian Yelich, Jesus Aguilar and Ryan Braun homered off Jakob Junis (5-9) as Milwaukee improved to a major league-leading 39-11 when going deep.

### PADRES 3, RANGERS 2

Hunter Renfro capped a three-run eighth inning with a two-out, run-scoring double to lead San Diego to a come-from-behind win over host Texas. The Rangers had taken a 2-0 lead into the eighth on solo home runs by Rougned Odor and Robinson Chirinos. The Padres won for only the second time in 10 games while snapping a three-game losing streak. The Rangers had won eight of nine going into Tuesday night.

### MARINERS 3, ORIOLES 2

Kyle Seager lined a two-run single in the top of the eighth inning that gave Seattle a narrow win over host Baltimore. Seattle starter James Paxton (7-2) ended a brief two-start winless streak by allowing two runs on six hits in seven innings. He struck out 10 and walked one. Baltimore starter Kevin Gausman allowed one run on five

hits in six innings but came away with a no-decision thanks to the Mariners' late rally.

### REDS 5, BRAVES 3

Right-hander Matt Harvey made arguably his best start since joining the Cincinnati rotation, throwing 6 2/3 strong innings in a win over host Atlanta. Harvey (3-5) scattered six hits and walked one batter during his longest start of the season. He improved to 3-3 since joining the Reds on May 8. Rookie Jesse Winker paced the Cincinnati attack by going 3-for-4 and driving in two runs. He has hit safely in six of his last seven games, hitting .444 (8-for 18) during that stretch. Scooter Gennett had two hits to extend his hitting streak to nine games and scored three runs.

### CARDINALS 11, INDIANS 2

Matt Carpenter had two homers and Jose Martinez and Kolten Wong also homered as host St. Louis knocked out Cleveland ace Corey Kluber in the second inning en route to an easy win. Martinez's two-out, three-run homer capped a five-run second inning and chased Kluber (11-4), who gave up six hits and six runs in 1 2/3 innings in his shortest career start. He walked one and struck out two in a game delayed by rain at the start for 86 minutes. Carpenter had five hits, including a double and two singles, and scored five runs. He homered in the first and eighth innings and is 8-for-9 in the series. — Reuters

## IAAF, ASA fail to end female classification impasse

**LONDON:** The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will not soften its stance on new regulations for female classification and is ready to defend it in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), president Sebastian Coe has said.

Coe's comments follow Tuesday's meeting in London with Athletics South Africa president Aleck Skhosana in which the concerns of ASA over the new ruling were discussed. ASA and South African double Olympic and triple world 800 metres champion Caster Semenya have both separately appealed to CAS to have the new regulations that limit the levels of naturally-occurring testosterone in female athletes set aside.

Coe and Skhosana met to clarify their positions and with neither side willing to budge they have declared that CAS is the best body to rule on the dispute. "We will support our athletes on the grounds that the regulations discriminate against certain female athletes on the basis of natural physical characteristics and/or sex," Skhosana said in a media release from the IAAF yesterday. He added that ASA and Semenya have the support of the South African government and the country's Olympic Committee. But Coe says there will be no easing of the regulations, set to be introduced on Nov. 1, as the IAAF believe they are the fairest solution to a tricky challenge facing the sport.

"We need to create competition categories within our sport that ensures that success is determined by talent, dedication and hard work, rather than by other factors that are not considered fair or meaningful, such as the enormous physical advantages that an adult has over a child, or a male athlete has over a female athlete," Coe said.

"We therefore need to come up with a fair solution for intersex/DSD (differences of sexual development) athletes wishing to compete in the female category, which is what the new regulations set out to do, based on the evidence the IAAF has gathered about the degree of performance benefit that such intersex/DSD athletes get from their higher levels of circulating testosterone." — Reuters

## Serena seeded 25th for Wimbledon, Federer tops men's seedings

**LONDON:** The spectre of seven-times Wimbledon champion Serena Williams facing world number one Simona Halep in the Wimbledon first round was removed yesterday as the American was named as the 25th seed.

Debate has raged over whether the 36-year-old, 23-times Grand Slam champion, who is down at 183 in the WTA rankings following maternity leave, should be bumped up into a seeded position. The decision by the All England Club committee means Williams, winner in 2016 but absent last year because of pregnancy, will avoid big names until at least the third round.

