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# Kuwait marks first light crude export with lavish ceremony

Rasheedi: Oil sector has notched up another milestone achievement

## Zain exceeds expectations with whopping \$3bn revenue reported

KUWAIT: Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced its consolidated financial results for the third-quarter and nine-month periods ending Sept 30, 2018. The company ended the period serving 47.8 million customers, reflecting a 5 percent year-on-year increase.

For the third-quarter of 2018, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 403 million (\$1.3 billion), EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 155 million (\$512 million). Net income for the three months amounted to KD 51 million (\$167 million). Earnings per share for the third-quarter reached 12 fils (\$0.03). For the first nine months (9M) of 2018 to Sept 30, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 906 million (\$3.0 billion), while consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 324 million (\$1.1 billion). Consolidated net income amounted to KD 137 million (\$454 million). Earnings per share amounted to 32 fils (\$0.10) for the nine-month period.

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Zain Group Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented: "The third-quarter witnessed numerous milestones that included the value accretive consolidation of Zain Saudi Arabia, the ongoing revival of Zain Iraq on



Zain Group Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi

multiple levels, and the robust revenue growth in our data monetization programs, Enterprise (B2B), cloud services, as well as smart city initiatives in key markets, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia." (See Page 12)

KUWAIT: Under the auspices of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait yesterday held a ceremony to promulgate the state's first shipment of light crude oil. Upon his arrival at the ceremony, HH the Amir was warmly welcomed by Minister of Oil and Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rasheedi, along with senior officials in the oil sector. HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem were also among the attendees.

Rasheedi said the oil sector has notched up another milestone achievement with the shipment of its first light crude oil cargo. Addressing HH the Amir, Rasheedi attributed the achievement to the efforts of the oil sector's workforce. He hailed the export as a launch pad for greater oil production, which will serve to reinforce Kuwait's position as an oil and gas powerhouse, fitting into national plans to build a stronger economy.

In his speech, Kuwait Oil Company CEO Jamal Jaafar said developing the country's Jurassic reservoirs to help meet soaring domestic gas demand is among the company's top priorities. Kuwait's first shipment of light crude oil did not come without a struggle on the company's part, he explained, saying that the workers in the oil sector were determined to bring their goals to fruition, helping drive the national economy to new heights. Kuwait stands at the cusp of a new era in oil and gas production, he said, wishing the country continuing growth and development. — KUNA



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends a ceremony to mark the state's first shipment of light crude oil yesterday. Minister of Oil and Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rasheedi is seen at left. — KUNA

## Trump defiant as partisan warfare looms after vote

WASHINGTON: A defiant President Donald Trump yesterday shrugged off the loss of the House of Representatives as Washington braced for the prospects of partisan warfare after US voters delivered a split verdict in a hard-fought midterm election. With Democrats promising aggressive probes of Trump's administration and his personal finances after winning the House, the president went on the offensive. "If the Democrats think they are going to waste Taxpayer Money investigating us at the House level, then we will likewise be forced to consider investigating them for all of the leaks of Classified information, and much else, at the Senate level," Trump said on Twitter. "Two can play that game!"

Trump also lashed out at the ongoing investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into whether his 2016 election campaign colluded with Russia to help

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WASHINGTON: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman, celebrate a projected Democratic Party takeover of the House of Representatives during a midterm election night party on Tuesday. — AFP (See Page 7)

## MPs demand probe into rain damage

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Five lawmakers yesterday filed a petition demanding a broad investigation into who is responsible for the devastation caused by heavy rains that lashed the country two days ago, resulting in heavy damage. MPs Mohammad Al-Dallal, Riyadh Al-Adasani, Osama Al-Shaheen, Omar Al-Tabtabaei and Majed Al-Mutairi demanded that the National Assembly's public utilities panel be

assigned to launch a comprehensive probe into this matter.

They said the panel should probe the ministries of public works and electricity and the public roads authority or any other concerned government agency for failure to make the necessary preparations for the rainy season. They gave the committee two months to prepare a comprehensive report on the issue to be debated by the Assembly, which should take the necessary actions after that.

The lawmakers demanded in their petition that the committee find out who is responsible for the failure to make the necessary preparations and also the reasons for what happened. They said the committee should also review the

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OLATHE, Kansas: Democratic candidate for Kansas' 3rd Congressional District Sharice Davids greets supporters during an election night party on Tuesday. — AFP



MINNEAPOLIS: Ilhan Omar, newly elected to the US House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket, speaks to a group of supporters on Tuesday. — AFP

## Muslim, Native American women in historic wins

CHICAGO: A onetime Somali refugee and the daughter of Palestinian immigrants shared the historic distinction Tuesday of becoming the first two Muslim women elected to the US Congress. Both women - Ilhan Omar,

37, and Rashida Tlaib, 42 - are Democrats from the Midwest and outspoken advocates of minority communities that have found themselves in the sights of US President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant policies. Omar won a House seat in a strongly Democratic district in Minneapolis, Minnesota, succeeding Keith Ellison who was himself the first Muslim ever elected to Congress. Tlaib's victory was no surprise. She ran unopposed in a congressional district that stretches from Detroit to Dearborn, Michigan.

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## Bolsonaro Israel embassy move: High-risk mix of religion, politics

RIO DE JANEIRO: In announcing his intention to move Brazil's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, President-elect Jair Bolsonaro may please his evangelical Christian support base, but would break with a half century of diplomacy. In following the lead of his US counterpart Donald Trump, the incoming president of Latin America's biggest country would not only isolate the country diplomatically but also run the risk of provoking commercial retaliation from Arab states, some of which are major importers of Brazilian meat.

"Brazil has been supporting a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine for more than 50 years and this decision could throw all those efforts into the bin," said Guilherme Casaroes, a political science professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation think-tank. Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem following the 1967 Six-Day War with Egypt, Syria and Jordan, has never been internationally recognized.

The United Nations maintains an ambiguous position over any eventual final status for the sacred city - cher-



RAMALLAH: Palestinians deliver their complaints to the Brazilian deputy consul Andre Cortez as they demonstrate against the Brazilian's president-elect's decision to move Brazil's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem outside the Brazilian Representative Office yesterday. — AFP

ished by the three major Abrahamic religions - but a 1947 resolution says it should become a "corpus separatum", run independently of either Israel or the Palestinians. To that end, no embassies should be established there until a solution has been agreed upon by both sides.

That was the line followed by Brasilia until Bolsonaro won a second-round run-off election against leftist candidate Fernando Haddad on October 28. He will be inaugurated as Brazil's president on Jan 1.

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## Local

# Amir receives Saudi Shura Council speaker; Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

## Amir meets Prime Minister; outgoing Iranian Ambassador



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Saudi Shura Council Speaker Sheikh Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nadia Murad.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Reza Enayati.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met yesterday with the visiting Saudi Shura Council Speaker Sheikh Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh and his accompanying delegation, with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem attending. The audience took place at the venue of a ceremony organized by the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). His Highness the Amir then received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah hosted 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nadia Murad, congratulating her on the award and commending her humani-

arian role and effort to fight war crimes. His Highness the Amir finally met the outgoing Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Reza Enayati. The audiences were attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Murad lauded His Highness the Amir's humanitarian role, saying she needs much backing from Kuwait, and humanitarian support and advice from His Highness the Amir. She said in a statement following her meeting with His Highness the Amir that she came to Kuwait in order to get more familiar with His Highness the Amir's humanitarian work. "His Highness the Amir's message to

me is that I should forget about the past and focus on the future instead. His Highness the Amir will back me as well as my humanitarian work, and that's what we really need. We are proud of His Highness the Amir as a Humanitarian Leader," she added.

Murad elaborated that she began her humanitarian mission as a Yazidi victim from Iraq, especially before the retaking of Sinjar, liberation of victims, demining in Sinjar and home-return of Yazidis. She added that the demining operation in Sinjar has already been carried out with the help of the French government and the US Department of State. "But what we need and we are

working on now is the reconstruction of Sinjar, which has been the worst-hit area in Iraq and its infrastructure was destroyed, as Daesh (the so-called Islamic State) remained there for three years," she noted.

She went on to say that all communities have returned home, but Yazidis, who are over 350,000 in number, are still living at refugee camps due to the fact that there are no basic services in Sinjar. Earlier during the meeting with His Highness the Amir, Murad thanked Kuwait for hosting an international reconstruction conference on Iraq, calling on all Iraqi politicians and civilians to be proud of this matter. — KUNA

## Kuwaiti ambassador stresses deep-rooted relations with Saudi



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Saudi Shura Council Speaker Sheikh Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh and other guests pose for a group photo. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah praised yesterday the deep-rooted bilateral ties between the two countries and peoples. This came during a dinner banquet Sheikh Thamer held at Dar Jaber in honor of visiting Saudi Shura Council Speaker Sheikh Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh and the official delegation accompanying him on the occasion of

their official visit to the country. Sheikh Thamer noted the strong and fateful relations between the two countries since ancient times, which are now receiving more care from His Highness the Amir and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. He also stressed the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait's National Assembly and Saudi's Shura Council which aim at strengthening ties and coordi-

inating positions regionally and internationally. Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, GCC's Secretary General Abdullatif Al-Zayani, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled, Kuwaiti National Assembly's General Secretary Allam Al-Kanderi and some of Kuwait Parliament members attended the dinner banquet. — KUNA

## Ambassador discusses with French-Gulf Friendship group bilateral projects

PARIS: Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Sulaiman discussed yesterday with the GCC-French Parliamentary Friendship Group in the French Senate the upcoming bilateral projects between the two countries. Sulaiman said that the meeting, which was held Tuesday night at the embassy, comes within the framework of the distinguished relations and cooperation between Kuwait's National assembly and French senate. He added that the delegation from the French Senate will be in attendance during the beginning of December to strengthen bilateral ties.

Sulaiman said that during the meeting he discussed the possibility that the French senate could host cultural and economic events in which a number of experts from both sides can take part in. Meanwhile, head of GCC-French Parliamentary Friendship Group Senator Jean-Marie Boukif praised the friendly relations with Kuwait's National Assembly and affirmed the importance of such meetings to strengthen ties. The meeting was attended by vice president senator Dany Wattebled and a number of French senate members. — KUNA



PARIS: Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Sulaiman meets with the GCC-French Parliamentary Friendship Group in the French Senate. — KUNA

## Iraq to return TV, radio archives to Kuwait

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Hazem Al-Yousefi informed Kuwait's Ambassador in Baghdad Salem Al-Zamanan of the transfer scheduled next week of Kuwait TV and radio archives, read a ministry statement. Baghdad took the move in the wake of its commitment to enhancing bilateral relations, mainly in the political and economic domains, and to resolve all unresolved predicaments, the archive matter included. It comes "after efforts were exerted to search for and gather the Kuwaiti archives, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2107," ordered by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Hakim, added the official. United Nations representatives will be in attendance during the hand over, he said. Iraqi forces looted

Kuwaiti national archive, including those of TV and Radio, during the seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1990-91.

Separately, Hakim praised Kuwait's support for his country, calling on the Kuwaitis to invest in reconstruction projects in Iraq. This came during a meeting with Ambassador Zamanan on Tuesday. A statement by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said that the Minister stressed the importance of coordinating positions in international organizations and the League of Arab States, calling for exchanging visits between officials of the two countries in the framework of enhancing bilateral relations and exchanging expertise.

The minister reiterated his thanks to Kuwait's support for his country, especially in hosting the International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq, calling on the Kuwaiti side to invest in Iraq and contribute to the reconstruction of infrastructure. Meanwhile, Zamanan stressed the good relations between the two countries, calling for a new round of meetings of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti Joint Committee. He also renewed invitation to the Minister to visit Kuwait to discuss common files. — KUNA



BAGHDAD: Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Hakim meets with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan. — KUNA



Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Hazem Al-Yousefi meets with Kuwait's Ambassador Salem Al-Zamanan.

Local



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah patronized and attended yesterday a ceremony held to promulgate the Gulf state's first shipment of light crude oil. Top state officials and senior oil sector personnel attended the ceremony which was organized by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). — Amiri Diwan photos

## EQUATE hosts roundtable organized by GPCA

KUWAIT: Senior government and industry leaders from across the Arabian Gulf and globally converged at an important industry roundtable, organized by the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) and sponsored by EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals yesterday in Kuwait.

The high-level meeting titled 'Government and Chemical Industry Collaboration in Chemical Management and Hazardous Waste', included participation from Naser Aldousari, Senior Vice President, EQUATE, Dr Abdulwahab Al-Sadoun, Secretary General, GPCA, and Dan Rocznik, Director Outreach, American Chemistry Council.

The agenda discussed important topics concerning collaboration between government and private organizations, GPCA's overall efforts, the prerequisites of establishing a robust recycling industry in the region, the opportunities and challenges for industrial waste recycling or chemicals transportation and the case for ADR, formally, the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road



KUWAIT: A group photo of attendants at the 'Government and Chemical Industry Collaboration in Chemical Management and Hazardous Waste' roundtable.

(ADR), as well as Responsible Care in the GCC.

Dr Sadoun commented: "We are pleased to have had such a positive outcome at this important government-industry roundtable which gathered together senior government officials, industry leaders and regulators to discuss ways of collaboration between GCC governments and the chemical industry that effectively address chemical management risks and leverages industrial hazardous waste opportunities. By organizing this meeting with the support of EQUATE, we aim to improve the awareness and foster dialogue among regulators on best available practices across the globe,

while increasing collaboration to facilitate the development of regulations related to Global Harmonization System (GHS) and Dangerous Goods Road Transportation (DGRT) by working in partnership with the relevant stakeholders."

Meanwhile, Aldousari said: "Collaboration between our industry and the government regulators is a key element for overall progress, development and growth. As this forum is co-organized by GPCA and EQUATE, we must take note of the challenging role of GPCA as it represents over 95% of the petrochemical producers in the Gulf. While GPCA is establishing initiatives, sustain-

ing and maintaining the success of such initiatives is the role of this regulatory forum that brings together both government and private bodies. Our goals here are simple: Through this partnership between regulatory bodies and GPCA, we want to have common regulations to facilitate regional trade, as well as strengthen our global presence and competitiveness."

Attended by over 90 delegates from the GCC and other parts of the world, the roundtable included representatives from GPCA member companies, as well as environmental authorities, industrial bodies, fire departments, armed forces, customs and others.



GPCA Secretary General Al-Sadoun addresses the audience.



EQUATE Senior VP Aldousari speaks during the event.

## PM heads Supreme Petroleum Council's meeting



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah headed at Bayan Palace yesterday the 120th meeting of Kuwait's Supreme Petroleum Council. — KUNA

## Local

# Egyptian-Kuwaiti forum aims to develop economic cooperation

## Foreign investments in Egypt exceeded \$110 million in 2017

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the opening ceremony of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Forum was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Kuwait, dubbed 'Brothers, Partners'. Chairman of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Council Mohammed Jassem Al-Saqr said the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Council enjoys great interest in Kuwait, especially by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He added that the topics and themes of the forum aim to develop economic cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait to reach a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two brotherly countries. He pointed out that the investment environment in Egypt has developed significantly over the last few years.

In 2017, following the implementation of an economic reform program, foreign investments in Egypt reached more than \$110 million, with half of the total investment projects established by Arab countries and more than 40 percent of Arab direct investment projects. Egypt is ranked third in attracting investments after Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Saqr added that the average trade exchange between Egypt and Kuwait during the past three years amounted to about \$500 million, apart from petroleum

products, 86 percent of which are Egyptian exports to Kuwait and 14 percent are Kuwaiti exports to Egypt. He praised the efforts of Egypt's Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq Al-Qouni for his great efforts in coordinating all matters related to the first meeting of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Council.

Chairman of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Council Moataz Al-Alfi said Kuwaiti investments started in Egypt before the revolution of July 23, which confirms the importance of Egypt. He affirmed that Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations are based on love and cooperation, pointing out that the blood of the two peoples mingled with the pure lands of the two countries, whether through Kuwaiti participation in the two wars of attrition and of Oct 1973 or through the participation of the Egyptian army in liberating

**“ Kuwaiti investments started before revolution ”**

Kuwait in the Gulf War.

The ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, advisors, senior officials of the state, the diwan of the prime minister, members of the diplomatic corps and a number of businessmen from both countries. The opening session featured a documentary about the history of close relations between the two countries.

The first forum of Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation, which was sponsored by National Bank of Kuwait with the participation of Sheikhha Al-Bahar, Deputy CEO at NBK, aimed at highlighting the distinguished relationship between the two countries and is a promising plat-



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attends the opening ceremony of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Forum. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

form for benefiting from it at all levels. The event provides an opportunity for interested investors and companies from both countries, and to identify investment opportunities that meet their aspirations.

## Stability unreachable without economic, social security: Minister

**KUWAIT:** A society's security could not be achieved without having effective economic and social security policies that meet people needs and preserve their rights. Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf has stated. He made his remarks at the inauguration of the 19th conference of the International Conference of Social Security Actuaries, Statisticians and Investment Specialists which kicked off in Kuwait Tuesday under aegis of His Highness the Amir.

Hajraf added that the conference would serve as a platform for addressing many challenges. He pointed out that the International Social Security Association (ISSA)'s choice of Kuwait to host this conference is a proof of the global and regional status enjoyed by Kuwait. He highlighted the pivotal role played by the Kuwait Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), the conference organizer, in formulating the ISSA's strategies and visions for the future of the social security industry around the world and devising solutions to meet the challenges. He pointed out that PIFSS has started an ambitious program in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education for graduating Kuwaiti actuaries.

Meanwhile, PIFSS Director-General Hamad Al-Humaidhi said in a similar speech that the institution's goal of expanding social security and narrowing the gap in insurance coverage was based on the available global estimates that only 20 percent of the world population receives appropriate social security coverage. Humaidhi cited what he called the fourth industrial revolution and the transition to the digital economy as the main challenges facing economies and insurance industry worldwide. The growing number of digital platforms and rapid automation of services would greatly impact the traditional patterns of employment as the new technology would replace many jobs, he said, stressing the importance of working out new visions and strategic mechanisms for this transformation. He thanked His Highness the Amir for his patronage of this conference, which hosts about 300 investment, actuaries and statistical experts.

In the meantime, Secretary-General of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Hans-Horst Konkolewsky emphasized the importance of actuary work in achieving sustainability in various domains. The issue of sustainability is now more important and complex than in the past, he argued. He noted that there was an increasing focus on assessing social security programs. The three-day conference brings together more than 250 delegations from 90 organizations and 57 countries, as well as a number of internationally renowned actuaries, economists and statisticians. The event provides an unrivalled platform to discuss and debate the key issues facing social security and the role of actuaries and investment experts in addressing them. The conference features contributions from all world regions, and will analyze examples of recent actuarial work addressing the challenges facing social security, as well as highlighting the role of institutions in undertaking and managing this work supported by the ISSA-ILO Guidelines on Actuarial Work for Social Security. — KUNA

Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf

## 'Nutribox' named winner of 4th KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs

**KUWAIT:** Nutribox, a healthy living smart phone application, was named the first place winner of the 4th KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs. Technocare was awarded second place, while Zidnei came third.

The announcement was made on the second day of the 7th Youth Empowerment Symposium, held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), Faisal Al-Ayyar, announced the winners. The award is a collaboration between KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and the Youth Empowerment Organization (Tmkeen). The grand prize awarded to the first place winner is \$100,000 in services from the KIPCO Group, including financial, strategic and operational consultation sessions, market analysis studies, insurance coverage and advertising. In addition, this year's three finalists were also given cash prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

Nutribox - founded by Noora AlAskar - is the Arab World's first intelligent and interactive healthy living platform that guides and empowers people to lose weight and live healthily by connecting them to a curated marketplace of healthy food and with healthy living experts for private consultations.

Technocare - founded by Aljazi Alajmi and Aishah Alenezi - is a product that consists of a smart watch and an application that helps patients with many of their needs in early stages of a disease. It also helps the family monitor the patient. Zidnei - founded by Abdulaziz Alfahhan and Abdulrahman Alalouch - is an e-learning platform for secondary school students, offering tuition in maths, physics, chemistry, English, aptitude tests and IELTS. The three finalists gave presentations to a live audience on the first day of the symposium. The 'Startup Battle' judging panel included Founder and CEO of Cooler Screens and Founder of Argo Tea, Arsen Avakian; CEO of KAMCO, Faisal Sarkhou; and CEO of Boutiqaat.com, Abdulwahab Al-Essa.

Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said: "Young entrepreneurs have an opportunity to be innovative and express their creativity and talent through the businesses they set up. At KIPCO, we believe that this is a necessary contribution to the diversification of our local economy. We are very proud of the great ideas that we have seen in the two judging rounds, as the youth of Kuwait challenge themselves in ways that have allowed them to set new standards for entrepreneurial success in the region. I would like to congratulate Nutribox for winning this year's title, and



**KUWAIT:** The top three winners with KIPCO Vice Chairman (Executive) Faisal Al-Ayyar.



**First place winner, Nutribox.**

wish the teams of Technocare and Zidnei all the best." Ali Al-Ibrahim, CEO of the Youth Empowerment Organization, added: "Tmkeen takes prides in its collaboration with KIPCO to organize this award on an annual basis. We would like to congratulate the entrepreneurs who participated in this year's award, all of whom have shown passion for the work they do, and are committed and dedicated to continue to battle the challenges that they face in order to grow their businesses. We look

forward to continuing to work with our partners, KIPCO Group, in encouraging and supporting Kuwait's youth in creating a better tomorrow."

KIPCO Group companies - including Burgan Bank, OSN, Gulf Insurance Group, KAMCO Investment Company, United Real Estate, Qurain Petrochemical Industries, United Education, United Networks and Marina FM - are supporters of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs.



**Third place winner, Zidnei.**



**Second place winner, Technocare.**

Local

# Minister names replacements for sacked, suspended officials

Emergency units received over 10,000 cases due to rainfall



## PAAET hosts GCC officials

**KUWAIT:** The second meeting of the team preparing the strategic plan for joint cooperation in the field of technical education and occupational training in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (2019-2023) was held in the presence of Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and

Training (PAAET) Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf. Dr Mudhaf began by welcoming the GCC team and expressing his appreciation for their efforts to raise the standard of technical education and training. Meanwhile, PAAET Deputy Director General for Training Affairs Eng Tareq Al-Ameeri said the team discussed several issues, mainly the strategic plan that was presented by Eng Ahmad Jalalah from Saudi Arabia. They also discussed the strategic plan for the next five years, he said, adding that there are contacts with several international bodies to learn from their experience in technical and skillful training.

## Kuwait keen on supporting UNRWA operations: Matouq

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait is keen on supporting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's (UNRWA) operations, said Chairman of Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and Amiri Diwan advisor Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq yesterday. Dr Matouq's statement came on the sidelines of his meeting with Chief of the UNRWA Donor Relations Division Marc Lassouaoui and the agency's External Relations and Projects Officer Munir Manneh.

The IICO chairman said that Kuwait, under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, will always provide a helping hand to their brethren in Palestine. He added that GCC and Arab countries should intensify their efforts to cover the deficit at UNRWA after the US decided to pull out its \$350 million contribution.

UNRWA plays an integral role in attending to the educational, health, and social needs of all Palestinians especially in the Gaza Strip and the diaspora, said Dr Matouq who commended the brave stance of National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghani in favor of the Palestinian cause during his global parliamentary participations. Regarding the IICO's future endeavors, Dr Matouq revealed that the organization will kick start on November 26 the Eighth Annual Conference on Effective Partnership and Information Sharing for Better Humanitarian Action. The event will witness the launching of an initiative to feed one billion people around the globe. The initiative also includes programs to provide soft loans, launch small business projects, and other integral



**KUWAIT:** Chairman of Kuwait's (IICO) and Amiri Diwan advisor Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq meets with Chief of the UNRWA Donor Relations Division Marc Lassouaoui. — KUNA

objectives to empower those who are in need, said the IICO chairman. Meanwhile, UNRWA's Lassouaoui said that the agency was facing great challenges that might affect its operations as a result of the US contributions pullout. This year, the EU, Sweden, Japan, Holland, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE pledged \$390 million; however, UNRWA only received \$51 million so far, said Lassouaoui who affirmed that despite the current status quo, the agency continues to provide assistance to Palestinians.

In the meantime, UNRWA's Manneh revealed that the agency faced a \$446 million deficit, adding that the pledges this year helped to reduce that number to \$64 million. He said that Kuwait and other donor countries were up to the challenges that lie ahead, affirming that UNRWA will manage to attend to the needs of Palestinians especially those residing in the Gaza Strip. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's (UNRWA) was founded in 1948 to assist some five million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Middle East. — KUNA

## 5,328 minor accident cases settled in October

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Minor traffic accidents settled during the month of October were 1,484 in the Capital governorate, 1,483 in Hawally, 604 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, 629 in Ahmadi, 817 in Farwaniya and 311 in Jahra, a total of 5,328 cases. The number of settlements from Nov 4 to 6 was 141 in the Capital, 191 in Hawally, 53 in

Mubarak Al-Kabeer, 60 in Ahmadi, 108 in Farwaniya and 29 in Jahra, a total of 582 settlements. The relations and security information department at the Interior Ministry said the law fines the person who caused the accident KD 20 and the settlement papers will be sent to the insurance company, with the affected person to receive compensation, without the need to go to court.

## 'Exclusive bus for Kuwaitis' video inaccurate: Station

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** A video that went viral on social media yesterday about a public bus exclusively for Kuwaitis has incorrect information. This video was taken from a report broadcast on KTV1 as part of the 'Layali Al-Kuwait' show on Monday. Viewers understood that the new blue buses only provide services to Kuwaitis, which they considered as discriminatory.

Programmer Ala' Al-Banay, who prepared the TV show that included the report about these new buses, told Kuwait Times that the offices of City Bus told her the service was for Kuwaitis and didn't provide detailed explanations. "When people started calling after the video spread, I contacted the official from City Bus, who told me she had meant to promote the bus service to Kuwaitis, and not that it's just for citizens. The official told me that the main purpose of these buses is to be rented by Kuwaitis for private picnics or tours," explained Banay.

According to the video, these buses will provide special services such as Wi-Fi, mobile charging ports, drinks and other services. City Bus didn't respond to Kuwait Times' call to comment on the video.

## Kuwait thankful for Gulf War payments reparations

**GENEVA:** Kuwait yesterday said it appreciated a UN commission's work to make up for losses the Gulf state incurred as a result of the 1990 Iraqi invasion and subsequent Gulf War. Kuwait has received this year three installments of compensations worth \$90 million each from the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), its public authority for assessment of compensation for damages resulting from the Iraqi invasion said. It revealed that Kuwait still awaits \$4.4 billion worth of compensation, which it will receive in the near future. The UNCC was formed in 1991 as a United Nations Security Council body, with the aim of processing claims and paying compensation for losses and damage Kuwait suffered after it was invaded by its larger neighbor. Separately, Kuwait has affirmed that the reforms undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat, including the reform of the pillar of peace and security, will undoubtedly increase the coherence of the work of the United Nations police in the field in all 'peace operations.' — KUNA

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Public Works Hosam Al-Roumi yesterday assigned Soha Ashkanani to replace the former chairman of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) Ahmad Al-Hassan, who was sacked on Tuesday. Roumi also assigned Abdul Aziz Al-Sabah as assistant undersecretary for maintenance engineering affairs and Waleed Al-Ghanem as assistant undersecretary for hygiene engineering affairs, replacing the suspended Mohammed bin Nakhi and Abdul Mohsen Al-Enezi respectively. Meanwhile, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) officially referred former Ministry of Public Works (MPW) undersecretary Awatif Al-Ghunaim to retirement.

Tension between MPW and PART has accelerated over the recent rain crisis, said informed sources, noting that Roumi cancelled a press conference for Hassan because the official was no longer an MPW employee after he was relieved from his duties because of the flooding and his departure to the US to attend a meeting in Nevada.

Nevertheless, Hassan held the conference at a private office in South Surra, noting that he had to leave because of an obligation to attend a meeting in the US. He also stressed that Roumi cancelled his trip, and thus he traveled at his own expense using urgent leave without receiving any funds from MPW. Hassan also stressed that the authority's departments managed to handle the recent heavy rain.

10,000 cases

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah announced that emergency units at Kuwaiti hospitals had received 10,038 patients on Tuesday in the wake of the unstable weather. Over 336 patients visited the emergency units to complete treatment and 23 critical cases to be put on ventilators, he said. He pointed out that the ministry had effectively enforced the emergency plan in coordination with other ministries and government bodies. He lauded the contributions of all staff members to the emergency plan.

In the meantime, Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) said that the movement of people and goods at Kuwait crossings was not affected by the rain. It added that action at the crossings was practiced typically. Customs staff at crossings, in collaboration with all governmental bodies, managed to remove water accumulated by heavy rains, general manager of KGAC Jamal Al-Jalawi stressed in a press statement. He said that some main sites and buildings in Shuwaikh were affected by the accumulated water. Jalawi commended distinguished cooperation amongst all state bodies that contributed to tackling most of the problems caused by the heavy rains that hit the country at dawn of Tuesday.

National accreditation

Sabah and Ibn Sina Hospitals were awarded full national accreditation for the quality of medical services they provide. In this regard, Sabah Hospital Manager Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Enezi said the hospital was awarded the full



Hosam Al-Roumi

national accreditation after passing all safety standards tests. Ibn Sina Hospital Manager Dr Mohammed Owaiddah Al-Ajmi stressed the accreditation came as a result of the hospital staff's efforts including heads of departments, doctors, nurses, technicians, administrative staff and the hospital quality improvement and technical support teams.

Short circuit

The Ministry of Education (MoE) announced that a short circuit took place at a girls' religious institute in Jaber Al-Ahmad, which resulted in heavy smoke. The institute had to be evacuated and the girls were driven home safely. No casualties were reported. Separately, a gang consisting of Arab and Asian nationals was arrested for stealing electric cables and making illegal connections in return for bribes, said security sources, noting that stolen items worth thousands were retrieved.

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Pakistan blasphemy  
Christian still in jail

## Highway to hell: Afghan travelers run gauntlet of Taliban violence

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BASRA: An Iraqi man changes US dollars for Iranian rials in Basra yesterday. — AFP

# Iranians vent anger at rich and powerful

## Anger comes as US sanctions send rial tumbling, prices rising

**GENEVA:** More Iranians are using social media to vent anger at what they see as the corruption and extravagance of a privileged few, while the majority struggles to get by in an economy facing tighter US sanctions. The country has been hit by a wave of protests during the last year, some of them violent, but as economic pressures rise, people are increasingly pointing fingers at the rich and powerful, including clerics, diplomats, officials and their families. One person channeling that resentment is Seyed Mahdi Sadrossadati, a relatively obscure cleric who has amassed 256,000 followers on his Instagram account with a series of scathing posts aimed at children of the elite.

