

# Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17679

RABI ALAWWAL 1, 1440 AH | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

**9** Caution urged as Kuwait braces for heavy rain



**10** Gunman kills 12 in California bar packed with students



**47** Juventus fightback infuses Man Utd with belief as City derby looms



## Kuwaiti sculptors struggle to be seen

See Pages 4 & 5

## Local

## Are we racist?



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Racism often comes in the form of treating some individuals differently - socially and legally - and making distinctions between people on the basis of color or ethnic affiliation. This is the definition that is universally recognized. I think racism is like a disease in some people who have a virus of mental illusions or false ideas of superiority and inferiority among human beings, which justifies differing forms of treatment.

I know that there are many studies and researches published on the Internet about racism and its history, and racism in Arab and Western societies with models, but I would like to focus on racism in the Arab Gulf societies and the duplicity in dealing with the concept of racism, whether by citizens or expatriates.

It is necessary to define a specific concept and why some people think racism is prevalent in Kuwait, for example, but cannot talk about racism when they go to another country or even return to their native countries. I believe in Kuwait there is less racism than many countries I have visited in the West and East that brag about democracy and equality among people, but are extremely racist.

I know from my experience that racism in the world is based on discrimination over two things: Wealth and color. It is common for rich people to enjoy different treatment because they have money, whether the money is earned legally or illegally.

As for color, it is unfortunate that many girls today are running after the best skin bleaching and whitening creams. The media and commercial advertisements promote whitening products, alluding that being fair is all what you need to get what you want. This does not help to strengthen and empower women in society and life. It is regrettable that skin color and how fair they are is included in the qualities of women in the marriage market! Today, some have formulated recipes for lightening the skin and promote the notion that a "white" girl is the best.

I know that all of us without exception may have similar attitudes that reflect racial discrimination. For example, I consider the curiosity of taxi drivers in the question "which country are you from" to determine the nature of the dialogue or even open a conversation reflects a behavior of racial discrimination by prejudging passengers.

I think racism is apparent in societies because of money and social status. Rich people do not usually mingle with poor ones, despite the beautiful talk about modesty and being humble. I do not see this happening on the ground. We may agree on the importance of living in societies that are free from racism, but it is not easy at a time when the media is not reflecting this attitude.

The reality is that there is only one human race and we inhabit one planet, and unless the media runs new anti-racism programs and new laws that reject bad behaviors are enforced, nothing may change. We should have one motto that we are not racist and do not accept racism.

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



People in Kuwait enjoy walking along the beautiful corniche in Salmiya now that temperatures are dropping. — Photo by Thomas Joseph

## Six thinking hats, anyone?



IN MY VIEW

By Jeri Al-Jeri

local@kuwaittimes.com

What are the six thinking hats? And is there a thinking turban for us Arabs? Edward de Bono wrote a groundbreaking series of books that can enhance the effectiveness of any brainstorming session or group discussion. In meetings with business associates, caregivers of children, or even football club members, we all need to upgrade the quality of the ways in which we think.

De Bono's six thinking hats method allows us to categorize the attitudes of our various thought processes. Sometimes, we get too excited about a certain idea that leads us to making terrible mistakes, and sometimes we are so cautious that we miss a lot of opportunities.

Therefore, de Bono offered the black hat, figuratively, for us to lay down on the table any worrisome idea with regard to the topic at hand. The yellow hat lets out all the zestful and energetic statements that boost team spirit. Then comes the much-needed white hat that only handles straight-up logical, mathematical and statistical points that feed the discussion with pure, unfiltered facts.

The white hat speaker may lack passion, so de Bono throws in the red hat that is only for our intuitions, that brings out our gut feelings. Enter the green hat, for bringing only the positive points of the matter at hand; that gets

all the wishful thinking out in the open. Lastly, the most important hat is the blue hat. Its owner is the only one who is allowed to manage the use of all the other hats.

All of these hats seemed childish to me. In my opinion, meetings ought to never restrict a speaker to a single role that he or she is not allowed to think outside of. However, when I did try on the six thinking hats myself, and in group discussions I have been a part of, I have seen how quick the ideas formed themselves into a very clear and satisfying conclusion. But what about that turban?

Needless to say that much like most of de Bono's books, his Six Thinking Hats book has been translated into many languages. Dr Sharef Muhsin from Egypt handled the Arabic translation of this book, and added a turban to the six thinking hats, which is a spiritual one. One who wears this gets to pray and seek guidance from a higher entity. But I personally disagree with pairing it with the six thinking hats, because prayer is a form of worship and not an argumentative process.

All in all, not to be overrated, the six thinking hats can be at times highly productive and a big timesaver. Also, it can get burdensome when it turns off our "autopilot" system of handling simple decisions that do not need much debate.



# Kuwait Times

ESTABLISHED 1961  
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED



- Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**
- Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**
- Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait  
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621  
E: [info@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:info@kuwaittimes.net)



Local



# Kuwaiti sculptors struggle for right to be seen

**K**uwaiti sculptor Sami Mohammed finished his towering statue of the country’s first Amir over four decades ago, but now it just gathers dust unseen in a long-shuttered office block. Stymied by a conservative view of Islam that bans representations of the body, the 75-year-old faces any artist’s nightmare: he cannot get his work displayed to the public in his homeland.

Like other sculptors in the Gulf state he bristles at claims that his creations constitute idol worship and urges the authorities to push back against demands he sees as outmoded. “We have to get past these issues because the human, the individual, has reason and thought, and it’s really not possible that we would go back to worshipping idols,” Mohammed, himself a devout Muslim, tells AFP. “We no longer live in a time of ignorance. We live in the era of technology.”

**‘Find a cave’**

Like Christianity and Judaism, Islam bans idol worship, but some Muslims go further and forbid any representation of the human form. While there is no law in Kuwait that explicitly prohibits the display of sculptures or statues in public places, the Gulf emirate is home to an influential circle of conservatives that has pushed to lock them up.

Kuwait’s Museum of Modern Art is a prime target. It opened in 2003 and boasts multiple statues of people by Kuwaiti artists in its collection. But they all sit behind closed doors, hidden from the public eye, as a debate centering on Islam and art rages.

Artist Badr Fadel Alemdar, 42, is convinced he knows the reason sculptures are being hidden. He says “fear” among officials of clashing with conservatives prevents his work from seeing the light of day. “The working environment for us is uncomfortable because some see the art of sculpting as blasphemy, especially if it is statues of famous people,” he said, adding that he has been attacked in the past over his creations.

The passions over the issue were highlighted recently by disagreements among Kuwaiti lawmakers. In September legislator Mohammed Hayef Al-Mutairi called on the government to stop local artists from making statues, arguing that they had “paved the way for the establishment of temples” in the Gulf, referring to non-Muslim places of worship. But fellow MP Ahmed al-Fadel dismissed this view as “backward”. Fadel in another instance also lashed out at those who wanted to close a shop because it was selling printed 3D figurines. “I want to know how long this backward mindset can continue,” Fadel said in a video posted online. “This is a country of freedoms ruled by law... 1,400 years later (after the emergence of Islam), you are still talking about idols? What you should do is find a cave and stay there.”



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti sculptor Sami Mohammed speaks in front of one of his works at the Museum of Modern Art in Kuwait City.  
— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



## Local

**'Get used to it'**

Arguments over the representation of the human form in the Muslim world are by no means limited to Kuwait. At the most extreme end the jihadists of the Islamic State group have smashed up and pillaged artworks they deemed sacrilegious across Iraq and Syria.

In 2013, French football legend Zinedine Zidane found himself unwittingly at the heart of a dispute in the Gulf state of Qatar. The installation of a statue depicting Zidane's infamous headbutt of Italian Marco Materazzi by Algerian-born artist Adel Abdessemed triggered a wave of complaints on social media. Many people insisted it was a violation of Islam, and the statue was removed.



Elsewhere though there have been signs of greater acceptance. In the capital of fellow Gulf nation the United Arab Emirates, visitors can marvel at priceless sculptures in the Louvre Abu Dhabi which opened last year. And even ultra-conservative regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia in September launched an exhibition of Chinese art that included the famed terracotta warriors.

For Bader Al-Daweesh, an official at Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature, these steps means there are reasons to be positive about the potential for change in his country. "People will get used to it — to seeing statues — in the future," he argues. And, despite his frustrations, artist Sami Mohammed also continues to live in hope that his work will find a place in his homeland. "Kuwait cannot separate itself from the rest of the world," he says. — AFP



Bader Al-Daweesh, an official at Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature.



# No dancing allowed!



VIEWPOINT

By Faten Omar

Faten@kuwaittimes.net

Missy Elliott sang, “Music makes you lose control, music makes you lose control.” Music does make you lose control, but it does make you want to move, to dance, to sway. So imagine going to music concert and not being able to dance? That is the situation in Kuwait, where public dancing and mixed dancing are forbidden.

You can enjoy the music at the concert but without dancing, swaying or “floating”. Easy, right? Wrong! I recently got a warning by an organizer at a concert for “chair dancing”, which she said is strictly forbidden. She rebuked me for spontaneously dancing because I lost control and surrendered to the melodies of the music by my favorite singer! So is it allowed to dance secretly?

What is the point of organizing concerts, inviting famous singers from all over the world and allowing them to play music loudly and in public, but the audience is not allowed to dance? It has been said that music is food of the soul. So how can you control enjoying your favorite food of music when it runs through your veins and takes over your body?!

Kuwait is among some Arab countries where people are forbidden by law to dance in public places. When attending a concert or performance in Kuwait, there is very limited movement allowed. There is no crowd crazily jumping and moving. And forget about head-banging. The only thing similar to dancing that people are allowed to do at concerts is clapping, but slowly and gently.

But it turns out that Kuwait and some Arab countries are not the only ones that take a strict view towards dancing in public. Europe is not always all fun and games. At the beginning of the four-day Easter weekend, it is illegal to dance in public for the full day in 12 out of 16 states in

Germany, with the remaining four enforcing a partial ban during the day. Some states take the religious festival more seriously than others, such as Bavaria, where any kind of music - even in bars - is forbidden.

In Sweden, public dancing is prohibited no matter the season. Bars, clubs and restaurants require a license to enable patrons to dance. Luckily, the law doesn't apply to tourists, but it is funny that restaurant or bar owners can be charged for ‘illegal dancing’.

In 2015, Japan lifted a 67-year-old ban on dancing, to the delight of the nation's clubbers. The ban forbade public dancing unless the venue had a license, and even licensed premises had to stop all dancing by midnight. Despite the law, dancing, even after midnight, was tolerated in the second half of the 20th century, with police turning a blind eye to the hard-to-enforce law that was routinely flouted.



## Bus company says buses for all

**KUWAIT:** Following a televised broadcast reporting a new premium bus service was for Kuwaitis exclusively, the local bus company issued a statement to Kuwait Times yesterday to clarify that the buses are meant to serve all the residents of Kuwait.

“In response to what was said on Kuwait TV, we would like to clarify that the premium bus service is for all and not only for Kuwait citizens. We are sorry for the mistake that happened as we are a public transport company that provides a service to anyone regardless of nationality,” Gasser Fathy, marketing manager for City Group told the Kuwait Times in an emailed statement.