Halep is top seed in the women's singles with 2017 champion Garbine Muguruza at three, while defending men's champion Roger Federer is number one seed despite Spaniard Rafael Nadal taking over as world number one this week. When the seedings committee met on Tuesday, the thorny issue of whether to break from the current WTA rankings, the usual criteria for seeding the women's draw, and elevate Williams was top of their agenda. It reserves the right to change the women's seedings to "produce a balanced draw" and Williams, whose protected ranking does not guarantee a seeding, clearly is a special case. At the French Open last month, when her ranking was 451, she was not seeded and came up against Australian 17th seed Ashleigh Barty in the second round, winning in three sets.

She reached the fourth round before pulling out shortly before her match against Russian Maria Sharapova. While many have said Williams, who has

## Who needs football? Cricket has billion plus fans: Survey

**NEW DELHI:** The football World Cup may be attracting viewers across the planet but cricket has a huge audience too, with a fanbase of more than a billion people, a major new survey says. The report, conducted by Nielsen Sports for the International Cricket Council, put the number of fans at 1.039 billion—mostly male, living in South Asia, and with an average age of 34.



Serena Williams

played only seven competitive matches since giving birth to daughter Alexis Olympia last September, should not be penalised for taking time out to start a family, others say seeding her is unfair.

One of them, Slovakian former Australian Open finalist Dominika Cibulkova, is the player most disadvantaged by the decision to seed Williams, as she is 32nd in the rankings and would have taken the last seeded spot.

Cibulkova could now potentially face Halep, or Williams, in the first round. "I think it's now right that WTA offers a protected ranking. I think that's good. But I think this is a little bit of a different story," she said at the Eastbourne championships.

However, 39 percent are female, the survey says, adding that the venerable, five-day Test format remains popular, attracting interest from 70 percent of fans. The ICC said it was the biggest market research project into the sport, involving 19,000 interviews around the world with fans aged 16-69. ICC chief executive Dave Richardson said it showed the sport needs to retain its focus on all three international formats: Tests, 50-over one-day games and Twenty20s.

"We get a number of doomsayers predicting the death of Tests, even 50-over cricket, but actually the strategy to focus on all three formats is still probably the right way to go," Richardson said in a conference call from Dubai. He added that the upcoming World Test Championship, starting in July next year, will only enhance the popularity of the game's traditional format.

"Why should I not be seeded if I have the right to be? "I think if it was a different player, not her, I think she would not be seeded. It's just because she won it many times and she's Serena Williams. So I think that's why." The men's seeds show a few tweaks from the ATP rankings with Wimbledon using a formula designed to take into account results on grasscourts.

Last year's runner-up Marin Cilic is number three seed despite a world ranking of five, while three-times champion Novak Djokovic is 12th seed—five spots higher than his ranking. Apart from Williams, 2016 men's runner-up Milos Raonic is the biggest riser with a 13th seeding from a ranking of 32. — Reuters

"I hope it (Test championship) will be a significant rise in interest around the world and will add to the number of fans following Tests," Richardson said.

The ICC also said that a "global strategy" was in the works to make cricket "an easier sport to follow"—the arcane "Laws of Cricket" published by Lord's Cricket Ground has 82 pages. Jargon such as googlies, jaffas, maidens and chin music make cricket notoriously inaccessible to newcomers, while the sport's support remains rooted in its traditional markets.

"Passion for cricket in the sub-continent drives 90 per cent of the fans," said Aarti Dabas, the ICC's head of media rights, broadcast and digital. The survey also identified almost 300 million active participants over the age of 16, and said 87 percent of fans want T20 cricket included in the Olympics. — AFP



SNIPPETS



# Swedes beat Mexico 3-0 but both through to last 16

## Swedes guilty of wasteful finishing in opening 45 minutes

**YEKATERINBURG:** Sweden thumped Mexico 3-0 yesterday, overpowering their opponents after a scoreless first half in a result that means both teams advance to the World Cup last 16 at the expense of defending champions Germany.