In one recent post, he blasted the "luxury life" of a Revolutionary Guards commander and his son, who posted a selfie online in front of a tiger lying on the balcony of a mansion. Openly criticizing a well-known member of the powerful military unit that answers to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is in itself an unusual act of defiance. "A house tiger? What's going on?" Sadrossadati wrote. "And this from a 25-year-old youth who could not gain such wealth. People are having serious difficulty getting diapers for their child."

The Iranian rial currency has hit 149,000 to the US dollar on the black market used for most transactions, down from around 43,000 at the start of 2018, as US President Donald Trump vowed to pull out of the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers aimed at curbing its nuclear program. That

has sent living costs sharply higher and made imports less accessible, while the threat of financial punishment from the United States has prompted many foreign companies to pull out of Iran or stay away. The situation could get worse, as additional sanctions come into force this week.



### Clerics, officials and their children singled out

#### 'Sultan of coins'

Wary of growing frustration over the relative wealth of a few among the population of 81 million, Khamenei has approved the establishment of special courts focused on financial crimes. The courts have handed out at least seven death sentences since they were set up in August, and some of the trials have been broadcast live on television. Among those sentenced to death was Vahid Mazloumin,

dubbed the "sultan of coins" by local media, a trader accused of manipulating the currency market and who was allegedly caught with two tons of gold coins, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA). The tough sentences have not been enough to quell frustration, however, with high profile officials and clerics in the firing line.

"Because the economic situation is deteriorating, people are looking for someone to blame and in this way get revenge from the leaders and officials of the country," said Saeed Leylaz, a Tehran-based economist and political analyst. Washington is likely to welcome signs of pressure on Iran's political and religious establishment, as it hopes that by squeezing the economy it can force Tehran to curb its nuclear program and row back on military and political expansion in the Middle East. Public anger among Iranians has been building for some time. Demonstrations over economic hardships began late last year, spreading to more than 80 cities and towns and resulting in at least 25 deaths.

In addition to his written contributions, Sadrossadati has posted videos of debates between himself and some of those he has criticized. In one, he confronted Mehdi Mazaheri, the son of a former central bank governor who was criticized online after a photograph appeared showing him wearing a large gold watch. In a heated exchange, Sadrossadati shouted: "How did you get rich? How much

money did you start out with and how much money do you have now? How many loans have you taken?"

Mazaheri, barely able to get in a reply, said he would be willing to share documents about his finances. Children of more than a dozen other officials have been criticized online and are often referred to as "aghazadeh" - literally "noble-born" in Farsi but also a derogatory term used to describe their perceived extravagance. High-profile clerics have also been targeted. Mohammad Naghi Lotfi, who held the prestigious position of leading Friday prayers at a mosque in Ilam, west Iran, resigned in October after he was criticized on social media for being photographed stepping out of a luxury sports utility vehicle.

Facebook posts labeled Lotfi a hypocrite for highlighting ways that ordinary Iranians could get through the economic crisis during his speeches. The outcry was a major factor in his decision to resign from a post he had held for 18 years. "The hype that was presented against me in this position ... made me resign, lest in the creation of this hype the position of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution be damaged," Lotfi told state media after stepping down. "The issue of the vehicle ... was all lies that they created in cyberspace," he added. He was one of at least four clerics in charge of Friday prayers who have resigned in the last year after being accused on social media of profligacy or financial impropriety. — Reuters

## Turkey threatens Syria's Kurds: A headache for US?

**BEIRUT:** Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has renewed his threats to crush Syria's Kurds, this time in north-eastern areas of the war-torn country where US forces are present. Turkish shelling has hit positions of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), as Ankara warns of a new offensive to clear the militia from its border. The United States has scrambled to contain the tensions, as it seeks to retain the YPG as a key partner in its battle against a resilient Islamic State group.

Since 2016, Turkey has carried out two operations against Kurdish forces in Syria, the last of which saw Ankara-backed Syrian rebels seize the north-western enclave of Afrin in March. Erdogan has since repeatedly threatened to march east into more Kurdish-held territory, but analysts say the timing adds weight to the latest warnings.

Turkey brokered a deal with Russia in September to stave off a regime attack on the northwestern rebel bastion of Idlib, thus freeing it up to set its sights on Kurdish-held territory further east. On the world stage, Ankara is feeling emboldened and seeks to score diplomatic points as Saudi Arabia, a rival regional heavyweight, grapples with global outrage over the murder at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

And Turkey has seen its relationship with NATO ally Washington improve after it freed American pastor Andrew Brunson from detention last month. With shelling east of the Euphrates River, analysts say Erdogan is testing the waters, specifically to see how the United States will react. "He is trying to see how far he can go with military action in the areas east of the Euphrates before the US responds negatively," said Nicholas Heras, an analyst at the Center for a New American Security. Turkey views the YPG as "terrorists", but for the United States they are a key ally in its fight against IS jihadists. The YPG has spearheaded a Kurdish-Arab alliance, backed by the US-led coalition, that has pushed back the extremists from Syria's northeast. — AFP

## Trump faces blitz of investigations

**WASHINGTON:** Armed with subpoenas and a long list of grievances, a small group of lawmakers will lead the investigations poised to make President Donald Trump's life a lot tougher now that Democrats have won a majority in the US House of Representatives. Using their control of House committees, they can demand to see Trump's long-hidden tax returns, probe possible conflicts of interest from his business empire, and dig into any evidence of collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign team in the 2016 election.

Representative Elijah Cummings, who is expected to take over the House Oversight Committee, has said Republican lawmakers will no longer be able to protect Trump from a watchful Congress. "The most important thing for the Oversight Committee to do is to get back to regular order by obtaining documents and interviewing witnesses, and actually holding the Trump administration accountable to the American people," Cummings told Reuters. He is one of three prominent Democrats who have clashed with Trump and will take over committees that will pressure his White House when the new Congress takes office in January.

The others are Jerrrod Nadler, who will almost certainly head the House Judiciary Committee and was once described by Trump as "one of the most egregious hacks in contemporary politics," and Adam Schiff of the Intelligence Committee, slammed by the president as "sleazy." Control of the committees - where they are currently the highest-ranking Democrats - will give those lawmakers the power to demand documents and testimony from White House officials and key figures in Trump's campaign team and businesses, and to issue subpoenas if needed. They will also have more money and staff for investigations that could delay or derail Trump's agenda.

"I'm convinced he (Trump) has no idea what's about to happen: the fact that the House now has wide-ranging authority to investigate every inch of his administration. He'll deny six ways to Sunday that anything's going to change, but the reality is that his world's turned upside down as of this evening," said Jim Manley, a Democratic strategist. The White House can respond to committee demands by citing executive privilege in some circumstances, but that will likely result in court battles. A first salvo in the battle is expected to come from Representative Richard Neal, the likely Democratic chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

He has not publicly clashed with Trump in the



WASHINGTON: A view of Capitol Hill as voters across the United States participate in midterm elections in Washington, DC. — AFP

way Nadler, Schiff and Cummings have, but Neal has vowed to demand Trump's tax returns from Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Such a move could set in motion a cascade of probes into any disclosures the documents might hold. Even before the election, Schiff said his committee would look at allegations that Russian money may have been laundered through Trump's businesses and that Moscow might have financial leverage over the president. Nadler's panel would grapple with any effort to impeach Trump, depending on the outcome of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 US elections and possible Trump campaign collusion with Moscow. — Reuters

International

# Colorado State elects first openly gay governor in US

## Dead Republican brothel owner wins election in Nevada

LOS ANGELES: Democratic Congressman Jared Polis has won the governor's race in Colorado, networks projected on Tuesday, making him the first openly gay person to be elected as a US governor. The five-term congressman, 43, who defeated Republican Walker Stapleton, was open about his sexual orientation during the campaign, often referring to it in his criticism of President Donald Trump.

Kate Brown became the first bisexual governor when she was elected in Oregon in 2015, while another governor, Jim McGreevey of New Jersey, came out as gay before resigning in 2004. But Polis is the first openly gay candidate to be elected governor. He will succeed Democrat John Hickenlooper, who has been in office since 2011. A self-made millionaire and tech entrepreneur, Polis was admitted to Princeton University at age 16. And he has said that he set his sights on becoming governor when he was in college. Polis, who is Jewish, switched his name from Jared Schultz to Jared Polis at age 25 to honor his grandmother, he has said.

He was one of hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender candidates in the midterm elections, including 21 for Congress and four for governor. "LGBTQ candidates are running for office in unprecedented numbers and in every state in the nation - and it is already inspiring more LGBTQ people to run in the near future," Annise Parker, president of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, a nonpartisan group, said ahead of the elections. "This rainbow wave of candidates is certainly concentrated in blue states and districts, but LGBTQ leaders in conservative parts of the nation are standing up and determined to become

public servants while remaining true to who they are.

### Dead brothel owner wins

Meanwhile, a brothel-owning, evangelical Christian-backed Republican candidate who died last month won his race for the Nevada state legislature late on Tuesday, according to state election officials. Dennis Hof, 72, defeated Democratic candidate and educator Lesia Romanov in the race for Nevada's 36th Assembly District, earning about 68 percent of the vote. County officials said they would appoint a replacement candidate from the same party for his seat.

A representative for Romanov did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Hof, who presented himself as an American pimp, was a strip-club owner who ran multiple brothels. He had nicknamed himself the "Trump from Pahrump," after the town where he lived in Nevada. In a June interview with Reuters at Moonlite BunnyRanch, his brothel near his home in Pahrump, Nevada, Hof said his political fortunes had parallels with those of US President Donald Trump. "This really is the Trump movement," Hof said. "People will set aside for a moment their moral beliefs, their religious beliefs, to get somebody that is honest in office."

### Progressives, VP brother in Congress

The US midterm elections on Tuesday will bring a range of fresh faces to Washington, from the vice president's brother to the youngest-ever woman in Congress. Here is a look at some of the most prominent of the new legislators:

#### VP brother in Congress

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**COLORADO:** Democratic Colorado Governor-elect Jared Polis arrives onstage with running mate Dianne Primavera in Denver, Colorado. Polis defeated incumbent Republican Walker Stapleton to become the first openly gay man elected Governor in the country. —AFP

#### Young left-wing star

At 29, staunch left-winger Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is the youngest woman ever elected to Congress and one of the youngest members ever. Until recently making ends meet as a bartender, Ocasio-Cortez scored an upset in a Democratic primary in New York City to defeat 10-term member Joe Crowley, one of the most powerful members of the party. She easily won Tuesday against a Republican in the heavily Democratic and

ethnically diverse district straddling Queens and The Bronx. A supporter of leftist Senator Bernie Sanders who won his own re-election bid Tuesday-Ocasio-Cortez has quickly become a national voice with her calls for a universal health care system, tuition-free public universities and the abolition of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which has executed President Donald Trump's campaign to deport undocumented immigrants. —Agencies

## US midterms: State of play

WASHINGTON: Millions of Americans voted Tuesday and results have been projected in several races in the US midterms, the critical first nationwide election seen as a referendum on Donald Trump's presidency. Both parties have claimed major victories. Here is the state of play so far:

### Democrats take the house

The House of Representatives has flipped from Republican control into the hands of the Democrats, US networks projected. "Tomorrow will be a new day in America," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said at a watch party in Washington. Results showed Democrats picking up seats in Republican-held congressional districts in Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia, as voters there sent a message of repudiation against Trump. The non-partisan Cook Political Report is forecasting a Democratic gain of at least 30 seats in the 435-member House. Democrats needed to gain 23 seats to reclaim control. Among the new faces are Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, the first two Muslim women elected to Congress; and Sharice Davids of Kansas, the first Native American woman to win a House seat.

### Republicans retain Senate

It was a far different story in the 100-member US Senate, where Republicans retained their control. The party drew blood in Indiana, ousting one-term Democrat Joe Donnelly in a state that had been seen as a must-win for Democrats seeking to gain control of the upper chamber. Tripling the Democratic pain, North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp crashed to defeat against Republican state lawmaker Kevin Cramer, while Missouri Democrat Claire McCaskill lost to the state's attorney general, Republican Josh Hawley. Democrats were defending a whopping 10 seats in states won by Trump in 2016. Not all were endangered, and those winning re-election included senators in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Their party had put high hopes in flip-



**LAS VEGAS:** People react as results come in at the Nevada Democratic Party's election results watch party at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. —AFP

ping the traditionally Republican Texas, but candidate Beto O'Rourke came up short against incumbent Senator Ted Cruz.

### Florida stays Republican

The marquee governor's race in Florida was a nail-biter, and it eventually went to the Trump-aligned Republican candidate Ron DeSantis, who squeaked past Andrew Gillum by about one percentage point. Gillum, the mayor of Tallahassee, was aiming to become the state's first African-

American chief executive, and the intense and acrimonious race was marred by charges of racist campaign tactics. Another tight top race was playing out in neighboring Georgia, where Democrat Stacey Abrams would become the first black female governor in US history if she wins. Two bright spots for Democrats: In Colorado, Jared Polis's win will make the outgoing congressman the first openly gay governor in US history. And in an upset in largely red Kansas, Democrat Laura Kelly defeated Trump favorite Kris Kobach. —AFP

## Great-grandmother, 106, gets citizenship on US Election Day

WASHINGTON: A 106-year-old great-grandmother born in El Salvador became an American citizen Tuesday, as the US held bitterly contested midterm elections in which Central American immigration was a hot button issue. Maria Valles Bonilla waved a small American flag at a ceremony in Washington, her hand on her heart as she pledged allegiance to the United States surrounded by family, including her great-grandchildren. She was interviewed beforehand by US Citizenship and Immigration Services agents, who determined that she met all the necessary conditions to be naturalized as an American citizen, a spokesman said.

During her interview, Valles Bonilla said her late husband had harbored the dream of becoming American and so she filled out the paperwork and completed the process in his honor. President Donald Trump has led a virulent campaign targeting illegal immigration, focusing on thousands of migrants making their way on foot toward the United States in the hopes of obtaining asylum. Many members of the caravan come from El Salvador, fleeing its endemic violence and poverty. —AFP



**VIRGINIA:** Maria Valles Bonilla, 106, takes her citizenship oath at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services Washington District Office in Fairfax, Virginia. —AFP

## With Trump shackled at home, Europeans fear more disruption

BERLIN: Stymied at home by Democrats determined to subvert his domestic agenda, President Donald Trump could double down on his disruptive foreign policy in the years ahead, with conflicts over trade a particular concern, politicians, diplomats and analysts in Europe said. Democrats wrested control of the US House of Representatives from Trump's Republicans in midterm elections seen as a referendum on his two-year-old presidency and closely watched around the world. The outcome gives the opposition party new powers to block Trump's domestic agenda and step up inquiries into the former real estate mogul's business dealings and suspected links between his presidential campaign and Russia.

But on foreign policy Trump's ability to set the agenda remains largely intact. And while House Democrats could push for a tougher approach towards Saudi Arabia and Russia, they are unlikely to move the dial on his biggest agenda items: the trade conflict with China and hardline course with Iran. "The formidable executive powers of the president, notably in foreign policy, remain untouched," Norbert Roettgen, head of the foreign affairs committee in the German Bundestag, told Deutschlandfunk radio. —Reuters



## Condolences

The Management and Staff of  
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**Sandeep Harishchandra Patil**

Ethylene Department

On the sad demise of his

**Mother**

May her soul rest in peace and may  
God grant comfort and strength to the  
bereaved family members during this time

## International

# Fears for civilians as forces edge closer to lifeline port

## Yemen's forces advance to rebel-held Hodeida

**ADEN:** Yemeni pro-government forces advanced closer to rebel-held Hodeida overnight, a military source said yesterday, raising fears over humanitarian aid deliveries through the lifeline port city. Concern was also growing for civilians in Hodeida, as the fighting drew near and after reports that snipers had positioned themselves on a hospital rooftop. Plumes of smoke were seen billowing from the horizon on Tuesday as heavily armed pro-government forces moved towards the Red Sea port on foot and on the back of pickup trucks.

A pro-government military source said yesterday that loyalists backed by a Saudi-led coalition made "limited advances" overnight towards Hodeida and its port, through which more than 70 percent of the impoverished country's imports pass. The coalition, an alliance led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, had sent fighter jets and Apache attack helicopters to cover Yemeni troops fighting rebels on the ground, the source said.

A barrage of 100 air strikes were fired at the weekend around Hodeida, the Save the Children aid group said, citing its staff in the city of 600,000 residents. In the past 24 hours fighting claimed the lives of 27 rebels and 12 pro-government fighters on the outskirts of Hodeida city, a medical source said yesterday. Nearly 200 combatants have been killed in the past week, according to military sources.

### Hospitals in crossfire

The United Nations children's fund, UNICEF, on Wednesday voiced concern an escalation in the violence would jeopardize humanitarian efforts crucial for the survival of millions across the war-torn country. "The concern really is that if Hodeida port doesn't function anymore, we, as UNICEF, are

then not able to bring in humanitarian supplies through that port," Juliette Touma, spokeswoman for the UN agency, said. Touma said that in past years UNICEF had been able to transport to Hodeida humanitarian supplies using "little boats". This week marks one year since the government coalition, which controls Yemen's airspace and maritime borders, imposed a blockade on rebel-held Hodeida in retaliation for Houthi missile attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Rights groups now fear for civilians, as fighting nears two hospitals in the area. A medical source told AFP on Wednesday that the Houthis had forced medical staff out of the May 22 Hospital — one of Hodeida's main medical facilities — and stationed snipers on top of the building. UNICEF warned on Tuesday the fighting was dangerously close to Al-Thawra hospital in southern Hodeida, and was endangering the lives of 59 children. The clashes come as the United Nations pushes to restart negotiations between the warring parties, after planned talks in Geneva in September failed.

**Nearly 200 combatants killed in the past week**

### Civilian infrastructure

The International Committee of the Red Cross on Wednesday appealed for warring parties to "spare civilians and civilian infrastructure" including ambulances, hospitals, electricity and water plants. "Families are staying in schools — each classroom housing two or three families — which makes it an average of 20 people in the classroom with nothing whatsoever," said Mirella Hodeib, ICRC spokesman in Sanaa. "ICRC urges all parties to respect international humanitarian law... and to allow for the safe passage of civilians who want to flee the active conflict zones." Hodeida, one of the last Houthi strongholds on Yemen's western coast, was seized by the



**HODEIDA:** Yemeni pro-government forces pose for a picture as they advance towards the port city of Hodeida, controlled by Houthi rebels, during ongoing battles for the control of the city. —AFP

rebels along with the capital Sanaa in 2014.

Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in the government's fight against the Houthis months later, driving the rebels from a string of ports but failing to retake the capital and Hodeida. Hodeida is Yemen's most valuable port, crucial for aid delivery and food imports to a country where famine looms over 14 million people and a child dies every 10

minutes from easily preventable diseases, according to the UN. Saudi Arabia and its allies accuse Iran of using Hodeida port to smuggle missiles to the Houthis, a charge Tehran denies. The World Health Organization estimates nearly 10,000 people have been killed in Yemen's war since 2015, although rights groups say the toll could be five times higher. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Trio arrested in Denmark

**COPENHAGEN:** Three members of an Iranian separatist group that Tehran blames for a deadly attack in Iran and who were targeted by a foiled assassination plot in Denmark have been arrested, Danish police said yesterday. "Three people have been arrested suspected of violating the Danish law... on condoning terrorism," a police statement said. The three members of the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahvaz (ASMLA) are accused of praising the five commandos who attacked a military parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz on September 22, spraying the crowd with gunfire and killing 24 people. Iran has blamed the attack on the ASMLA, which advocates for an Arab state in a southwestern Iranian province. Tehran calls it a terrorist organization. The Danish intelligence service PET on October 30 said it had prevented an assassination attempt by Tehran against three exiled Iranians living in Denmark. —AFP

#### Spanish 'charity scam'

**BARCELONA:** A father who caused an uproar in Spain after he used his daughter's rare illness to raise money for mainly personal use was sentenced to five years in jail, court officials said yesterday. His wife was also jailed by the court in the northeastern city of Lleida for three-and-a-half years, they added. The case of the young Nadia Nerea, who suffers from a potentially life-threatening genetic disorder, moved the country several years ago when her father Fernando Blanco went from one media outlet to another to publicize her case. Considered a hero, Blanco, 53, had asked for donations to allegedly help pay for a pioneering operation in Houston in the United States that could save her life. But at the end of 2016, it emerged that of the 422,000 euros (\$485,000) raised by his foundation since 2014, just 20,000 euros were destined to his daughter, according to investigators. —AFP

#### 21 in refrigerated lorry

**LONDON:** Children as young as 12 have been found among 21 people stowed inside a refrigerated lorry carrying sparkling water at a British port, the BBC reported yesterday. The group, thought to be from Vietnam, was found by the Border Force at the port of Newhaven, south England, on Thursday, and included 15 children. The BBC reported that a criminal investigation was underway, and that a Romanian man, thought to be the driver, had been charged with assisting unlawful entry into the UK. Two of the six adults were removed from the UK, and the other four went to immigration detention centers while their cases were assessed. The children didn't require medical treatment, and were placed in the care of social services. —Reuters

#### Police shoot knifeman

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong police shot and critically injured a man who they said threatened officers with a knife during a stop-and-search operation in a busy subway station yesterday. It is rare for police to shoot suspects in Hong Kong, where it is illegal for the public to carry firearms. Officers intercepted a "suspicious" man in Sham Shui Po station but he then pulled a six-inch knife from his backpack, divisional commander Chow Ngai-kong told reporters. After giving him a warning, a policewoman shot him and he was sent to hospital with a stomach injury. —AFP

## Pakistan blasphemy Christian still in jail

**ISLAMABAD:** One week after the country's highest court ordered her release, a Pakistani Christian who has spent eight years on death row for blasphemy was still in prison yesterday, with no immediate prospect of freedom. Thousands of Islamists poured onto the streets in protest after Supreme Court judges overturned Asia Bibi's conviction, in a case that has laid bare the divisions between traditionalists and modernizers in the devoutly Muslim nation. Ultra-conservative Islamists blockaded major cities to demand her immediate execution, in a three-day stand-off that ended when Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration agreed to allow a review of the Supreme Court's ruling.

Critics blasted the climbdown—which came just days after Khan vowed to confront the protesters—as another capitulation to religious conservatives. The deal has left Bibi in legal limbo—and languishing in jail for a crime of which she has been acquitted. "Asia Bibi is in Multan jail and has not been released yet. We have not

received orders to release her so far," Zawar Hussain Warraich, minister for prisons in Punjab province said. "Normally we receive orders in two days after court judgment and if relatives and lawyers of a prisoner are very active, they can bring it even within a day, but as far as Asia Bibi is concerned, it has not happened yet," Warraich added.

"Supreme Court should issue a directive to send us her release orders. We will release her as soon as we get it." He denied reports that extra security had been laid on for Bibi, saying "she is already well protected by the jail staff". An appeal has been filed with the court against Bibi's release and the party that headed the protests demanding her execution, Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan, has warned its hardliners were prepared to take to the streets again. Blasphemy is an incendiary charge in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where even unsubstantiated allegations of insulting Islam can result in death at the hands of mobs.

The case stems from an incident in 2009 when Bibi was asked to fetch water while out working in the fields. Muslim women laborers objected, saying that as a non-Muslim, she should not touch the water bowl, and reportedly a fight erupt-



**ISLAMABAD:** A Pakistani supporter of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), a hardline religious party, stands over an image of Christian woman Asia Bibi as they march during a protest rally in Islamabad. —AFP

ed. A local imam then claimed Bibi insulted the Prophet Mohammed—a charge she has consistently denied. Bibi's husband Ashiq Masih has appealed for Britain or the United States to grant the family asylum, while her lawyer has fled to the

Netherlands. Masih said the delay in releasing his wife, a mother of five, was adding to the family's agony. "The daughters are weeping. They still haven't seen their mother. The family is totally shattered," he said. —AFP

## The knowns and unknowns of US Iran oil sanction waivers

**WASHINGTON:** The United States on Monday re-imposed sanctions against Iran's oil exports to punish Tehran for its involvement in several Middle Eastern conflicts. Washington had been pushing governments to cut imports of Iranian oil to zero, but fearing a crude oil price spike, it granted Iran's biggest buyers — China, India, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Greece, Taiwan and Turkey — sanctions waivers.

That will allow the eight, which account for about 75 percent of all Iran's oil exports, according to trade data, to import at least some oil for another 180 days. Washington and the recipients of the waivers have not disclosed how much oil they are allowed to import, or under what conditions deals can still be made. Analysts have estimated the overall volumes allowed under the waivers at between 700,000 and 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) compared with a peak of around 3 million bpd in Iranian crude and condensate exports in mid-2018.

JP Morgan said "the lack of difficulty in acquiring shipping insurance was they did help in reducing exports quickly as they did during last international sanctions." The US bank also said "payments for the oil by the exempt countries must go into escrow accounts in their local currency" and that this "means the money won't directly go to Iran and it can only be used to buy certain non-sanctioned goods from its crude export customers." Once the waivers expire after 180 days, new waivers are

expected to be issued, with a source in China saying his country would likely receive another six months of exemptions, though at a lower rate of around 220,000 bpd. See below further details that have begun to emerge.

### China

China, the world's biggest importer of crude oil, is also the top buyer of Iranian oil, and its mostly state-owned refiners have lobbied hard for waivers. Several Chinese sources with knowledge of the matter said China would be allowed to buy 360,000 bpd of Iranian crude during the exemption period of 180 days. That would be about half the daily average China has been importing from Iran since January 2016, trade data showed. However, one source said the United States had attached strings to the waivers, including counterparty disclosures and laying open settlement methods, which were being evaluated before placing new orders with Iran.

### India

India has become the world's third biggest oil importer, recently overtaking Japan. India is also Iran's second biggest oil customer and will be one of the most exposed to a forced drop in supply because of its relative proximity to Iran. One Indian source close to the country's refining sector said India would likely be allowed to import around 300,000 bpd of Iranian crude during the exemption period compared with normal volumes of around 450,000-550,000 bpd.

### South Korea

South Korea is a large buyer of Iranian condensate, a super light form of crude oil used by its large petrochemical industry. A close US ally, South Korea had stopped buying crude from Iran ahead of the sanctions while still lobbying for exemptions. This week, reports emerged that South Korea received a waiver allowing it to import around 4 million



**TEHRAN:** Iranian drivers fill their tanks at a gas station in the capital Tehran. —AFP

barrels a month (130,000 bpd) of Iranian crude and condensate. South Korea has averaged over 200,000 bpd of oil imports from Iran so far this year, down from around 350,000 bpd in 2017.

### Japan

Japan, another key Asian US ally, also ceased Iranian oil imports prior to the sanctions, but has received a waiver to import an undisclosed amount of oil from Iran in the next 180 days. Japan's trade minister, Hiroshige Seko, said on Tuesday that Japanese buyers were expected to resume imports from the Islamic Republic again soon. Refining sources in Japan, however, said they first needed to evaluate the conditions attached to the waivers, with no new orders likely before December.

### Taiwan

Taiwan is only an occasional importer of Iranian oil, and no details regarding its waivers have been disclosed.

### Turkey, Italy, Greece

Italy and Turkey have been importing around 200,000 bpd of oil from Iran over the past two years, with Greece importing less than 100,000 bpd. Italy and Greece have completely suspended purchases in recent weeks. The waivers for those countries took the market by surprise and trading sources have said they are now evaluating prospects for resuming some imports. Turkey has said it is also evaluating possible imports after receiving a waiver, but President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday the country would not abide by the sanctions as they were aimed at "unbalancing the world". —Reuters



International

# Highway to hell: Afghan travelers run gauntlet of Taleban violence

## 'We found the yoghurt that you asked for' - Taleban spies use codes

**KABUL:** On a good day, it takes Mohammad less than three hours to drive from Ghazni to Kabul. But preparations for the hair-raising journey through Taleban-infested areas can take weeks. Road trips are a dangerous, and often deadly, activity in Afghanistan. Travelers run the gauntlet of Taleban checkpoints, fighting, robberies, kidnappings, and pressure-plate bombs targeting government officials and security forces. The stretch of Highway 1 between the Afghan capital and the southeastern city of Ghazni—which the Taleban stormed in August and still threaten—is one of the most treacherous. Spontaneous trips are out of the question, said Mohammad, who is in his 20s and a regular visitor to Kabul.

Mohammad, not his real name, asked AFP to use a pseudonym to avoid being identified by the Taleban. He begins preparing for the journey at least two weeks before his planned departure, starting with growing out his beard, which he normally keeps short, to create a scruffier appearance. He then starts working his contacts, calling trusted relatives and neighbors who ply the busy route for information about Taleban activity along the main artery connecting Kabul to the insurgent strongholds in the south. "You have to be careful who you call because you could be

sold out to the Taleban" by someone working for the militant group, he said.

### 'Many reasons to worry'

On the day of his departure, Mohammad swaps his clean, well-ironed clothes for a dirty pyjama-like shalwar kameez to make himself look more like a villager and clears the call history on his mobile in case a phone number raises suspicion. "You can't just jump into a car and come (to Kabul), not if you want to be on the safe side," he said. Mohammad's most recent trip to Kabul was delayed for three days after he received warnings of Taleban disguised as Afghan soldiers manning checkpoints along the road. The first thing Taleban militants check is a person's tazkira, or national identification document.

"If the tazkira is from Ghazni then you may be fine. If not, they might think that you are a member of the security forces from another province coming to Ghazni to fight," Mohammad said. After registering to vote in the October 20 parliamentary election—which the Taleban had vowed to attack and which was finally cancelled in Ghazni due to protests—Mohammad carries a second tazkira that does not

have a sticker identifying him as a voter. "There are many reasons to be worried and anxious," Mohammad explained. "Even if they don't kill you, they may keep you as a hostage and ask for a ransom. If they kept me for one night, my mother would not survive."

A one-way trip between Kabul and Ghazni costs Mohammad 250 afghanis (around \$3) in a Toyota Corolla taxi, a ubiquitous model in Afghanistan that is often used as public transport. He tries to travel with drivers he knows. He avoids travelling on Mondays and Wednesdays. Those are the days the Afghan army delivers supplies to its troops in the provinces and attacks along the highway are more likely, Mohammad said. Thursday, the last day of the Afghan working week, is also a bad day to venture out of the city. Militants lie in wait for government employees as they leave Ghazni for the weekend.

### Fear of death

Whenever possible, Mohammad said he travels with women wearing burqas, but not because he prefers their company. In the deeply conservative society where physical contact between men and women in public is prohibited,

female passengers can hide mobile phones and other sensitive items under their head-to-toe coverings without fear of the Taleban searching them.