A day earlier, a video clip taken from a segment broadcast on KTV1 as part of the ‘Layali Al-Kuwait’ show on Monday incorrectly reported that the bus service was for Kuwaitis.

KTV 1 programmer Ala’ Al-Banay, told Kuwait Times that it was a misunderstanding. “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. The video was shared widely in social media across Kuwait.



# 1st



**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961

The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf





# Parliament Speaker holds official talks with Saudi Shura chairman



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem meets with Chairman of Saudi Shura Council Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh. —KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of Saudi Shura Council Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh. —KUNA

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday held official talks with the visiting Chairman of Saudi Shura Council Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh and his accompanying delegation. The two sides, during the meeting, reviewed the bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, means of cementing mutual cooperation in diverse fields, particularly in the parliamentary realm, issues of joint interest and regional affairs. The meeting was attended by head of the accompanying mission of honor MP Dr Ouda Al-Rouwaie, MPs Dr Abdulkarim Al-Kanderi, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Khaled Al-Shatti, Khalaf Al-Enezi, Mubarak Al-Hrais, Saud Al-Shuwaier, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al-Saud and National Assembly Secretary General of Kuwait Allam Al-Kanderi. Following the

discussions, the parliament speaker held a luncheon in honor of the guests, who arrived in the country on Tuesday on a three-day official visit.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, with presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received the visiting Chairman of Saudi Shura Council and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by head of the accompanying mission of honor MP Dr Rouwaie and the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah had hosted a dinner banquet on Wednesday in honor of the visiting Saudi Shura Council Speaker and his accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by Ghanem

and Dr Rowaie. Moreover, MPs Ahmad Al-Fadhl and Safaa Al-Hashem, Allam Al-Kandari, Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait, in addition to a number of senior state officials also attended the banquet.

In other news, His Highness the Prime Minister received Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Abdullatif Al-Zayani at Seif Palace yesterday. Zayani was accompanied by GCC ministers of municipal affairs, on sidelines of the 21st meeting of the GCC municipality affairs ministers in Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Hossam Al-Roumi and head of the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikhha Itimad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

## Prime Minister receives British-Kuwaiti Parliamentary Group

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received chairman of the British-Kuwaiti Parliamentary Friendship Committee Leo Docherty and his delegation. The meeting, held at Seif Palace yesterday, was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem also received the visiting chairperson of the British Parliamentary Friendship Committee Leo Docherty. Both sides discussed boosting bilateral relations in various fields, especially the parliamentary domain, and latest regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by members of the joint committee.

The visiting British parliamentarians lauded the strong role played by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a global 'Humanitarian Leader' and underscored importance of Kuwait as an 'International Humanitarian Center'. In an interview, the parliamentarians also commended His Highness the



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with chairman of the British-Kuwaiti Parliamentary Friendship Committee Leo Docherty and his delegation. —KUNA

Amir's role in easing the pain caused by the crisis in Syria through the organizing of three international donors conferences. They also lauded Kuwait's stance on the Yemeni conflict via hosting peace talks to end the crisis there. The British parliamentarians affirmed that such gesture reflected Kuwait's strong role both regionally and internationally.

Docherty expressed joy towards the current visit to Kuwait, saying that it would reinforce the decades of strong relations between the two nations. Britain views Kuwait as an old and strategic ally in the region, said the MP who indicated that both nations were eager to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Friendship Treaty signed in 1889. Democracy in Kuwait is a very important matter, said Docherty who affirmed that both the UK and Kuwait could fur-

ther develop their democracies to better serve their respective people. In regards to discussions with the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, the British MP said that the meeting focused on developing relations on all possible levels.

Docherty, as the head of the British parliament's defense committee, said that he was eager to further bolster ties within this domain. Asked about his views in regards to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as an organization, the British MP stressed that it was important for the region to have the GCC intact because it was within the interest of the UK. On the British-Russian dispute over the Salisbury incident, MP Docherty said that the House of Commons shared a unified stance on the issue, which is considered as a violation of international law.

Meanwhile, British MP Alistair Carmichael

said that the UK parliament was keen on addressing vital issues in the Middle East especially the Syrian crisis. The issue in Syria has tragically turned from a "civil" to a 'proxy war' as chaos continues to enthrone, said Carmichael. On the Brexit, MP Carmichael affirmed that the step would provide various investment and commercial opportunities for partners from beyond the EU. Britons, he said, eye Kuwait as one of the countries, which will exponentially development UK investments and commercial exchange. Speaking on the nuclear deal with Iran and the US withdrawal from the agreement, Carmichael said that his government supported the deal because it opened channels of negotiations and dialogue with the government in Tehran. The British parliamentary delegation arrived in Kuwait Wednesday on a three-day visit. —KUNA



# Caution urged as Kuwait braces for heavy rain in coming days

## Emergency committee meeting held in anticipation of rain

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** People in Kuwait were urged to exercise caution as state authorities on Wednesday announced their readiness to face heavy rain over the weekend. Forecasters have warned of heavy rainfall followed by more extreme downpours in addition to unstable weather in the coming days. Motorists were advised against sudden deceleration and to leave adequate spacing with surrounding vehicles. This is to prevent putting their own lives and the lives of others in danger, the Ministry of Interior warned in a statement. Homeowners should turn off their porch lights and make sure that all sewage outlets in the premises are not obstructed. The ministry welcomed calls made by nationals and expatriates alike to the 24-hour emergency 112 hotline, for any unexpected humanitarian, traffic or security-related incidents. The coastguards 1880888 hotline is dedicated to incidents reported at sea, the ministry added. Meanwhile, public hospitals and clinics throughout the country have been put on "high alert and readiness" following the reports. Health Minister Sheikh Basil Al-Sabah has instructed area department heads to make the necessary arrangements, according to a statement.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah phoned the concerned ministers on Wednesday to make sure of the preparedness of the government bodies for the current unstable weather. The conversations followed heavy downpours on Monday/Tuesday night, which disrupted traffic in various parts of the country.

In the meantime, two ministers said that an

emergency committee was held yesterday in accordance with directives of His Highness the Prime Minister to discuss solution on how to deal with the expected rain in the country. This came in two separate statements by Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hussam Al-Roumi, and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri ahead of the committee meeting. The meeting discussed the expected rainfall in the country in the coming days, and solutions and plans to avoid rainfall accumulation and prevent street flooding, hoping to develop a comprehensive plan for that, they added.

Minister Roumi urged citizens and residents to avoid leaving their houses during heavy rain, adding that the roads during yesterday's rain were clear and all emergency teams were on position. Meanwhile, Minister Jabri said that the role of the Ministry of Information is to gather all information from all government agencies to make the picture clear and refute rumors. His Highness the Prime Minister stressed in a telephone conversation with the concerned ministers Wednesday evening on the need to ensure the readiness of government bodies under the current weather conditions.

The emergency meeting was held to prepare an integrated plan to face the rainy season and avoid drawbacks. It grouped emergency teams, as well as representatives from the Information Ministry, Interior Ministry, Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), Kuwait National Guard, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate, the General Department of Civil Defense, Public Works Ministry, Kuwait Municipality, and the Ministry of Electricity and Water.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hussam Al-Roumi (right) and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri attend the emergency committee meeting. — KUNA

Roumi assured reporters that everything is under control in anticipation of the rain. Asked about his political responsibility over the recent flooding, Roumi said that he performed his duties as required. "I met with officials on Oct 25 following the rains and I urged them to avoid mistakes, but still there was laxity," he said. "A committee has been formed and results will be announced when ready. Everyone, including retired officials, will be held accountable."

"We instructed the ministry teams to be at the ready, and with this meeting we will reach a plan with the necessary solutions," he added. Asked about his decision to retire the undersec-

retary of the public works ministry Eng Awatif Al-Ghunaim, the minister explained that the decision helps 'inject new blood' into the ministry. Roumi also commented on the controversy surrounding the Director of PART Ahmad Al-Hassan, who had traveled to the US on an official mission on the day of the heavy rain and flooding on Tuesday. The minister explained that he had rejected Hassan's request to travel, but the official insisted on going, adding that he traveled without an official permit. The minister had issued a decision to terminate Hassan in the fallout of Tuesday's events.

## Six hours to put out scrapyards fire

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Firemen spent six hours to put out a blaze that broke out in lumber and cable containers in Amghara scrapyard yesterday. Firefighters from the occupational, Tahreer, Ardiya, Hilali and back up fire stations had responded to an emergency call reporting the fire. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a fire broke out in a hotel's chalet, prompting Bida fire station to respond. The fire started in a kitchen in the ground floor. The chalet was evacuated and the flames were put out. No injuries were reported as well. Investigations were opened to determine the cause of both fires.



**KUWAIT:** Firefighters tackle a blaze reported in Amghara scrapyard yesterday.

## Kuwait Air Force chief checks on troops in Saudi

**KUWAIT:** Commander of the Kuwait Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Adnan Al Fadhli, has inspected Kuwaiti forces taking part in the 'Operation Restore Hope,' deployed in Saudi Arabia. Kuwait Army Chairmanship of Staff said in a press release yesterday that the visit to the troops, which took place on Wednesday, was conducted upon directions by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, followed up by the Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr. Air Vice-Marshal Al-Fadhli, who was accompanied by senior officers, was welcomed by the Commander of the Saudi Royal Air Forces, Lieutenant General Turki bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, at King Salman Air Base in Riyadh region. He proceeded to the second operations zone in Khamis Mshait, where he held talks with Kuwaiti officers over role of the participating Kuwaiti air force units. — KUNA

## 'Replacement' study on parliament's agenda

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A report dealing with the government's policy to replace expatriate employees with Kuwaiti jobseekers was placed on the National Assembly's agenda for next month. The report tackles a wide range of topics, said sources familiar with the report, adding that the government has received a copy to discuss recommendations and formulate an opinion before the awaited session.

The report includes many recommendations such as setting a percentages for employment in the private sector, reviewing the current percentages, as well as 'rationalizing' the recruitment of expat labor and limiting it to projects' needs while requiring that workers must leave as soon as the projects are complete, said the sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The recommendations also stipulate revoking licenses of certain jobs, adding more restrictions to transferring expat laborer's work permit, and banning the employment of expats in 'sensitive areas' such as traffic, passports, airport security and civil information departments, said the sources.





Fears for Russia probe  
as Trump fires Sessions

## Cabinet reshuffle exposes power struggle in Tunisia

Page 11

Page 15



**CALIFORNIA:** Police officers interview people outside a country music bar and dance hall in Thousand Oaks, in the Los Angeles-area, after a gunman barged into a large, crowded venue and opened fire, wounding at least 11 people including a police officer. — AFP

# Gunman kills 12 in California bar

## Second mass shooting in US in less than a fortnight

**THOUSAND OAKS:** A gunman killed 12 people, including a police officer, when he opened fire in a country music bar packed with college students in California, officials and witnesses said yesterday. Police said the gunman was found dead inside the bar on the outskirts of Los Angeles although it was not immediately clear if he was killed by officers or shot himself. The local sheriff said that around a dozen other people had been injured. He said the motive of the shooting and the identity of the gunman were not yet known.