Sweden finished top of Group F on goal difference, with both teams on six points ahead of Germany and South Korea on three apiece, after the champions went down 2-0 in a shock result in Kazan. After pressing hard for most of the first half and wasting numerous chances, Sweden finally found the net when left-back Ludwig Augustinsson charged up the field in the 50th minute and angled home a left-footed volley. Twelve minutes later, captain Andreas Granqvist kept his concentration in the face of deafening boos and whistles from the Mexican fans to blast a penalty into the top left corner after Hector Moreno had brought down Marcus Berg.

Mexico's misery was complete when the ball trickled in off the leg of Edson Alvarez for a tame own goal on 74 minutes. The Mexicans were a shadow of the team that had beaten Germany and South Korea and had pundits speaking of them as potential world champions.

Needing only a draw to be sure of advancing, they somehow managed to reach the break on level terms after surviving a Swedish aerial bombardment and a VAR review. The game was packed with incident from the opening whistle, with Mexican midfielder Jesus Gallardo booked within seconds of the start for misjudging an aerial challenge on Ola Toivonen.

The Swedes were guilty of wasteful finishing in the opening 45 minutes, with Emil Forsberg in particular blazing several shots over the bar. Berg posed repeated problems for the Mexican defence, first flicking wide with his back to goal, and later firing a well-struck shot that was acrobatically turned over the bar by goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa. On the stroke of half-time, he fired into the side-netting after



**EKATERINBURG:** Mexico's defender Edson Alvarez (L) scores an own goal for 0-3 next to Sweden's forward Ola Toivonen during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between Mexico and Sweden at the Ekaterinburg Arena in Ekaterinburg yesterday. —AFP

a swift Swedish break from defence.

Mexico had an anxious moment when Javier Hernandez appeared to use his arm to control the ball in his penalty area, but after a VAR review the referee awarded a corner. But the Mexicans also threatened several times to score. Carlos Vela shot just wide after a pass from Hirving Lozano, saw another effort go over the bar and hit a third into the arms of Robin Olsen.

Mexico pressed hard after falling behind, with Javier Hernandez heading over from a corner and lat-

er firing a cross that flew perilously across the face of the Swedish goal. Hector Herrera had a long range shot fumbled, then saved by Robin Olsen, and Lozano struck a low shot into the keeper's arms in the final frenetic minutes. Mexico's desperation proved unnecessary, however, as South Korea gave them a helping hand to the last 16 with a stunning 2-0 win over the holders Germany. But without an improvement on this performance they risk falling once again at the stage where they have been knocked out in the last six World Cups. — Reuters

## Switzerland qualify for WCup knockouts, will play Sweden

**NIZHNY NOVGOROD:** Switzerland kept politics off the field and Costa Rica broke their World Cup duck in a thrilling 2-2 draw yesterday that saw the Europeans through to the next round of the World Cup where they will face Sweden.

Pre-match attention had focussed on Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri's politicised "eagle" celebrations in their last game, and Costa Rica being the only team without a tournament goal.

But this time, the Swiss kept their focus purely on their game and took a 31st minute lead when forward Blerim Dzemali blasted past Costa Rica goalkeeper Keylor Navas from close range following a nod down from Brel Embolo.

Already-eliminated Costa Rica twice hit the woodwork in a frustrating opening 15 minutes of missed chances at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium on the banks of the river Volga.

But the Central Americans finally scored their first goal in Russia when defender Kendall Waston powered home Joel Campbell's corner in the 56th minute, triggering mass celebrations like they had won the trophy.

Swiss substitute Josp Drmic drilled home his team's second in the 88th minute, before Bryan Ruiz struck a stoppage time penalty that hit the crossbar and went in off goalkeeper Yann Sommer's back.

There was a sour note for the Swiss, however, when captain Stephan Lichtsteiner, who supplied the cross for their first goal, took a second yellow



**NIZHNY NOVGOROD:** Costa Rica's defender Bryan Oviedo (L) vies for the ball with Switzerland's defender Stephan Lichtsteiner during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group E football match between Switzerland and Costa Rica at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Nizhny Novgorod yesterday. —AFP

card, meaning he will miss the knockout clash with Sweden on Tuesday in St Petersburg.

Despite their joy at scoring, Costa Rica's tournament has overall been a disappointment for their legions of red-clad fans and a far cry from their glorious 2014 run to the quarter-finals when they

lost on a penalty shootout.