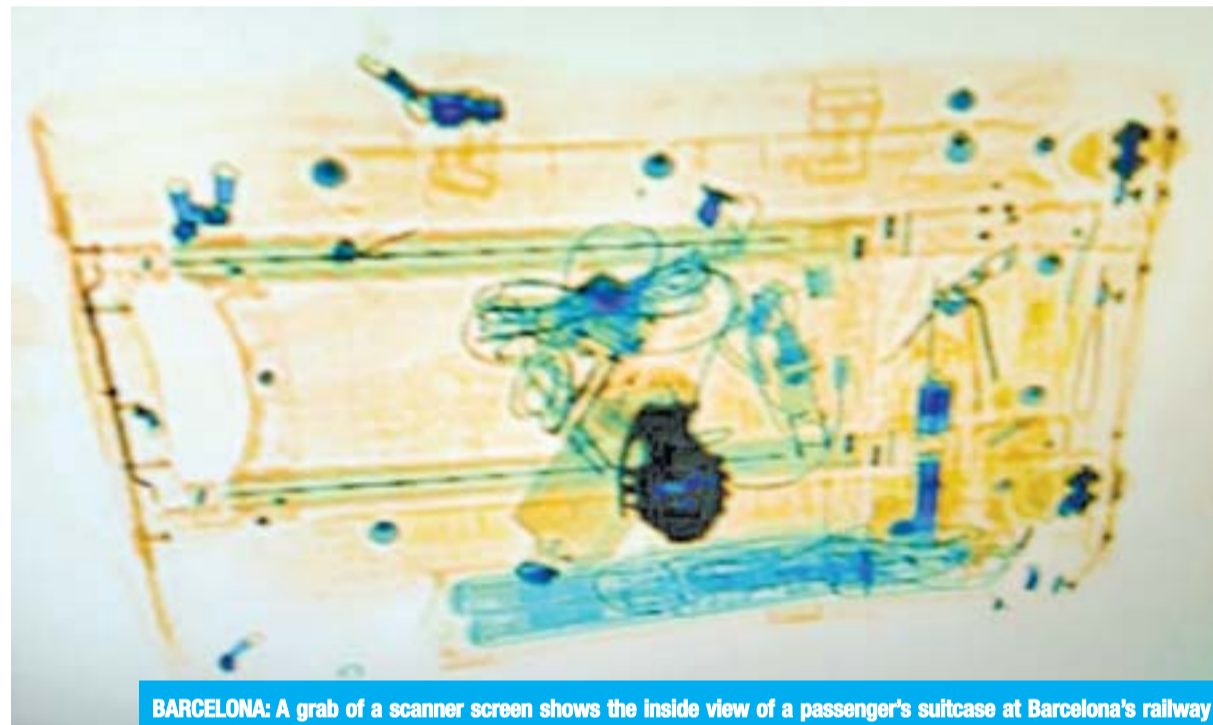
Once on the open road, Mohammad remains vigilant. He listens carefully to the phone conversations of the driver and other occupants for signs they are planning to give him, or someone else in the vehicle, up to the Taleban. "Taleban spies use codes like 'I have brought the rooster that you asked for' or 'we found the yoghurt that you asked for,'" he said. An oncoming vehicle with lights blinking, a line of cars stopped on the highway, or no traffic at all are warning signs that something has happened up ahead. "Fighting and ambushes are common. You have to accept that you might face it," Mohammad said. Despite the risks, Kabul's alluring cafes and shopping malls make the nail-biting trip worthwhile, Mohammad said. Even a few days in the heavily militarized and overcrowded city is "refreshing" and a relief from Ghazni, where he feels his "heart can burst from boredom". But Mohammad does what he can to stay safe on his journey, even paying a few cents to a street beggar as he leaves the city in the hope the good deed will protect him. "I still fear death," he said. "But I try to stay calm." — AFP

## Grenade-shaped belt buckle sparks scare in stations

**MADRID:** A woman carrying a grenade-shaped belt buckle on a train from Barcelona to Madrid caused havoc yesterday, forcing railway stations to be evacuated as well as delays. Police in Barcelona said they were advised by security personnel in the city's main Sants station that "they had seen by scan an object that could be an explosive artefact," a spokesman told AFP. A photo of the luggage scan posted on the Twitter feed of Catalonia's Mossos police force showed what looked clearly like a grenade.

Most Spanish stations require passengers boarding trains to put their luggage through scanners. Police subsequently evacuated two high-speed trains at the Barcelona station but didn't find anything, the spokesman said. "Then we saw that this person could be in a train going to Madrid. We warned national police," he added. People were then evacuated from the Spanish capital's main Atocha station, the state-owned Adif company which manages the country's railway stations told AFP.

Police said they created a security zone on part of a platform at the station, which was the scene of one of Europe's worst terror attacks in 2004 when 191 people were killed in explosions on commuter trains. When the



BARCELONA: A grab of a scanner screen shows the inside view of a passenger's suitcase at Barcelona's railway station of Sants. — AFP

train arrived, they checked the luggage and found that the grenade-like object was actually a "belt buckle," a police spokeswoman said. It is unclear why security per-

sonnel in Barcelona let the passenger get onto the train if they were worried about the potential grenade. AFP told AFP they were looking into the incident. — AFP

## US abruptly postpones top-level N Korea talks

**WASHINGTON:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday abruptly shelved plans to meet a top North Korean official in New York, the latest twist in diplomatic attempts to secure a potentially landmark peace deal. The talks between President Donald Trump's top diplomat and the North Korean delegation, which had been due today, "will now take place at a later

date," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said. "We will reconvene when our respective schedules permit," she added in a statement. State Department officials gave no further reasons for the delay to the meeting, although North Korea has stepped up its demands that the United States lift sanctions.

The State Department had just one day earlier confirmed that Pompeo would meet in New York with Kim Yong Chol—one of the North Korean leader's right-hand men—to discuss progress toward a denuclearization pact and to work to arrange a second summit following historic talks between Trump and Kim in June. Despite warm words from Trump since meeting Kim in Singapore, his administration has insisted on maintaining pressure on Pyongyang until a final agreement is reached. North Korea said last week

that it would "seriously" consider returning to a state policy aimed at building nuclear weapons unless Washington lifts sanctions.

"The improvement of relations and sanctions are incompatible," said a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency. "What remains to be done is the US corresponding reply," it added. Pompeo, speaking Sunday on Fox News, said he was "not worried" about the North Korean demands and insisted there would be "no economic relief until we have achieved our ultimate objective." But Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, told AFP that the postponement was a bad sign. "This last-minute announcement of a delay is not a good signal as it indicates negotiations were not going well enough to go ahead with the planned meeting," he said.

Pompeo has traveled four times this year to North Korea, for decades a US pariah, in hopes of securing an accord. The diplomacy comes a year after fears mounted of war, with Trump threatening "fire and fury" after Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests. Trump has cast North Korea as a crowning diplomatic achievement and is eager for a fresh summit with Kim at which the two may formally declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea has long sought US recognition as a nuclear state and guarantees for the survival of the generational Kim regime, which human rights groups consider one of the most repressive in the world. US critics say that North Korea has yet to make any concrete concessions and it has rejected demands for what it described as its "unilateral disarmament". — AFP

## Boeing issues advice over sensors after Indonesian crash

**JAKARTA:** Boeing issued a special bulletin yesterday addressing a sensor problem flagged by Indonesian safety officials investigating the crash of a Lion Air 737 that killed 189 people last week. The planemaker said local aviation officials believed pilots may have been given wrong information by the plane's automated systems before the fatal crash. "The Indonesian National Transportation Safety Committee has indicated that Lion Air flight 610 experienced erroneous input from one of its AOA (Angle of Attack) sensors," Boeing said. "Boeing issued an Operations Manual Bulletin (OMB) directing operators to existing flight crew procedures to address circumstances where there is erroneous input from an AOA sensor." An AOA sensor provides data about the angle at which wind is passing over the wings and tells pilots how much lift a plane is getting. The information can be critical in preventing the plane from stalling. Lion Air JT610 plunged into the Java Sea less than half an hour after taking off from Jakarta on a routine flight to Pangkal Pinang city. There were no survivors.

The doomed jet was a Boeing 737-Max 8, one of the world's newest and most advanced commercial passenger planes, and there is still no answer as to what caused the crash. A preliminary report is expected at the end of the month. Indonesian investigators said yesterday the plane had experienced instrument failures on four flights, including on one journey where both the AOA sensor and the airspeed indicator were affected. Soerjanto Tjahjono, head of Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee told reporters that after one flight from Bali to Jakarta — the last flight before the crash — the left and right AOA sensors were found to disagree by 20 degrees.

He said the pilot had landed the plane safely on that occasion. "The pilot's success became our reference to give a recommendation to Boeing so they could issue an advice for other airlines to follow the same procedures if the same situation occurs," Soerjanto said. He added that the broken sensor from the Bali-Jakarta flight would be sent to the manufacturer in Chicago for further examination. "We also plan to conduct a flight reconstruction to see the impact of the AOA sensor damage in the engineering simulator at the Boeing facility in Seattle." — AFP



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## Analysis

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## Ethiopia politician returns home with hope and fear

A year ago, rebel leader Berhanu Nega was coordinating attacks against Ethiopian soldiers from his base across the border in Eritrea and faced a death penalty at home. In September, he returned to Ethiopia to address tens of thousands of cheering supporters in a stadium in the capital, Addis Ababa. The journey of the mild-mannered former economics professor from exile to rock-star welcome says a lot about how much Ethiopia has changed in recent months. He is the most high profile of dozens of political dissidents, former rebels, and secessionist leaders who have come home since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office in April. Their return has Ethiopians hopeful that the country of 105 million - Africa's second most populous - can finally embrace democracy.

There's still a long way to go. The last two elections were derailed by the opposition as shams following a messy poll in 2005, after which the government jailed popular opposition politicians like Berhanu. The clampdown fuelled unrest and demands for greater political and social freedom. In recent years, the ruling EPRDF coalition cracked down even more harshly; security forces killed more than 1,000 protesters and jailed tens of thousands of people between 2015 and 2018, according to Human Rights Watch. It also shut off the internet, sometimes for months at a time.

"Seven, eight months ago the question was whether the country is going to survive or not, whether it's going to explode into a civil war," Berhanu, 59, told Reuters in a borrowed office in central Addis Ababa. But in April, the ruling coalition installed Abiy as the new prime minister. The 42-year-old has promised to chart a new course and embrace multi-party democracy. Such a transition would buck the trend towards authoritarianism in nearby countries such as Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, where leaders are jailing opponents and rolling back restrictions on term limits to extend their rule.

Within weeks of Abiy taking charge, Berhanu ordered the armed group he led, Ginbot 7, to stop attacking Ethiopian troops and end its armed struggle. Abiy's arrival "was real change," Berhanu said. "It did not take us a minute... We have no particular interests in violence. We just said: 'Are you serious, is this something you are committed to? Yes, good, we are done.'" Ethiopia's new leader, Berhanu said, "really has this mission of changing society toward what he believes the public deserves: to live in freedom and democracy."

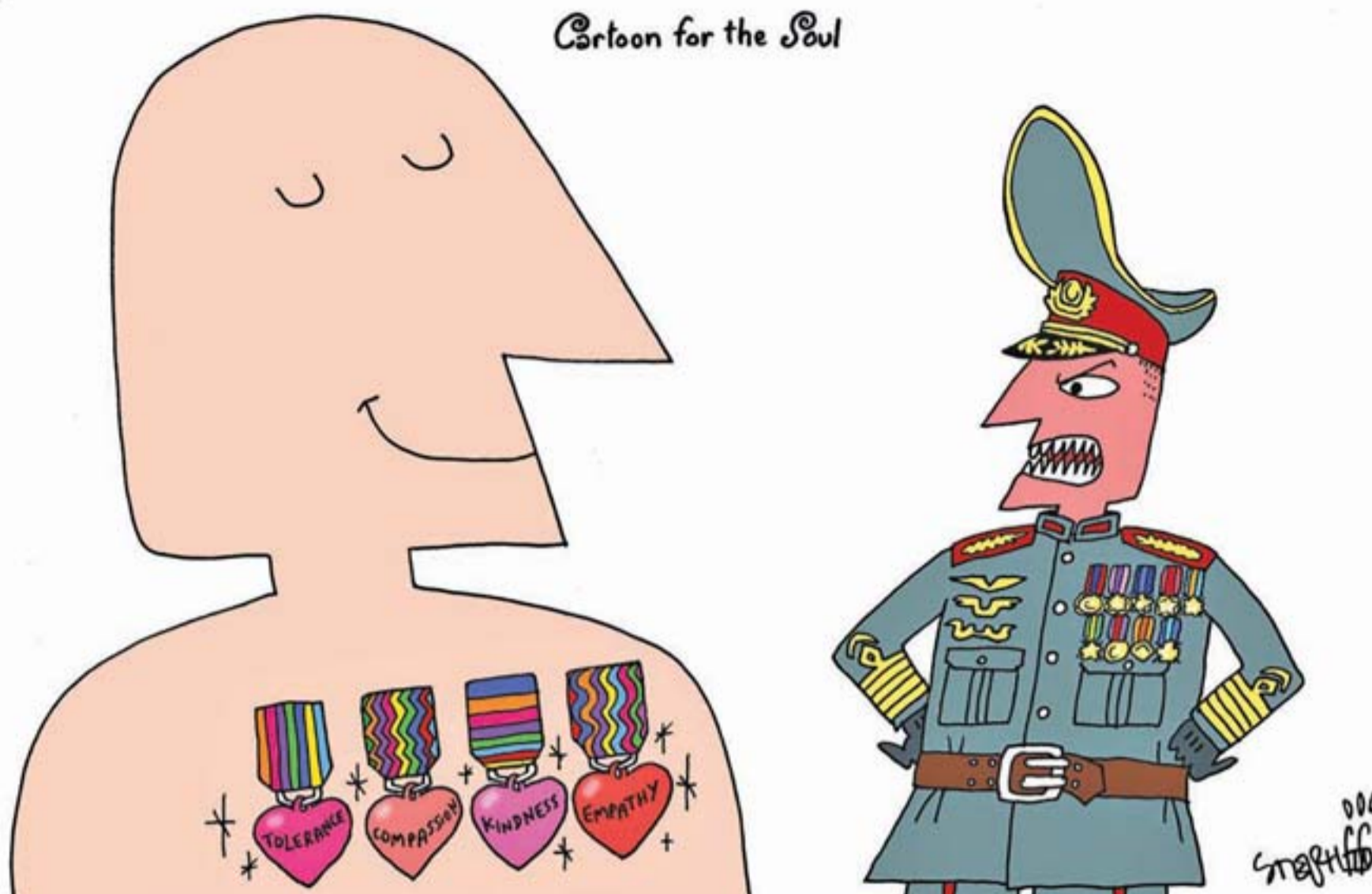
### Hunger for freedom

Berhanu has opposed authoritarian rule for decades. In the late 1970s he was active against the Derg, the brutal military regime that ruled the country. That eventually landed him in jail. After escaping to Sudan, he was granted asylum in the United States where he obtained a doctorate in economics. Back at home in 2005, he ran for municipal office in Addis Ababa. Ethiopians, he remembers, "went out to vote until midnight, until 2 am".

But the government led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, a former rebel himself and the leader of a group that toppled the Derg in 1991, nullified the results. The government then jailed Berhanu and other opposition candidates. After his release in 2007, he returned to his job as an economics professor at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. In 2014, he moved to Eritrea's capital Asmara to work full time for Ginbot 7, which had moved from peaceful participation in the 2005 elections to "an all-inclusive struggle" that embraced violence as an acceptable way to bring change. The ruling EPRDF became "more and more brutal" he said, suggesting that it would never leave power "through any kind of peaceful means".

In Eritrea, he says, he was relatively safe from threats from the security apparatus across the border. He even travelled on an Eritrean passport and US green card to visit his family in the US. What he longed for during those years was the opportunity to have a leisurely conversation over coffee in Addis Ababa's cafes. He still does. Though he returned home to a hero's welcome, he is following the government's orders to exercise caution in public for his own safety. "I'm very restricted in my own movements," he said. "I am having a hard time living with (this). This is the price we pay for now, but it should not last".

Abiy's reform pledges have opened up some political space. As well as allowing politicians such as Berhanu to return home and hold rallies, the government has released thousands of political prisoners and in July removed three opposition groups from its list of "terrorist" organizations. Not all former armed groups have laid down their arms - the Oromo Liberation Front, rebels who fell out with the EPRDF shortly after it took power in 1991, is arguing over disarming its fighters - but for the first time in years citizens are openly airing their views on the street and on social media without fear of arrest. Some in the ruling EPRDF worry that loosening the state's iron grip has created a security vacuum. Abiy warned recently that "lawlessness" was sweeping the country. Berhanu believes a certain level of disorder is inevitable. "At the macro level, change always generates this unsettled feeling. There's a lot of anxiety," he said, referring to the ethnic violence that has displaced one million Ethiopians in the seven months since Abiy took office. — Reuters



## Republicans more tied to Trump than ever

Republicans' loss of control of the US House of Representatives will leave the party with a more conservative congressional caucus that is even more bound to President Donald Trump and more united around his provocative rhetoric and hardline agenda. Although moderate Republicans who remain in the House may view the result as an indictment of Trump's strategy of focusing relentlessly on illegal immigration in the final stretch of the campaign, they will be a small minority.

Many Republicans who lost their seats were moderates from suburban-heavy districts who tried to keep some distance from Trump and his rhetoric, but lost anyway. That leaves a shrunken core dominated by conservatives from rural areas whose constituents overwhelmingly support Trump. In short, Trump will stay Trump. Although some Republicans may blame him for Tuesday's losses, they are unlikely to be emboldened to rebel, especially given that the party kept control of the Senate.

Over the past two years, the president has shown little inclination to change his slash-and-burn style or turn conciliatory. He knows that he remains without question the most popular figure in his party. Now, Trump begins his run for re-election in earnest, where he will make every effort to galvanize his base of passionate supporters. That means that even in the face of stronger Democratic opposition, Trump is likely to advocate for his "America First" agenda that prioritizes hot-button issues, such as illegal immigration and trade protectionism. This, in turn, will accelerate his dramatic reshaping of a party that for decades was defined by fiscal, social and national security conservatism.

Knowing that House Democrats will not approve funding for a wall along the US border, for example, will not keep Trump from continuing to make it an issue. In fact, he may find it more politically effective to have House Democrats as a foil. The surviving Republican members in the House, too, will have little interest in cooperating with the new Democratic majority, leaving Republican congressional power focused in the Senate and the government largely gridlocked. "A Democratic House means that if the president wants to get things done, he's going to have to work across the aisle," said Jason McGrath, a Democratic pollster in Chicago. "He hasn't shown any inclination to do that, but it will be interesting to see if this is a moment he will want to govern rather than just make points."

## Caravans threaten Mexico-US detente

A stream of US-bound Central American migrant caravans risks clouding the rapprochement between Mexico's next leader and US President Donald Trump, who has railed against illegal migration to energize his electoral base. Mexican President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, a combative leftist who takes office in December, has signaled he hopes to repair bilateral ties damaged by Trump's criticism of Mexico for failing to stop migration and his demands for a border wall.

From opposite sides of the political spectrum, he and Trump have so far defied fears they could clash, with both helping to find common ground for a new North American trade deal. But a spate of Central American migrant caravans pushing into Mexico in recent weeks revived tensions in the run-up to US congressional elections on Tuesday. Trump has threatened to close the U.S.-Mexico border if the migrants are not stopped. "This is one of the potential flashpoints that could end the bromance between Lopez Obrador and Trump," Arturo Sarukhan, a former Mexican ambassador to the United States, told Reuters.

Trump's 2016 election win sent relations between the two neighbors to their lowest ebb in years. During the campaign, he repeatedly vowed to make Mexico pay for a border wall to keep out migrants, and accused the country of sending rapists and drug runners north. Tensions over migration spilled over into economic affairs. Trump tried to use border security to extract concessions in the revamp of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which he threatened to scrap before the United States, Mexico and Canada agreed a new deal on Sept 30.

Mexico sends 80 percent of its exports to the United States and the NAFTA renegotiation rattled Mexico's financial markets and disrupted investment. Since a convoy of Hondurans left the city of San Pedro Sula on Oct 13, several thousand Central Americans have crossed into Mexico. Trump has said he will send troops to the US southern border to stop what he calls an "invasion".

Lopez Obrador, by contrast, has been offering to help his "brother migrants" with visas and employment. He

### Suburban shift

The shift has long-term implications for Republicans in districts that flipped Democratic on Tuesday and gives Democrats an opportunity to build on gains in once-reliably Republican suburbs where education levels and incomes are above the national average - and where skepticism of Trump runs deep. The party already faced challenges in trying to grow beyond its base of middle-class Trump supporters, white men, and evangelicals. It has lost ground among women, suburban voters, voters with college degrees, while showing little ability to win over young and minority voters.

That will almost certainly continue if a shrinking congressional caucus paves the way for greater fealty to Trump. In the Senate, centrist Democrats from states that Trump won in 2016 such as Joe Donnelly in Indiana and Heidi Heitkamp in North Dakota were replaced by conservative Republicans who may credit their victories to the president. Moreover, Trump's fiercest Republican critics in the Senate, Bob Corker and Jeff Flake, are retiring. So is Paul Ryan, the Republican speaker of the House who at times differed with the president's tone, if not his policies. All of it leaves Trump a more dominant force in the party than he was even two years ago. And Trump, who campaigned heavily in rural states, can point to those Senate wins as evidence he can still drive his voters to the polls.

### Low expectations

All year, Republicans have been clear-eyed about their potential losses in the House, and so likely will not view Tuesday's result as a warning sign the party needs to change its ways. Historically, the party in power loses several seats during the first midterm election of a new president, particularly if his national job approval ratings are low. Democrats lost 63 seats in 2010 with Barack Obama in the White House, handing control to the Republicans, who brought Obama's agenda largely to a halt.

In the closing weeks of the election, Trump stoked fears over a caravan of migrants approaching the United States from Central America and warned of the threat from liberal "mobs" if Democrats won power, trying to stoke his base to the polls. Several Republican candidates and advocacy groups such as the Congressional Leadership Fund joined in, concluding that the party's economic message was not resonating. In two years, should economic growth slow,

wants to persuade Trump to contribute to a plan to promote development in Central America and Mexico's poorer south. However, Sarukhan said Trump would almost certainly continue to campaign divisively on border security and migration as the race for the 2020 US presidential election heats up. "It's hard for me to see, given the current dynamics in the United States, how Lopez Obrador is going to either ensure that this doesn't become a flashpoint or convince Trump to spend significant political, diplomatic and financial capital in holistic development in Central America," he said.

Angered by the caravans, Trump has threatened to cut aid to Central America - the very opposite of what the region needs, said Hector Vasconcelos, a lawmaker for Lopez Obrador's MORENA party, and head of the Senate foreign relations committee. "We need big economic development programs in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador if we really want to reduce migration from those countries," Vasconcelos said.

Most of the migrants say they are fleeing gang violence and poverty. But Trump suggested, without providing proof, the caravans could be hiding "Middle Eastern" terrorists. Asked how a Lopez Obrador administration would seek to bridge the differences over migration, incoming foreign minister Marcelo Ebrard told Reuters on Oct 22 in Canada that, once in office, it hoped to start persuading the United States and others of the benefits of investing in Central America. However, he added: "It's not very easy."

Lopez Obrador has adopted a conciliatory tone towards Trump since winning Mexico's July election, stressing his desire for good relations. Privately though, members of his transition team are skeptical whether the goodwill will last as the 2020 US presidential election unfolds. If Trump returns to the rhetoric he deployed against Mexico during his first election campaign, it could encourage the fiercely patriotic Lopez Obrador to hit back.

Just weeks after Trump took office in 2017, Lopez Obrador went to the United States to address Mexican-American voters, rounding on the new US president in a speech in Los Angeles. "These astute but irresponsible neo-fascist rulers want to build walls to turn the United States into an enormous ghetto, and put Mexicans in general, and our migrant compatriots in particular, on the same level as the Jews stigmatized and unjustly persecuted in the age of Hitler," Lopez Obrador said. — Reuters

the party may not even have that argument. With Congress expected to produce little in the way of meaningful legislation in coming months, Republican candidates in the next election cycle are likely to have few accomplishments to point to. A 2017 tax-cut law will be a distant memory. Those Republican candidates who run for office with Trump at the top of the ticket will have a difficult time establishing their own political identities - and they may not want to, as US presidents by and large win their second terms. — Reuters

## Election loss won't put Trump back in his box

Donald Trump boasts about winning, but after Democrats seized the House of Representatives on Tuesday, the reality show-host-turned-president is finding out how it feels to be one of the "losers" he usually mocks. And has he responded with humility? Did the former billionaire real estate dealer and ringmaster at "The Apprentice" appear downcast? No. Trump was triumphant. He tweeted that the midterm elections - in which Democrats defeated his Republicans to control the lower house of Congress for the first time in eight years - were "a tremendous success".

His eye-popping enthusiasm after losing half of Congress on Tuesday is not as unrealistic as it might appear: His Republicans have retained and even expanded their Senate majority, while fighting with the House may yet be to his advantage when it comes to his own reelection in two years. The tweet, ending with a cheerful "Thank you to all!" was pure Trump. He's a president who since his shock 2016 election win against heavy favorite Hillary Clinton has repeatedly torn up the expected script to write his own.

### Tough night

Howard Kurtz from Fox News, the network that Trump loves to watch and to talk to, declared the loss of the House "a turning point". "No amount of spin can soften the blow of losing the House to the Democrats. Indeed, there were reports that White House officials had told the president to brace himself for a very tough night," Kurtz wrote on the Fox website. It's sure that the Democrats - who have been pilloried by Trump in the most extreme terms during the election campaign - will take their opportunity to hit back.

Controlling the House means controlling committees with subpoena power. They will be tearing into Trump's carefully hidden personal finances and links to Russia, a legal morass already being investigated by special counsel Robert Mueller. The top Democrat on the judiciary committee, Jerry Nadler, told MSNBC's Ari Melber immediately after the election that "we'll use subpoena power if we have to, when we have to". Not a politician famous for being able to take criticism, Trump can be expected to respond blow for blow. Washington, mockingly known as "the swamp", may be in store for some unprecedented partisan ugliness.

Of course, there's a slender chance that the shock of the midterms will produce a kinder, gentler kind of Trump who once more breaks Washington's rules by actually cooperating with the Democrats. According to the office of Nancy Pelosi, the Democrat in line to become the new speaker of the House, Trump called her after the results came in "to extend his congratulations". "He acknowledged the Leader's call for bipartisanship," Pelosi's deputy chief of staff, Drew Hammill tweeted.

But if the olive branch withers, Trump could arguably even benefit from open war with the House. First, the Republicans have firm control over the Senate. That means that Trump can still get things done, not least confirmation of right-leaning judges with lifetime appointments. As Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said Tuesday: "The conservative judicial train will keep running." Even more importantly, conflict with the Democrats could simply fuel Trump's real goal of reelection in 2020. The Trump base will have no problem believing him when he says that Pelosi and her Democrats are to blame for every ill in the country. — AFP

## Business

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SINGAPORE: Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde (center) speaks while former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg (left) and Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam (right) listen during a panel discussion at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

# IMF team in Pakistan as China pledges aid

## Islamabad gets confidence boost but bailout still on the cards

ISLAMABAD: An International Monetary Fund team arrived in Islamabad yesterday for talks on a possible IMF bailout, even as Pakistan insisted it had solved its immediate balance of payments crisis.

Speaking shortly after Prime Minister Imran Khan returned from Beijing, Pakistan's finance minister said Tuesday that assurances from China—combined with a pledge made by Saudi Arabia last month—meant that Pakistan's immediate fiscal woes were “over”.

“We had a gap of \$12 billion and in that \$12 billion, six billion came from Saudi Arabia and the rest came from China,” Asad Umar told reporters, without specifying the nature of the Chinese assistance.

The finance secretary and the governor of the state bank will attend a meeting in Beijing tomorrow to finalize the terms of the assistance, he added. Pakistan secured \$6 billion in funding from Saudi Arabia and struck a 12-month deal for a balance of payments lifeline during Khan's visit in October.

Despite the pledges, the ministry of finance said the Pakistan would still seek broader IMF support for the government's long term economic planning. Since taking power in August, former cricketer Khan has been

searching for ways to rally a struggling economy hit by inflation and shore up the country's dwindling foreign currency reserves.

As well as a highly-publicized austerity drive, including auctioning off government-owned luxury automobiles and buffaloes, the new prime minister has also made overtures to the IMF—which has bailed Pakistan out repeatedly since the 1980s.

However, Islamabad received billions of dollars in Chinese loans to finance ambitious infrastructure projects, and the US—one of the IMF's biggest donors—has raised fears that Pakistan could use any bailout money to repay its debts to Beijing. Islamabad—which last received an IMF bailout in 2013 to the tune of \$6.6 billion—has refuted these claims.

The Pakistani finance minister's bullish comments declaring the end of an economic crisis have bolstered confidence ahead of crunch talks with the International Monetary Fund yesterday, but the country is still likely to need a bailout.

Finance Minister Asad Umar said on Tuesday that “Pakistan's immediate balance of payment crisis is over” without mentioning the talks with the IMF in Islamabad.

Umar's comments came after Prime Minister Imran Khan visited main allies Saudi Arabia and China last month. Khan secured \$6 billion in assistance from Riyadh while Beijing promised help cover a projected \$12 billion shortfall in foreign exchange to service Pakistan's debt.

Pakistan's central bank chief is due to travel to China tomorrow to discuss details of what Umar described as a pledge of “immediate money”. Analysts say the cash will give the economy breathing space and stabilize the rupee, which has fallen 25 percent against the US dollar since December, but it will not solve Pakistan's balance of payments crisis and avert a second IMF bailout request since 2013, and its 13th IMF rescue since late the 1980s.

“They are going to the IMF because they have to get credit rating approval from the financial markets and that would not happen on the Saudi or Chinese money,” Asad Sayeed, an economist at the Collective for Social Science Research, told Reuters. Pakistani officials are concerned tough IMF conditions would hit growth in the short term, as the IMF is likely to push for reduced spending, further currency devalua-

tions and an increase in interest rates, preventing Khan from fulfilling populist campaign pledges. Khan's government has pledged to create an “Islamic welfare state” and help build 5 million homes for the poor in a nation where the illiteracy rate is more than 40 percent.

### Confidence boost

But the Saudi and Chinese help could put the government in a stronger position to negotiate better terms with the IMF, Saad Hashemy, chief economist for local brokerage Topline Securities, told Reuters. “The statement by the finance minister is a big confidence booster for the economy,” Hashemy said.

“What it falls short of is the exact details of the funding from the Chinese side,” he added, speculating China may opt to defer payments on existing loans and buy more Pakistani imports. Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily news briefing Beijing was “willing, in accordance with Pakistan's needs and with agreement by both sides, to provide what help we can for Pakistan's economic and social development”. —Agencies

## Stocks rally on relief as US vote goes as expected

LONDON: Stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic charged higher yesterday in a relief rally as the US midterm elections went pretty much as expected, although analysts warned of potential economic fallout from political gridlock. The dollar slid against main rivals, with the pound boosted also by talk of an imminent Brexit deal, while oil prices jumped on reports OPEC could cut crude output next year.