It was the second mass shooting in America in less than a fortnight. Witnesses said that the gunman, who was bearded and wore a black trenchcoat and glasses, threw several smoke grenades inside the Borderline Bar and Grill before he started shooting at around 11:20pm on Wednesday night. "It's a horrific scene in there. There is blood everywhere," Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean said at a pre-dawn press conference.

"We have no idea if there is a terrorism link

to this or not. As you know, these are ongoing investigations and that information will come out as soon as we are able to determine exactly who the suspect was and what motive he might have



**Gunman found  
dead inside bar**

had for this horrific event." "Nothing has led me to believe or the FBI there is a terrorism link here. We certainly will look at that option." Dean said that the dead police officer, who was named as Ron Helus and had been on the force for 29 years, was among the first on the scene. "They found 11 victims that had been killed," said Dean of the first response unit before detailing that the death

of Helus brought the toll to 12, not including the gunman. Matt Wennerstrom, a 20-year-old college student and regular at the bar in the upscale Thousand Oaks suburb, said the shooter fired a short-barreled pistol that apparently had a 10-15 round magazine. "It was just semi-automatic, as many shots as he could pull," he told journalists. "Then, when (he) started to reload, that's when we got people out of there and I didn't look back." He said he and others smashed their way out of the bar onto a balcony and then jumped down to safety. "One bar stool and straight through a window," he told reporters. TV footage showed SWAT teams surrounding the bar, with distraught revelers milling around and using their cell phones as lights from police cars flashed.

Jasmin Alexander, who was part of a group of around 15 friends at the bar, said there was chaos and confusion inside when the shots first rang out. "It was a normal Wednesday. We were just at the bar, having fun, dancing," she told reporters after escaping the shooting. "All of a sudden we heard the 'bang, bang' of the gun-

shots and it just started going crazy and people were pushing. "We thought it was a joke, we didn't take it seriously at first .. because it sounded like fire crackers and everyone just dropped down to the floor."

### 'He shot a lot'

President Donald Trump said on Twitter that he had "been fully briefed on the terrible shooting". "Law Enforcement and First Responders, together with the FBI, are on scene. 13 people, at this time, have been reported dead. Likewise, the shooter is dead, along with the first police officer to enter the bar", he wrote. It was the latest chapter in America's epidemic of gun violence and came only 10 days after a gunman killed 11 worshippers at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Last year a country music festival called Route 91 in Las Vegas was the scene of the worst mass shooting in modern US history. A gunman shooting from the 32nd floor of a hotel and casino with high power weapons killed 58 people.— AFP



## International

# Cabinet reshuffle exposes power struggle in Tunisia

## PM deepens rift with the man who appointed him

**TUNIS:** In reshuffling his cabinet this week, Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed has deepened a rift with the man who appointed him and fed speculation that he intends to run in next year's presidential poll. Just over two years ago, the 43-year-old Chahed became Tunisia's seventh prime minister since the country's 2011 revolution when he was appointed by President Beji Caid Essebsi.

He has since become the longest serving of the country's post Arab Spring premiers—a testament to the fragility of Tunisian politics as it adapts to democracy after the one-man rule of former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. But Chahed's ability to govern has been beset this year by falling out with Essebsi's son Hamed, the leader of the Nidaa Tounes party who has been battling to oust the premier for months. The reshuffle is designed to bring the country “out of political crisis”, Chahed said on Monday, after appointing 13 new ministers. But some Nidaa Tounes lawmakers have slammed the move as tantamount to a coup.

The power struggle previously came to a

head in July, when the president himself called on Chahed to resign, and Chahed broke ranks with Nidaa Tounes in September. The president has made public his displeasure over the reshuffle, as his spokesman Saida Garrach has criticized “the politics of the done deal”. But Chahed has refrained from changing the foreign or defense ministers—posts that constitutionally require him to consult the president. And the president has little leverage, beyond dragging out negotiations or persuading his party's ministers to resign, including the defense minister.

Chahed can count on the backing of about 40 former and current Nidaa Tounes lawmakers—dissenters who followed him after the party split—when he submits his cabinet line-up to parliament in the coming days. And he can also expect the support of the Islamist-inspired Ennahda party, which has become the largest bloc in parliament with 68 out of 217 seats, due to the implosion of Nidaa Tounes over the past two years. But “the reason for the conflict between the Kasbah (the seat of government) and Carthage (the presidency) lies in the prepara-

tion of the next elections,” said political analyst Salaheddine Al Jouchi. “It is the goal and compass of each.”

### Alliances

Chahed has been in the hot seat for months due to his tussle with Hamed Caid Essebsi, who is reported to have presidential ambitions and accused him in May of having “destroyed the party”. The battle for power has reshaped political alliances. It has precipitated the end of the consensus forged between Essebsi and Rached Ghannouchi, head of Ennahda which sought to limit the polarization of political life after elections in 2014. But unlike the constitution which was in place before Ben Ali's fall in 2011 and placed power at the heart of the presidency, the 2014 vote gave more power to parliament. Chahed “has freed himself from the paternal tutelage” of Essebsi, said political analyst Youssef Oueslati.

While many Tunisians expect Chahed to run for the presidency, his entourage says he is more interested in remaining in parliament. Mean-

while, 91-year-old Essebsi has left his own intentions hanging in the air. The political instability risks worsening as Tunisia grapples with high unemployment and inflation, which are feeding into social tensions. “However the crisis plays out, the victim in all of this is democracy, which Tunisians increasingly associate with instability and indecision,” said Sharan Grewal of the Brookings Institution think-tank.

What's clear is that Tunisia needs to form the constitutional court, which could adjudicate “any disputes arising with respect to the powers of the president and the prime minister”, he added. Tunisia is the only country affected by the Arab Spring that has continued to democratise and open up political space. “The political crisis is the proof that democracy has been concretely put into practice despite the negative aspects and obstacles,” said Jouchi. Newspaper columnist Ziyed Krichen expects the struggle to rumble on until the presidential election scheduled for December next year. “We live with the consequences of this open conflict... until the electorate” votes, he said. —AFP

## Philippines marks five years since its deadliest storm

**TACLOBAN:** Philippine survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan recalled their terror and loss in memorial gatherings held yesterday for the thousands killed five years ago in the country's worst storm on record. Then the strongest typhoon to ever hit land, Haiyan left more than 7,360 people dead or missing across the central Philippines, with a tsunami-like storm surge wiping out communities and triggering a global humanitarian response. In Tacloban, the worst-hit city, residents painted gravestones in memory of the typhoon dead. They laid flowers and lit candles at tombs and a mass grave for unidentified victims.

Survivors of the calamity shed tears as they recounted how they had escaped death. “I felt like it was the end of the world. It was like I was in a washing machine, a whirlpool. I was so afraid,” Amelita Gerado, 49, told AFP, describing the onslaught of seawater that swamped her home. “There is still pain, a scar, but we are recovering,” said the woman, whose brother-in-law was among those killed. The city government has declared November 8 a “day of remembrance and gratitude” to mark the devastation wrought by the 2013 typhoon, which highlighted how underprepared the disaster-prone Southeast Asian nation was for large-scale calamities.

“We are here to give thanks to the Lord,” said pensioner Ponciano Cruzata, one of about 4,000 people attending another memorial event at the city's sports stadium that had served as a shelter for thousands after the storm. The 64-year-old retired coast guard officer told AFP the surge of water had killed more than 20 of his neighbors,



**TACLOBAN:** Residents visit the grave of their relatives at the mass grave for victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan during the fifth anniversary of the typhoon in Tacloban City, Leyte province, central Philippines yesterday. —AFP

but his family of five had survived on the second floor of their house—the only structure left standing on the block. Several hundred residents also attended a Catholic mass at the low-lying coastal city's Santo Nino church in mid-afternoon. Lanterns were to be launched from the stadium and candles lit at the building after sundown to honor the dead, officials said.

### Danger zones

An average of 20 typhoons and storms lash the Philippines each year, killing hundreds of people and leaving millions in near-perpetual poverty. But Haiyan remains the most powerful, with gusts exceeding 305 kilometers (190 miles) per hour at first landfall. A surge of seawater higher than a tree crashed into densely populated areas, leaving corpses strewn across streets and washing ships to shore. Survivors and aid groups say rehabilitation has been slow, especially for the million families who lost their homes. Of the target 205,128 permanent houses for those living in so-called danger zones, only 100,709 have been built, according to President Rodrigo Duterte's government. —AFP

## Fear, love, loathing for Sri Lanka 'father of the nation'

**COLOMBO:** Having crushed the Tamil Tigers' rebellion, ex-president and skilled political operator Mahinda Rajapakse is nothing short of a messiah for many Sri Lankans. But ahead of his possible second coming, others are full of dread. The moustachioed and charismatic Rajapakse came roaring back into national life last month when he was appointed prime minister, triggering a constitutional crisis as the sacked incumbent refused to budge. As president for a decade until 2015, Rajapakse is hero to the island's Sinhalese majority for ending a 37-year civil war by crushing the bloody guerrilla campaign for a separate state.

“We are grateful to him for ending the war so that we can live without the fear of bombs going off in Colombo,” said Nimali Fernando, a resident of the commercial capital. “You are the father of our nation,” wrote Shehan Udayanga, one of 1.3 million followers of Rajapakse, 72, on Facebook. “People are with you,” wrote Buddhist monk Dhammika Krathota. But allegations that at least 40,000 ethnic Tamils were massacred triggered international outrage and also hatred among Tamils, who make up around 11 percent of the 21-million population.

So Rajapakse's possible makes many Tamils sick to the stomach. At a Hindu temple in Colombo, Tamil devotees celebrating the Hindu festival of Diwali this week—the Sinhalese are Buddhist—were too scared to even talk about it, fearing reprisals if they do. But off camera, a Tamil business executive

from the eastern district of Batticaloa said he feared the return of “white vans”, a reference to a culture of abductions under Rajapakse. “We are very afraid that Mahinda will return,” he said, asking not to be named. A Tamil journalist, also preferring to stay anonymous, said he feared freedom of movement would be restricted again.

Tamil lawmaker Dharmalingam Sithadthan told AFP his constituents in the community's heartland of Jaffna remember all too well the repression they suffered. “There is concern that his return will be bad for them,” Sithadthan said. The International Crisis Group warned that the situation for Tamils will worsen under Rajapakse. “Tamil activists and journalists, who already face intense police and military surveillance, as well as threats of violence, will be at risk of increased harassment or worse,” ICG said in a report. “So too will critics of the Rajapakse family and dissenters throughout the country.”