Switzerland, driven on by the inventive Shaqiri, ended Group E as runners-up to Brazil, who beat Serbia 2-0 to top the group. Both sides could have won a free-flowing and open-ended game in Nizhny Novgorod, with a flurry of late chances. — Reuters

## Colombia look for golden boy Rodriguez to be main man again

**SAMARA:** Colombia's James Rodriguez, the star of the World Cup in Brazil four years ago, is once again looking to showcase his skills at the showpiece event and remind the world of his talent. The 26-year-old, whose indifferent club performances have seen him meander out of the sport's spotlight, looks to have hit form at just the right time once more for his country.

After starting on the bench when not fully fit in the 2-1 defeat by Japan, he was at his best in the 3-0 win over Poland. With victory required in Colombia's final Group H game against Senegal in Samara today to guarantee a place in the knockout rounds, the South Americans are again pinning their hopes on the playmaker to steer them into the last 16.

In a team with other quality attacking players, including Radamel Falcao and Juan Cuadrado, it is still Rodriguez who makes them tick and Los Cafeteros were noticeably more threatening with him in full flow against Poland.

Rodriguez's scintillating form in Brazil four years ago took Colombia to the quarter-finals, secured him the Golden Boot and paved the way for a 71.5 million euros (\$82.97 million) move to Spanish giants Real Madrid.

However, after three years in the Spanish capital, where Rodriguez failed to match the impact of Gareth Bale or Cristiano Ronaldo, he was sent out on loan to Bayern Munich, seemingly unwanted by Real.

At Bayern, where he is on loan for two seasons, Rodriguez struggled with form and fitness initially but under coach Jupp Heynckes he has flourished into a key member of the side that secured their sixth consecutive Bundesliga title.

He now seems poised to make his mark once again on football's biggest stage. His pass for Cuadrado to score Colombia's third goal against Poland was arguably the assist of the tournament.

Rodriguez is something of a World Cup specialist, having scored six goals and claimed four assists in seven games at finals, and will aim to add to that tally against the Africans.

If he does deliver to take Colombia through to the second round, the golden boy of four years ago may feel he has the world at his feet once again. — Reuters

**WORLD CUP 2018**

**Today's Matches (All local timings)**

Senegal	🇸🇳	17:00	🇨🇴	Colombia
Japan	🇯🇵	17:00	🇵🇱	Poland
England	🇬🇧	21:00	🇹🇷	Belgium
Panama	🇵🇦	21:00	🇹🇳	Tunisia

**25** Egypt set to clarify coach Cuper's fate

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**27** Swedes beat Mexico 3-0 but both through to last 16



## Champions Germany crash out of WCup

Late second goal by Son Heungmin earned S Korea a famous 2-0 win



**KAZAN:** South Korea's midfielder Ju Se-jong (R) crosses the ball as he is marked by Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between South Korea and Germany at the Kazan Arena in Kazan yesterday. — AFP

**KAZAN ARENA:** Germany crashed out of the World Cup yesterday after a stoppage-time VAR-assisted goal from Younngwon Kim and a late second by Son Heungmin earned South Korea a famous 2-0 win.

The Germans needed to beat Korea by two clear goals in their final group F match at Kazan stadium to advance to the last 16.

But Joachim Loew's men wasted a series of chances in a tense match that saw a pale version of the world champions become the fourth holders of the title this century to be sent packing at the first hurdle.

Germany's team of superstars could only look on in shock in the final minutes of the match as US referee Mark Geiger called for the video assistant referee to intervene after the unmarked Kim had bundled his shot

past Germany 'keeper Manuel Neuer from a corner early in stoppage time. The goal was awarded because Toni Kroos' touch had played him inside, and minutes later Germany were 2-0 down after Neuer ran up the pitch in a desperate attempt to get a goal. A long punt upfield saw Tottenham forward Son chase a clearance to fire into an empty net.

It means Germany, the four-time champions who had competed in the past 16 editions of the World Cup, fail to make it past the first hurdle of the tournament since 1938. Germany coach Joachim Loew caused a surprise by leaving midfield attacking stalwart Thomas Mueller on the bench for the first time since 2012 after his underwhelming displays against Mexico and Sweden.

But by the end of a frustrating opening half, Loew

was left desperately studying his options. Germany suffered the first of several scares after South Korea won a free kick on the quarter hour when Sami Khedira's boot connected with the head of Jung Wooyoung.