In the US, President Donald Trump's Republican party maintained its control of the Senate following Tuesday's vote but the Democrats regained power in the House of Representatives.

Broadly in line with forecasts, the outcome means that Trump faces a tough two

years before his 2020 re-election bid, with Democrats ready to fight against his tax-cutting, deregulation agenda and boost oversight of the White House. Wall Street's top three stock indices all rose at the opening bell, with the Dow climbing 0.7 percent.

In afternoon trading in Europe, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index rose 1.3 percent. Frankfurt's DAX 30 index added 0.9 percent and the Paris CAC 40 gained 1.2 percent. Patrick J. O'Hare at Briefing.com said the rise in stocks “likely speaks to the relief that the election is done and that the overall result went as expected.”

He added: “That fact has removed an element of uncertainty, which has added to market volatility in recent weeks.”

### Risk of 'gridlock'

Other analysts pointed to the consequences of the Democrats holding the House and Republicans the Senate. “The split Congress means that there is more likely to be gridlock, which will significantly curtail (Trump's) legislative agenda,” said James Knightley, chief international economist at ING.

While he pointed out that the two sides

could possibly work together in areas such as infrastructure spending, he said “for the most part divisions between and within the parties mean that progress will be difficult. “For example, President Trump's proposal on additional income tax cuts has received a major blow because of the election result.”

But such a scenario could mean less pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise US interest rates more aggressively, taking some heat out of the dollar. The central bank's drive to tighten borrowing costs to offset a resurgent US economy has weighed on global stock markets in recent weeks.

Nader Naeimi, head of dynamic markets at AMP Capital Investors in Sydney, saw the elections result as a “good outcome” for the world economy.

“When you look at... the expectations of more fiscal spending in the US adding to more pressure on debt and debt issuance, having a split government now with more checks and balances is actually a positive set-up for markets.”

### Asia mixed

Earlier in Asia, Hong Kong's main stocks



NEW YORK: Wall Street's top three stock indices rose at the opening bell, with the Dow climbing 0.7 percent —AFP

index finished 0.1 percent higher after swinging through the day, while Shanghai ended 0.7 percent down and Tokyo shed 0.3 percent. Sydney added 0.4 percent. Neil Wilson, chief market analyst at

Markets.com, added that Trump's long-running trade war with China would be unlikely to be affected by the vote outcome, meaning tit-for-tat tariffs will continue, eventually squeezing US consumers. —AFP

## Business

# Zain exceeds expectations with whopping \$3bn revenue reported

Revenues up 55%, EBITDA up 48%, net income up 26%

Consolidation of Zain Saudi Arabia bolsters overall financials

Focus on digital services results in 50% growth, to 31% of Zain Group revenue

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the third-quarter and nine-month periods ended 30 September, 2018. The company ended the period serving 47.8 million customers, reflecting a 5 percent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) increase.

For the third-quarter of 2018, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 403 million (\$1.3 billion), up 55 percent Y-o-Y in KD terms. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 155 million (\$512 million), an increase of 48 percent Y-o-Y, reflecting a 38 percent EBITDA margin. Net income for the three months amounted to KD 51 million (\$167 million), reflecting 26 percent increase Y-o-Y. Earnings Per Share for the third-quarter reached 12 fils (\$0.03).

For the first nine months (9M) of 2018 to 30 September, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 906 million (\$3.0 billion), up 18 percent Y-o-Y in KD terms, while consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 324 million (\$1.1 billion), up 3 percent Y-o-Y, reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 36 percent. Consolidated net income amounted to KD 137 million (\$454 million), reflecting a 12 percent Y-o-Y increase. Earnings Per Share amounted to 32 fils (\$0.10) for the nine-month period.

#### Key operational notes for Q3 2018

1. Zain Saudi Arabia(KSA) became a subsidiary of Zain Group due to the step-up acquisition during the quarter. Consequently, Zain KSA's financial results are consolidated within the Q3 results of Zain Group, thus bolstering the Group's financial indicators on various levels and maximizing shareholder value.

2. The impact of the Zain KSA consolidation resulted in Zain Group recording an additional \$521 million in revenues and \$194 million in EBITDA for Q3 2018.

3. The application of IFRS 15 accounting standards from the beginning of 2018 significantly impacted EBITDA.

4. Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) experienced a 50 percent growth for the first nine months of 2018, representing 31 percent of the Group's total revenues. It should be noted that the substantial growth is predominantly due to the consolidation of Zain KSA results in Q3 2018.

5. The nine-month period was further highlighted by the notable 43 percent increase in net income and 10 percent growth in customers in Zain Iraq; healthy data growth of 7 percent in Zain Kuwait; with Zain Sudan continuing to perform exceptionally well in all key financial indicators in local currency terms.

6. Zain announced the launch of its pioneering Zain Drone service in Kuwait, with the plan to expand its operation to other markets. Zain Drone as-a-Service will offer state-of-the-art bespoke drone solutions and will provide advanced analytics for governments and businesses.

Commenting on the strong performance, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Ahmed Al-Tahous said, "It is rewarding to be able to report growth in key financial metrics for the third-quarter and nine-month periods of 2018 given the challenging market conditions across our footprint. These promising results highlight the Group's success in implementing strategic plans, that are dynamic in meeting with the sweeping changes in the ICT sector."

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Zain Group Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, "The third-quarter witnessed numerous milestones that included the value accretive consolidation of Zain Saudi Arabia, the ongoing revival of Zain Iraq on multiple levels, and the robust revenue growth in our data monetization programs, Enterprise (B2B), cloud services, as well as smart city initiatives in key markets, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

Al-Kharafi continued, "We are strategically transforming ourselves from being a pure telecom provider to a digital services provider. We draw confidence from rollout



Zain's main HQ building



Zain Group Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi



Zain Group Chairman Ahmed Al-Tahous

- For nine months of 2018, net income up 12% to reach KD 137 million (\$454m)
- Consolidation of Zain Saudi Arabia bolsters overall Zain Group financials
- Total customers served rose 5% to 47.8 million
- Zain Iraq net income increases 43% for first nine months
- Turnaround efforts in Saudi Arabia continue to progress reporting \$13 million net profit for Q3, 2018; with Sudan performing well in local currency terms
- Numerous customer centric digital services launched across key Markets results in consolidated data revenues growing 50% to represent 31% of Group revenue

of numerous customer centric digital services in key markets that contributed to the impressive growth in data revenues for the nine-month period that now accounts for 31 percent of overall service revenues. We will continue to foster this area of the business, both in individual and enterprise terms."

Furthermore, Al-Kharafi said, "It is our focus on innovation and seeking new revenue streams, upgrading our networks to be 5G ready and driving efficiencies that allows us to consistently deliver strong operational results, maintain our leadership position in most markets and enhancing shareholder value."

As a pioneering aspect of the company's digital transformation journey, Al-Kharafi commented on the progress being made with the establishment of the Zain Innovation Center (ZINC) in Kuwait and Jordan. "The introduction of ZINC is another step forward by Zain aligning to its brand

values and Corporate Sustainability objectives, as well as the company's active investment in delivering on its strategic digital lifestyle aspirations. The incubator themed co-working hub is playing an instrumental role in bolstering youth entrepreneurship in both country's startup ecosystems. We are attracting major global pioneers and mentors from across the digital value chain to make appearances at ZINC and inspire budding entrepreneurs through presentations and workshops and much more."

Al-Kharafi concluded by commenting on the recent launch of Zain Drone services in Kuwait, "The disruptive power of drone solutions will boost efficiency for many businesses and government entities in Kuwait and across our footprint in a safe, cost and time efficient manner. As a leading innovator we shall continue to invest heavily in the roll-out of Zain Drone services, posi-

tioning ourselves favorably to maximize the many opportunities in this burgeoning area, while at the same time fulfilling our digital transformation strategy of offering unique and business enhancing services."

#### Operational review of key markets for the nine months ended 30 September, 2018

**Kuwait:** Maintaining its market leadership, Zain Group's flagship operation saw its customer base serve 2.7 million, reflecting a 6 percent annual growth rate. It remains the Group's most profitable operation with revenues for the nine-months of 2018 remaining stable at KD 249 million (\$826 million), EBITDA amounting to KD 83 million (\$275 million) and net income of KD 60 million (\$198 million). Zain Kuwait's EBITDA margin stood at 33 percent for the nine months ended 2018, (38 percent EBITDA margin for Q3 2018) with data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) accounting for 34 percent of total revenues, growing 7 percent Y-o-Y.

Transforming itself to a digital services provider, Zain Kuwait has recently launched numerous digital services expanding its offering of innovative solutions under its Zain Life portfolio of services. These solutions include the empowerment of a smart home, a smart health, a smart lifestyle for consumers and a smart and efficient business sector empowering the New Kuwait 2035 Vision.

Furthermore, in a move forward towards 5G network adoption, the operator launched BEAM, the latest advanced wireless broadband technology, offering speeds that match fiber optics speeds, reaching up 40 Mbps. This ensures consistent speeds, enabling customers to enjoy 4K streaming, virtual reality, online gaming, and downloading heavy files. Also, recently the operator entered into agreements with global entities, including Microsoft to provide innovative cloud solutions to enterprise customers in Kuwait; with Cisco to deliver secure, cloud-based, managed network solutions to enterprises of all sizes; and with several global entities to employ Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to facilitate the development of smart education, smart health, smart security and smart mobility solutions.

Notably, in Q3, 2018 Zain Kuwait launched zBot, the new face of smart customer service,

making the operator the first telecom company to offer the interactive customer care solution in Kuwait. This customer service channel utilizes the latest artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to interact and respond to customer inquiries in a fully automated manner without the need of human interaction. Recently, Zain Kuwait launched eSIM services, an electronic SIM that replaces the traditional physical SIM card that is embedded in the device and allows customers to add up to 10 numbers in one device.

**Iraq:** Zain Iraq performed exceptionally well for the first nine months of 2018 when compared to the same period in 2017 with revenues reaching \$853 million, a 5 percent increase Y-o-Y and EBITDA amounting to \$308 million, up 10 percent Y-o-Y, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 36 percent. The operation reported a net profit of \$34 million for the nine-month period, up 43 percent Y-o-Y. The expansion of 3.9G services across the country (345 new sites) and restoration of sites in the West and North (97 percent of all sites restored to date), combined with numerous customer acquisition initiatives, especially in core regions, resulted in an impressive addition of 1.3 million customers (10 percent increase) to reach 15 million. Another contributing factor to the operation's financial revival was the significant growth of data revenues, robust growth in the Enterprise (B2B) segment and the revamping of Zain Iraq's call centers, which significantly improved customer service.

**Sudan:** A substantial currency devaluation (approximately 40 percent) in Sudan affected the operation's financial results in USD terms for the first nine months of 2018. Nevertheless, in local currency (SDG) terms, the operator continues to perform remarkably well as revenues grew by 31 percent Y-o-Y to reach SDG 6.8 billion (\$253 million, down 20 percent in USD terms). EBITDA increased by 32 percent to reach SDG 2.7 billion (\$101 million, down 19 percent in USD terms) and net income increased by 38 percent to SDG 1.2 billion (\$44 million, down 13 percent in USD terms). Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) accounted for 18 percent of total revenues and grew 53 percent in SDG terms, while its customer base increased 10 percent to reach 14.3 million.

**Saudi Arabia:** For the first nine months of 2018, the operator recorded stable revenues of \$1.5 billion and EBITDA of \$510 million, reflecting a healthy 35 percent EBITDA margin. For the third quarter of 2018, Zain KSA reported revenues of \$521 million, up 8 percent Y-o-Y, EBITDA of \$194 million up 15 percent Y-o-Y, with a 37 percent EBITDA margin, and net income of \$13 million compared to \$1 million in Q3 2017. The operator's total customer base stood at 8 million at the end of September 2018. Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) represent 52 percent of total revenues.

**Jordan:** Zain Jordan served 3.8 million customers at the end of September 2018, maintaining its market leading position despite intense price competition and challenging economic conditions in the Kingdom. Y-o-Y revenues were stable at \$369 million, with EBITDA down 15 percent to \$148 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 40 percent. Net income decreased 21 percent to \$56 million for the nine-month period. With the ongoing expansion of 4G services across the country, data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) represented 38 percent of total revenues.

**Bahrain:** Zain Bahrain generated revenues of \$129 million for the nine-month period of 2018, down 11 percent Y-o-Y. EBITDA for the period amounted to \$30 million, down 32 percent, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 24 percent. Net income amounted to \$10 million, reflecting a 32 percent increase.

#### Group Key Performance Indicators (Kuwaiti Dinars (KD) & USD) for the third-quarter (Q3) of 2018

Consolidated Revenues	KD 403 million - USD 1.3 billion	up 55%
EBITDA	KD 155 million - USD 512 million	up 48%
EBITDA Margin	38%	
Net Income	KD 51 million - USD 167 million	up 26%
EPS	12 fils - USD 0.04	

#### Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the first nine months (9M) 2018

Consolidated Revenues	KD 906 million - USD 3.0 billion	up 18%
EBITDA	KD 324 million - USD 1.1 billion	up 3%
EBITDA Margin	36%	
Net Income	KD 137 million - USD 454 million	up 12%
EPS	32 fils - USD 0.10	

Business

# Trade rows, ageing workers dim Germany's economic outlook

Europe's powerhouse battles headwinds from trade conflicts, Brexit uncertainty

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Germany's "wise men" council of economic experts yesterday sharply lowered its economic outlook as Europe's powerhouse battles headwinds from trade conflicts, Brexit uncertainty and an ageing population.

The experts, who advise the government on economic policy, said they expected Germany's economy to grow by 1.6 percent this year and 1.5 in 2019. That was well below their previous forecast of 2.3 percent and 1.8 percent respectively. "The uncertain future of the global economic order and unavoidable demographic change represent major challenges to the German economy," said chairman Christoph Schmidt in the council's latest annual report.

The so-called "wise men", actually four men and one woman, urged Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to take action to prepare Germany for the threats ahead.

The warning comes as Germany braces for a period of political turbulence at home following Merkel's announcement that she will step down as head of her center-right CDU in December and will not seek re-election as chancellor when her fourth term ends in 2021.

**Brexit and baby-boomers**

The German economy enjoyed stellar growth in 2017 underpinned by brisk domestic and international demand, record-low unemployment and low interest rates. But Europe's top economy has hit a soft patch this year against a backdrop of slower global growth. The German economy ministry last month lowered its growth estimates and is now pencilling in expansion of 1.8 percent this year and the next.

Clouding the outlook is concern about US President Donald Trump's aggressive "America First" trade agenda which has seen him lock horns with China and the European Union, unsettling Germany's export-reliant companies. Other outside risks stem from an increased chance of a no-deal Brexit when Britain quits the bloc in March, which could badly disrupt trade, and rising euroscepticism in countries like Italy, the "wise men" said.

"An escalation of the trade conflict, a disorderly Brexit, or a resurgence of the euro area crisis harbor risks for economic development," they warned. They urged Germany and the European Union to forcefully reject protectionism and stand up for free trade. Domestically, the experts singled out Germany's ageing workforce as a "major challenge".

German companies are already grappling with a shortage of skilled workers as the baby-boomer generation retires, and the problem is expected to worsen in the years ahead.

To get more people into the workforce, especially women, the experts urged Berlin to encourage flexible working hours and improve childcare options.

Immigrants could likewise help plug the gap, they added, while also advocating a gradual rise in retirement age. The experts pressed Berlin to make greater strides in preparing Germany for the digital economy, urging investments to improve the country's creaking internet infrastructure.

Berlin should also do more to support tech start-ups and modernize its education system to prepare youngsters for the "digital transformation", they added. —AFP



BERLIN: Christoph Schmidt (center), chairman of the German Council of Economic Experts, poses with his council's members (left to right) Volker Wieland, Isabel Schnabel, Schmidt, Peter Bofinger and Lars Feld during the presentation of the council's annual report on the country's economic development yesterday in Berlin. —AFP

## Ex-US Treasury chief warns of 'economic iron curtain'

**SINGAPORE:** Former US Treasury secretary Henry Paulson warned yesterday of the risk of an "economic iron curtain" unless the United States and China step up efforts to ease soaring trade tensions. Washington and Beijing have been locked for months in a stand-off over US President Donald Trump's move to end what he describes as years of unfair trade practices by China.

He has imposed new tariffs on Chinese imports, prompting Beijing to retaliate with its own levies on US products, and continued the offensive by boosting military support for rival Taiwan and denouncing China's human rights record.

In a speech in Singapore as Americans voted in midterm elections set to deliver a stinging rebuke to Trump, Paulson warned that "economic tensions are reaching a breaking point" between Washington and Beijing. "Today this region must look warily at the prospect that what until now has been a healthy strategic competition could tip into a full-blown Cold War," said Paulson, who served under Republican president George W. Bush.

Paulson, who backed Trump's Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the

2016 presidential election, warned that decades of US-China economic integration appeared to be going into reverse, which could have broad impact.

"I fear that big parts of the global economy will be closed off to free flow of investment and trade," he said. "I now see the prospect of an economic iron curtain—one that throws up new walls on each side and unmakes the global economy, as we have known it." The Iron Curtain was the term used to describe the political and ideological frontier that divided western Europe from the communist Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Tensions have gone beyond trade in recent weeks as the midterms approached. Trump has cast China as a villain set on bringing him down, and in a closely-watched speech earlier this month Vice President Mike Pence vowed to challenge the Asian giant on multiple fronts and accused Beijing of seeking to interfere in the polls. There have been signs of ties improving in some areas, with the State Department announcing this week that top-level US-China security talks will take place in Washington Friday.

Nevertheless Paulson, speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, warned: "We are in for a long winter in US-China relations." International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde told the same event she was concerned about the impact of tensions between Washington and Beijing "on many countries around the world, not just the US and China". Asked if she expects the trade war to ease, she warned: "It might get worse before it gets better." —AFP

## Profits up as Murdoch plan for 'new Fox' on track

**NEW YORK:** Twenty-First Century Fox reported a jump in profits in the past quarter yesterday as the conglomerate controlled by Rupert Murdoch said it was on track to complete a key asset sale and launch a slimmed-down media group. The New York-based media-entertainment company said its profit in the period rose 54 percent from a year ago to \$1.29 billion, lifted by a \$220 million gain from the sale of its stake in British-based broadcaster Sky.

Revenues rose two percent from a year ago to \$7.2 billion in the quarter ending September 30, the first fiscal quarter for the group. The boost in profits come with Fox on track to complete the sale of key film and television assets, including its big Hollywood studio, to Walt Disney Co. in a \$71 billion blockbuster deal.

The deal will allow Murdoch, 87, who has been gradually turning over control of his media empire to his two sons, to slim down his holdings to focus on a "new Fox" to include the US-based broadcast network and Fox News Channel. "We continue to deliver against

our growth plan even as we make important strides toward completing our Disney transaction and launching (the new) Fox in the first half of 2019," said a statement from Rupert and Lachlan Murdoch, who share the title of executive chairman.

"We have assembled a stellar leadership team for Fox, giving us further confidence in the new company's ability to capture opportunities in live programming while delivering long-term value for shareholders."

In September, Fox agreed to sell its 39 percent stake in Sky to Comcast, giving the US cable and media giant full control of the British television giant. That agreement ends a long-running battle for control of Sky by Murdoch in the face of resistance by British regulators and firms up the new landscape in the sector with Comcast in control of Sky and Disney set to expand its footprint with television and film assets from Fox.

In the quarterly results, Fox said its cable network programming operations delivered operating earnings of \$1.54 billion, a two percent increase, amid higher affiliate and advertising revenues.

Its television unit saw a 38 percent jump in operating profit to \$168 million, helped by its results from the World Cup broadcasts. The filmed entertainment unit lifted operating earnings eight percent to \$277 million on improvement in TV studio operations and licensing fees, although box office revenues decreased. —AFP



## Nine Months 2018 Results for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 137 million (USD 454 million)** for the nine months ended 30 September 2018.

The Board would like to express gratitude to all customers and shareholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence and profitable growth.

Board of Directors

47.8 MILLION	3.01 USD BILLION	1.08 USD BILLION	454 USD MILLION	10 CENTS
	906 KD MILLION	324 KD MILLION	137 KD MILLION	32 FILS
CUSTOMERS	REVENUES	EBITDA	NET INCOME	EPS



## Business

# Alghanim Automotive launches new vehicles at 'Discover America' event

## Discover America to spotlight 25 different events: US Ambassador

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Three new Chevrolet vehicles were unveiled yesterday at the Chevy showroom in Al-Rai during the US Embassy's Discover America event showcasing US brands and services. The new 2019 Chevy Tahoe RST, the 2019 Corvette ZR1 and the 2018 Chevy Silverado Special Ops Edition were launched yesterday before the local media and other attendees.

Speaking at the launch, US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman said the event comes in the middle of the two-week-long Discover America program. "Last week and this week, we participated in 25 different events highlighting American food, restaurants, sport, film, education, tourism, business, automobiles and music. More than two dozen restaurants and retail stores are offering special promotions on American products as well," he said.

The complete schedule of Discover America events can be found on the embassy's Twitter and Instagram pages @USEmbassyQ8. "The events are a great opportunity to put a spotlight on the strong US-Kuwaiti friendship and explore areas to broaden and deepen this relationship. Today our focus is on America's love of cars, Kuwait's love of cars, and Kuwait's love of American cars. This event celebrates the longstanding partnership between General Motors and Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive," Silverman said.

Alghanim Automotive started in 1932 and was the first General Motors distributor appointed in the Gulf region almost 70 years ago. One of the major steps in Alghanim Automotive's growth was the association with



**KUWAIT:** US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman speaks during the event.

General Motors to introduce American-made vehicles in Kuwait, and today it is one of the largest GM dealerships in the world. "It is a great example of what happens when American and Kuwaiti companies combine their resources and expertise to form a winning partnership. This partnership continues as strong as ever and I am happy to see so many Chevrolet vehicles on Kuwait's roads. I am excited to see these new Chevy vehicles. The Chevy Tahoe RST, or Rally Sport Truck, has 420 horsepower, more than any earlier edition," he added. "The new Corvette ZR1 was built with one thing in mind - performance," he added.



**KUWAIT:** Alghanim Automotive launches three new Chevrolet vehicles at the Chevy showroom in Al-Rai during the US Embassy's Discover America event showcasing US brands and services. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

## Small businesses are building blocks of economic development: KIB

**KUWAIT:** KIB recently sponsored the 7th Tmkeen Youth Empowerment Symposium (YES), which was held under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The event took place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait, and saw the participation of a group of highly respected experts and industry specialists from large institutions across the business world, both locally and internationally.

On this occasion, KIB stated that it believes small businesses are the building blocks of economic development and help boost the local labor market. Accordingly, the Bank is adamant on providing easy and simplified banking and financing solutions that meet the needs of these businesses through its Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Division.

KIB always seeks to diversify its financing portfolio and expand its SME financing services by offering a range of credit facilities, after evaluation and approval. The Bank aims at meeting various financing needs to provide businesses with services, such as: letters of guarantee, Murabaha, documentary credits, contract financing, car financing, as well as construction financing.

During the conference, KIB was recognized for its active role in empowering youth by sponsoring their projects and encouraging them to come up with fresh, new ideas of their own. Manager of the Corporate



Communications Unit at the Bank, Nawaf Najia, received the award on behalf of KIB. Najia added that KIB always seeks to motivate and empower youth, supporting them from the start during their academic career. The Bank continues to believe in the important role this segment plays in building a bright future for the nation.

Najia also lauded the impressive turnout at the KIB booth during the conference. He added that the Bank commits itself to supporting youth by providing them with a number of products and services specifically designed to cater to their lifestyles through its 'Youth Account' which combines both the benefits of saving and investing.

## Renault Al-Babtain offers added benefits on its newest models

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait is delighted to announce that customers can avail of the exciting offer that comes with the Renault Megane and Renault Koleos. The new service offer includes a ten year warranty and 50,000 km free maintenance on its newest popular models this season.

The Renault Megane 2019 is equipped with generous space for its occupants i.e. dimensions of 4.63m long and 1.81m wide, and a record wheelbase in its class of 2.71m. Owing to its dynamic styling and advanced features, the new Megane represents the next level 10 yw in the compact saloon category. It comes with a 1.6-litre engine, 115hp designed to enhance driving enjoyment and reduce fuel consumption.



Renault Koleos

The Renault Koleos 2019 exterior holds a taste for adventure all that is expected of a D-segment SUV. Its robust and muscular features amplifies the athletic exterior design with door protective moldings, large diameter two-tone alloy wheels, alloy roof rails, shark antenna, fender chrome lines and silver front skid. The four wheel drive technology, all-terrain ability, engine and transmission line-up has been tai-



Renault Megane

lored to meet the needs and expectations of the Kuwaiti market. The 2.5-litre petrol engine is also an atmospheric, four-cylinder, power is 170hp (126kW) at 6,000rpm, with peak torque of 233Nm at 4,000rpm.

Renault Al-Babtain urges its Renault fans to avail of the benefits that accompany the new models during the limited time offer.

## Free exclusive desert package with every Patrol Safari

**KUWAIT:** With the onset of the camping season, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, encourages its Nissan fans to opt for the dynamic Nissan Patrol Safari to enjoy the ride to its maximum. To ensure a smooth and memorable journey for our customers, every Nissan Patrol Safari owner will also be entitled to a free special desert package that holds camping equipments.

With impressive styling and richly appointed interiors, Nissan Al-Babtain's Safari features the torque-rich 4.8L DOHC in-line 6-cylinder engine and available in either manual or automatic transmissions with five-speed. The customer will receive a special package including a desert rescue package, small camping chair, air compressor, LED work-lights and slip on seat covers.

The vehicles rugged exterior has been enhanced with machine-cut 16-inch black alloy wheels, body side stripes, whilst the interior encompasses fabric seats, wooden decoration, and fitted with cruise control steering wheel-control switches and power windows with one touch auto and anti-freeze functions in addition to the cool box to contribute to the drivers comfort and convenience.

Backed by superior engineering, the Nissan Patrol Safari is the ultimate off-road performance car with an unrivaled off-road capability and on-road handling. Delivering top-speed and power, the 4.8L DOHC in-line 6-cylinder engine produces 280hp and a heavy 46kg or 451Nm of torque, allowing it to maneuver through sand dunes with ease.

Its formidable all-terrain prowess is underscored by superior engineering including a 5-speed automatic transmission with manual mode, as well as Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) and a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) that enhance on-road driving.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its showrooms located in Al-Rai and Ahmadi to grab hold of the winter deal and explore new possibilities on the wild deserts of Kuwait with one of the worlds most rugged all-terrain vehicles.



## Boeing braces for trade war headwinds in China

**ZHUHAI, China:** At China's biggest air show, a top Boeing executive voiced hope that the US and China would resume trade talks. He has reason to worry: The US aerospace giant could fly into turbulence in a protracted commercial conflict.

While Boeing has so far escaped the rounds of tit-for-tat tariffs, analysts say it is at risk of being the next victim if the trade war escalates, which would benefit its European rival Airbus. Tariffs would bite deep for the Chicago-based company as China—the world's second biggest aircraft market—represents

one-fifth of its global orders. At Airshow China in the southern city of Zhuhai, the president of Boeing China, John Bruns said the company was "confident" that dialogue will resume between US and Chinese negotiators.

"A healthy airspace industry is in the best interests of both countries," Bruns said at a news conference on Tuesday on the sidelines of the exhibition, where companies are showing off their latest planes, helicopters and drones this week. While Boeing's large planes have avoided tariffs, China has other ways to hurt the company, just as it battles Airbus for bigger shares of the massive market.

"The retaliation would mainly be in the form of cancelled orders with a redistribution to Airbus, perhaps as much as 30-40 percent of the existing order book," said Vinay Bhaskara, a senior business analyst for Airways Magazine. "At the current moment, I give perhaps a 25 percent chance of this scenario where

China cancels Boeing orders wholesale," Bhaskara told AFP.

### Top market

The trade war comes at a particularly awkward time for Boeing—which announced last year it had won a major contract worth around \$38 billion to sell 300 aircraft to China. In a worrisome signal, China's Xiamen Airlines—a company that has bought exclusively from Boeing for three decades—is in talks with Airbus, according to Bloomberg News.

"This could be very good news for Airbus. It might just allow them to get to their rumored goal of 70 single aisle (A320) jets per month," said Richard Aboulafia, an aviation industry analyst at US consultancy Teal Group. China is expected to surpass the United States as the world's biggest aircraft market in the mid-2020s, according to the International Air Transport Association. Boeing delivered 202 aircraft in China last year, beating Airbus, which sold 176. —AFP

What's On

# LAPA concludes Green Journalism workshop



Rami Radhwan

L OYAC's Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA) recently concluded its Green Journalism workshop held at the Qibliya School in collaboration with KUNA and with the attendance of LAPA's chairperson, Fare'a Al-Saqqa, the media workshop supervisor, Menayer Al-

Qallaf, a number of media figures students and their parents. The workshop lasted three days including lectures by KUNA's Kholoud Al-Enezi, Saad Al-Ali in addition to journalist and technical critic, Ahmed Nasser, writer Rawabi Al-Bannai, media figures Bassam Al-Jazzaf, Bader Al-Esa

and Abdullah Boftain. Furthermore, the workshop included lectures by Dr Mohammed Al-Amir, Maraheb Al-Qallaf, artist, Abdul Nasser Al-Zayer and the Egyptian media figure, Rami Radwan. The workshop was concluded with visits to local newspapers including Al-Rai media group.

## IAA Kuwait Chapter elects new board members



The Kuwait chapter of the IAA announced its new Board members, after an election, which was held at the Banquet Hall of JW Marriott Kuwait on Wednesday, 31st October, 2018. Walid Kanafani, the President of IAA - Kuwait chapter welcomed the members who attended the election. Kanafani reviewed the works of the past two years, its various activities and important achievements. He emphasized that all work done, was the efforts of the entire team and he was very proud to say, that the Kuwait chapter has a very good position among the other chapters in the world.

During the past 2 years, Kuwait chapter managed to participate in many workshops, informative seminars on leadership and grooming professionals, and was actively involved in attending the International Congress meetings and promoted Kuwait by sending representative from Kuwait to be a part of the conference and share in its various activities. The names of the IAA Kuwait Chapter Board Members for the working tenure from 2018 to 2020 are as:

- Walid Kanafani - President
- Iqbal Al Haddad - Vice President
- Adnan Saad - Treasurer
- Bassam Ghorayeb - General Secretary
- Marwan Farah - Board Member
- Sami Hanna - Board Member
- Elie Farah - Board Member

Walid Kanafani has been appointed by the IAA Global as:

- IAA Vice President MEA for Education from 2018 to 2020
- Member of the Elections Committee - Representative for MEA & Africa 2018
- IAA Inspire Awards Judging Council - Representative for MEA & Africa 2018

In his address to the media, after the elections, the President Elect, Walid Kanafani, reiterated, that as President of the IAA - Kuwait Chapter, he is aware that this is not just a title, but comes with a huge responsibility which in turn demands total dedication of his time to serve the association to the best of his ability for the next two years. He added that he was honored and elated to be entrusted with this responsibility.