### Golden charm

Rajapakse projects himself as a son of the soil committed to conservative Buddhist values and shunning Western culture, always in traditional Sinhalese national dress—a white sarong, a long white shirt—with a trademark maroon shawl. As a strong believer in astrology, he wears gem-studded rings, bracelets and blessed strands of thread. Instead of a mobile phone he always holds a golden good-luck charm—all making him a hit with the Sinhalese. The prospect of a comeback by Rajapakse, who is also accused of using his time in power to line his and his family's pockets while saddling Sri Lanka with Chinese debt, is a remarkable turn of events. His political career seemed in ruins three years ago after a shock defeat to Maithripala Sirisena in presidential elections as Tamil and Muslim voters turned away. —AFP



## International

# Morocco pushes development in disputed Western Sahara

## Latest sign of the kingdom's assertive approach

**LAAYOUNE:** Building roads and expanding cities, ports and industrial parks—Morocco is pressing ahead with economic development in Western Sahara without waiting for a political settlement on the disputed territory. The latest sign of the kingdom's assertive approach to the former Spanish colony was on show last weekend at a business forum organised by Moroccan authorities in Laayoune, the region's largest city. "This is a very rich region," said Rokia Derham, Morocco's secretary of state for foreign trade.

"There is great potential in industry, fishing, agriculture or the relocation of services. We want to see foreign investors coming," she told AFP. Morocco and the Polisario Front fought for decades over control of Western Sahara, until a 1991 UN-brokered ceasefire froze the conflict and left Rabat in control of most of the desert area. The forum urged French companies to "give their business new momentum" by investing in a territory touted as a "model of regional development".

### 'Opportunities'

"We want to push development and the economy," the region's president Hamdi Ould Errachid told some 200 entrepreneurs, including 50 from France, at an opening ceremony. The forum highlighted the "appeal" of the area, situated at the door to sub-Saharan Africa, and the "opportunities" in sectors such as renewable energy, finishing, tourism and construction. Staged a month before UN-led negotiations on the fate of the territory are set to resume, the forum

sparked Polisario Front condemnation. In an open letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the independence movement said it was an example of Morocco's "hostile expansionist policy". The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), declared by the Polisario in 1976, controls nearly 20 percent of resource-rich Western Sahara.

Some 170,000 Sahrawis live in desert refugee camps in neighboring Algeria, the Polisario's staunchest backer. Morocco, which controls the rest of the territory and its 1,100-kilometre (680-mile) coastline, aims to preserve the kingdom's "territorial integrity" by granting the area autonomy—but not independence. On the ground, a berm erected by Moroccan authorities alongside a UN-monitored buffer zone has separated the two sides since the 1991 ceasefire. "The political issue must be resolved by the United Nations," said Derham, adding that the region's development "cannot be linked" to politics.

### 'Politics at stake'

Philippe-Edern Klein, president of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Morocco (CFCIM) and co-organiser of the Laayoune forum, said he did not want to talk politics. "We're here to do business," he said, adding that he was "supporting development in Western Sahara". Khadija Gamraoui, a local right-wing French lawmaker, thought otherwise. "No one is fooled. Everyone knows that those who are present are giving a signal—there are politics at



LAAYOUNE: A fisherman rests on his boat in the harbor of the Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara's main city of Laayoune. — AFP

stake," said Gamraoui, who attended the forum with a Moroccan-French political association. She said she was impressed by the major projects already completed. With its huge library, Olympic-sized swimming pool and state-of-the-art sports grounds, the city of Laayoune and its palm tree-lined avenues are a showcase of the cash Rabat has poured into the area.

Moroccan authorities plan to spend more than 4.5 billion euros (\$5.2 billion) on the re-

gion's development by 2021. Khalid Hatim, a local official, said "zero taxation" offered an incentive for investors. French banking groups like BNP-Paribas, Societe Generale and Credit Agricole sent local subsidiaries to Laayoune to the forum. The Polisario, for its part, is challenging fishing and agricultural accords for Western Sahara signed with the European Union and has filed complaints against French firms operating in the area. — AFP

## Buddha and bronzer: The Japanese monk who loves make-up

**TOKYO:** As make-up artist Kodo Nishimura sashays into a room in Tokyo balanced on pin-thin heels, he could hardly look less like a practicing Buddhist monk. Immaculately made-up, sporting smoky eyeshadow, false lashes and winged eyeliner, he changes outfits three times during a presentation to starry-eyed fans. But at the Tokyo temple where his father is head monk and he assists in rituals, he appears transformed. His face is bare, and he wears the plain robes of a Buddhist cleric. It might seem like an unusual double act, but that doesn't bother 29-year-old Nishimura. "This is who I am," he said. "I am not going to try to be something else."

Nishimura is primarily a make-up artist, beautifying clients ranging from popstars to pageant contestants. He spends most of the year in the United States, where he first openly indulged a passion for make-up that he kept secret as a child

in Japan, hiding in the bathroom to experiment. "I would open my mum's Chanel eyeshadow palette and I would try to put it on my face. But I looked crazy, I looked like a clown," he laughs. Studying in the US, he found things were different. He discovered drag queens working at make-up stores who were happy to answer his questions. At 18, he made his first purchase: mascara and eyeliner. An internship with a make-up artist led to a job. Back home, his parents surprised him by being supportive of his career choice.

### 'A liberation'

But he felt that something was missing. He had grown up in a Buddhist temple, playing behind its elaborate golden altar and knew one day he would have to decide whether to follow in his father's footsteps. "I wanted to know the occupation, what we do, enough to make the decision." So at 24, he enrolled in a training program in his Buddhist Pure Land sect. It involved five sessions, each several weeks long, spread over a period of around two years. Homesick for Japan, he was excited at first, but his enthusiasm quickly faded.

"The moment the doors shut, the trainers started screaming," he said. "I was like 'oh my God, what did I sign up for?'" But he persevered, returning to the United States between courses, only to have a crisis of confidence near the end. In New York, he wore make-up and jewelry, worked as a

make-up artist and was open about his attraction to men. Would all that "offend the community of Buddhist monks?" he wondered. "Is it going to degrade the value of other monks?" But a senior monk brushed aside his concerns, pointing out that Japanese monks often wear non-religious clothing outside the temple and have second jobs. And he was uninterested in his sexuality. "That was like a liberation for me," Nishimura said. "That's when I felt: 'now I can be myself and be a monk as well.'"

He acknowledges that his work as a make-up artist, with its focus on outward appearance, might seem at odds with a religion that prioritizes the inner self. "I think in Buddhism the core message is to feel happiness, feel balanced within our hearts and to share the happiness," he said. Feeling beautiful, he believes, makes people "more generous, more attentive to helping others." Nishimura returns to Japan twice a year, helping his father at religious events like funerals. For now he can balance his two lives, but eventually he will have to decide whether to inherit his father's temple—a prospect he admits doesn't appeal at the moment. "I don't think that being in this temple is the best way necessarily to help more people." "Make-up and heels (are)... like a bridge for me to spread my thoughts to others." He has also become an advocate for LGBT rights, and has a sideline teaching transgender women make-up tricks to amplify their feminine features. — AFP

## At least 27 killed in Tajikistan's jail riot

**DUSHANBE:** At least 25 inmates and two security officers have been killed after a riot broke out at a high-security prison in Tajikistan, three security sources said yesterday. The violence started late on Wednesday when an inmate believed to be a member of militant group Islamic State attacked a guard and seized his assault rifle, said an interior ministry official who declined to give his name.

Officers restored order hours later with the help of reinforcements, a security official speaking on condition of anonymity said. The prison in the northern Tajik city of Khujand is where prisoners convicted of religious extremism offences, including membership of Islamic State, are generally held. It also houses other prisoners. Both officials said at least 25 inmates were killed, as well as one warder and one policeman. The third source, also a security official, said three guards had died. Local authorities confirmed a riot had occurred but gave no details. Khujand lies around 300 km (185 miles) north of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe. — Reuters



## International

Friday, November 9, 2018

# US warns ports and insurance firms to stay away from Iranian shipping

## US grants Iraq sanctions waiver to buy Iranian electricity

**WASHINGTON:** The United States yesterday warned all ports and insurance companies to steer clear of Iranian ships, which it called a "floating liability" after the imposition of sweeping US sanctions. Since Monday, the United States has aimed to end all of Iran's sales of oil, its crucial export, in a bid to curtail the influence of the Shiite cleric-led state. Brian Hook, the State Department's special representative on Iran policy, said that the US sanctions extended to insurers and underwriters. "Knowingly providing these services to sanctioned Iranian shipping companies will result in the imposition of US sanctions," Hook told reporters. "From the Suez Canal to the Strait of Malacca and all choke points in between, Iranian tankers are now a floating liability," he said.

He said that Iranian vessels would likely turn to domestic insurers but doubted that they could cover losses stretching into the millions or billions of dollars in a major calamity. "Should there be an accident involving an Iranian tanker, there is simply no way these Iranian insurance companies can cover the loss," Hook said. He said that the United States, whose military patrols the Gulf and is allied with Iran's rival Saudi Arabia, did not want incidents. "We sincerely hope there will be no accidents, but accidents are a very real possibility, given Iran's record," Hook said.

President Donald Trump in May pulled out of

an international agreement negotiated under his predecessor Barack Obama, in which Iran curtailed its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief. The Trump administration said that the deal did not address other concerns, including Tehran's support for regional proxies such as Hezbollah, and has boasted of the economic contraction forecast in Iran due to the renewed sanctions. The United States has nonetheless granted eight waivers to places including China, India and Japan, which will not immediately be punished for continuing to buy Iranian oil.

### US grants Iraq waiver

Meanwhile, US has granted Iraq a waiver to allow it to keep importing electricity from neighboring Iran despite renewed American sanctions on Tehran, a US official said yesterday. Baghdad relies heavily on Tehran to provide it natural gas and Iranian-generated electricity, and feared that supply would be endangered by Washington's measures against Iran's energy sector. The US State Department's representative on Iran said Wednesday that Iraq had been granted a special permission.

"We granted Iraq a waiver to allow it to continue to pay for its electricity imports from Iran. We are confident that this will help Iraq limit electricity shortages in the south," Brian Hook told reporters in Washington. "Iraq is a friend



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

and a partner, and we are committed to its stability and prosperity." Iraq is now expected to demonstrate to the US how it would wean itself off Iranian gas, a well-informed Iraqi source said. "The US gave us 45 days to give them a plan on how we will gradually stop using Iranian gas and

oil," the source said. On Monday, the United States re-imposed tough sanctions on Iraq's financial institutions, shipping lines, energy sector, and petroleum products. Iraq has a strong relationship with the United States, coordinating on security, politics, and governance. — Agencies



Kuwait Times

# Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:

**+965 248 35 616 / 617**

E MAIL: [info@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:info@kuwaittimes.net)  
[ads@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:ads@kuwaittimes.net)  
 Website: [www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)

## FACTORY PRICES



**29 49**  
SAVE 20%  
3G  
8GB



**99 139**  
SAVE 40%  
4G  
32GB



**139 149**  
SAVE 10%  
Intel AMD A9  
8GB RAM - 1TB Storage  
2GB dedicated Graphic  
15.6" Display



**234 349**  
SAVE 115%  
Intel Core i5  
128 SSD  
8GB RAM  
HD 6000 Graphics  
13.3" Display



Credit: Start from \$40 - Up to 48 month - Interest approved

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Kuwait 3 (Souq Sharq) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khaldon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Salmiya (Boulevard Mall) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall) • Souq Sharq (Mezanine)

Shop Online: [www.best.com.kw](http://www.best.com.kw) Free Delivery

**1809 809**



## International

# White House bars CNN reporter after verbal duel with president

## Trump branded reporter the 'enemy of the people'

**WASHINGTON:** The White House has suspended the press pass of a CNN reporter who sparred with Donald Trump at a news conference, during which the president branded him the "enemy of the people." A visibly angry Trump called reporter Jim Acosta a "rude, terrible person," after the CNN White House correspondent refused the president's orders to sit down and yield the microphone during the conference one day after the US midterm election.