From 30 yards out, it should have been fodder for World Cup-winning goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, but after fumbling Jung's dipping drive Neuer scrambled desperately to clear as Son raced to pounce.

Germany spurned a series of chances soon afterwards. Marco Reus, who hit a crucial leveller in the 2-1 win over Sweden, saw his drive deflected and Mesut Ozil saw his effort deflected off a Korean boot and out for a corner, after which goalkeeper Hyeonwoo Jo smothered desperately when Goretzka's header found Hummels trying to pounce on the loose ball. Germany

resumed with more urgency after the interval, but despite edging closer when Loew introduced Mario Gomez just before the hour the big Stuttgart striker headed straight at Jo from Kimmich's cross. Striker Timo Werner then met another Kimmich ball from the left byline with a right-foot volley that skewed agonisingly wide of Jo's upright. Germany urgency was not matched by their normal efficiency and soon legs started to tire.

Loew played his final card when he introduced Mueller for Leon Goretzka. But the late changes failed to spark Germany into life as Korea hung on for a famous win that, unfortunately for the impressive Asians, saw them bow out after Sweden beat Mexico 3-0. — AFP

## Thiago, Paulinho steer Brazil into WCup's last 16

**MOSCOW:** Brazil eased into the World Cup knockout stages after defeating Serbia 2-0 here yesterday, with superstar Neymar sparking in a win which sets up a last 16 clash against Mexico. Paulinho put Brazil ahead with a superb dinked finish on 36 minutes before Neymar swung in a cross for Thiago Silva to header the Selecao's second goal with 22 minutes left in Moscow.

Having opened his Russia 2018 account with the second of Brazil's two late goals in Friday's 2-0 win over Costa Rica, Neymar was again impressive. After the tearful emotion of Saint Petersburg, Neymar cut a more joyful figure after this win, blowing kisses to the crowd as the five-time champions celebrated.

As Group E winners, Brazil will now face

Mexico in Samara on Monday, with group runners-up Switzerland taking on Sweden in St. Petersburg on Tuesday. In the pre-match build-up Brazil coach Tite said Neymar alone cannot "shoulder the responsibility" for his team's World Cup hopes.

However, the 26-year-old seemed content to carry Brazil's attack, motoring through Serbia's midfield and crashing an early shot just wide of the post. The match at Moscow's Spartak Stadium began at a ferocious tempo and Brazil left-back Marcelo was an early casualty, limping off after ten minutes to be replaced by Filipe Luis. Neymar had the best chance of the opening half hour when he forced Serbia goalkeeper Vladimir Stojkovic to palm his shot away. Tempers frayed when Serbia midfielder Adem Ljajic scythed down Neymar, in full flight on the left flank, to earn a booking on 33 minutes.

Brazil conjured the opener from nothing when a beautifully lofted pass from Philippe Coutinho found Paulinho, who flicked the ball over Stojkovic's reach on 36 minutes to make it 1-0 at the break.

Serbia repeatedly struggled to contain Brazil's fleet-footed attack. Manchester United

midfielder Nemanja Matic was the next Serbian midfielder to be booked when he fouled Manchester City star Gabriel Jesus on 48 minutes. Serbia's brightest spell came with half an hour left, only to be let down by poor finishing. Ljajic stumbled to take a return pass after a charging run into Brazil's box and then fired over shortly after.

Then with his defence beaten, Brazil goalkeeper Alisson palmed a save straight at Aleksandar Mitrovic, but the Serbia forward could only head the ball back into the grateful arms of the Brazilian shotstopper.

To cap Serbia's frustrations, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic fired wide, then Mitrovic guided a powerful header straight at Alisson from a corner. However, Brazil made sure of the win when Neymar swung in a free-kick and his Paris Saint-Germain team-mate Thiago crashed home his header, unmarked at the near post, on 68 minutes.

With one eye on the last 16, Tite took off Coutinho with ten minutes left while Neymar twice went close to scoring the Selecao's third late on, but the Brazil coach can be happy with his star forward. — AFP



**MOSCOW:** Brazil's forward Neymar jumps to control the ball during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group E football match between Serbia and Brazil at the Spartak Stadium in Moscow yesterday. — AFP