He noted, that the results of the elections have shown that, there is a big irony among the membership, pointing out that the seven board members elected, are exactly the same as the previous term, 'so with that equation, it is easy to interact and find solution, as there is good coordination and mutual understanding among the board and this assisted in smoothly completing the works undertaken in the previous years and also plan a lot of more interesting and fruitful assignment for the coming years, which will uplift the superiority and professionalism of this industry.'

Walid Kanafani the IAA President of Kuwait Chapter detailed in a full presentation the major IAA achievements and activities

during last two years. Kanafani mentioned that 2018 is a very special year for the IAA, we are celebrating our 80th Anniversary worldwide and 20th Anniversary in Kuwait. On this occasion a new Logo, Identity and updated objectives and strategies have been released.

As a major achievement Kanafani highlighted the participation of IAA Kuwait Chapter in the IAA Global Marketing Summit in New York April 2018 as well as the participation in IAA Board meeting and IAA 80TH Anniversary Celebration in New York April 2018, Dubai Lynx held in March 18, Cannes Lions in June 2018 & The IAA Global Conference in Bucharest October 2018. He announced the future participation of the chapter in the World Congress in India February 2019.

### 2nd Apprentice conference

Kanafani discussed the success of the 2nd Apprentice conference that IAA Kuwait held in April 2018. The IAA Apprentice Conference was conceived to contribute to the much talked about challenges for the marketing and communications industry in attracting the best and brightest young men and women. The inaugural event brought together junior and senior undergraduate students as well as young industry professional delegates. The program includes presentations, discussions and workshops with regional and international industry professionals, recruiters and clients where students had the chance to listen, practice, network and impress! The central idea is to enhance and empower graduating students with first-hand knowledge of real world industry practice and opportunities in the new communications landscape and to help them get hired. The event witnessed 12 professional speakers with the participation of 120 Students from different local and private specialized universities.

Kanafani shared with the audience that the IAA created a campaign to promote advertising. The new IAA 'Case for Advertising' campaign focuses on many of the core benefits that are deeply rooted in marketing communications - that advertising promotes choice; educates; informs; encourages innovation; creates jobs; supports the arts, entertainment and sports; and contributes to the costs of providing news and information. The campaign focus is for consumers and governments to understand the value of advertising in its many forms, including sponsored content. Advertising - your right to choose this campaign released in March 2018.

Walid Kanafani, shared the success of the Arab Net Conference Kuwait 3rd Edition which was held in October 2018. The conference highlights the state of digital economy and business in Kuwait, as well as explore into the latest trend in digital media and marketing. The 2017 conference in Kuwait drew in 80+ speakers and over 800+ exclusive attendees,

eager to network and discuss the latest trends on mobile and web. The IAA Kuwait Chapter was considered as a strategic partner for the conference. As known, that the role of the IAA is to monitor and assist the Advertising industry to ensure that there is harmony and coordination between the media and other economic sectors. We have a lot of new projects, which will be very soon activated on the appointment of the new team.

The President-elect, noted that IAA Kuwait Chapter is well representing some successful entities such as Dubai Lynx and Cannes Lions. Kuwait team will be working in close coordination with these entities for the benefit of the industry, adding that cooperation will enhance professionalism of practitioners through regular visits by speakers and orators with the industry. Besides, there are plans for many conferences and educational programs, to ensure that every single member of the IAA is benefitted.

He emphasized that, the main objective of the association is to increase the membership in the chapter, through visits to all agencies and clients, as well as media houses to inform them more about the association, its role in the industry and invite them to be a part of this association. Media practitioners will also be kept updated on all activities and future plans within the organization.

Stressing on the open-door policy of the new board, Kanafani disclosed, that the membership hopes to fully support every member, and at the same time, assure all members that they are always available, for any information or queries, needed from and about the association. Suggestions, are also welcomed. We are always ready to listen and work hard to make everything more professionally right within the advertising industry.

Referring to the priority projects on the agenda of the new board within the two-year period, Kanafani, stated, that on the top of the board list, is to get in touch with the most important sectors, writers, readers and others members of the media fraternity who have accomplished themselves in the media arena, to get them to visit Kuwait and share their experiences. This can only happen, with the support and coordination with the other Middle East and GCC chapters of the association, who will be more than cooperative to share their experiences for the benefit of the Kuwait chapter.

With regards, to the importance of the IAA, in the field of advertising and media relations, the Kuwait Chapter President-elect, stated, that though the association is worldwide, one available in every country, each one is unique and differs from the other, due to its socio-economic and geo-political circumstances prevailing in every country. While, some chapters may have all the essential tools to function with the right parameters to achieve their objectives, others fall short of tools to function and meet their set objectives.

## ACK organizes blood donation day on Campus



Last year, ACK organized a similar event; however, due to the high amount of participation in the previous Blood Donation drive, the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait has agreed to extend this Blood Donation event for two days instead of one this time. The objective of the event was to propagate the significance of blood donation in saving lives, and to generate awareness about receiving and donating blood from different blood types. In order to do so, the event was themed with "Every Drop Matters". Donors were greeted properly and were given a quick quiz related to the types of blood highlighting eligibility of receiving and donating blood from each blood type.

The Central Blood bank of Kuwait has collected a total of 300 blood bags from ACK Blood Donation Day; however, donors who were willing to donate before the screening were a total of 700 people. The Blood Bank also shared their appreciation toward ACK's community for having one of the highest amounts of blood donation contribution from educational institutions in Kuwait and proposed that for the future drives, ACK can host the event for a whole week. ACK would like to thank its community for participation. The drive would not have been successful without the collaboration of departments and student volunteers who were an added value to the event.

## Japanese Society's upcoming beach clean-up campaign

The Japanese Society, in cooperation with Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) and Kuwait Oil Company, will jointly organize the 18th beach cleaning up campaign, entitled "Operation Turtles" on Saturday, November 10th at Shuwaikh Beach Park, from 10:30 am - 12:00. The campaign aims at enhancing people's awareness of the importance of environmental protection. The Japanese society would like to invite citizens, expats and activists to participate in this activity.



## KCA announces academic year

Following lengthy preparations during the summer vacation, the Kuwait Center for Autism (KCA) announced launching its new academic year with a special revival training course for both new and old teachers to make sure they have assimilated the REACH

curriculum taught By KCA for years pending launching worldwide under Kuwait's name soon. Special individual plans were set for each of the center's 150 students of various ages to be discussed with and approved by parents before students start attending various classes and workshops in groups of 4-5 with two teachers per group. KCA is also preparing to launch its first family Diwaniya where families and parents will be received to discuss the individual



## Health &amp; Science

# Google touts its progress in their fight against piracy

## 'The challenge and the importance of a balanced approach'

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Google said yesterday it is making strides in helping internet users legitimately get songs, films and apps while choking off revenue to websites with stolen digital content. A 64-page report released by Google claimed progress in the war on piracy, but also noted a new battlefield in the form of "add-on" software that can be installed on legitimate open-source media players such as the Kodi box to illicitly stream copyrighted content.

"Combating illegal streaming on open-source media players like the Kodi box shows both the challenge and the importance of a balanced approach in the fight against piracy," Google said in the report. "Pirates have created add-ons to enable Kodi boxes to access infringing works." Set-top boxes with suspicious add-ons are removed from Google Shopping, while apps with pre-installed "Kodi add-ons" giving access to pirate sites are removed from the Play Store, according to the internet firm.

The report cited a 2018 global study released by The Institute for Information Law that found the percentage of internet users who engage in piracy has been falling, while spending on legal content is rising. "Successfully decreasing incidents of copyright infringement has required providing more and better legitimate alternatives to infringing content, as well as more effective tools for combating piracy," Google said.

Google boasted that it has been generating more money for those who create or own digital content while strengthening its arsenal and efforts to fight piracy.

A YouTube "Content ID" tool creates digital fingerprints of sorts of copyrighted content and then automatically detects it online, allowing owners to have it removed or monetized.

### Stopping 'rogue' operators

Websites involved in piracy are "demoted" in search results and cut off from Google's online ad platform, according to the report. "One of the most effective ways to combat rogue sites that specialize in online piracy is to cut off their money supply," Google said. Since 2012, Google has terminated more than 13,000 AdSense accounts and ejected more than 100,000 sites from its AdSense program for violations of policy on copyrighted material, according to the report.

Meanwhile, a "Google Play" online shop for digital content bans apps that "infringe copyright, encourage illegal streaming, or attempt to deceive users by impersonating other apps." Google also told of taking aim at copyright-infringing ads with "considerable" resources. The California-based tech giant said that last year it rejected more than 10 million ads suspected of infringing copyrights or linking to websites that did.

According to the report, Google-owned YouTube paid more than \$1.8 billion to the music industry from October 2017 to September 2018. Digital video revenues are expected to soar from \$64 billion last year to \$119 billion by the year 2022, while global music streaming revenues more than doubled from 2015 to 2017, according to the report. — AFP



SHANGHAI: This picture taken on November 5, 2018 shows a woman passing a booth of Google at the first China International Import Expo (CIE). — AFP

## Scientists push back against Harvard 'alien spacecraft' theory

**TAMPA:** A scientific paper led by two researchers at Harvard University made a splash this week by claiming that a cigar-shaped rock zooming through our solar system may have been sent by aliens. The researchers noted in a pre-print of the article that it was an "exotic scenario," but that "Oumuamua may be a fully operational probe sent intentionally to Earth vicinity by an alien civilization."

Oumuamua, the first interstellar object known to enter our solar system, accelerated faster away from the Sun than expected, hence the notion that some kind of artificial sail that runs on sunlight — known as a light sail — may have helped push it through space. "Currently there is an unexplained phenomena, namely, the excess acceleration of Oumuamua, which we show may be explained by the force of radiation pressure from the sun," co-author and Harvard astrophysicist Shmuel Bialy said via email Tuesday. "However this requires the body to have a very large surface and be very thin, which is not encountered in nature." Their suggestion of an alien force at work went viral. But other astronomy experts aren't buying it.

"Like most scientists, I would love there to be convincing evidence of alien life, but this isn't it," said Alan Fitzsimmons, an astrophysicist at Queens University, Belfast. "It has already been shown that its observed characteristics are consistent with a comet-like body ejected from another star system," he told AFP. "And some of the arguments in this study are based on numbers with large uncertainties."

Katie Mack, a well-known astrophysicist at North Carolina State, also took issue with the alien hype. "The thing you have to understand is: scientists are perfectly happy to publish an outlandish idea if it has even the tiniest sliver of a chance of not being wrong," she wrote on Twitter. "But until every other possibility has been exhausted dozen times over, even the authors probably don't believe it." — AFP

## Recovery of endangered whales hampered by man

**PARIS:** When an endangered female North Atlantic right whale spends months, even years, disentangling itself from cast-off fishing nets, there's not much energy left over for mating and nursing calves. Coping with such debris, along with ship collisions and other forms of human encroachment, have severely stymied recovery of the majestic sea mammals long after explosive harpoons and factory ships nearly wiped them out, according to a study published yesterday.

Once numbering in the tens of thousands, the northern whale's population — hovering around 450 today — climbed slowly from 1990, but began to drop again around 2010. Had the Canadian and US waters they plied during that quarter of a century been pristine and uncluttered by human traffic, "the species' numbers would be almost double what they are now, and their current emergency wouldn't be so dire," scientists led by Peter Corkeron of the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Massachusetts reported.

More to the point, there would be twice as many female whales: "The general slope of the recovery trajectory is driven by female mortality," they added. From 1970 to 2009, 80 percent of 122 known North Atlantic right whale deaths were caused by human objects or activity. The species has not been hunted for more than half a century.

### Sister species

But beyond the number of whales killed was the question of whether the species' population might have been curtailed in

more subtle ways by people. To find out, Corkeron compared birth rates with the Southern right whale, a sister species in the southern hemisphere — estimated to number about 15,000 — that is in much better shape and far less exposed to harmful human emanations.

Data gathered over the last three decades made it possible to count the number of new calves born in different sub-populations at both poles. The Northern and Southern whales were long thought to be one species until genetic analysis showed otherwise. As suspected, the three groups of Southern whales — off the coasts of eastern South America, southern Africa and southwest Australia — produced offspring at twice the rate as their northern kin. Further evidence that the North Atlantic environment was taking a toll was the poor health of females and their calves, the study found.

"That female baleen whales forgo reproduction in response to poor body conditions is well established," the authors said. What caused the lacerations, reduced body weight, and apparent unwillingness to mate? The most likely culprit is "ghost nets", sprawling webs of fishing gear often made of synthetic fibers as strong as they are long-lasting, the study concluded.

More than 80 percent of all North Atlantic right whales are known to have been entangled in abandoned netting at least once, and well over half have been there twice or more. "Entanglements can last from months to years, and recovery can take a similar time," the authors wrote in Royal Society Open Science. For the Southern whales, the problem is non-existent. Once numbered in the hundreds of thousands, slow moving right whales — migrating along coastlines — were both easy and preferred prey for whalers well into the 20th century. The species can grow to 20 meters and weigh 100 tons, more than a fully-loaded commercial jet. They are also docile and full of the blubber from which whale oil was made. — AFP

## Young women to build Kyrgyzstan's first satellite

**LONDON:** Reaching for the stars will no longer be impossible for girls and young women in Kyrgyzstan, who aim to build and launch the country's first satellite before 2020. A dozen budding female scientists have been tinkering with computers, 3D printers and soldering irons since March to build a CubeSat, which US space agency NASA describes as being the smallest and cheapest satellite used for space exploration.

"I feel very proud that it's going to be the first satellite of the country. I'm doing this programme because I want to empower other girls," said 23-year-old student Kyzhibek Batyrkanova during a Skype interview from the capital Bishkek. "Your gender doesn't have to determine what you have to do in this life." It is a rare path for any Kyrgyz, let alone a woman, given that nearly two-thirds of people in the mountainous Central Asian country live in rural areas, and the economy relies on farming, according to the United Nations.

Women make up less than 10 percent of Kyrgyzstan's science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), and construction and manufacturing graduates, the UN Development Program says. "Some girls don't have courage to pursue such studies because it's not very common in our country, and the majority of parents discourage their daughters from pursuing this," said 19-year-old Alina Anisimova, who is leading the

satellite project. "I wish that in the future, people will not consider it so surprising to see young women who do welding or who are involved in engineering," said the computer programmer. She is one of the young women, aged between 17 and 24, working on the project, which was started by Kloop Media, a local media group, after a chance meeting with senior NASA staff Alexander MacDonald, who suggested the ambitious idea.

According to Kloop's crowdfunding page for the project, the construction and launch of Kyrgyzstan's first CubeSat will cost up to \$150,000. The final stages of the build will be made in partnership with a Lithuanian company. "Building a satellite can serve as a powerful social and political signal," MacDonald told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "It can send important messages into who is able to participate and build the future."

Even though the number of women in STEM has increased in recent years, they still only account for about 30 percent of the world's researchers, the UN cultural agency UNESCO says. Aidana Aidarbekova, a 19-year-old student participating in the project, said girls and women in her country are expected to marry instead of pursuing a career. "There are a lot of people who don't believe that girls are capable of doing anything else but cleaning and cooking and giving birth to children," said Aidarbekova.

Nearly one in 10 girls in Kyrgyzstan is married off before the age of 18, according to global charity Girls Not Brides, even though bride kidnapping was outlawed in 2013. Aidarbekova said she hopes the space project will inspire girls in her country and beyond. "We are doing this program because we want to prove that girls can actually do it," she said. — Reuters

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- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the Eurpean Laryngological Society

**Specialized in:**

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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

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

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant

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

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

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

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

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

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

daralshifa  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

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

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

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

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

**Academic Certificates - Training**

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

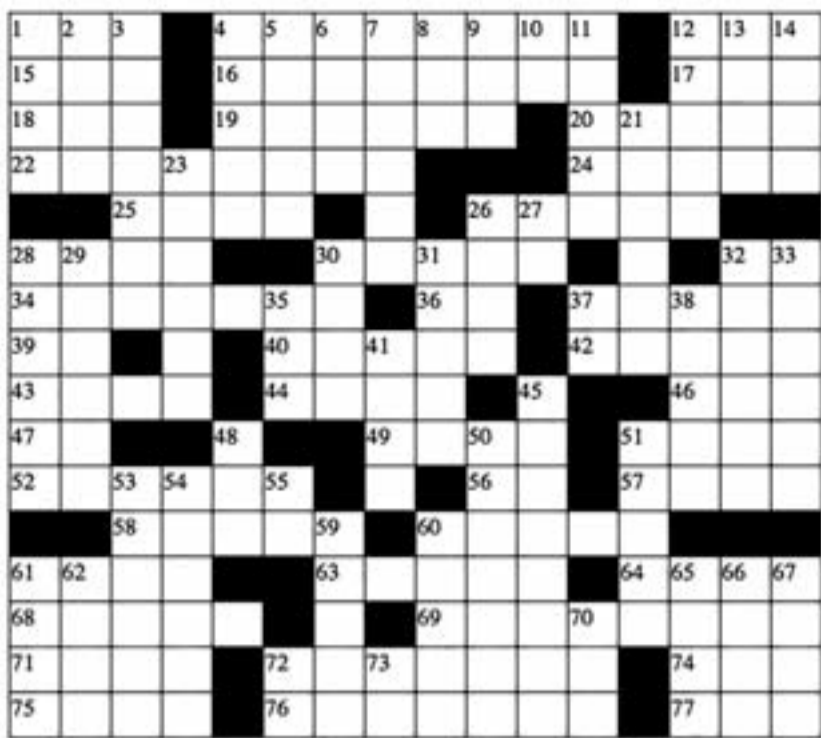
**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2055



ACROSS

1. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
4. (informal) Someone who is a detective.
12. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
15. A city in the European part of Russia.
16. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
17. An accidental happening.
18. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
19. Darkened with overcast.
20. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
22. Hindu sacred text instructing the Brahmins to perform the Vedic rituals.
24. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
25. Made of fir or pine.
28. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
34. A very young lamb.
36. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
39. The use of bacteria or viruses of toxins to destroy men and animals or food.
40. Occurring or done each day.
42. Obvious and dull.
43. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
44. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
46. A type of submachine gun that is designed and manufactured in Israel.
47. A state in New England.
49. A genus of Mustelidae.
52. Formerly a contemptuous term of address to an inferior man or boy.
56. An associate degree in nursing.
57. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
58. Suggestive of the supernatural.
61. Lie adjacent to another.
63. Squash bugs.
64. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
68. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
69. Showing both bilateral and radial symmetry.
71. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
74. A loud harsh or strident noise.
75. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
76. Having ones attention or mind or energy engaged.
77. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.

DOWN

1. Slow to learn or understand.
- (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
- Covered with paving material.
- A board game in which players try to move their pieces into their opponent's bases.
- Of or relating to or involving an area.
6. Deprive (infants) of mother's milk.
7. A member of an aboriginal people living in the hills in southeastern India.
8. An inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
9. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
10. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
11. (Brit) An area of open or forested country.
12. A painful emotion resulting from an awareness of inadequacy or guilt.
13. Capital city of the Apulia region on the Adriatic coast.
14. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
21. A town in central Kansas.
23. German dramatist (1813-1863).
26. Made of or resembling lace.
27. A public promotion of some product or service.
29. A state in the United States in the central Pacific on the Hawaiian Islands.
30. Type genus of the Anatidae.
31. A city in north-central India.
32. Filled with the emotional impact of overwhelming surprise or shock.
33. Containing salt.
35. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
37. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
38. Any plant of the genus Inula.
41. Made agreeably cold (especially by ice).
45. (Spanish) Sweetened red wine and orange or lemon juice with soda water.
48. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
50. Increasing in quantity or value.
51. Any of various organs that synthesize substances needed by the body and release it through ducts or directly into the bloodstream.
53. (Old Testament) A son of Jacob and forefather of one of the tribes of Israel.
54. Small genus of mediterranean shrubs.
55. An expression of greeting.
59. Having been taken into the mouth for consumption.
60. A native-born Israeli.
62. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
65. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
66. Anything that serves as an enticement.
67. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
70. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
72. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
73. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You seem to always have the ability to make wise personal decisions. Today finds you being admired and looked to for advice in a personal matter by a friend. This is great time for you to help others. Sensing the needs of others seems to come naturally to you today. You are able to gain trust and admiration when speaking to others today and helping them work through their own problems. You may find that today you are a natural at offering love and support. On the other hand, you may feel a bit let down when you need someone to turn to. As supportive as you are, it seems there is no one there for you when you need the same in return. Aries. Such is life.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A seriousness comes over you today. This is a great time to think and study. Enroll in an online course, or sign up for classes to further your education. Your frame of mind now is perfect for it. This is a great time to reorganize for you. Getting things in order will come naturally and with ease. Connect with old acquaintances. Reach out and connect with someone you love. Clear thoughts and an open mind make for great times with those you love.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Plan for the worst but expect the best. Don't let yourself be caught off-guard. A pleasant surprise is much better than experiencing a let down. Buckle down, focus and apply yourself and you will reap great reward. Anything less will likely lead to a setback and frustration. Keep your eye on the prize. Keep your attitude positive and reach for the stars.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Harmony and beauty can be deeply satisfying for you now. You have no room nor tolerance for drama or chaos in your world. You have great support from your family and friends. Your focus seems to turn on spending time with those you love. You will find great satisfaction caring for others and knowing how they care for you. Plan a trip or a weekend getaway with your special someone. This is a great time for you to strengthen a bond with someone special.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are making a difference in the lives of more people than you realize. You could qualify as a CREEP. That's a good thing, a compliment. It is an acronym for Constantly Ready to Encourage Every Person. You tend to focus on the other person, not on yourself. You send the message "You are enough." Don't change the way you relate to people. Keep doing what you are doing. You don't have to work at it. It comes naturally for you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today may find you more impulsive than you usually are. You seem to be direct and outspoken when dealing with others today. You desire a fresh start. Your mind is on new beginnings and developing new habit patterns. Out with the old and in with the new. The consequences of the choices and decisions you make today will be long lasting. Take your time and put much thought into the changes you are making. Remember, acting on impulse is not always the best way to handle decisions and problems. Change can be good as long as you take the time to think things through and realize every action has a consequence.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

No task seems to large today. You are full of energy and ready to conquer the world. You will successfully turn any stumbling block into a stepping stone today. You are ready to make changes in your life that will bring much happiness and success your way. Your high energy and determination will help you move mountains. You may find you have much love and support from your friends today. They will be attracted to your high energy and positive attitude. Be prepared for others to look to you for advice today. You are becoming a person who



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find yourself entering a period of soul-searching. You may feel as if you are feeding off of the mystical, emotional, and instinctive qualities you possess. There is great depth to these feelings. You feel led to be forgiving, understanding, and compassionate to all in your life. You may experience relationships being mended today and barriers dissolving. This is a time of peace in your life and you may find yourself to be extremely sensitive. This can work to your advantage as others find you caring and someone they look up to. You are admired today. Whether you choose to see it as intuition or psychic ability, now



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are making a difference in the lives of more people than you realize. You could qualify as a CREEP. That's a good thing, a compliment. It is an acronym for Constantly Ready to Encourage Every Person. You tend to focus on the other person, not on yourself. You send the message "You are enough." Don't change the way you relate to people. Keep doing what you are doing. You don't have to work at it. It comes naturally for you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today seems to bring an awareness of a sense of time into your world. You aren't getting any younger. You can honestly say with age has come wisdom. You are wise beyond your years and you have life experience to thank for that. You have successfully turned every road block into a life lesson and learned from your mistakes. This awareness will be a guiding force in decisions that need to be made today. If one thing is certain, making the same mistakes you have made in the past is not an option. You have lived and learned. Be grateful for the bumpy road you have traveled. It is leading you straight to the ultimate goal



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are feeling some financial stress. That's because you have trouble distinguishing between "Needs" and "Wants." Solve the problem by listing your expenditures in the two categories. To assure objectivity, you may want to enlist the help of a friend to verify the lists. (Utilities are Needs, that new purse is a Want.) Set aside money for Needs, including payments on current debts. Allow yourself the balance to spend on wants. Resisting the temptation to spend more than you have will be difficult at first, but it will soon become habit. And you will



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find this a great time to reflect and gain understanding of your own situation. How did you get to this point in your life? You know that everything happens for a reason and you have learned to have a positive outlook on adversity. You have learned lessons from obstacles that have been place in your path in the past. This a great time for you to gain a sense of understanding for those around you. A deeper connection is possible for your relationships. This is a good time for you to spend with a loved one. Pisces, you may find yourself at peace today.

Wordsearch Puzzle

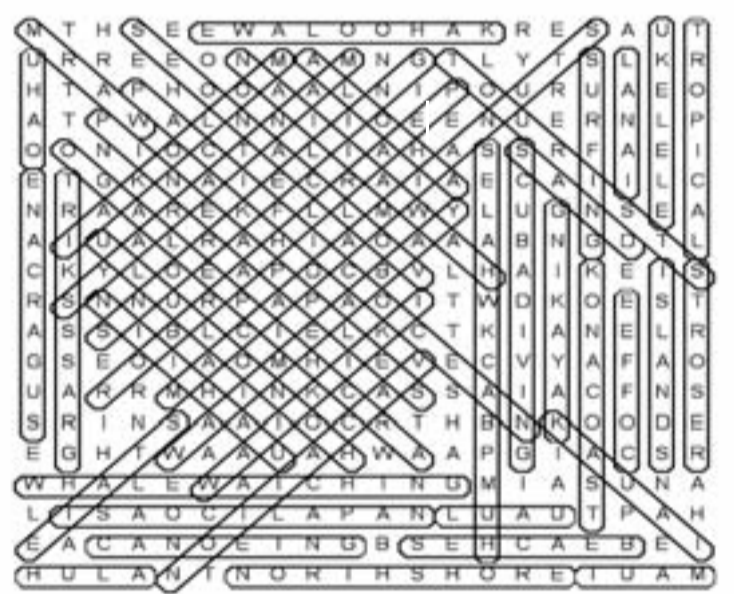
Head & Neck

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word.



- |           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| BRAIN     | HAIR       | SCALP      |
| CHEEKS    | JAW        | SKULL      |
| CHIN      | LARYNX     | TASTE BUDS |
| EAR LOBES | LIPS       | TEETH      |
| EARDRUM   | MOUTH      | TEMPLES    |
| EARS      | NAPE       | THROAT     |
| EYEBROWS  | NECK       | TONGUE     |
| EYELIDS   | NOSE       | TONSILS    |
| EYES      | NOSTRILS   | TRACHEA    |
| FOREHEAD  | OESOPHAGUS | UVULA      |
| GUMS      | PHARYNX    |            |

Hawaii



- |                 |                |               |                |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| ALOHA           | KAHU'OLAWE     | NI'HAU        | SUGARCANE      |
| ARCHIPELAGO     | KAUAI          | NORTH SHORE   | SURFING        |
| BEACHES         | KAYAKING       | O'AHU         | TOURISTS       |
| CANOEING        | KONA COAST     | PACIFIC OCEAN | TROPICAL       |
| COFFEE          | LANAI          | PEARL HARBOR  | UKULELE        |
| GRASS SKIRT     | LIUAI          | PINEAPPLES    | VACATION       |
| HAWAIIAN        | MACADAMIA NUTS | RESORTS       | VOLCANOES      |
| HONOLULU        | MANA RAYS      | SAND          | WAIKIKI        |
| HULA            | MAUI           | SCUBA DIVING  | WAIHEA BAY     |
| HUMPBACK WHALES | MOLOKAI        | SNORKELING    | WARM           |
| ISLANDS         | HAWAII COAST   | STATE         | WHALE WATCHING |

The hidden message is: THERE ARE ONLY THIRTEEN LETTERS IN THE HAWAIIAN ALPHABET

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018



A picture shows a plane flying over the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi. — AFP

## ‘SOYUZMULTFILM:’ RUSSIA’S PREMIER CHILDREN CARTOON ANIMATION STUDIO

The Soyuzmultfilm, established in 1936, has been the premier children animation studio in Russia for decades. The studio produced numerous titles throughout the years, inspiring and entertaining generations of Russian children and their global peers. Speaking to KUNA on the studio's body of work, Soyuzmultfilm Director Boris Mashkovtsev said that the studio usually produces around 10 films on annual bases, revealing that it now was currently working on the 1,500-

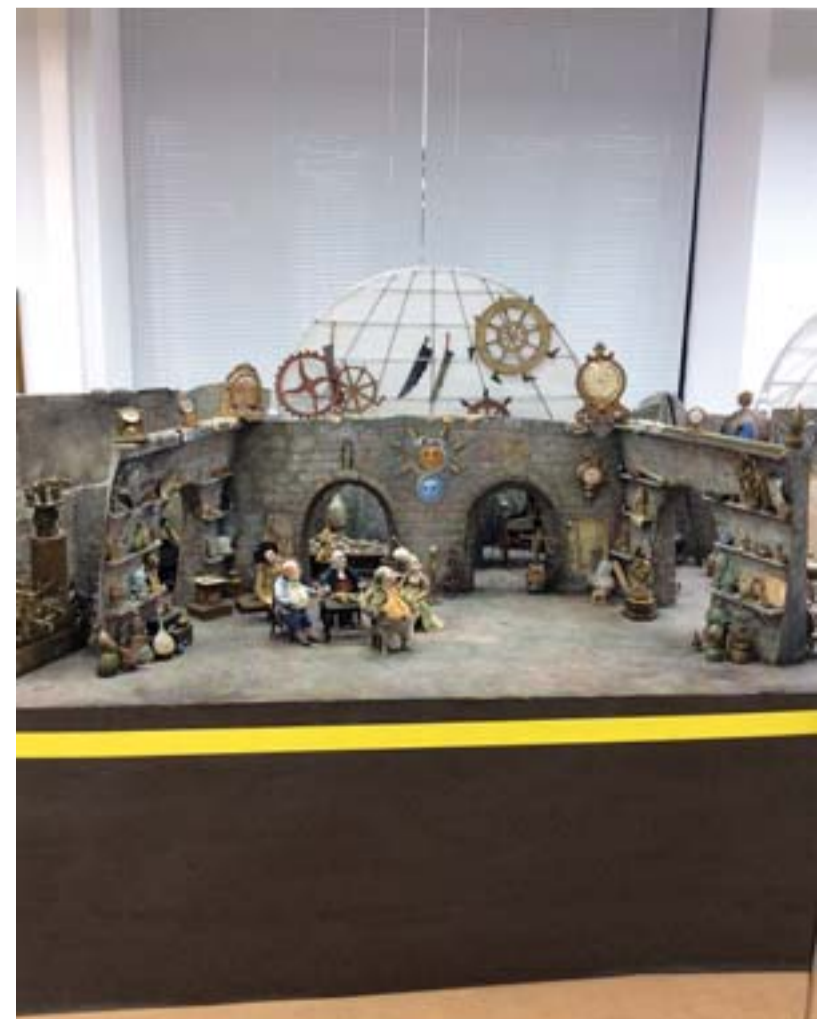
titles gold collection.