"The White House is suspending the hard pass of the reporter involved until further notice," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders hours later, referring to Acosta, who then tweeted that he had been denied White House entry. The heated exchange began after Acosta clung to the microphone and persisted with questions about the president's repeated and angry denunciation of a caravan of poor Central American migrants making their way through Mexico to the US border. He asked Trump why he has characterized it as an invasion.

Trump said "that's enough!" and a White House intern tried in vain to take the microphone from the CNN journalist. "President Trump believes in a free press and expects and welcomes tough questions of him and his Administration," Sanders said in her statement. "We will, however, never tolerate a reporter placing his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job as a White

House intern. This conduct is absolutely unacceptable," she said.

Acosta shot back at the accusation of misconduct, tweeting "this is a lie"—as his network and a number of Washington journalists who had been at the press conference voiced support for him and denied the White House allegations that he touched the intern. "Secretary Sanders lied," CNN said in a statement, saying the press pass suspension was "done in retaliation for challenging questions." Sanders "provided fraudulent accusations and cited an incident that never happened," the US cable network said. "This unprecedented decision is a threat to our democracy and the country deserves better. Jim Acosta has our full support."

### 'Ongoing attacks'

An association representing the Washington press corps urged the White House to immediately reverse "this weak and misguided action." "The White House Correspondents' Association strongly objects to the Trump Administration's decision to use US Secret Service security credentials as a tool to punish a reporter with whom it has a difficult relationship," the group said. "Revoking access to the White House complex is a reaction out of line to the purported offense and is unacceptable." In a later tweet, Sanders said the White House stood by its decision. "We will not



**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump (right) gets into a heated exchange with CNN chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta (center) as NBC correspondent Peter Alexander (left) looks on during a post-election press conference in the East Room of the White House. — AFP

tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video," she wrote. It was the latest in a long history of fiery run-ins between the mercurial Republican leader and Acosta.

At the conference Trump, when asked if he had "demonized immigrants" during the midterms

campaign, replied: "No, I want them to come into the country. But they have to come in legally." Acosta persisted, saying: "They are hundreds of miles away. That is not an invasion." At that point, the president snapped. "Honestly, I think you should let me run the country. — AFP

## Marijuana, abortion, greyhounds: The local issues on US ballots

**WASHINGTON:** In addition to choosing members of Congress and state governors, Americans also cast ballots on a slew of local initiatives in the midterm elections, including the legalization of recreational marijuana, limits on abortions and banning greyhound racing.

### Marijuana

Michigan became the 10th state to legalize recreational marijuana, and in the future residents will be able to grow up to 12 plants for their own personal use. A 10-percent tax was imposed on marijuana sales, with the revenue to be used to fund local councils, education and transport. Missouri and Utah each legalized medical marijuana, which will carry a tax of four percent, with the funds earmarked to support health care for veterans.

### Abortion

Voters in Alabama and West Virginia approved amendments aimed at limiting future access to abortion. The Alabama amendment aimed to "support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, most importantly the right to life in all manners." The text of the proposal stated that "this state does not protect the right to abortion or require the funding of abortion." The state makes no exception for abortions in cases where the pregnancy results from incest, rape or where the mother's life is in danger. Women's rights advocates fear the measures could lead to a challenge to the landmark Roe vs Wade Supreme Court ruling of 1973, especially at a time when appointments by President Donald Trump have swung the court far to the right.

### Justice

Louisiana scrapped a law dating back to its segregated past

that allowed non-unanimous decisions in juries deliberating in felony trials. The law, from 1898, allowed a jury to convict a person of felony by only 10 out of 12 jury votes, a move designed to negate the influence of black jury members who were allowed by the 14th Amendment after the Civil War to serve on juries. Its stated aim was to "perpetuate the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race in Louisiana."

Oregon is the only other state that does not require a unanimous jury decision in felony cases, except for murder. Florida pass an initiative to restore voting rights to convicted felons who have served their sentence, except for those convicted of sex crimes or murder. That will give an estimated 1.5 million people the right to cast ballots in a key swing state in presidential elections. Colorado also voted to remove the word "slavery" from its statute books as a punishment for crime. The western state's constitution had until Tuesday's vote stated that "there shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime."

### Minimum wage

Missouri approved raising the minimum wage from \$7.83 dollars an hour to \$12 dollars by 2023. In Arkansas, it will go up from \$8.50 to \$11 an hour by 2021.

### Ten Commandments

Alabama voted to allow the display of the biblical Ten Commandments in public buildings and schools.

### Environment

Nevada backed a measure calling for public electricity providers to increase the amount of power generated from renewable sources from 20 percent to 50 percent by 2030. Under the western state's regulations, however, the proposal has to be approved again in a second election, in 2020, to become law. Florida banned offshore drilling in waters belonging to the state and also forbade vaping in the workplace. — AFP

## China's president welcomes Cuban leader to Beijing

**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping met with his Cuban counterpart Miguel Diaz-Canel in Beijing yesterday as he pledged "continued support" for the fellow Communist regime. Diaz-Canel was on his first visit to Asia since taking over as president in April, becoming the first Cuban leader not to be named Castro since 1959. The visit comes just days after Washington imposed fresh economic restrictions on Cuba. Washington's ties with Havana were fully restored in 2015 after more than half a century of enmity, but have deteriorated since President Donald Trump took office last year. Xi met Diaz-Canel at the colossal Great Hall of the People, where they reviewed Chinese troops in an elaborate welcome ceremony.

During their talks, Xi pledged that China would continue to support Cuba where possible, calling it a "great and remarkable country" that had overcome obstacles to chart its own path, reported state broadcaster CCTV. "China will firmly support Cuba in defending national sovereignty and taking a socialist road in line with its national conditions," he said. Xi also invited Cuba to join in his pet project, the Belt and Road Initiative, a globe-spanning trade infrastructure program. In response, Diaz-Canel said Cuba would take reference from China on developing the domestic economy while renewing its social model.

Communist Cuba was the first country in the western hemisphere to recognize Beijing in 1960. — AFP



# Fears for Russia probe as Trump fires Jeff Sessions

## Axing caps more than a year of bitter criticism

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump on Wednesday fired Attorney General Jeff Sessions a day after a heated midterm vote, naming a loyalist to replace him in a move that raises questions over the future of the Russia investigation. The axing capped more than a year of bitter criticism by the president over his legal advisor's decision to recuse himself from the probe into Moscow's interference in the 2016 election, paving the way for the appointment of Special Counsel Robert Mueller. In announcing the resignation in a tweet that thanked the former Alabama senator "for his service"—Trump right away named as acting attorney general Sessions' chief of staff, Matthew Whitaker.

The announcement set off immediate alarm bells: Whitaker has been overtly critical of the broad scope granted to Mueller's team to probe beyond allegations that Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in 2016, into other ties between Trump, his family and aides, and Russia—an investigation the president calls a "witch hunt." In an op-ed in August last year he publicly urged Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein—who oversees the probe—to "limit the scope of his investigation to the four corners of the order appointing him special counsel."

As acting attorney general, Whitaker now has the power to wrest oversight away from Rosenstein and take charge himself. Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer immediately called on Whitaker to recuse himself from the

probe as his predecessor had, "given his previous comments advocating defunding and imposing limitations" on it. Senator Bernie Sanders, a former presidential hopeful, went further, tweeting that "any attempt by the president or the Justice Department to interfere with Mueller's probe would be an obstruction of justice and impeachable offense."

### First casualty after midterms

They were joined in their demands by Republican Mitt Romney, a former presidential candidate and frequent Trump critic who won a US Senate seat in Tuesday's midterm. Thanking Sessions for his service, Romney said that it was "imperative that the important work of the Justice Department continues, and that the Mueller investigation proceeds to its conclusion unimpeded." Whitaker himself meanwhile offered little clue about his intentions in a bland statement to reporters that praised his former boss as a "dedicated public servant" and said he would work to leading a department that conformed to the "highest ethical standards."

Sessions was the first casualty of a cabinet shakeup that had been expected from Trump following the midterm elections where his Republican party lost control of the House of Representatives but retained the Senate. But his departure was anticipated since early this year, after he endured withering and repeated criticism from the presi-



**WASHINGTON:** Combo picture shows US President Donald Trump (left) and Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Sessions said he was resigning at the request of US President Donald Trump in a move that raises questions over the future of the probe into Trump's alleged collusion with Russia. —AFP

dent over the legally troubled ban on Muslim travelers Trump sought when he came into office, and over the Mueller probe. "At your request, I am sub-

mitting my resignation," Sessions said in the first line of a letter addressed to Trump, released by the Department of Justice. —AFP

## World War I: Mons graves hold first and last to fall

**MONS:** The graves at a cemetery outside the Belgian town of Mons hold the remains of both the first and last British soldiers to fall in World War I. The Saint Symphorien site is less well-known than larger memorials like those around Ypres in Belgium or Vimy and Verdun in the battlefields of France. But it has become a symbol of the sacrifice of the British who battled to defend Mons in 1914 and the Canadians who liberated it at the end of the war.

And, in this centenary year of the war's end, it has attracted world leaders alongside thousands of curious well-wishers from around the globe. Today, British Prime Minister Theresa May will pay her respects, followed on the next day by Canada's Governor General Julie Payette. And the burial ground has another unusual feature: around half of the 500 graves hold German troops, lying beside their former Commonwealth foes. "It has become an essential place for British and Canadian researchers studying the 1914-1918 war," Belgian historian Corentin Rousman said.

### First and last

By coincidence, Saint Symphorien is the final resting place of the first British soldier to die in the war, John Parr, and the last, George Ellison. Milkman's son Parr, of North Finchley in London, lied about his age to join the Middlesex Regiment when he was just 15 in 1912. On August 21, 1914, he was shot dead after he came upon German cav-

alry while on a cycle reconnaissance mission. Ellison came from Leeds in northern England and survived several of the bloodiest World War I battles, only to be killed at Mons, aged 40, on the last day of the war.

Lying near the Englishmen under another of the white tombstones dotting the green Belgian cemetery is a soldier who has become something of a tragic celebrity in his native Canada. George Price, 26, was shot dead by a German sniper in Ville-sur-Haine near Mons at 10:58 am also on November 11, 1918 — just two minutes before the Armistice went into effect. When Payette visits his graveside on Sunday, it will be to honor the man recognized as the last Commonwealth soldier to have fallen. In the cemetery, as official ceremonies approach, local and international officials are making preparations alongside tourists and military history enthusiasts from Britain and Canada.

David Scheel, a 59-year-old government IT manager from Ottawa, told AFP how he and his friends have come to the France-Belgium border to mark the 100-year anniversary of the Armistice. "We honor those that fought and died to preserve our way of life," he said, recalling family tales of his great uncle's death. Local officials estimate that 25,000 people per year still visit Saint Symphorien—many attracted not just by Commonwealth history but by the site's joint Anglo-German significance. The historian, Rousman, said that German troops began burying their dead here in 1916, while the war was still raging.

### 'United in death'

A Belgian landowner agreed to give up the land to allow the burials, but only on condition that British troops killed in the same unlucky fields be allowed to lie in the same ground. "The symbolic message was: 'Enemies in life, united in death'," said Rousman, who is helping coordinate the centenary memorials. —AFP

## Britain's Prince Charles vows not to meddle as king

**LONDON:** Britain's Prince Charles said on Wednesday he was not "stupid" enough to keep speaking out on contentious public issues once he becomes king in a rare interview about his future role. The eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II—formally known as the Prince of Wales—has long been seen as interfering because of his private lobbying of ministers and public statements on a range of subjects from architecture to the environment.

But he told the BBC in a documentary marking his 70th birthday next week that he did not intend to be a meddling king. "I do realize that it is a separate exercise being sovereign. So of course I understand entirely how that should operate," he said. He added when asked if his public campaigning would continue: "No, it won't. I'm not that stupid." British royals traditionally steer well clear of politics—something perfected by the 92-year-old queen since her coronation in 1953. But Prince Charles has lobbied on a variety of issues, as shown in a series of letters between him and government ministers known as the "black spider" memos.

He is also known to hold particularly strong views on contemporary architectural design. The prince used a keynote speech in 1976 to denounce a planned extension to the National Gallery in London as a "monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend". The planned design was scrapped. The documentary provided a rare public glimpse into Prince Charles's views about becoming king. Generations of Britons have known no other monarch by Queen Elizabeth II—adored by the public for keeping her at times dysfunctional family whole and always staying above the political fray. —AFP



# Barnier warns Europe of a 'Farage in every country'

## Britain's Hunt does not see imminent Brexit deal

**HELSINKI:** The European Union's chief Brexit negotiator told political allies yesterday to beware the rise of populist nationalism in Europe, warning of a "Farage in every country". Michel Barnier cited the anti-EU British MEP Nigel Farage as a cautionary example at a conference of the centre-right European People's Party. Farage, the former leader of the UK Independence Party, was one of the most high-profile figures in the successful campaign to convince British voters to quit the bloc.

"We'll have to fight against those who want to demolish Europe, with their populist deceit, with their attacks against the European project," Barnier said. "There is now a Farage in every country, in every country." Barnier is now attempting to negotiate a deal with Prime Minister Theresa May's government for Britain's "orderly" exit, which will take place in March next year. But he warned his EPP colleagues that they must win next year's European parliamentary elections and be prepared to fight other anti-European forces elsewhere.

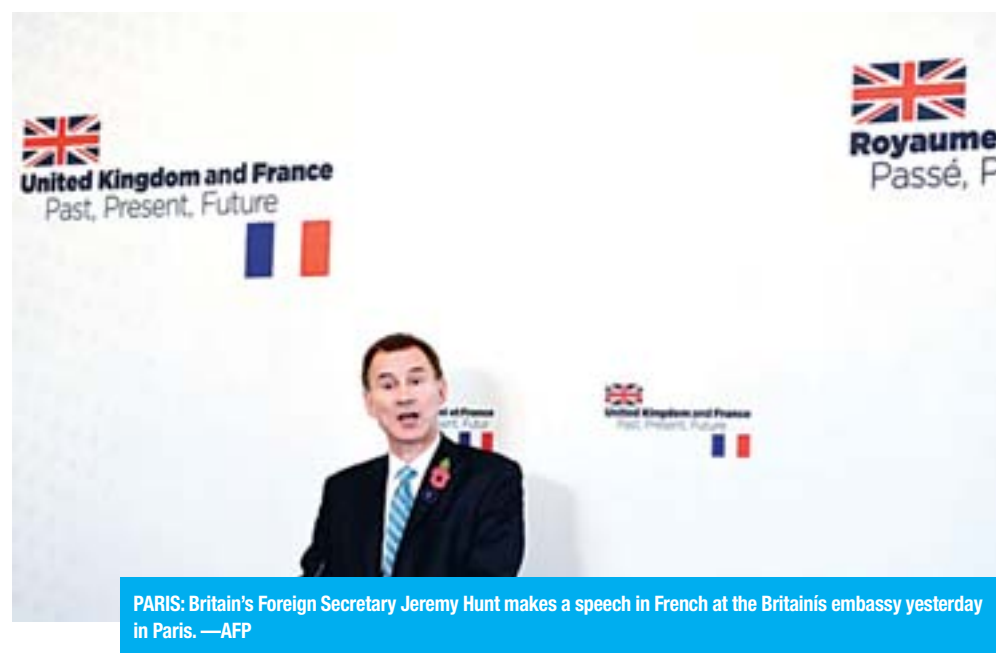
Meanwhile, Britain's foreign minister played down yesterday the prospect of an imminent deal on Brexit and called for greater efforts to be made in the negotiations to "understand the other's perspective." After a speech in Paris that sought to soothe tensions with France caused by Britain's exit from the European Union, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt was asked if a deal was within reach in the next week. "Seven days is probably pushing it, but I am optimistic that

there will be a Brexit deal but I wouldn't want to be drawn on a specific timescale," he told an audience at the British embassy.

Negotiators have been racing the clock to try to agree the outlines of a withdrawal agreement that could be approved at a summit of EU leaders in Brussels this month, but hopes are fading. EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier warned Wednesday that "more work is needed" in the talks. Hunt used his speech, delivered in French, to pay tribute to the "bonds of friendship and commerce" between Britain and France and to make the case for the closest possible relationship between the allies after Brexit.

France has taken a hard line in the negotiations, with President Emmanuel Macron insistent that Britain should not be allowed to negotiate advantages for itself as it withdraws from the European Union. Hunt also raised hackles in Paris last month when he compared the EU to the Soviet Union and suggested its members were trying to punish Britain for leaving. "I am absolutely certain that France is keen to reach an agreement," Hunt said. "Not reaching an agreement is in no one's interest."

Addressing concerns in the French government that Britain wants to withdraw from the EU but retain the same trading advantages, Hunt said that London was "not... trying to have 'our cake and eat it'." Britain is due to leave the 28-nation bloc on March 29 next year but talks on its exit remain held up by disagreements over managing the border between EU member



Ireland and the British-ruled province of Northern Ireland.

The issue is set to be discussed between Macron and British Prime Minister Theresa May today when they meet in northern France for a ceremony to mark the end of World War I. Hunt's speech reflected Britain's desire-reciprocated in Paris-to maintain close ties after Brexit despite

the tricky negotiations and sometimes overheated rhetoric. Recent reports in the British tabloid media have suggested French ports are preparing to stall trade with Britain after Brexit—something categorically denied in France. The countries are Europe's two biggest military powers and its second- and third-biggest economies, after Germany. —Agencies

## Bangladesh's Zia returns to prison

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh authorities yesterday sent opposition leader Khaleda Zia back to jail after a month of treatment in hospital, an official said. The move came just ahead of the official announcement of the date of a general election which the 73-year-old Zia will almost certainly be excluded from because of the prison terms she is serving. Hospital director Brigadier General Abdullah al Harun told reporters Zia had been cleared to go back to Dhaka Central Jail. "Her health has been in adequately stable condition." One of her aides, Zahid Hossain, alleged however that Zia's doctors had not approved her return to jail. Zia's lawyers have previously accused the government of putting the health of the two-time former prime minister at risk by refusing her specialized care in prison.

Zia was jailed for five years in February for corruption and has since been

held at the British colonial-era prison which was abandoned in 2016 but brought back into service to keep her. She was taken to hospital last month when her condition deteriorated. Her doctors say Zia cannot use her left hand because of severe arthritis. She is diabetic and also has problems with her neck and shoulder. During her time in hospital, Zia was sentenced to seven years in jail in a new graft case while an appeal court doubled the term from the original case to 10 years.

Zia is now running out of time to make an appeal that could clear her to run in the election expected at the end of December. Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party has condemned the cases as politically motivated to keep her out of an election showdown with current prime minister and arch-rival Sheikh Hasina. BNP officials held talks with Hasina on their election demands which included releasing the party leader. Hasina rejected the demand. The BNP boycotted the 2014 vote in which Hasina returned to power but is expected to contest the election this year. —AFP

## Cambodian PM blasts his critics, promotes sons

**PHNOM PENH:** Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen lashed out at critics yesterday for questioning high-level appointments bestowed on the strongman's children, denying that the promotions were part of a strategy to "strengthen power". The 66-year-old leader has ruled Cambodia for 33 years and his administration is full of family-linked officials, with his three sons in key posts across defense and intelligent establishments. Hun Sen has long shrugged off accusations of nepotism but in a speech to students in Phnom Penh, he framed the promotions as a natural byproduct of education and training. "I read a media briefing sent to me this morning about Hun Sen promoting (his) children," he said.

"I want to ask everyone: Are my children human beings? Are they citizens?"

He said they had advanced degrees and had studied abroad. "They say it is to strengthen power. We sent them for training. What should we train them for?" Analysts say Hun Sen has stayed in power for decades through a mix of political savvy and loyal networks in the security forces, and that he is grooming his sons as possible successors. Hun Manet, his eldest son, was promoted in early September to chief of joint staff of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces as well as the commander of the infantry army headquarters.

He graduated from the US military academy at West Point and the government said his new responsibilities were merit-based. Hun Sen's second son Hun Manit is the head of a military intelligence unit and his youngest Hun Many is a parliamentarian who oversees the ruling party's far-reaching youth movement. In July Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won all seats in parliament after holding an election without an opposition. The Supreme Court dissolved the only viable party challenging CPP rule in November 2017 amid a wide-ranging crackdown on dissent. —AFP



## International

Friday, November 9, 2018

# New Delhi's 'toxic air' spikes after Diwali firework frenzy

## Indian police arrest hundreds of revelers

**NEW DELHI:** Indian police arrested hundreds of revelers after a frenzied night of festival fireworks turned city air toxic nationwide yesterday despite a preemptive court ban on the smog-fuelling party. More than 300 people were arrested in Delhi, the world's most polluted major city, where the Supreme Court had restricted public fireworks to two hours in the evening and insisted on use of cleaner "green" firecrackers to mark the Hindu festival of Diwali. But the choking capital's 20 million residents largely ignored the court's ruling and staged a free-for-all night of colorful, deafening pyrotechnics that left the megacity's air more than five times over safe limits.

Firecrackers are traditionally let off during the Diwali week but worsening air quality at the onset of winter in Delhi and most of northern India has forced authorities to call for desperate measures, including banning use of private cars.