The collection is a project featuring the studio's take on classic children tales such as (the Bremen Town Musicians), (Winnie the Pooh), and (Mowgli). The collection also includes original titles such as (Well, Just You Wait!) and others. Mashkovtsev stressed that the gold collection will be in celebration of the studio's 70 years body of work, adding that it was important to document the studio's legacy for future generations. One of the

major projects that the transformed the studio was "Hoffmaniada" a stop-motion animated feature based on the work of German author E.T.A Hoffmann widely known for his novella the Nutcracker and the Mouse King, said the official who indicated that this particular film has been in development since 2003.

Mashkovtsev said that the 300-staff studio was current setting a list of possible projects based on Russian culture source material. A USD-five-million animated film

great Russian military commander Alexander Suvorov, who fought in the Russian-Turkish war of the 18 century, is one of the major project current developed by the studio, indicated the director. Mashkovtsev affirmed that Soyuzmultfilm was now eyeing the international market, indicating that the studio was willing to collaborate with partners in France, Italy, Sweden, and China to produce joint ventures.—KUNA



These photos show dummies used for making animated movies in Russia.—KUNA photos



## Aaron Paul excited about his role on 'Westworld'

**T**he 39-year-old actor has joined the HBO season for the dystopian drama and though he hasn't received his scripts yet, he's looking forward to seeing what's in store for his mystery character. He said: "I haven't read any scripts, but we don't start until next March, I believe, March or April, but what they told me about the world and this person, it was very exciting." The former 'Breaking Bad' star teased his new

alter ego "may or may not be" a host but struggled to find three words to describe his character. He told 'Entertainment Tonight': "Oh man! I don't know. I can't say anything... "Excitement, danger, suspense, honesty. I gave you four!" 'Westworld' star Thandie Newton previously admitted Aaron's casting was "intriguing" as she had no idea what his character was going to do. She said: "We have such strong actors on the show, and to have someone

of his caliber... he's got such great energy. "I have no idea what character he's going to play, or anything. So it's very intriguing, too." Though the program is shrouded in secrecy, showrunners Lisa Joy and Jonathan Nolan recently promised there will be a "radical shift" after most of the hosts from the first two seasons died or left the park.

## Ariana Grande named Billboard magazine's Woman of the Year

**T**he 25-year-old singer has been named Woman of the Year for 2018 by the music publication, and will be on hand to receive the honor in person during Billboard's annual Women in Music dinner and award gala in New York City next month on December 6. Ross Scarano, Billboard's Vice President of Content, said in a statement: "Ariana Grande is a star on her own terms, never bending to any particular musical trend or path in the industry. Certain in her convictions, she consistently stands up for herself and her decisions in a world that often isn't hospitable to that sort of strength in young women. She's got guts, she's making some of the best music of her career, and she's absolutely deserving of Woman of the Year." And the 'No Tears Left to Cry' hitmaker couldn't be happier with the news, as she took to Twitter on Tuesday to thank Billboard for the "honour". In a brief tweet, she wrote: "thank u for this honor @billboard. (sic)" For Ariana, the award follows a tough year which has seen her mourning the death of her ex-boyfriend Mac Miller - who died in September - and split from her fiancé Pete Davidson last month. But the star has had some positives this year too, with her new track 'thank u, next' becoming the first pop song to reach the number one spot on Apple Music's Top 100 Global Chart as well as the Top 100 US Chart.



## Kourtney Kardashian bonds with Scott Disick's new beau Sofia Richie



**T**he 39-year-old reality star split with Scott - with whom she has Mason, eight, Penelope, six, and Reign, three - in 2015 after almost a decade of on and off dating, and although he has been romancing Sofia for over a year, the two women were only introduced this weekend when they met for dinner at Nobu in Malibu. A source said: "Scott, Sofia and Kourtney had dinner together at Nobu on Sunday and it was very amicable. Scott and Sofia are very serious and Scott felt it was important that Sofia and Kourtney interact and bond. "They have kept things separate for over a year now, and Kourtney is now more open and willing to have a surface level relationship with Sofia." Kourtney and Scott, 35, have "agreed" it would be best for their brood if the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star is acquainted with 20-year-old Sofia, and sources claim the trio's dinner was very casual and simply a chance for everyone to be in the same room at the same time. The insider added to E! News: "Scott and Kourtney both agreed it is better to get the elephant out of the room and for them to all be in each other's lives in order to make things flow easiest for the sake of the kids." The dinner comes just one month after a source claimed Kourtney and Scott were aiming to do things as a "family unit" for the sake of their children. An insider said at the time: "When things are going well between Scott and Kourtney, they like to do things together as a family unit for the sake of the kids. The kids love when they all get to be together and Kourtney and Scott have been great at co-parenting lately. Everyone is really happy."



## Jessy Nelson has reportedly split from boyfriend Harry James

**T**he Little Mix star and the 24-year-old singer/songwriter are believed to have called time on their romance after 16 months together - as the 'Shout Out To My Ex' hitmaker is "focused" on her career in the band and feels it "makes sense" for them to be apart at the moment. A source says the split is amicable and the pair "remain good friends". The insider told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "Jessy and Harry enjoyed their time together but have decided to call it a day. "There are no hard feelings between them and they remain good friends - just at the moment it makes sense for them to separate. "Jessy is in work mode ahead of the release of Little Mix's new album 'LM5' and she's happy focusing on performances with the girls and promoting their material." The pair first started dating after they enjoyed a holiday together

in Mykonos, Greece, in July, 2017, and were said to be "completely smitten" with one another. A source said at the time: "Jessy looked very happy with Harry - they were completely smitten with each other, giggling and taking photos as they tried on different sunglasses. "They have a lot in common with Harry also in the music industry - he's definitely Jessy's type. She used her most recent break from the band to holiday with Harry. It's early days but there's definitely a real spark between them." Jessy and Harry made their relationship red carpet official when the 27-year-old beauty brought the musician as her date to the BRIT Awards in February. The 'Woman Like Me' hitmaker has experienced her own fair share of heartbreak.

## George Clooney auctions off his Harley Davidson bike

**T**he 57-year-old actor is set to say goodbye to his 2017 Dresser Touring Ultra Limited FLHTK Harley Davidson as it has gone up for auction on an eBay listing set up by the Home for Our Troops charity, where the money goes towards building custom homes for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans. George is said to be parting with his bike after he was involved in a scary crash on his scooter in Italy in July, where he was thrown from the vehicle after colliding with a car, and suffered slight trauma to the pelvis and bruises to one knee and arm.

A product description for the auctioned bike reads: "Ever since George Clooney's motorcycle accident, his wife Amal has told him he's off two wheels for good. George just bought a brand new dresser Harley with only 25 MILES ON THE ODOMETER! - all yours if you win the bidding. You're responsible for pickup in Los Angeles. George will even sign it for you!!! (sic)" As of the time of writing, the motorbike currently has no bids, and the starting price is set at \$25,000. The auction ends in just under nine days time.



## 'Stop armchair-diagnosing' Kanye West, says Singer John Legend

**T**he 39-year-old singer has been close friends with the 'Heartless' rapper for many years, and has said that following Kanye's social media outbursts - which have seen him voice his support for controversial president Donald Trump, as well as claim the 400 years of black slavery was a "choice" - many people have tried to label him with a mental health condition. And whilst John "clearly disagreed" with the things Kanye posted, he insists what's "going on in his brain" is no-one's business. Speaking to the Wall Street Journal magazine, the 'All of Me' hitmaker said: "A lot of people have tried to armchair-diagnose him, but I leave it to him and his doctor to discuss what's going on in his brain. Clearly I disagreed with some of the things he was saying, and I was worried that his saying it might empower some of the wrong forces, might be really demoralizing for people who looked up to him and thought of him as a leader." John's comments come after Kanye, 41, previously claimed he had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, but said he thinks he was just battling with "sleep deprivation" rather than the mental health disorder. He said: "What I think is we don't need sentences, we need pardons. We need to talk to people. I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, I was connected with a neuropsychologist that works with the athletes in the NBA and NFL. He looked at my brain. I wasn't actually bipolar, I had sleep deprivation which can cause dementia 10 to 20 years from now when I wouldn't even remember my son's name."

## Adele is excited for Spice Girls reunion

**F**ollowing the announcement that the iconic 90s girl band will return to the stage for a six-date UK tour next summer, the 30-year-old singer posted a throwback snap of herself as a child, looking very excited as she poses in front of a wall plastered with posters of the 'Wannabe' hitmakers. In response to the news, Adele wrote in the caption: "HA! This is how I feel right now! I AM READY. (sic)" The concerts will feature four members of the group, Emma Bunton, Geri Horner, Mel C and Mel B, but not Victoria Beckham who has decided not to be part of the reunion because she is too busy with her eponymous fashion line and with her family. Emma was thrilled by Adele's reaction to the Spice Girls' comeback and revealed the 'Hello' singer confessed she was a huge fan when they met. Speaking on her Heart Breakfast radio show, she said: "Adele, I mean Adele's was amazing. She did a picture of her in her bedroom, like Spice Girls posters all around her and she said she was ready. Oh yeah, I actually, very briefly met Adele once. I was at a gig and I was on my way out, getting into my car. And she came running up to me and she just went, 'Oh my God, I'm such a big Spice Girls fan and I can't even look at you. And now I'm gonna go because I'm gonna cry.' And she ran off and actually it was so quick, I didn't realize until I was halfway down the stairs and someone went 'that's Adele'. And I was like, 'I love you too!'" Emma wasn't the only band member to notice Adele's tribute and Geri, 46, also reposted the image alongside a heart emoji.



Lifestyle | Music & Movies



In this file photo (L-R) Indian Bollywood actors Amitabh Bachchan, Fatima Sana Shaikh, director Vijay Krishna Acharya, Katrina Kaif and Aamir Khan attend the trailer launch event for the Indian film 'Thugs of Hindostan' in Mumbai.



Indian Bollywood actors Katrina Kaif, left, and Aamir Khan. — AFP photos



Indian Bollywood actors Amitabh Bachchan, left, and Aamir Khan.

## BOLLYWOOD SWASHBUCKLER BATTLES THE BRITISH

Bollywood's answer to "Pirates of the Caribbean", the swashbuckling, star-studded "Thugs of Hindostan" sails into cinemas today, battling British colonizers on a quest for loot and box office records. This year's big release for India's Diwali festival, the seafaring song-and-dance fest with superstars Aamir Khan and Amitabh Bachchan cost \$42 million, making it the most expensive movie to date in the Hindi-language industry.

Shot in India, Thailand and off the coast of Malta, it brings together for the first time Bachchan and Khan, two

of Bollywood's most bankable stars, in battles against the British East India Company in 1795, and with stunts and pyrotechnics galore. With his witty one-liners, maverick persona and tousled hair, Khan's character bears a strong resemblance to Johnny Depp's lovable pirate rogue Jack Sparrow, and the movie has a strong whiff of the "Pirates" series.

"But story-wise, there is no similarity between the two films," Khan, 53, insisted at a recent news conference in Mumbai. His previous films including "Dangal", "Dhoom

3" and "Secret Superstar" have broken box office records and amassed millions across India and beyond, including in China. Directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya, "Thugs" also stars actresses Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Shaikh and all the cast underwent rigorous action training to dodge bullets, leap off burning ships in preparation for their battles with British soldiers.

Trade analysts believe it will break records and take in more than one billion rupees over the long Diwali weekend, a highly auspicious time for India's majority Hindu

population. "The movie has hype, hysteria, scale and stars some of the biggest Indian superstars and has a holiday weekend to do humongous business," analyst Akshaye Rathi said. "It will easily be one of Hindi film industry's highest grossers with Aamir and Amitabh's star power and will set new records," Rathi added.—AFP

## Russian director says 'never stole anything' at Moscow trial

Acclaimed Russian director Kirill Serebrennikov insisted he "never stole anything" as he appeared in court yesterday on embezzlement charges seen by his supporters as part of a crackdown on artistic independence. The 49-year-old, who challenged social norms and revolutionized the Russian art scene in recent years, appeared in the first open hearing of his case after spending more than a year under house arrest. "I can say that I don't understand anything," the head of Moscow's Gogol Centre theatre said in Moscow's Meshchansky district court.



Russian stage and screen director Kirill Serebrennikov waits for the start of a hearing at a court in Moscow. — AFP

"I never stole or embezzled anything," he added, dressed in jeans, a T-shirt and a hat—all black-and-purple sneakers. The courtroom was packed with dozens of supporters as judge Irina Akkuratova opened the hearing. Serebrennikov's three co-defendants—Sofia Apfelbaum, Yuri Itin and Alexei Malobrodsky—were also in court. The award-winning director is accused of embezzling more than \$2 million of state funding for a theatre project. He has insisted the money was used properly.

### Criminal group

The prosecution claims that Serebrennikov and his co-defendants stole part of the funds allocated for the Platforma interdisciplinary modern art project between 2011 and 2014. They are accused of signing fake contracts for "imaginary services" and then using the money "for their personal needs" while filing sham financial reports to the government. Prosecutor Oleg Lavrov, speaking in court on Wednesday, alleged Serebrennikov coordinated the work of "a criminal group" and misled the culture ministry by providing "false information".

Serebrennikov was arrested in August 2017 in Saint Petersburg, where he was shooting a film about a Soviet rock band, and brought to Moscow in a move that sent shivers through the Russian art community. His high-profile trial began last month with a closed hearing. The director's supporters see his case as part of a growing clampdown on artistic freedoms under President Vladimir Putin and have staged multiple campaigns calling for the release of Serebrennikov.

Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett has been among those calling for the charges against him to be dropped. The free-wheeling director has fallen foul of Russian conservatives for daring productions including a ballet about legendary gay dancer Rudolf Nureyev at the Bolshoi Theatre where he used a full-frontal nude of the icon by photographer Richard Avedon. Nikita Mikhalkov, a powerful Oscar-winning film director who is believed to be close to Putin, has said Serebrennikov should not have been allowed to hang the picture in the country's most important theatre.

Serebrennikov's defense last month asked the judge to call as witnesses the 400 people involved in the Platforma project, but said the request was refused. While under house arrest, Serebrennikov missed premieres of two of his major theatrical productions while continuing to work despite a ban on phone or internet usage. Shooting and editing on his film "Leto" (Summer), about the Kino rock band and its legendary frontman Viktor Tsoi, had to be completed without him. It was given a standing ovation in Cannes before it was even shown at the film festival.

### Soviet practices

He managed to produce the opera "Cosi Fan Tutte", which premiered in Zurich on Sunday, by recording

videos with instructions on memory sticks which were then sent to Switzerland, and received rehearsal recordings back. Last week, Serebrennikov was nominated in three different categories for Russia's prestigious Golden Mask theatre award, with both of his 2017 theatrical premieres up for prizes. One was a modern take on a collection of small plays by Alexander Pushkin called "Little Tragedies" at the Gogol Centre theatre, the other was the acclaimed production of "Nureyev". In recent years, he has criticised growing censorship of the arts in Russia, warning that "everything is returning to the most pathetic Soviet practices".—AFP

## Wes Anderson presents box of 'treasures' from Viennese vaults

The "treasure chamber" at Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum takes on a new meaning Tuesday thanks to an exhibition curated by American filmmaker Wes Anderson and his partner, illustrator and author Juman Malouf. The pair were given free rein to assemble pieces from the vast collections and archives of the museum, as well as some of its partner institutions, in order to put together the six-month show, entitled "Spitzmaus Mummy in a Coffin and Other Treasures".

The opening of the exhibition on Monday evening was attended by some of Anderson's perennial collaborators such as actors Jason Schwartzman and Tilda Swinton. Tongue firmly in cheek, 49-year-old Anderson gave a short speech describing the process of putting the exhibition together with Malouf, 43, as "the culmination of several years of patient, frustrating negotiation, bitter, angry debate, sometimes completely irrational confrontation and often Machiavellian duplicity and deception." "Perhaps I am as guilty as she is—but I doubt it," he added.

### Eccentric count

Even before they started working on the project in early 2015, Anderson and Malouf had been frequent visitors to the museum, which boasts one of Europe's most extensive collections of fine art. However, anyone expecting a traditionally didactic museum experience, centered around a historical theme for example, will be disappointed.

With labels and explanations cast aside, the visitor has the impression of stumbling into an intimate and sometimes surreal space, crammed with objects which evoke the palette and symmetry that Anderson fans will recall from films such as The Royal Tenenbaums, The Grand Budapest Hotel and Moonrise Kingdom. "It feels like the collecting chamber of an eccentric count, somewhere in the Czechoslovakian countryside hundreds of years ago," Jasper Sharp, the museum's curator for Modern and Contemporary Art, said.—AFP



US film director Wes Anderson arrives with his girlfriend artist Juman Malouf for the opening of their joint exhibition "Spitzmaus Mummy in a Coffin and Other Treasures" at Art History Museum in Vienna, Austria. — AFP



## Celebrate 90 years of Mickey Mouse with OSN

As the loveable Mickey Mouse, undisputedly one of the most popular cartoon creations in the world, turns 90, OSN is celebrating the milestone with a dedicated pop-up channel - Disney Mickey Mouse with OSN. Children and families can celebrate Walt Disney's cartoon character, with an unbeatable selection of Mickey shows and movies from November 9 to 24, 2018 on OSN's channel 7. All content is available in both Arabic and English.

On November 18, 2018, Mickey's birthday, tune in to watch a special film, 'Mickey's 90th Spectacular'. The date also coincides with the 1928 theatrical release of Steamboat Willie, which was directed by Walt Disney and

Ub Iwerks, which first featured Mickey and Minnie.

Other shows and movies to enjoy on the channel include Fantasia, Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The Three Musketeers, as well as A Day in the Life of Mickey - a series of five-minute clips filmed with Saudi-based influencer Mohamed Moshaya and his family as they explore Disneyland Paris. Do not miss this special celebratory pop-up channel as children discover further the world of Mickey and Minnie, and grown-ups are taken back to fun-filled childhood memories with the world's most-loved characters.

## Michael Douglas joins dad Kirk on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Michael Douglas celebrated his 50th year in show-business on Tuesday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame near that of his screen legend father, Kirk Douglas, now 101. Douglas, 74, best known for his Oscar-winning turn as Gordon Gekko in "Wall Street," was accompanied by his father - star of 1960 gladiator movie "Spartacus" - his actress wife Catherine Zeta-Jones and "The China Syndrome" co-star Jane Fonda.

"When I first heard Michael was getting a star I thought, 'What took so long?' Especially because he has always been ahead of his time," Fonda said at a ceremony marking the occasion. Douglas has appeared in more than 60 films and television shows, including 1970s police series "The Streets of San Francisco," psychological thriller "Fatal Attraction" and "Basic Instinct," and more recently the Marvel comic book movie "Ant-Man."

Fonda, daughter of Henry, said she and Douglas both faced the challenge of being born into Hollywood royalty and trying to find their own way in the same world. "Both of our fathers were movie legends," she said. "Can you imagine Michael heading out to go to an audition and Spartacus is sitting at the table?" Douglas is also a film producer, winning an Oscar for the 1975 film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and producing dozens of independent movies.

"I have been lucky enough to be part of classic Hollywood and new Hollywood," he said. He said he was honored to join the more than 2,600 men and women represented on the Walk of Fame: "They are people who passionately cared about what they did and about entertaining people around the world."—Reuters



Actor Michael Douglas poses with his Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, in Hollywood, California. — AFP

## Lifestyle | Features



National Centre for the Study of Truffles's President Antonio De Giacomi poses with a white truffle in the Morra Truffles Shop in Alba, near Turin, northwestern Italy. — AFP photos



Truffle hunter Giovanni Monchiero poses with a picture of his grandfather Giovanni Monchiero.



Diego Guaraldo, owner of Rocky, a dog trained by truffle hunter Giovanni Monchiero poses with his dog.

## 'For the dog, it's a game': Sniffing out truffles in Italy

**G**o on Rocky, find it! Good boy!" The Labrador wags his tail, happy to have found the hidden treasure as he graduates from Italy's "truffle dog university", doing his master proud. Giovanni Monchiero is the dean of the unusual academy in Roddi in

a little more complicated by throwing the truffle into long grass, where the dog can't see it. "That's when you start giving commands: go on, find it, you've found it, well done! You have to always congratulate and reward," Monchiero said.

has trained for me," said Rocky's master, Diego Guaraldo. "He doesn't use cruel methods like depriving the dog of food, but gentler methods," said Guaraldo, a 36-year-old lawyer, describing the university's graduates as "real champions".



northwestern Italy and, like his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, transforms "normal" dogs into expert seekers of the lucrative fungus. "Teaching a dog to find truffles is very simple, you just need plenty of patience and to realize that for the dog, it's a game," said Monchiero, 55.

"We start by getting the dog to play with the truffle. Personally, I use a fresh truffle, but if you don't have one you can put some truffle-scented oil on a tennis ball. You throw it, the dog has to retrieve it and you reward him with dog biscuits." Then the master makes the game

**Gentle methods**  
"Once the dog has learned the truffle aroma, the next step is to bury the truffle, not very deep at first." Graduates then delight in unearthing the knobby fungi lurking among the roots of oak, linden, willows or poplar trees—with which they have a symbiotic relationship. Roddi is in the Alba region, famous for its white truffles, "distinguished by an intense perfume, evocative of the woods, of nature," said Antonio Degiacomi, head of Italy's National Centre for Truffle Studies.

This year white truffles fetch 350 euros for 100 grams, down from at least 600 euros last year, with an average truffle weighing 20 grams. Going truffle hunting is a passion, said Monchiero, who heads out every morning and evening during the truffle season, which runs from September 21 to January 31. The university was founded by his great-grandfather in 1880 and Monchiero's principle is that while not every dog can become a good truffle-hunter, all breeds have a chance.

"Some dogs are predisposed to find truffles, others are not," said Monchiero, who has even trained a small German Pinscher to sniff out the delicacy destined for the finest restaurants. He has trained dozens of dogs, usually one or two at a time. "Master Monchiero is the best in the whole Piedmont region. This is the third dog he

**Weakness for a nimble**  
"He manages to set something off in the animal, which becomes crazy for truffles. That's what all of us truffle-seekers want. The dog must be meticulous, focused, undistracted by the smell of game," Guaraldo noted. "The animal can smell a truffle from 10, 15, 20 meters away," Guaraldo said of his graduate dogs. The three-week education costs 400 euros and Monchiero says he gives three classes a day—but he stops for an hour or two when he sees that his charge is bored or tired.

"This is a basic course. To become a good truffle dog takes on average three years. What's important is to keep training the dog, not necessarily every day but every other day," Monchiero said. Rocky meanwhile has all the potential to become an excellent truffle dog. Except for his weakness for eating his finds. Not a problem, said Monchiero. "He knows how to seek out the truffle and to find it. He just needs to learn to hand it over in exchange for a biscuit," he said, noting that some dogs always nibble a bit of their truffle. Guaraldo doesn't mind. "Better a slightly damaged truffle in your pocket than a perfect truffle in someone else's!"—AFP



Giovanni Monchiero searches for truffles with his dogs.

## Video game action heads for the cloud

**V**ideo games are following television and music into the cloud, with console-quality play on its way to being a streaming service as easy to access as Netflix or Spotify. Computing power in data centers and devices from televisions to smartphones has surged and streaming technology has advanced, providing tools to break blockbuster titles from confines of consoles or personal computers.

During a recent Microsoft earnings call, chief executive Satya Nadella said a keenly anticipated "X Cloud" video game streaming service is in "early days" but he is excited by the prospect of giving players access console-quality titles on all kinds of internet-linked devices. "Most critical is having a platform where gamers are already there," Nadella said, noting booming revenue from its Xbox console unit. "I am most excited about the core (Xbox) community and content we have; I think that is what even gives us permission to think about streaming."



Video game titan Electronic Arts (EA) this week laid out a vision of streaming video games enhanced with artificial intelligence to create "living, breathing worlds that constantly evolve." EA, maker of the popular Battlefield and FIFA game franchises, has more than 1,000 employees working on a platform to harness the power of cloud computing and artificial intelligence in a game service hosted on the California-based company's servers, according to chief technology officer Ken Moss.

The effort is called "Project Atlas." "I strongly believe that what's on the horizon will bring greater changes than anything gaming has ever seen," Moss said in a blog post disclosing Atlas. "You will be able to play games with your friends anytime, anywhere and on any device." "Assassin's Creed" in the cloud - Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter saw Amazon, Apple and Google as potential big players in the space given huge investments they have

made in data centers that already provide cloud services to millions of people.

Amazon, a major cloud operator through its Amazon Web Services, also owns popular game play-streaming service Twitch. Google is collaborating with French video game colossus Ubisoft to use the latest addition to the hit "Assassin's Creed" franchise to test "Project Stream" technology for hosting the kind of quick, seamless play powered by in-home consoles as an online service.

"We're going to push the limits with one of the most demanding applications for streaming—a blockbuster video game," Google product manager Catherine Hsiao said in a blog post. A select number of people in the US can play "Assassin's Creed Odyssey" streamed to Chrome browsers on desktop or laptop computers.

Console quality video game play streamed online as a service, hosted on servers in the internet cloud, faces challenges including moving data quickly enough to avoid lags in action or imagery. Improvements in internet bandwidth, computing power and data storage capabilities are enabling "disruptive technologies" such as streaming that can change the way games are created as well as played, according to Ubisoft.

### Consoles in crosshairs?

Companies interested in cloud gaming see it as a way to reach broader audiences. Microsoft has built a powerful platform for hosting computing in the internet cloud, making such service a thriving part of its business. The Redmond, Washington-based technology veteran has also invested heavily in machine learning.

"If you agree that the eventual future of games consumption is through cloud gaming services, then those companies with a strong position in cloud are likely to be best placed to benefit from the transition," said IHS Market games technology research director Piers Harding-Rolls at an industry event earlier this year.

Sony offers more limited cloud service through its Playstation Now, keeping game play within the confines of the console. While streaming game services might nibble at console sales, they are more likely to broaden the audience of players to anyone with an internet connection, according to analysts. "I don't think this means the death of the console," Pachter said. "Publishers need consoles the same way movie studios need theaters."

A question unanswered what business model will prove optimal for game streaming services. "It seems to me that the right business model is iTunes rather than Spotify," Pachter said. "Let people 'buy' a game and stream it for as long as they want instead of forcing them to sign up for a subscription."—AFP



Workers install a painting entitled 'Tutu' an artwork by late Nigerian artist Ben Enwonwu, for the Art X Lagos fair. — Reuters

## Nigeria's 'Mona Lisa' shown at home

**T**he Nigerian Mona Lisa, a painting lost for more than 40 years and found in a London flat in February, is being exhibited in Nigeria for the first time since it disappeared. "Tutu", an art work by Nigeria's best-known modern artist, Ben Enwonwu, was painted in 1974. It appeared at an art show in Lagos the following year, but its whereabouts after that were unknown, until it re-surfaced in north London.

The owners - who wished to remain anonymous - had called in Giles Peppiatt, an expert in modern and contemporary African art at the London auction house Bonhams, to identify their painting. He recognized Enwonwu's portrait. "It was discovered by myself on a pretty routine valuation call to look at a work by Ben Enwonwu," said Giles Peppiatt, director of contemporary African art at Bonhams. "I didn't know what I was going to see. I turned up, and it was this amazing painting. We'd had no inkling 'Tutu' was there.

How it got there remains a bit of a mystery, Peppiatt said. "All the family that owned it know is that it was owned by their father, who had business interests in Nigeria. He travelled and picked it up in the late or mid-70s." The family put the portrait up for sale, and it was auctioned for 1.2 million pounds in February to an anonymous buyer. The sale made it the highest-valued work of Nigerian modern art sold at auction.

"Tutu" was loaned to the Art X Lagos fair, held from Friday to Sunday, by Access Bank, the organizers said in a statement. Peppiatt said Access arranged the loan but is not the painting's owner. "Tutu" is referred to as the African 'Mona Lisa' by virtue of this disappearance and re-emergence, and it is the first work of a modern Nigerian artist to sell for over a million pounds," said Tokini Peterside, the art fair's founder.

The original Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, was stolen from the Louvre in 1911. The thief, Vincenzo Peruggia, eventually took it to Italy, where it was recovered and in 1914 returned to the Louvre. The Nigerian painting is a portrait of Adetutu Ademiluyi, a grand-daughter of a traditional ruler from the Yoruba ethnic group. It holds special significance in Nigeria as a symbol of national reconciliation after the 1967-70 Biafran War. — Reuters

## Art, politics mix at first French sex worker festival

**D**ocumentaries, photographs and a "full service" performance tent were on display at the weekend at France's first festival for sex workers aiming to promote their rights and criticize a prostitution law. The Paris "Snap!" festival's militant approach sought to increase political visibility for prostitutes with exhibitions and performances with titles such as "Whores and Feminists" and "Sex Work Is Work".

"We are trying to create our own discourse as artists and sex workers," said Marianne Chargois, whose documentary "Empower" tackles the precarious lives and discrimination faced by three prostitutes. "Self-proclaimed specialists constantly make laws on our behalf and want to 'save us' from our activities as sex workers." A French law in April 2016 introduced harsher penalties for clients of prostitutes of up to 1,500 euros and more than double that amount in the case of repeat offenders.

"This law has lowered the income of sex workers and increased the violence against them," said Thierry Schaffauser, a spokesperson for Strass, the sex workers union and one of the organizers of the festival. Strass and other associations and sex workers have filed an appeal questioning the law's constitutionality. The request will be examined on Monday. But beyond legal questions, the festival also reflected on the nature of sex as work. Swiss performer Daniel Hellmann set up his tent at the festival entrance with a sign promising "full service".