Major Delhi monuments including India Gate and the Red Fort were shrouded in a noxious grey haze yesterday. Commuters donned masks as visibility on major roads was reduced to barely 50 meters. Ambient air quality touched 595 yesterday morning, according to the US embassy in Delhi which independently monitors pollution levels. Cities like London and Paris by comparison recorded 41 and 52. Any reading over 100 is considered hazardous and a danger even to healthy people.



**New Delhi, the world's most polluted city**

### Hindu hardliners

Many Hindu hardliners, who have been emboldened since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, have criticized the Supreme Court over the ban, terming it an attack on their faith. Inhabitants of other cities such as Kolkata in the east and Mumbai in the south also flouted the restrictions, pushing up pollution levels. In Kolkata more than 200 people were arrested, police told AFP. "For a few moments of enjoyment people are willing to endanger the planet. It is insane," Pranav Yadav, a 19-year-old student in Delhi wearing a pollution mask, told AFP.

"I expected people to show some concern but at this rate it won't be long till every child in Delhi has a respiratory disease," he added. Mustafa Mohammed, a student and cycling enthusiast, said he could feel the air quality dip drastically as he set out yesterday to India Gate in the

heart of the city. "I regularly cycle around here and what I can (see) today the pollution has really gone up after Diwali," he said. Last year the Supreme Court completely banned the sale and use of the smoke-spewing crackers in Delhi after an 2016 "airpocalypse" at Diwali saw pollution levels rocket off the scale.

Last month Delhi's air quality was oscillating between "poor" and "severe" levels but had seen some improvement this week after mild winds swept the region, clearing up the dirty air. The city's air qual-

etables and other rations for paramilitary forces deployed in the area. "The bus was coming down a hill when it hit a landmine," police superintendent D. Raghushankar told AFP. "Four civilians and one CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) personnel have lost their lives." The state has been governed by the Hindu nationalist BJP for 15 years, and Chief Minister Raman Singh who is seeking a fourth term has blamed the rebels for impeding development projects in the state.

The Maoists are believed to be present in at least 20 states across India but are most active in remote parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where much of the population remains mired in poverty and lacks access to critical services. The decades-old insurgency is believed to have cost tens of thousands of lives. Critics say the government's attempts to end the revolt through a no-holds-barred military offensive are doomed to fail. Maoists are known to step up attacks in the lead up to elections, targeting railway lines and stalling mining operations. In early October, the left-wing insurgents blew up a military vehicle in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, killing four soldiers. —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** A sweeper cleans a road amid heavy smog in New Delhi yesterday - a day after the Diwali festival. Air pollution in New Delhi hit hazardous levels yesterday after a night of free-for-all Diwali fireworks, despite Supreme Court efforts to curb partying that fuels the Indian capital's toxic smog problem. —AFP

ity typically worsens in winter, due to pollution from the burning of rice stubble, diesel engines, coal-fired power plants and industrial emissions, all trapped by colder air. Levels of PM2.5 — fine particles linked to higher rates of chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease — have soared since last month when farmers in nearby states started to burn crop residue.

### 'Killer air'

Sunil Dahiya, a senior campaigner with Green-

peace India, said religious fervor was one of the reasons why people still let off fireworks despite mounting health concerns. "They also think the pollution is high all the year round so one day of festivities is not going to make much of a difference," he said. Dahiya called for long-term solutions and mass awareness campaigns instead of focusing only on a few days in the year. In 2016, Diwali festivities in Delhi raised pollution levels to their highest in nearly two decades — forcing the closure of schools and other emergency measures. —AFP

## Maoist rebels kill 5 in India bus explosion

**RAIPUR:** Indian Maoist rebels yesterday killed five people including a policeman by detonating a landmine under a bus in a restive central state that goes to the polls this month, police said. It was the second attack in Chhattisgarh inside 10 days and came just a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state where he will be campaigning for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The mineral-rich state goes to the polls on Monday with a second round on November 20, the election staggered because of the security situation. The attack occurred in Dantewada district, a Maoist stronghold where the guerillas killed two policemen and a journalist on October 30. The Maoist rebels, who say they are fighting for the rights of landless laborers and poor farmers, have urged voters to boycott the polls.

In the latest incident, police said the victims were returning from picking veg-

## Fears of ethnic violence; Afghan Taliban target Hazara district

**GHAZNI:** Afghan special forces were deployed yesterday to beat back Taliban fighters in a district heavily populated by minority Hazaras, that has raised fears of ethnic and sectarian violence. The flare up in fighting in Afghanistan's restive southeast comes as the resurgent Taliban ratchet up attacks against Afghan security forces, which are suffering record-high casualties.

Heavy fighting in the Jaghori district of Ghazni province has been ongoing since the Taliban launched a pre-dawn attack on two checkpoints manned by local pro-government forces on Wednesday. "The Taliban fighters have burned civilian houses, but we don't have precise information about the number of dead and wounded," provincial deputy police chief Ramazan Ali Mohsini said. Most Hazaras belong to the Shiite branch of Islam. The Taliban, which are Sunni and largely ethnic Pashtuns, have been accused of

committing human rights violations against the group during their oppressive 1996-2001 rule.

Members of Afghanistan's elite special forces flew into the Jaghori district centre yesterday and were "on their way to the frontline", President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman said on Facebook. The Taliban denied they were targeting "any specific race, ethnicity or sect", in a statement posted on their website. The attacks were against the "Kabul regime and American hiring positions in Jaghori", spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said. Afghans took to Facebook to express concerns about the apparent deliberate targeting of Hazaras. It could "result in horrible massacres if reinforcements do not arrive in time," Aziz Hussaini posted on the site.

"My dear Hazara brothers, until the security forces arrive, use anything you have at hand to defend yourselves." The latest fighting comes after a days-long battle between Taliban fighters and a Hazara militia group in the central province of Uruzgan that reportedly sent terrified families fleeing into neighboring Ghazni province. On Wednesday night, the Taliban also attacked an army base in the border area between the northern provinces of Takhar and Kunduz. Twelve members of the Afghan security forces were killed and eight wounded in the raid, Takhar provincial police chief Abdul Rasheed Bashir said. —AFP



## International

# BJP turns up Hindu nationalist heat with renamings, statue

## Ruling party making passionate appeals to its hard-core base

**NEW DELHI:** From getting rid of some Muslim names of places to promising a “grand” statue of the Hindu god Ram, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling party is making passionate appeals to its hard-core Hindu nationalist base in the most politically important state ahead of a national election next year. A near clean-sweep in Uttar Pradesh, the northern state of 220 million people that sends the highest number of lawmakers to the lower house of parliament, helped Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win its biggest mandate in three decades in 2014. Political strategists say keeping its mainly Hindu base intact in Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere would be crucial to repeat such a performance, but there are also concerns that the BJP has been turning up the heat on divisive religious issues.

Yogi Adityanath, a robe-wearing Hindu priest who is the BJP chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday changed the name of Faizabad district to Ayodhya, the place where Hindus believe Lord Ram was born thousands of years ago. Before the change, Ayodhya was the name of a town in Faizabad. Last month, he changed the name of Allahabad, where three rivers considered holy by Hindus meet, to the Hindu name Prayagraj. Both Faizabad and Allahabad were Islamic names given to places hundreds of years ago by India’s then Muslim

rulers. “Ayodhya is our honor, prestige and pride,” Adityanath said at an event in the town, declaring the name change amid loud cheers from the audience. “Ayodhya is identified with Lord Ram.”

He said the state would decide on a location for a statue of Ram that could become an Ayodhya landmark. He also promised to open an airport in the district that would be named after Ram. Many leaders of the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Hindu-first group from which the BJP was born, are demanding the government issue an executive order that would bypass the Supreme Court so that they can build a Ram temple at a highly controversial religious site in Ayodhya. The destruction of a mosque on that site by a frenzied Hindu mob in 1992 sparked deadly riots across the country.

At the moment the site is under court control. There are fears that communal tensions between the majority Hindu population and Muslims, the biggest minority group in India with more than 170 million people, could flare again if the status quo is disturbed. The moves aren’t limited to Uttar Pradesh. In the western state of Gujarat, the BJP government there is also considering changing the name of the state’s commercial centre, Ahmedabad, a name given to it by a former Muslim ruler. And only



**HARSIL, India:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) feeds sweets for the Hindu festival of Diwali to Indian Army personnel in Harsil in northern Uttarakhand state. —AFP

last week, Gujarat unveiled the world’s tallest statue, a \$400 million effigy of independence hero Vallabhbhai Patel that is nearly twice the

height of New York’s Statue of Liberty as part of a BJP campaign to re-brand what it terms “forgotten” leaders. — Reuters

## Seoul earmarks more than \$260 million for rail, roads in North

**SEOUL:** South Korea has earmarked more than \$260 million to build new railways and roads in the North, an official said yesterday, as Seoul pushes ahead with cross-border projects despite international sanctions on Pyongyang. The figure comes as Seoul and Washington follow increasingly divergent approaches to Pyongyang, with the South pursuing engagement while the US insists pressure on it should be maintained until it denuclearizes.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in offered to help upgrade the North’s outdated rail and road infrastructure and connect it with the South’s in meetings this year with the North’s leader Kim Jong Un. Seoul plans to spend about 295.1 billion won (\$264 million) on the schemes next year, an official at Seoul’s unification ministry told reporters, with most of it – 186.4 billion won – given freely and 108.7 billion won in loans.

“It is an estimate for now... we will continue efforts, including policy coordination with the US, to carry out the projects agreed between the two Koreas without a hitch,” said the official

who declined to be named. Security allies Seoul and Washington agreed last week to set up a new working group to co-ordinate policy amid growing concerns in the US over Moon’s approach. The official’s comments came as a Southern lawmaker accused Seoul of ignoring UN sanctions on the North.

“The US maintains the position that it would maintain maximum pressure until the North produces visible progress on denuclearization and so does the international community including the EU,” Chung Byoung-gug told the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper. “The budget allocation by our government may make it look like our government is undermining international coordination on sanctions on the North,” he was quoted as saying. The isolated, impoverished North is under multiple sets of sanctions imposed over past nuclear and missile tests staged in violation of UN resolutions.

Lifting the measures—which bans much of its trade including coal exports—is a key demand of Pyongyang’s in its ongoing denuclearization talks with the US. Kim and Donald Trump held a historic summit in June in Singapore and signed a vaguely worded deal on denuclearization, but little progress has been made since then, with the two countries sparring over the exact meaning of the agreement. Planned talks between US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and one of Kim’s right-hand men, Kim Yong Chol, were also delayed this week. Moon—a dove who advocates dialogue with the North to push it towards denuclearization—has met Kim three times so far this year and another summit is being planned in Seoul. — AFP

## Sri Lanka political rally brings chaos to Colombo streets

**COLOMBO:** A rally of hundreds of cars carrying supporters of Sri Lanka’s deposed prime minister brought chaos to Colombo streets yesterday as they demanded that parliament be reopened. A noisy cavalcade of motorcycles, auto-rickshaws, cars and vans took loyalists of ousted prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to a rally to hear speeches slamming the president for sacking the head of government last month. President Maithripala Sirisena named former president Mahinda Rajapakse as the new prime minister in a shock move on October 26, and suspended parliament so neither has won a vote of confidence. The rival prime ministers have now spent nearly two weeks at loggerheads, and the move—which has been described as illegal by opponents—has triggered a constitutional crisis.