"It can range from fellatio to writing a poem or some spiritual advice. We agree in advance on the price and the delivery of service," he said. "The idea is to question our relationship to work, and I am not talking about only sex work." "Talking about sex work makes us more visible said Mia, a sex worker from western France. "This festival shows we are not just sex machines."—AFP

# Classifieds

Thursday, November 8, 2018

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy with light to moderate north easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy with light to moderate north easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 07/11/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	26 °C	20 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27 °C	18 °C			
ABDALY	27 °C	15 °C			
BUBYAN	*** °C	*** °C			
JAHRA	27 °C	18 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	26 °C	20 °C			
SALMIYAH	26 °C	21 °C			
AHMADI	26 °C	21 °C			
NUWAISIB	27 °C	20 °C			
WAFRA	27 °C	19 °C			
SALMY	24 °C	13 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	11/08	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	26 °C	21 °C	NE-SE	12 - 42 km/h
Friday	11/09	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	25 °C	19 °C	SE	15 - 45 km/h
Saturday	11/10	Unstable with a chance for thunder rain	25 °C	18 °C	SE	15 - 45 km/h
Sunday	11/11	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	24 °C	19 °C	SE	15 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:44
Sunrise	06:05
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:36
Sunset	16:58
Isha	18:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	24 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	100%
MIN. RH	64 %
MAX. Wind	NW 96 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	40.5mm

## 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

## ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden). Contact: 51177342 (C 5430) 5-11-2018

Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden). Contact: 51177342 (C 5430) 5-11-2018

## EMERGENCY 112

Airlines	
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
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	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9



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## DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 8/11/2018					Departure Flights on Thursday 8/11/2018					
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	KAC 672	Dubai	13:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	QTR 1078	Doha	14:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KNE 231	Riyadh	14:10	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:15	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC 618	Doha	14:20	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	KAC 516	Tehran	14:20	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC 798	Taif	14:40	KAC	691	Muscat	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR 789	Riyadh	14:45	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC 788	Jeddah	14:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	FDB 8065	Dubai	15:00	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	JZR	188	Dubai	15:10
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC 304	Mumbai	15:05	QTR	1079	Jeddah	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC 412	Bangkok	15:10	SVA	501	Doha	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:10	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
QT	R1086	Doha	02:30	KAC 562	Amman	15:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
JZR5	53D	Alexandria	02:50	OMA 645	Muscat	15:20	FDB	8066	Dubai	16:00
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC 202	Beirut	15:35	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	564	Amman	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	SAW 705	Damascus	16:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC 118	New York	16:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KNE 531	Jeddah	16:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR 535	Cairo	16:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR 1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FDB 051	Dubai	16:20	KNE	532	Jeddah	16:55
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	NIA 361	Alexandria	16:50	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	JZR 125	Bahrain	16:55	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC 542	Cairo	17:00	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR 145	Doha	17:35	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR 777	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	JZR 177	Dubai	17:40	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	QTR 1080	Doha	18:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR 483	Istanbul	18:20	RJA	643	Amman	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR 620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	362	Sohag	05:55	RJA 640	Amman	19:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	UAE 875	Dubai	19:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	KAC 744	Dammam	19:10	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	FDB 063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:20	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:30
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC 662	Abu Dhabi	19:25	JZR	240	Dubai	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC 156	Istanbul	19:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	NIA 161	Cairo	19:30	JZR	266	Beirut	19:15
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:35	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC 674	Dubai	19:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	RBG 555	Alexandria	19:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB 057	Mumbai	19:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC 174	Munich	19:55	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	JZR 189	Dubai	19:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC 616	Bahrain	20:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:05	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	OMA 647	Muscat	20:05	NIA	162	Cairo	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KNE 381	Taif	20:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC 620	Doha	20:15	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	JZR 692	Muscat	20:25	KNE	232	Jeddah	21:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	QTR 088	Doha	20:40	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR 553	Alexandria	20:50	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ALK 445	Amsterdam	21:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	JZR	550	Alexandria	21:30
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	KAC 168	Paris	21:20	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	KAC 676	Dubai	21:35	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC 564	Amman	21:50	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC 786	Jeddah	22:15	KLM	445		

# Superbugs to 'kill millions' by 2050 unless countries act

## Just \$2 per person a year could halt deadly infections: OECD

PARIS: Millions of people in Europe, North America and Australia will die from superbug infections unless countries prioritize fighting the growing threat posed by bacteria immune to most known drugs, experts predicted yesterday. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) warned of "disastrous consequences" for public healthcare and spending unless basic hospital hygiene is boosted and unnecessary antibiotic use slashed. Drug-resistant bacteria killed more than 33,000 people in Europe in 2015, according to new research published separately this week.

In a landmark report, the OECD said 2.4 million people could die from superbugs by 2050 and said the cost of treating such infections would balloon to an average of \$3.5 billion a year in each country included in its analysis. Michele Cecchini, lead on public health at the OECD, told AFP that countries were already spending an average of 10 percent of their healthcare budgets on treating antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) bugs. "AMR costs more than the flu, more than HIV, more than tuberculosis. And it will cost even more if countries don't put into place actions to tackle this problem," he said.

As humans consume ever more antibiotics - either through prescriptions or agriculture and livestock products given medicines to stave off infection - strains of bacteria are developing that resist the effects of drugs designed to kill them. In low and middle-income countries, resistance is already high: in Indonesia Brazil and Russia up to 60 percent of bacterial infections are already resistant to at least one antibiotic. And the growth of AMR infections is predicted to be between four and seven times faster by 2030 than currently.

"Such high resistance rates in health care systems, which are already weakened by constrained budgets, will create the conditions for an enormous death toll that will be mainly borne by new-borns, very young

children and the elderly," the report said. "Even small cuts in the kitchen, minor surgery or diseases like pneumonia could become life-threatening."

Perhaps more worrying is the prediction made by the OECD that resistance to so-called 2nd- and 3rd-line antibiotics - break-glass-in-case-of-emergency infection treatments - will balloon by 70 percent by 2030. "These are antibiotics that as far as possible we don't want to use because we want these as back up," Cecchini said. "Essentially, we are using more when we should use less and we are running out of our best options in case of emergency."

The group, which advises the World Health Organization on public health initiatives, said the only way to avert disaster was to implement immediate, sector-wide changes in behavior. The report called on healthcare professionals to ensure better universal hygiene standards in hospitals and clinics by insisting all staff wash their hands and conform to stricter safety regimes. It also suggested resistance could be fought with better and quicker testing to determine if an infection is viral - meaning antibiotics are useless - or bacterial.

New swab tests can give a result in a matter of minutes, and Cecchini also put forward the idea of "delayed prescriptions" to dent antibiotic overuse by making patients wait three days before picking up their antibiotics - roughly the time it takes for a viral infection to run its course. In trials of the technique, two thirds of patients given delayed prescriptions for antibiotics never collected their medicine. The OECD said such changes would cost as little as \$2 per person per year and would save millions of lives and billions of dollars by mid-century. "They would decrease burden of AMR in these countries by 75 percent," said Cecchini. "It would pay for itself in a few months and would produce substantial savings." — AFP

## Bolsonaro Israel embassy move...

Continued from Page 1

"For me, it's just about respecting the decisions of a sovereign nation," Bolsonaro said in a television interview on Monday. However, he performed an almost Trumpian about-turn on Tuesday by insisting that "it hasn't been decided yet". Were he to abandon that controversial plan, he would risk alienating the religious support that helped propel the far-right Bolsonaro to a commanding victory with 55 percent of the vote. And for them, the status of Jerusalem is sacrosanct. The most conservative evangelicals see Israel as "the center of all history", a sort of ideal, to which "there is an attachment and a need to defend Israel as a chosen people," said Ronilso Pacheco, a theological researcher at Rio de Janeiro's PUC Catholic University. "That's an extremely literal reading of the Bible without taking into account context, history."

Brazilian evangelicals follow Christian Zionism, the belief that the return of the Jews to the Holy Land in 1948 with the establishment of the state of Israel was in accordance with a biblical prophecy announcing the return of the Messiah. Although born into a Catholic family, Bolsonaro married an evangelical Christian and went to Israel in 2016 to be baptized in the River Jordan by a pastor.

However, piety is not the only reason for Bolsonaro to move the embassy, much to the delight of Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "On top of the symbolic value for evangelicals, this measure shows a desire to break from a traditional foreign policy based on multilateral relationships," said Monica Herz, professor at PUC's international relations institute. For her, following in Trump's footsteps suggests Brazil is "aligning itself with the American government, something we didn't even do during the military dictatorship".

A former army parachutist, Bolsonaro has made no secret of his admiration for Brazil's military dictatorship, which ruled from 1964-85. His Israeli overtures have a secondary motivation as Bolsonaro is a fan of Israeli's advanced military technology. His son, Flavio and newly-elected Rio governor, Wilson Witzel, are due shortly to travel to Israel to negotiate the purchase of attack drones which could subsequently be used by security forces in the fight against drug-traffickers. Casaroes, though, believes "Brazil could get closer to the US and Israel without transferring its embassy".

Ricardo Ferraco, a member of the external relations commission in Brazil's congress, said recently that he felt Bolsonaro had been too quick to make his promise, "without reflecting on the consequences". Meanwhile, the Arab Brazilian chamber of commerce has already expressed its concern given Brazil is the biggest producer in the world of halal meat, much of which is exported to Arab countries. The Palestinian envoy to Brazil, Ibrahim Alzeben, said on Monday that he hoped Bolsonaro had merely been electioneering and that the incoming government would "maintain Brazil's traditional position". — AFP

## Muslim, Native American women...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Democrat candidates Sharice Davids and Deb Haaland broke new ground on Tuesday, becoming the first Native American women elected to Congress. Davids, 38, of Kansas, is an attorney by training and a former mixed martial arts fighter. She is also openly lesbian, in a state that is traditionally conservative. She defeated Republican incumbent Kevin Yoder. Haaland, 57, of New Mexico, beat Janice Arnold-Jones, a Republican, and Lloyd Princeton, a Libertarian. The two women were among a record number of Native Americans who ran in the midterm elections for congressional seats, governor's offices, state legislatures and other elected posts.

Their stories trace a similar trailblazing rise through local politics. "I'm Muslim and black," the hijab-wearing Omar said in a recent magazine interview. "I decided to run because I was one of many people I knew who really wanted to demonstrate what representative democracies are supposed to be," she said. Omar fled Somalia's civil war with her parents at the age of eight and spent four years at a refugee camp in Kenya. Her family settled in Minnesota in 1997, where there is a sizable Somali population.

She won a seat in the state's legislature in 2016, becoming the first Somali-American lawmaker in the country. Before that, she had worked as a community organizer, a policy wonk for city leaders in Minneapolis, and as a leader in her local chapter of the NAACP - the African-American civil rights group. She decided to run for Congress after Ellison, who is also black, decided to give up his seat after 12 years in Congress to run for attorney general of Minnesota.

Omar has forged a progressive political identity. She supports free college education, housing for all, and criminal justice reform. She opposes Trump's restrictive immigration policies, supports a universal health care system, and wants to abolish US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which has conducted deportation raids.

Tlaib is the Detroit-born daughter of Palestinian immigrants - the eldest of 14 children. A fighter who once heckled Trump during a 2016 campaign stop in Detroit, she says she didn't run to make history as Muslim. "I ran because of injustices and because of my boys, who are questioning their (Muslim) identity and whether they belong," Tlaib said in an US television

interview in August. "I've never been one to stand on the sidelines."

Like Omar, she blazed a trail through Michigan politics, becoming the first Muslim woman to serve in the Michigan state legislature in 2008. In August, she emerged as the winner of a Democratic primary for a seat vacated by John Conyers, a longtime liberal lion who stepped down in December amid sexual harassment allegations and failing health. With no Republican challenger in the race, Tlaib's election on Tuesday became a formality.

The seat she won is in a predominantly African American congressional district with few Muslim voters. She says her constituents were attracted to her progressive politics, which are the polar opposite of Republicans. Tlaib has advocated for universal healthcare, a \$15 national minimum wage, union protections, and tuition-free college education. She also has been mindful of the historic nature of her candidacy. During her tearful primary election victory speech in August, with her immigrant mother by her side, she said relatives in the West Bank were watching her success. "It just shows how incredibly wonderful our country can be," she said.

"Strong, Resilient, Indigenous," reads the t-shirt worn by Davids in one of her campaign ads for election in the state's 3rd congressional district, which includes Kansas City and its southern suburbs. Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna tribe, is a well-known community activist in her solidly Democratic district, working tirelessly to encourage Native Americans - who make up two percent of the US population - to vote.

She cut her teeth working as a volunteer for John Kerry's presidential campaign in 2004 - making endless cold calls to rally Native Americans to vote. Since then, she has not stopped campaigning: she worked full-time as a volunteer for Barack Obama, and on dozens of local and state campaigns. She ran for lieutenant governor and served one term as the state party chair. "We need real people who are talking about our issues and know what it feels like," Haaland told AFP in an interview ahead of the elections, in which she ran in New Mexico's 1st congressional district seat. "We have people in Congress right now who... don't know what it's like" to be without food or proper health care, she said.

She said although her disdain for Trump's policies on immigration, health care and other issues motivated her to run, that was not the only reason. Haaland and Davids join a number of Democrats who have flipped seats in the House of Representatives, helping their party seize control of the lower chamber from the Republicans and dealing a stern rebuke to Trump. — Agencies

authority Ahmad Al-Hassan. Hassan told a press conference yesterday that the rainstorm was too powerful and that the country's sewage and road networks could not cope with its intensity.

Opposition MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain however said the government's actions in sacking the officials were not satisfactory and lacked adequate investigations. He said that firing officials without establishing who was responsible is incorrect and an official investigation should have been launched before taking any action. He also expressed fears that the dismissals were an action by the minister to put the blame on others, adding he will grill the minister if he does not prove who was responsible for what happened.

In another explosive issue, MP Faisal Al-Kandari yesterday called on the government to sack the CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) Nezar Al-Adasani for statements deemed offensive and damaging to the diplomatic ties with neighboring Saudi Arabia. Kandari said that by issuing such a statement, Adasani has caused tremendous damage to the ties between the two countries and that he has exceeded his authority as an oil executive. Adasani's tenure is coming to end in a few weeks.



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump points to journalist Jim Acosta from CNN during a post-election press conference in the East Room of the White House yesterday. — AFP

## Trump defiant as partisan warfare...

Continued from Page 1

him win the White House, branding it a "disgusting Witch Hunt". Democrats won the House on Tuesday but Republicans increased their majority in the Senate in an election which revealed a country still sharply divided along party lines. According to projections by The New York Times, Democrats will have 229 seats in the 435-member House while Republicans will hold 53 seats in the 100-member Senate, up from 51.

Republicans defeated Democratic senators in several states won by Trump in 2016 - Florida, Indiana, Missouri and North Dakota. Republican senate candidates were also leading in Arizona and Montana. Democrats appear to have won a Republican senate seat in Nevada. Democrats also picked up seven governorships but fell short in a high-profile race for the governor's mansion in Florida, expected to play a key role in the 2020 presidential election.

With the House victory, Democrats will take over committees, giving them the power to hold hearings, call witnesses and issue subpoenas to administration officials. "We will conduct the investigations that Republicans wouldn't conduct," Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell of California said on NBC's "Today" show. "We'll fill in the gaps on the Russia investigations," he said of the Mueller probe. "American people will see (Trump's) tax returns."

"There will be intensified fighting," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. "There is now a veto in the system to limit Trump and the Senate - though Trump will use executive orders to bypass Congress," Sabato said. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell said he expected the president would be able to work with a divided Congress. "The Senate is a pretty collegial place and even though we had big differences over things like taxes and judges, there were plenty of other things we did together and no reason that would stop simply because the House now becomes Democratic," he said. "We're certainly going to try to help the president achieve what he would like with the (US-Mexico) wall," McConnell said.

Representative Nancy Pelosi, who is likely to return as speaker of the House despite opposition from some centrist Democrats, promised that the party will serve as a counterweight - but also work with Trump. "Today is more than about Democrats and Republicans. It's about restoring the constitution's checks and balances to the Trump administration," Pelosi said. But she added: "A Democratic Congress will work for solutions that bring us together, because we have all had enough of division."

Trump spoke to Pelosi following the election, Conway said, and appeared to extend an olive branch to her yesterday morning. "In all fairness, Nancy Pelosi deserves to be chosen Speaker of the House by the Democrats," Trump tweeted. "If they give her a hard time, perhaps we will add some Republican votes. She has earned this great honor!"

Trump, who will face reelection in 2020, was scheduled to hold a press conference to discuss an election that he described on Twitter as a "tremendous success" and a "Big Victory". "To any of the pundits or talking heads that do not give us proper credit for this great Midterm Election, just remember two words - FAKE NEWS!" he said on Twitter.

Like in the 2016 presidential election, rural areas went heavily for Republicans while urban areas broke towards the Democrats. More women than men voted for Democrats, according to exit polls, particularly white suburban women, and the new House will feature a record number of women lawmakers. Tuesday's contest saw several historic firsts in the Democratic camp: in Kansas, Sharice Davids and Deb Haaland became the first Native American women elected to Congress. And in the Midwest, onetime Somali refugee Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, shared the historic distinction of becoming the first two Muslim women elected to Congress.

But the rosier expectations of some Democrats - that they could create a "blue wave" even when playing defense on the Senate map - proved unfounded. In one of the most closely-watched races, Democratic Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke, a charismatic congressman and former punk rocker, fell short against Republican Senator Ted Cruz in Texas. Trump campaigned aggressively in the closing days on a hardline anti-immigration message. He seized on scenes of a caravan of Central American migrants heading for the United States and sent soldiers to the Mexican border, threatening to have illegal immigrants shot if they throw stones. — AFP

## MPs demand probe into...

Continued from Page 1

outcome of previous similar investigations, especially those formed in 2015 and last year and why the authorities did not implement recommendations made by those investigations.

They demanded that the committee investigate how authorities dealt with recommendations made by the Assembly after an underpass submerged in Mangaf last year following heavy rains. The investigation should include all contractors and maintenance companies that the ministry of public works hired for road and sewage network projects over the past three years, and the violations and remarks made by supervisory bodies over such contracts and works.

The government has already sacked two top officials - the undersecretary of the ministry of public works Awatef Al-Ghuneim and head of the public roads



Sports

# Ryan O'Reilly tallies first hat trick in St Louis Blues' win

## Kovalchuk leads Kings past Ducks in Desjardins debut

**ST LOUIS:** Ryan O'Reilly's first career hat trick led the St. Louis Blues to a 4-1 win over the visiting Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday. O'Reilly scored twice in the first period, netting the game's first goal after a pass from Vladimir Tarasenko at the 11:57 mark. The center then struck again on a late power play, firing a Tarasenko pass from behind the net into the Hurricanes' goal with just five seconds remaining in the period. An empty-net goal at 16:50 of the third period capped off the night for O'Reilly, giving him his first hat trick after 664 career NHL games. Robby Fabbri also scored for the Blues, his first goal since Dec 28, 2016. Jacob Slavin accounted for Carolina's only goal, a power-play effort on a slap shot from beyond the circle at 19:34 of the first period. The goal was Slavin's first of the year and ended a 24-game drought dating to last season.

### LIGHTNING 5, OILERS 2

Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos had three points apiece, and Tampa Bay held Connor McDavid off the scoresheet for just the second time this season in a win over visiting Edmonton. Kucherov had two goals and an assist while Stamkos scored and had two helpers. Brayden Point and Yanni Gourde posted a goal and an assist for the Lightning, who beat Edmonton for the ninth time in 10 games in Tampa Bay. Goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 33 shots in his 11th start for the Lightning and improved to 8-2-1 this season.

### MAPLE LEAFS 3, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 1

Connor Brown, Mitch Marner and Nazem Kadri each scored one goal, and Toronto defeated visiting Vegas. Goaltender Frederik Anderson made 36 saves for the Maple Leafs, who had lost two in a row and four of their past five games at home. The Knights lost center Erik Haula after he took a check from Patrick Marleau of Toronto about five minutes into the third period. Haula was removed from the ice on a stretcher with an apparent leg injury.

### RED WINGS 3, CANUCKS 2 (SO)

Dylan Larkin scored the only goal during the shootout, and host Detroit ended Vancouver's three-

game winning streak. Jimmy Howard stopped three shots during the shootout and was credited with 40 saves for the Wings. Justin Abdelkader and Gustav Nyquist scored in regulation for Detroit. Rookie Elias Pettersson scored his 10th goal for the Canucks. Ben Hutton had the other Canucks goal while Jacob Markstrom was credited with 28 saves.

### RANGERS 5, CANADIENS 3

Defenseman Neal Pionk scored the tiebreaking goal on a terrific end-to-end rush with 2:44 remaining in the third period, and New York overcame a two-goal deficit to beat visiting Montreal. Kevin Hayes set a career high with three assists by setting up Chris Kreider's first-period tally before earning helpers on goals by Tony DeAngelo and Pavel Buchnevich. Mika Zibanejad finished the scoring with New York's second short-handed goal of the game at 18:12 of the third period. Henrik Lundqvist made 31 saves and picked up his 436th career victory.

### SENATORS 7, DEVILS 3

Mark Stone and Colin White tallied twice apiece for Ottawa, which scored six unanswered goals to beat visiting New Jersey. A second win in the past eight games came at an opportune time for the Senators, who were embroiled in controversy Monday when a video was leaked of several players mocking the coaching staff in Arizona last week. Thomas Chabot and Ryan Dzingel opened and closed the six-goal outburst for the Senators, respectively, while Magnus Paajarvi added an empty-netter in the third period. Goalie Craig Anderson earned the win by recording 30 saves before he exited late in the third due to an injury.

### BLUE JACKETS 4, STARS 1

Anthony Duclair scored late in the first period, and Markus Nutivaara added what stood as the game-winning goal midway through the second as Columbus rolled to a win over visiting Dallas. Columbus goalie Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 27 shots to earn the victory. Dallas goaltender Ben Bishop turned aside 30 shots. The Blue Jackets have defeated the Stars six straight



LOS ANGELES: Jack Campbell #36 of the Los Angeles Kings waits for the puck as Jakob Silfverberg #33 of the Anaheim Ducks and Alec Martinez #27 get position during a the third period in a 4-1 Kings win at Staples Center on Tuesday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

times and are 11-2-1 against them since Jan. 28, 2013.

### KINGS 4, DUCKS 1

Ilya Kovalchuk had a goal and two assists, and Los Angeles defeated visiting Anaheim in the debut of coach Willie Desjardins. Tyler Toffoli had a goal and an assist, Dustin Brown and Kyle Clifford also scored, and Alec Martinez had two assists for the Kings, who fired John Stevens on Sunday after 18 months as head coach and hired Desjardins the same day. Jack Campbell had 30 saves and assisted on Kovalchuk's goal. Ryan Kesler scored for the Ducks, and John Gibson made 23 saves.

Anaheim has lost eight of nine.

### SHARKS 4, WILD 3

Marcus Sorensen scored a goal and added two assists as host San Jose edged Minnesota. Barclay Goodrow netted the winner at 7:25 of the third period as he deflected in a Brent Burns point shot. Joe Thornton and Antti Suomela also scored for the Sharks, and goaltender Martin Jones made 23 saves. Zach Parise, Jared Spurgeon and Matt Dumba tallied for Minnesota, and Mikko Koivu recorded two assists. Wild netminder Devan Dubnyk stopped 18 shots. — Reuters



Kuwait skeet team along with UAE and China teams.



Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi with the mixed team winners.

## Kuwait wins gold, two silver at Asian Shotgun Championship

By Adellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait proved strong in the shotgun competition of the 8th Asian Shotgun and 11th Asian Airgun Championships being held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, as it won a gold medal and two silver, though China increased the number of medals it won so far, as the championship saw four more world records broken.

Kuwait shooters won the skeet gold medal with a score of 359, meanwhile UAE took silver and China bronze, as they both scored 358 hits. Kuwait's team is made of Abdallah Al-Torqi, Mansour Al-Rashidi and Saud Habeeb.

In the individual competition, Kuwait's Saud Habeeb and Abdallah Al-Torqi reached the final and placed fourth and fifth respectively. Indian shooters Angan Vir Singh Bajwa who did not win anything in previous competitions, not only won the gold medal but broke the world record by scoring 60 hits.

Meanwhile China's Di Jin won silver and

UAE'S Saeed Al-Maktoum took the bronze. Kuwait's Ahmad Al-Awwad won the Junior's skeet silver medal, as the gold was claimed by Kazakhstan's Alexandar Mukhamediyev and the bronze went to China's Xuyang Dou, as Kuwait's Hamad Al-Albani ended in fourth place. In the team competition Kuwait won silver as Kazakhstan won the gold.

In the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team competition China's Yang and Zhao claimed gold, while their compatriots Wang and Cao took the silver and Japan's Shimizu and Okada took bronze. Meanwhile in the junior competition the team of Valarivan and Hazarika claimed gold, China Shi and Wang won silver and India's Ghosh and Babuta took bronze. Valarivan and Hazarika broke the world record by scoring 502.1 points breaking the previous won which was 499 held by an Italian team. In the juniors mixed team China's Mengyao and Yuefeng Wang won first place and the gold medal, while China's team 2 of Hong Xu and Xiangyu Tian won silver and India's Elanvenil and Hriday Hazarika took

the bronze. China now won 12 gold, 9 silver and 5 bronze medals followed by India with two gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze, Kazakhstan with two gold, two silver and two bronze, Thailand two gold, Kuwait one gold and two silver, Singapore two silver and two bronze UAE one silver and one bronze, Japan two bronze, Bahrain, Taiwan and Qatar one bronze each.

Meanwhile President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi said he was happy with Kuwait's winning three medals and considered the juniors winning two silver medals is a continuation of the men's achievements.

He said Kuwait's winning the teams gold amidst the best shooters in Asia is an achievement of itself, adding Kuwait's shooters will seek to win more medals during the competition being held in their own homeland. He said participating teams are presenting high levels under an outstanding organization as he congratulated the winners so far.



Kuwaiti shooter Ahmad Al-Awwad.

Shooter Saud Al-Hamly said competitions are very good and the success being made by Kuwait shooters fulfills the wish of leaders to reach the standard befitting Kuwait. He said after winning the teams silver medal in the skeet competition that it was really hard as they competed with world champions.

## Asian, female drivers part of F1's ideal future: Carey

**HANOI:** Formula One's ideal future will see Asian, American and female drivers battling for glory on race circuits around the world, the sport's chief executive Chase Carey told AFP yesterday. Carey announced that Vietnam capital Hanoi will become only the third Southeast Asian nation to host a Formula One race, after Malaysia and Singapore, when it hosts a race for the first time in 2020.

While the move is part of F1's strategy to move into markets where it hopes to groom a new generation of fans, and boost revenues, Carey hopes the spin-off is the emergence of drivers of different nationalities.

"We want to provide opportunities for drivers of different nationalities from around the world," he told AFP. "We'd love to have a Chinese driver, an American driver, a female driver, a Vietnamese driver, all be part of our future. "We'd love nothing better than to have races around the world, to have teams and drivers from around the world." Although Asia has produced several Formula One drivers in the past, from pioneering 'Prince Bira' of Thailand in the 1950s to India's Narain Karthikeyan in 2012, none have reached a competitive level. Historically, Japan leads the way for Asia, having produced 20 drivers so far, though there have been none from China or Vietnam. Carey believes that all that could change with F1's latest foray into Asia, although he warned that having a "long-term view" would be crucial after seeing races in Malaysia, Korea and India all dropped.

Malaysia ended its 18-year partnership with F1 in 2017 due to rising hosting fees and declining ticket sales. The Korean Grand Prix lasted only four years, from 2010 to 2013, after disputes over costs, while the India Grand Prix, won three years in succession by German ace Sebastian Vettel, ended in 2013 due to tax disputes between the FIA and the Uttar Pradesh regional government. — AFP

## Countdown to Gulf Bank 642 Marathon begins

**KUWAIT:** The countdown to Gulf Bank 642 Marathon has begun. Taking place on November 17th, 2018, the race serves as a qualifying race for international marathons, and with just days to go before the event, don't forget to register by November 16th, 2018.

The race consists of four categories open to runners of all abilities, ranging from the 5K Family Fun Walk/Run and the 10K Souq Run to the more advanced 21K Half Marathon and Kuwait's only 42K Full Marathon. This year's 42K has sold out, however spaces remain in the other categories with the age limit varying per category. The 5K open to runners aged 11 and above, the 10K to runners aged 16 and above and the 21K to runners 18 years and above. The route starts and ends at SouqSharq, with runners making their

way along the Gulf Road and passed Kuwait landmarks such as Souk Al Mubarakiya, Al Seif Palace and Kuwait Towers.

Supported by both Kuwait government and private sectors, with sponsors such as Kuwait Airways, Ford, Extreme Sports and Al Ghanim Auto, Gulf Bank will host a two-day pre-race expo. The health and fitness event will include a number of talks, as well as hours of activities for participants to enjoy. Participants will also be able to collect their race kits from the event. Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications, Gulf Bank, said: "With just days to go until the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', we can see the excitement building. We are looking forward to yet another fantastic edition, welcoming participants of all levels and backgrounds to the race,

as we bring the community together. We are proud to be partnered and supported by a number of organisations in our mission to spread awareness of the importance of health and fitness, as well as spread the message of Kuwait Red Crescent Society and their initiatives."

Gulf Bank Marathon 642 has partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent Society to bring medical aid to those who are unable to afford medical treatment. All donations made will go towards the provision of medical devices such as, pacemakers, cochlear devices, hearing aids, electric wheelchairs and stents. Run for those who can't at the 2018 Gulf Bank Marathon 642 to raise much-needed funds for those suffering from chronic illness or disabilities.

For event registration and more information, please visit [www.gulf-bank642marathon.com](http://www.gulf-bank642marathon.com) or access the Instagram account @GulfBank642. Registration closes on the 16th of November 2018. Donate now to help raise much-needed funds for those suffering from chronic illness or disabilities through the official website of the Red Crescent Society <https://donation.krcs.org.kw/en-US/Campaign>



Ahmad Al Amir



## Sports

# Foakes, spinners put England on top in first S Lanka Test

## 'It's great to be back out there with the boys'

### SCOREBOARD

Scorecard at stumps on day two of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and England in Galle yesterday:

England (overnight 321-8, B. Foakes 87, J. Leach 14)	
R. Burns c Dickwella b Lakmal	9
K. Jennings b Perera	46
M. Ali b Lakmal	0
J. Root b Herath	35
B. Stokes b Perera	7
J. Buttler c Dickwella b Perera	38
B. Foakes c De Silva b Lakmal	107
S. Curran c Chandimal b De Silva	48
A. Rashid c De Silva b Perera	35
J. Leach c de Silva b Perera	15
J. Anderson not out	0
Extras (b1, lb1)	2
Total (all out, 97 overs)	342
Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Burns), 2-10 (Ali), 3-72 (Root), 4-98 (Jennings), 5-103 (Stokes), 6-164 (Buttler), 7-252 (Curran), 8-306 (Rashid), 9-330 (Leach), 10-342 (Foakes)	
Bowling: Lakmal 18-5-73-3, Perera 31-6-75-5, Dananjaya 20-2-96-1, Herath 25-4-78-1, De Silva 3-0-18-0.	
Sri Lanka	
D. Karunaratne c Foakes b Anderson	4
K. Silva lbw b Curran	1
K. Mendis b Ali	14
D. de Silva c Stokes b Leach	19
A. Mathews c Jennings b Ali	52
D. Chandimal st Foakes b Rashid	33
N. Dickwella c Buttler b Ali	28
D. Perera c Buttler b Leach	21
A. Dananjaya c Foakes b Ali	0
S. Lakmal c Anderson b Rashid	15
R. Herath not out	14
Extras (lb2)	2
Total (all out, 68 overs)	203
Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Karunaratne), 2-10 (Silva), 3-34 (Mendis), 4-40 (De Silva), 5-115 (Chandimal), 6-136 (Mathews), 7-171 (Dickwella), 8-173 (Dananjaya), 9-175 (Perera), 10-203 (Lakmal)	
Bowling: Anderson 10-0-26-1, Curran 6-1-16-1, Leach 18-2-41-2, Ali 21-4-66-4, Rashid 9-1-30-2, Stokes 4-0-22-0.	
England	
R. Burns not out	11
K. Jennings not out	26
Extras (lb1)	1
Total (no loss, 12 overs)	38
To bat: M. Ali, J. Root, B. Stokes, J. Buttler, B. Foakes, S. Curran, A. Rashid, J. Leach, J. Anderson	
Bowling: Perera 5-0-12-0, Lakmal 3-0-14-0, Herath 3-0-10-0, Dananjaya 1-0-1-0.	

**GALLE:** England spinners led by Moeen Ali helped dismiss Sri Lanka for 203 and build on their advantage after wicketkeeper-batsman Ben Foakes' debut ton in the first Test yesterday. The islanders conceded a 139-run lead in response to England's 342 after being bowled out in the final session of play on day two on a turning Galle pitch notorious for its low scores.

Ali claimed four wickets and was ably supported by fellow spinners Jack Leach and Adil Rashid who took two each. England were 38 for no loss at stumps in their second innings, stretching their lead to 177 runs. Debutant Rory Burns, on 11, and Keaton Jennings, on 26, were batting at close of play.

"It's great to be back out there with the boys. A great day for us. It was always nice for a spinner to get some purchase on a wicket like this, I got into things quite early on," said Leach, who made an impact with his left-arm spin in just his second Test for England.

"Massive influence Moeen has been great to be around and good banter when he's around in the change room. "We are enjoying it... Jimmy (Anderson) and (Sam) Curran bowled really well at the top and took the pressure off us," Leach said of England's bowling attack. But it was Foakes who stood out with his patient yet effective batting in England's first essay to give the team a challenging total after electing to bat first. The 25-year-old Foakes, who replaced injured Jonny Bairstow converted his overnight 87 to 107 in the morning session to become only the fifth wicketkeeper-batsman to score a hundred in his first Test.

### MATHEWS' GRIT

For Sri Lanka, Angelo Mathews top-scored with 52 and put on a crucial 75-run stand for the fifth wicket with skipper Dinesh Chandimal, who made 33, to frustrate the opposition bowlers. Rashid broke the key stand after getting Chandimal stumped on a classic leg-spinner but Mathews went on to register his 30th Test 50. He did not trouble the scorers after the tea break as Ali got the dangerous trudging back to the pavilion in the first over of the final session. Dilruwan Perera, who picked up five wickets in the England innings, crossed 1000 Test runs on his way to 21. He became the fastest Sri Lankan to claim a double of 100 wickets and 1,000



**GALLE:** England's Keaton Jennings (R) takes a catch to dismiss Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews (L) as Ben Foakes looks on during the second day of the opening Test match between Sri Lanka and England at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle yesterday. — AFP

runs. England were troubled by a nasty hit to Burns while fielding at forward short leg, prompting the umpires to call for early tea. Burns, who injured his shoulder blades at the base of his neck after trying to duck under a sweep shot from Dickwella, came back to field, much to the delight of the English fans.

The biggest cheer though was reserved for the retiring Rangana Herath who walked in amid a rousing reception as the English team lined up to receive the spin legend in the middle.

He remained unbeaten on 14 after Rashid got the final wicket Suranga Lakmal for 15. Herath, 40, bids farewell to his international career at the start of the three-match series at his favourite hunting ground that accounts for 100 — he got to the mark in England's innings after getting skipper Joe Root out for 35 — of his 431 Test victims.

"I have watched Herath over the years, he's been a legend for Sri Lankan cricket," Leach said in praise of the veteran left-arm spinner. — AFP

## Billionaire owner of Monaco soccer club in custody

**MONACO:** The Russian billionaire owner of Monaco football club was in custody Tuesday, his lawyer confirmed, the latest twist in his legal battle with a Swiss art dealer who he claims cheated him of up to one billion dollars and Sotheby's auctioneers.

Police officers also carried out a search Tuesday morning of Dmitry Rybolovlev's luxury penthouse apartment in the principality, said a source close to the case.

Rybolovlev's lawyer Herve Temine confirmed the latest developments, while stressing the principle of the presumption of innocence. Temine's colleague Thomas Giaccardi said the latest move came after the seizure and analysis of a mobile phone belonging to one of Rybolovlev's lawyers, Tetiana Bersheda.

Since 2015, Rybolovlev has been locked in a legal battle with Swiss art dealer Yves Bouvier, who he accuses of having swindled him out of up to a billion dollars, by charging inflated fees.

When Rybolovlev's lawyer Bersheda produced an audio recording from her mobile phone that she said supported his case, the investigating magistrate in the case ordered text messages from the same phone to be extracted.

That led to Monaco prosecutors opening a corruption investigation against Rybolovlev in 2017. His legal team has repeatedly argued that this analysis of the phone was a violation of the lawyer-client confidentiality. That issue is still being fought out in court, but some of the compromising text messages have already been leaked to the French press.

On October 2 this year, Rybolovlev opened a new front in his legal battle, launching a \$380-million (333-million-euros) lawsuit against Sotheby's auction house through the New York courts. In it, he accused the auction house of having helped Bouvier, their art advisor, carry out "the largest art fraud in history" — at his expense.

Rybolovlev says Bouvier tricked him over the acquisition of 38 works of art he bought from him over a decade for more than \$2.1 billion. "He repeatedly and blatantly misrepresented the acquisition prices for the paintings," pocketing the difference himself, says the lawsuit.

Sotheby's has dismissed the lawsuit as "entirely without merit". In November 2017, it filed its own lawsuit against Rybolovlev in Switzerland and is seeking to have the action in New York dismissed. — AFP

## Australia high performance chief Howard sacked

**MELBOURNE:** Cricket Australia (CA) announced yesterday that high performance chief Pat Howard will leave his role next week as the fallout from a scathing cultural review into the governing body continues.

Howard, who has been in the role since 2011, had intended to stay until the Ashes tour of England next year, the governing body announced last month, a week before releasing the Longstaff review. However, he becomes the latest executive to fall in the wake of the review, which CA commissioned after the ball-tampering scandal in Cape Town in March.

"While Pat Howard has previously made clear his intentions not to renew his contract next year, it has been decided to bring forward his departure which will take effect next week after a handover," CA said in a statement. "Belinda Clark ... has agreed to take on the role of Interim EGM, Team Performance until Pat's permanent replacement is announced in the new year." The Longstaff review criticised CA for fostering a culture of "winning without counting the cost" and blamed the governing body in part for the ball-tampering crisis, which led to the suspensions of former captain Steve Smith and two other players.

Australian cricket has struggled to recover from the crisis, with its men's teams losing a test series to Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates and being white-washed 5-0 by England in a one-day international series. Aaron Finch's one-day side were thrashed by six wickets by South Africa in Perth on Sunday in the first of a three-match ODI series, which was also the first international match of the Australian summer.

Appointed in 2011, former rugby international Howard was a polarising figure in the role, with former players and pundits questioning his lack of a significant cricket background. But CA CEO Kevin Roberts said Howard's tenure had been a success, praising him for bringing high performance into the "21st century" and

## 'See ball, hit ball', NZ duo belt 43 runs off single over

**WELLINGTON:** Central Districts medium pacer Willem Ludick earned an unwanted place in the record books yesterday when Northern Districts took 43 runs off one of his overs in a domestic one-day cricket match in New Zealand.

Northern Districts batsmen Joe Carter and Brett Hampton belted six sixes — two of which were hit off no balls — a four and a single during the first class match at Hamilton's Seddon Park.

Carter finished on 102 not out, while Hampton was dismissed for 95 as Northern Districts scored 313 for seven in their 50 overs in the game that they eventually won by 25 runs. Ludick, who gave up more than half of his runs during the match in that one over, finished with figures of 85 for one off 10 overs.



**SYDNEY:** File photo taken on November 4, 2016 shows Cricket Australia team performance chief Pat Howard speaking to the media in Sydney. The exodus at Cricket Australia grew yesterday as two more top executives quit the embattled governing body after a ball-tampering scandal and a scathing review triggered an outcry. — AFP

helping deliver World Cups for both the men's and women's national teams. CA would look for a replacement with "deep cricket experience", Roberts told reporters in Melbourne yesterday. "I'll be seeking the counsel of other cricket experts in terms of determining our future direction," he said.

CA also said broadcasting executive Ben Amarfo had left the business yesterday, with Stephanie Beltrame stepping into a new role as Interim EGM Broadcasting and Commercial. The changes come on the heels of Chairman David Peever's decision to quit on Thursday after his position became untenable, while long-serving board director Mark Taylor, the former Australia captain, announced his resignation on Monday. CA installed deputy chairman Earl Eddings as an interim replacement for Peever and said last week it would seek someone to take on the role permanently. Yesterday, however, Roberts said there would be no "significant change at executive level" in coming months, barring the interim appointments being made permanent.

"From here on we're about growing and building and moving beyond these tough decisions and tough times for some people that we really respect to take the game forward," he said. — Reuters

"It was right at the end and I suppose it was a 'see ball, hit ball' scenario," said Hampton. "We got a couple of free no balls which helped us to get going. "We came together (at the end of the over) and said 'how many did we get on that?' I think we said it was 39. We missed a four there."

Although batting greats Ravi Shastri and Garry Sobers famously gave Tilak Raj and Malcolm Nash places in cricket's Hall of Shame by smashing six sixes from their overs in first class matches, the world record is by no means clear.

South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs also hit six sixes for a tally of 36 off Netherlands legspinner Daan van Bunge during a 2007 World Cup match in St. Kitts, the most in an international one-dayer. Website Cricinfo, in what it allows is a potentially incomplete list, awards the first class one-day record to Zimbabwe international Elton Chigumbura, who belted 39 off Alauddin Babu during one over in Bangladesh in 2013. They discounted the 77 runs that former New Zealand batsman Robert Vance conceded during a first-class match against Canterbury in 1990. Vance deliberately bowled 17 no balls in his over in an effort to entice the Canterbury tailenders to chase a victory in their match against the opening batsman's Wellington side. — Reuters

## Bangladesh coach vows to bounce back from Zimbabwe loss

**SYLHET:** Bangladesh coach Steve Rhodes yesterday promised his team would bounce back from their opening Test defeat against Zimbabwe to square the two-Test series in Dhaka. Zimbabwe thrashed Bangladesh by 151 runs in the first Test in the north-eastern city of Sylhet, posting their first Test win in five years since they defeated Pakistan at Harare in 2013. Bangladesh were heavily criticised for their poor show in the game, in which the team was dismissed for 143 and 169 runs in two innings-making eight consecutive Test innings where Bangladesh failed to cross the 200-run mark.

But Rhodes said he is hoping the team will make a strong comeback in the next match. "These guys are really determined to put things right and that's what I love about the Bangladeshi dressing room. They keep surprising me and they keep bouncing back," Rhodes told reporters in Sylhet.

"Certainly the only thing that went wrong in this game was our batting in the first innings. We lost the toss when there was not much happening and we did a great job in bowling them out for 282," he said. "Then we needed 350 or 400 and if we didn't get that score then it was always going to be difficult batting last. "So we missed an opportunity in our first innings batting and there was nothing wrong with our plans or tactics, we just made a mess of it in our first innings. "To get rolled for 140 (143) and be a 140 (139) behind, going into the third innings of the game, was quite disastrous for us." He said the team would put things right in the second and last Test match at Dhaka's Mirpur ground beginning on Sunday. — AFP



Willem Ludick

## Sports

# Barcelona through in Champions League, Liverpool suffer shock loss

## Harry Kane revive Tottenham Hotspur's hopes

PARIS: Barcelona secured their place in the Champions League knockout stage on Tuesday with a 1-1 draw away to Inter Milan, as Harry Kane revived Tottenham Hotspur's hopes but Liverpool slumped to a shock defeat. Last year's runners-up were beaten by Red Star Belgrade, although the biggest losers on the night were Thierry Henry's Monaco, who were eliminated following a resounding loss to Club Brugge.

Lionel Messi was still missing for Barcelona at the San Siro, and it was substitute Malcom who came off the bench to give the Spanish champions a late lead. But Inter hit back to earn a point thanks to Mauro Icardi's 87th-minute leveller, keeping the three-time former winners on course to join Barcelona in qualifying for the last 16 from Group B.

Tottenham remain in the hunt, however, after Kane's late brace secured a 2-1 win over PSV Eindhoven. The Dutch side had got off to a superb start at Wembley, taking the lead when Luuk de Jong headed home in the second minute.

Mauricio Pochettino's team were starting to get desperate when skipper Kane equalised with 12 minutes left, and he headed home in the 89th minute with the help of two deflections as Spurs got their first win of the campaign. "We had to dig deep and find another level when it mattered. The whole season we've been grinding out results here and there," said Kane.

Liverpool were strong favourites away to Red Star in Serbia, but Jurgen Klopp's team were poor in a 2-0 defeat to the 1991 European Cup winners. Milan Pavkov scored twice in seven first-half minutes, heading in the opener and then beating Alisson with a powerful strike from range, to the delight of a huge home support.

"The boys are very disappointed, I'm very disap-

pointed and we have to do better," said Klopp. The defeat exposes the Anfield club to the threat of an early elimination in Group C, with Napoli coming from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Paris Saint-Germain in the night's other game.

### NAPOLI HOLD PSG

Kylian Mbappe set up Juan Bernat to put Paris ahead just before the break, but Lorenzo Insigne beat Gianluigi Buffon from the penalty spot in the second half as these sides played out a draw for the second time in a fortnight.

"This is a difficult group but we saw with Liverpool losing that everything is possible," said PSG's Julian Draxler. "A draw in Naples is not bad and we still have our fate in our own hands." Liverpool and Napoli are locked on six points from four games, with PSG one behind and Red Star another adrift. Liverpool travel to the French capital in their next game.

The two favourites in Group A are not guaranteed a path to the last 16 yet, however, after Club Brugge claimed a stunning 4-0 win at Monaco. The Belgians had not won a Champions League match since 2005, but they were 3-0 up midway through the first half at the Stade Louis II. Hans Vanaken scored twice, including a penalty, and the Brazilian Wesley belted in the third before Ruud Vormer sealed the win.

### 'WORRYING' FOR HENRY

Semi-finalists in 2017, Monaco are now eliminated. It was a dreadful display from a side who have not won in 15 games, including five matches under Henry. This result also came on the day the club's Russian billionaire owner Dmitry Rybolovlev was arrested in a cor-



MILAN: Inter Milan's Croatian midfielder Ivan Perisic (L) tackles Barcelona's Spanish defender Gerard Pique during the UEFA Champions League group B football match Inter Milan vs Barcelona on Tuesday at San Siro stadium in Milan. — AFP

ruption investigation.

"We started well, but once we fell behind we stopped playing and that's a little bit worrying," said Henry of his team's performance. Porto are on the brink

of qualification from Group D after a 4-1 win at home to Lokomotiv Moscow. They lead the section by two points from Schalke, who defeated Galatasaray 2-0 in Gelsenkirchen. — AFP

## Egyptian king or dwarf? Salah statue mocked online

CAIRO: A statue of Liverpool footballer Mohamed Salah has been met with derision online since going on display in his native Egypt, with many comparing it to an infamous bronze bust of Cristiano Ronaldo.

The statue was unveiled with pomp and ceremony at the World Youth Forum in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in the presence of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. With large ears poking out from under a huge Afro hairstyle, Salah is captured in the pose of his now iconic goal celebration.

A broad smile is etched across his face and his oversized head is tilted backwards as the arms on his pint-sized body are stretched out wide. Salah is idolised in Egypt and Liverpool, after his goal-scoring exploits last season took his country to the World Cup finals and his English club to the final of the Champions League.

The statue of him been mocked widely on social media, with many likening its appearance to that of 1970s British singer Leo Sayer or his American counterpart Art Garfunkel. "People thought Cristiano Ronaldo's statue was bad. Wait till you see Mo Salah's," one Twitter user wrote, referring to the bronze bust ridiculed for looking nothing like the Portuguese football superstar.

"Statue carved by Stevie Wonder by the looks of it!" tweeted another, in reference to the blind US musician. One social media user said Salah's statue looked like a "bobble head"—the dolls placed on the dashboards of



SHARM EL SHEIKH: A woman takes a selfie by a statue of Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah displayed at the World Youth Forum in Sharm El Sheikh, on November 5, 2018. — AFP

cars with oversized heads that nod incessantly.

"Oh god!!!!!! They made statue of dwarf Salah," tweeted another. "Yes, it's a statue, but where is Mohamed Salah?" said a post on Facebook. The Egyptian artist who sculpted the statue, Mai Abdallah, has defended her work.

Abdallah said the statue had been made of plaster but became disfigured when the forum's organisers poured bronze over it, much to her surprise. She said the statue was originally only meant to be used teach sculpture to students, in a post on Facebook where she also shared her other statues of Egyptian celebrities. — AFP

## Juventus are Champions League 'super favourites', says Mourinho

TURIN: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho claimed that Juventus are "super favourites" to win this season's Champions League ahead of their clash in Turin yesterday. Three-time winners United are second in Group H after three games on four points-five behind leaders Juventus who are poised to qualify for the last 16. Mourinho said that United would not be distracted by Sunday's Manchester derby in the Premier League, but accepted that his team's Champions League fate will be decided by their final two games against Young Boys and Valencia. "It's a big match to play tomorrow, they're favourites to win the competition," said Mourinho. "It's big enough to not think about 'what next?' " "It's big enough to think just about the match against Juventus. It's not a crucial match for us. It doesn't matter what happens here.

"There are two more matches against Young Boys and Valencia (which) are going to define the second position." Manchester United have had to fight back to win recent matches against Newcastle and Bournemouth and Mourinho warned the club could not do that against Juventus, who beat them 1-0 at Old Trafford two weeks ago.

"We work every day to try but the reality is that normally we don't start matches well, but if we don't start well and we end well, that's fine. "It's good fun for the fans, but football is 90 minutes and especially when your opponent is strong, if you give (a) 45-minute advantage, or even 20 or even 10, you have a mountain to climb.

"The good thing is that lately, apart from the Juventus match, we were strong enough to climb the mountain and change the match in the last minutes. "When you play against a super team, like tomorrow, if you give an advantage away, it's difficult to climb the mountain."

Mourinho also said that the injured Romelu Lukaku would not be fit to play and could also miss the match against Manchester City. — AFP

## Atletico gain sweet revenge by cruising past Dortmund

MADRID: Atletico Madrid avenged their Borussia Dortmund drubbing from a fortnight ago and revived hopes of going through top of Champions League Group A by beating the German side 2-0 at the Wanda Metropolitan stadium on Tuesday.

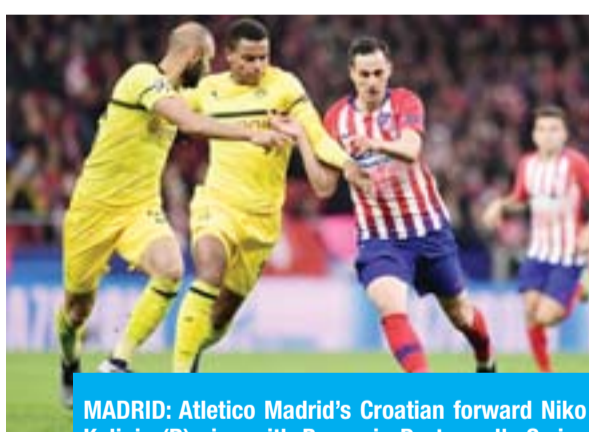
Dortmund handed Atletico their heaviest defeat under Diego Simeone with a 4-0 victory 13 days ago but this contest was almost a mirror image, the hosts in control from start to finish. Saul Niguez and Antoine Griezmann scored a goal in each half to complete a win that puts Atleti five points clear of third-place Club Brugge with two games to play, and on the brink of the Champions League knock-out stage.

First place is also back in sight, with Atletico and Dortmund each on nine points, even if Simeone's side have the slightly tougher task of playing Brugge away in their final fixture. "We wanted to get one back on them after the first game," Saul said. "It was tough to take and it might have gone the other way two weeks ago. Tonight was a bit of revenge for us."

After losing in Germany, Atleti were also held at struggling Leganes in La Liga on Saturday and this result, without the injured Diego Costa, Diego Godin and Koke, will do wonders for morale. The only set-back was defender Jose Gimenez being forced off at half-time with what the club confirmed was a thigh strain.

"The team responded," Simeone said. "We played as a team and when everyone buys into that, you have your identity. You can feel what you do together and today the boys showed that." Dortmund, who sit top of the Bundesliga, host Bayern Munich on Saturday and they lacked the same verve they showed two weeks ago.

"They dominated us today," Dortmund coach Lucien Favre said, before brushing off the suggestion this could hang over them against Bayern. "It's just a defeat. It can happen." England's Jadon Sancho was handed his fourth consecutive start for the visitors, his longest run in the side



MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Croatian forward Niko Kalinic (R) vies with Borussia Dortmund's Swiss defender Manuel Akanji during the UEFA Champions League group A football match between Club Atletico de Madrid and Borussia Dortmund at the Wanda Metropolitan stadium in Madrid. — AFP

this season. After a bright start, the youngster faded and was replaced late in the second half.

The first 30 minutes was a battle for the pace of the game, with Atletico trying to keep it fast and frenetic while Dortmund aimed to kill momentum at every opportunity. Angel Correa twice went close but otherwise Atleti's authority came to little in the way of chances until the 32nd minute.

Saul began the move by playing left to Filipe Luis and finished it too, sliding the ball goalward where Manuel Akanji lashed it into his own net. In between, Filipe's pass had been brilliantly dummied by Correa.

Their resistance broken, Dortmund lost their way and were hanging on at the end of the half. Thomas Parthey's drive grazed the crossbar and soon after Saul skewed wide when left open at the back post.

Simeone was convinced they deserved a penalty when Griezmann's effort was parried and the incoming Saul was taken out by Lukasz Piszczek. Dortmund's best chance came early in the second half when Paco Alcacer nipped in after a Francisco Montero slip. Alcacer fired across goal but with such force that Raphael Guerreiro, five yards out, hardly saw the ball as it flew off his head and over the bar. — AFP



### Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

#### UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Fenerbahçe v RSC Anderlecht	
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
FC Astana v Jablonec	18:50
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Malmö FF v Sarpsborg 08	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
KRC Genk v Besiktas	20:55
beIN SPORTS	
FK Krasnodar v Standard de Liege	20:55
beIN SPORTS	
Akhisar Belediyespor v Sevilla FC	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Apollon Limassol v Eintracht Frankfurt	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
SS Lazio v Olympique Marseille	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Spartak Moscow v Glasgow Rangers FC	20:55
beIN SPORTS	
Rapid Wien v Villarreal CF	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
FK Bate Borisov v Chelsea FC	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
MOL Vidi FC v PAOK FC	20:55
beIN SPORTS	
Dynamo Kyiv v Stade Rennais	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Bayer 04 Leverkusen v FC Zurich	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Ludogorets Razgrad v AEK Lamaca	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Rosenborg BK v Red Bull Salzburg	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Celtic v RB Leipzig	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
FC Girondins de Bordeaux v Zenit St. Petersburg	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
SK Slavia Prague v FC Kobenhavn	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
GNK Dinamo Zagreb v FC Spartak Trnava	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Vorskla Poltava v Qarabag Agdam FK	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Arsenal FC v Sporting CP	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Real Betis v AC Milan	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Olympiacos CFP v F91 Dudelange	23:00
beIN SPORTS	

**25** Ryan O'Reilly tallies first hat trick in St Louis Blues' win

**26** Australia high performance chief Howard sacked

**27** Barcelona through in Champions League, Liverpool suffer shock loss



## McCollum scores 40 as Blazers top Bucks

Mavericks finally put away Wizards, halt skid at 6



PORTLAND: Malcolm Brogdon #13 of the Milwaukee Bucks shoots the ball during the game against the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday at the Moda Center in Portland, Oregon. — AFP

**PORTLAND:** CJ McCollum scored a season-high 40 points to lift the Portland Trail Blazers past the visiting Milwaukee Bucks 118-103 Tuesday night. McCollum made 17 of 26 shots from the field and also had six assists and five rebounds as Portland won for the fifth time in six outings. Evan Turner contributed 16 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for the Trail Blazers, who shot 52.7 percent from the field and made 17 of 43 (39.5 percent) from 3-point range. Giannis Antetokounmpo collected 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists, and Khris Middleton added 22 points, eight boards and six assists for the Bucks.

**MAVERICKS 119, WIZARDS 100**

Dallas overcame visiting Washington with a late surge in the fourth quarter to snap a six-game losing skid. Behind hot shooting from

Otto Porter Jr., and a spurt from John Wall, who finished with a game-high 24 points, the Wizards made it 97-91 with 7:04 to go. The Mavericks called timeout and then went on a 15-5 run spurred by Dennis Smith Jr. (19 points) to put the game on ice. Rookie Luka Doncic led Dallas in scoring with 23 points, plus six rebounds and three assists.

**NETS 104, SUNS 82**

Caris LeVert continued his torrid start by scoring 26 points, and Brooklyn opened a four-game road trip with an easy win over Phoenix. The Nets won consecutive games for the first time this season by countering a sluggish shooting performance with effective defense. Brooklyn shot 44.6 percent but allowed a season-low 34.6 percent shooting and forced 20 turnovers two nights after forc-

ing a league-high 27 in Sunday's rout of Philadelphia. LeVert reached 20-plus points for the seventh time by shooting 10 of 16. Devin Booker led the Suns with 20 points but shot 6 of 21 from the floor.

**HORNETS 113, HAWKS 102**

Kemba Walker scored 29 points, and host Charlotte pulled away from Atlanta in the fourth quarter on its way to victory. The Hornets went on a 17-4 run early in the fourth to turn an 84-83 deficit into a 100-88 lead, and they went on to lead by as many as 15 points from there. Marvin Williams played a key role in the rally, with eight fourth-quarter points, including two 3-pointers. He finished with 20 points for the game. Jeremy Lin led the Hawks with 19 points. Trae Young had 18 points and 10 assists but scored only four in the second half. —Reuters

**NBA results/standings**

Dallas 119, Washington 100; Portland 118, Milwaukee 103; Phoenix 82, Brooklyn 104; Charlotte 113, Atlanta 102.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB	
Toronto	10	1	0.909	-	Golden State	10	1	0.909	-
Milwaukee	8	2	0.800	1.5	Denver	9	1	0.900	0.5
Indiana	7	4	0.636	3	Portland	8	3	0.727	2
Boston	6	4	0.600	3.5	San Antonio	6	3	0.667	3
Philadelphia	6	5	0.545	4	LA Clippers	6	4	0.600	3.5
Charlotte	6	5	0.545	4	Sacramento	6	4	0.600	3.5
Brooklyn	5	6	0.455	5	Oklahoma City	5	4	0.556	4
Miami	4	5	0.444	5	Memphis	5	4	0.556	4
Detroit	4	5	0.444	5	Houston	4	5	0.444	5
Orlando	4	6	0.400	5.5	Utah	4	6	0.400	5.5
Atlanta	3	7	0.300	6.5	LA Lakers	4	6	0.400	5.5
Chicago	3	8	0.273	7	New Orleans	4	6	0.400	5.5
New York	3	8	0.273	7	Minnesota	4	7	0.364	6
Washington	2	8	0.200	7.5	Dallas	3	7	0.300	6.5
Cleveland	1	9	0.100	8.5	Phoenix	2	8	0.200	7.5

## Shanghai SIPG win China title to end Guangzhou dominance

**SHANGHAI:** Shanghai SIPG broke Guangzhou Evergrande's near-decade stranglehold on Chinese football yesterday, winning the Chinese Super League (CSL) for the first time. Fabio Cannavaro's failure to steer Evergrande to an eighth CSL crown in a row will see the Italian legend's future as coach thrown into doubt after a single campaign at the helm.

In contrast, SIPG coach Vitor Pereira has achieved what his more famous predecessor Andre Villas-Boas could not, winning the club's first major trophy since its founding in

2005. SIPG, who have the expensive Brazilian duo of Oscar and Hulk, wrapped up the title with a game to spare thanks to a 2-1 victory over Beijing Renhe.

Pereira, a former Porto coach last seen taking 1860 Munich into Germany's third tier, praised the "spirit" of his side. "We broke seven years of titles of Guangzhou and this is a big issue, a big challenge, and we won the challenge," the Portuguese said, his winners' medal slung around his neck.

"(In my) first year in China. For my career, it is good for me, I am very happy. "I hope next season we will be here again to fight for another title." On a wet night at Shanghai Stadium, Uzbek international Odil Akhmedov put the champions-elect ahead in the 20th minute with a sumptuous curling effort from outside the box. Prolific Chinese international Wu Lei made it 2-0 just after half-time, only for Senegalese striker Makhete Diop to hit back for the visitors. The pivotal moment in the season came on Saturday, when Pereira's side triumphed 5-4 at Cannavaro's Guangzhou in what was effectively a title-decider. "Chinese football is attracting global

interest because of the vast sums shelled out to lure the likes of Oscar—who cost an Asian-record 60 million euros from Chelsea—and Hulk. Forward Wu was arguably the standout performer over the last eight months, however, topping the CSL scoring charts with 27 goals, including his deflected strike against Beijing. Winning the title justifies SIPG's decision to hire Pereira after his fellow Portuguese Villas-Boas quit following a turbulent 2016-2017 campaign during which the former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur manager failed to lift a trophy.

SIPG fans were initially disappointed that they got Pereira rather than a stellar name. But the 50-year-old and his side kept their nerve as their rivals faded one by one, in what was the most exciting title fight in CSL history.

"I have to thank my club because they put their trust in us and they deserved this title," he said. "My players did fantastic work and a fantastic season." Beijing Guoan, coached by the German Roger Schmidt, and Shandong Luneng had both also been in contention for three-quarters of the season. —AFP



SHANGHAI: Players of Shanghai SIPG celebrate with their trophy after winning the Chinese Super League (CSL) football match in Shanghai yesterday. —AFP