Protestors had initially planned to drive to the residence of parliament speaker Karu Jayasuriya to urge him to defy the president and lift the assembly suspension. But amid traffic chaos, the route was shortened and the rally was staged at Independence Square. The motorists displayed posters of Wickremesinghe and carried banners which read “People Power”. The US embassy in Colombo issued a security alert warning of traffic hold ups. “The embassy reminds citizens that even events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence,” it said. One man was killed and two others wounded in a shooting linked to the constitutional crisis last month.

The power struggle has paralyzed much of the administration, according to legislators on both sides of the dispute. Rajapakse is reportedly trying to engineer defections to ensure he has a majority in the 225 member assembly which Sirisena has said can only reopen on November 14. Sirisena has filled only 22 of 30 cabinet positions—purposefully keeping some jobs vacant to tempt legislators of Wickremesinghe’s party to defect to Rajapakse’s side. According to latest counts, Wickremesinghe has 103 MPs after gaining a defector on Tuesday, while Rajapakse and Sirisena have 101. Most of the remaining 21 MPs are set to oppose Rajapakse, observers say. — AFP



# Friday Times Lifestyle

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)



A model displays a chocolate dress at the 2018 chocolate fair fashion show in Beirut. — AFP

## Chocolate fair fashion show

See Page 22



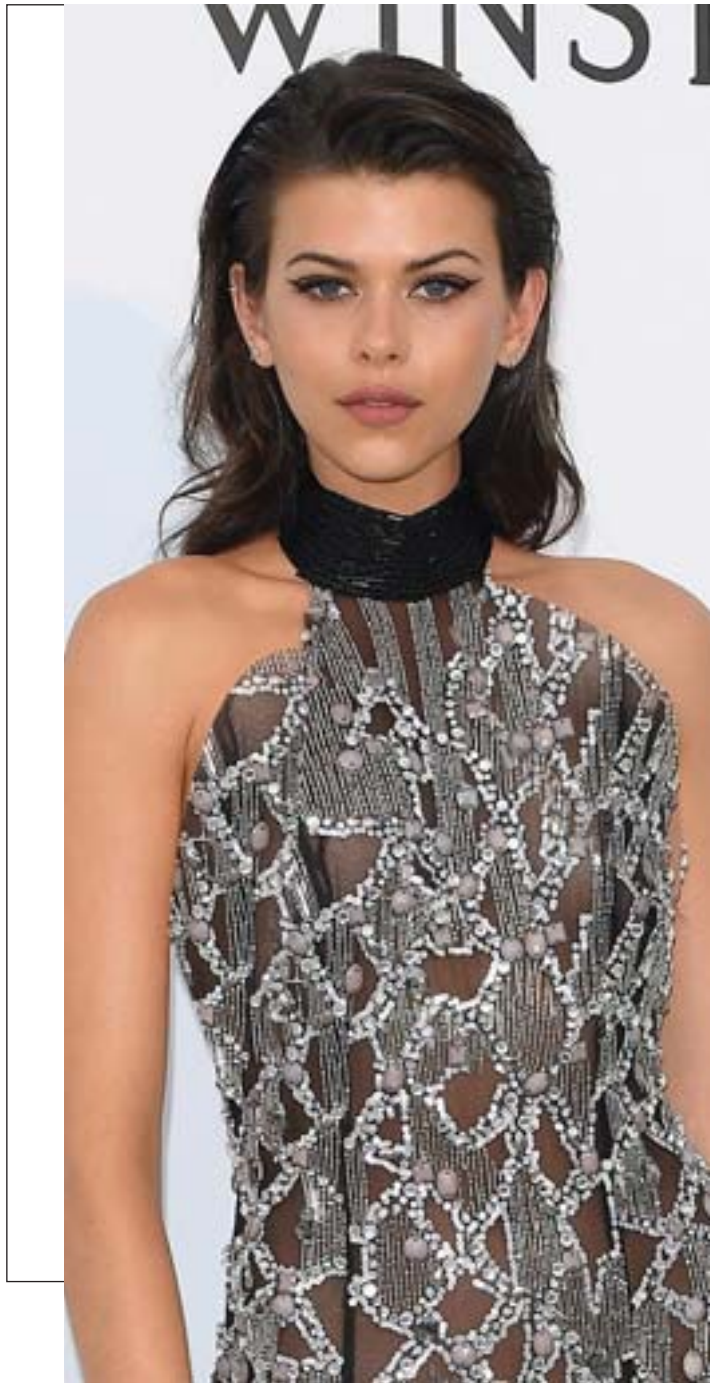


## Sara Sampaio goes to bed with wet hair

The 27-year-old Victoria's Secret model admitted that her brunette locks are "like her baby" and she washes it a night to avoid sleeping with dirty hair, and she swears by hydrating shampoo and oil to add moisture to her strands. In an interview with Glamour, she said: "I take really good care of my hair, it's like my baby. I hate going to bed with my hair dirty so I always wash it at night. I'm all about hair hydration so I use the MoroccanOil Hydrating Shampoo and Conditioner and then twice a week I'll use the mask to deeply replenish the moisture. I sleep with my hair wet so I get that scruffy, bedhead look and then in the morning, I'll put some drops of the MoroccanOil Treatment in and I'm good to go. "That's without a doubt my desert island beauty product. If I have my MoroccanOil Treatment, I don't need anything else!" Although Sara uses a host of hydrating hair products if she has a big event coming up, when she's not working, the Portuguese beauty tries to use less products and aims for a more natural look. She said: "When I'm off-duty and don't have to work, I try not to use any products on my hair or my skin. I just focus on replenishing the moisture and restoring radiance. I'm all about hydration and trying to get as much of that as I possibly can. I love going on holiday as the sun always makes my hair a little lighter, but the sea salt or chlorine can dry my hair and skin out."

## Shanina Shaik ups her beauty regime

The 27-year-old model makes it her priority to keep hydrated and take several vitamins in the days leading up to the show and pairs that with more facial treatments to ensure her skin is "fresh and tight". Speaking to Vogue Australia, she said: "It's a priority that I take my [Dr. Barbara Sturm] vitamins every day and drink hot water and lemon morning and night. Lastly, I want to have a couple facials leading up to the show - they really keep my skin feeling fresh and tight." The brunette beauty loves facials which create a glowing complexion and travels across the globe in order to get the best skin treatments. She said: "Facials that specialise in tightening, laser and creating a glow. I visited Jasmina Vico in London and Sandra Velandia in New York - who are both amazing." When it comes to the Australian model's pre-show diet, Shanina sticks to fish and vegetables while drinking hot water with lemon to boost her metabolism. She said: "Drinking hot water and lemon morning and at night helps with my metabolism, skin and digestion. "My diet contains proteins - fish only as I'm pescetarian - and really clean salads and vegetables. Two weeks before the show I like to cut out carbs and sugar to stay lean and defined for the show."



## Georgia Fowler insists to "be yourself on stage"

The 26-year-old model always reminds herself to enjoy the strut up the runway and not get preoccupied with interacting with the audience. In an interview with Vogue Australia, she said: "I think the most important thing to do is be yourself on stage and do what comes naturally. It's not about everyone getting to the runway and blowing a kiss, but more about engaging the audience along the journey there and having fun!" The brunette beauty also shared her fitness regime in the weeks leading up to the illustrious event and admitted that she "loves working out" and definitely intensifies her routine as the show approaches. She said: "It's important for my job to be strong and healthy year round, and I love working out, but I definitely intensify my regime in the lead-up. "I'm an absolute perfectionist and love a challenge, so in the lead-up to the show there's no excuses. "I love to make training fun, so my trainer does a lot of athletic drills with me to keep me motivated." The New Zealand-born model loves training and often sets herself personal fitness goals - however, she admits that balance is key in a healthy lifestyle and loves to unwind by having dinner and watching a movie with friends. She said: "The most grounding thing for me to do to unwind is have my friends over for a healthy meal and movie. On top of that, I try to sleep as much as possible when my schedule permits."

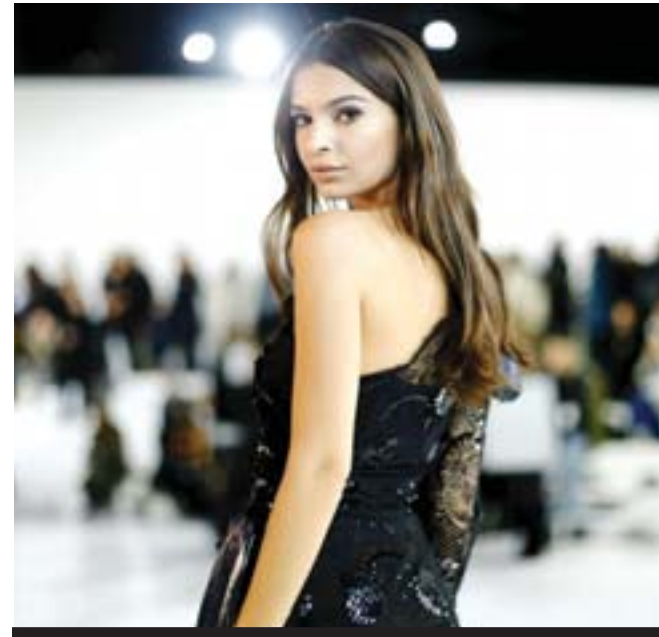


## Lifestyle | Gossip

## Emily Ratajkowski's wedding was "just for her"

The 'We Are Your Friends' actress and her spouse Sebastian Bear-McClard tied the knot in secret earlier this year at a courthouse and she really liked how low key it was. Speaking on *Busy Tonight*, she said: "We knew each other for a long time before and he likes to joke like, 'Yeah, everyone thinks we got married quickly but you vetted me for two years.' Women always know... I was always like 'Okay, I probably shouldn't hang out with that guy alone' ... and then next thing you know I'm at the courthouse getting married. It was secret for four hours. Weddings are amazing, I want to party, I want to celebrate love and relationships, but this was just for us and it was very nice." Meanwhile, the 27-year-old model and actress previously revealed she sees marriage as a "business" and she believes there

are no expectations on the institution because its history is a "joke". She said: "You know, ultimately marriage is like business. Marriage is really to me what you want to take from it, because the history of it is like a joke." Emily wanted to keep her nuptials a secret for as long as possible so shunned a traditional white wedding dress for a tailored suit. Was definitely not a "Pinterest Bride". She revealed: "I was not a Pinterest bride! I do so much glam, I do fittings once a week so for me it was just so nice to throw on a Zara suit that I loved, do my own hair and make-up. I always feel the most confident when I do it myself - and not have to have the fussiness of being a bride."



## Nick able to be his 'authentic self' with Priyanka

The 'Jealous' hitmaker knows he has found the right one in the 'Quantico' actress as he is able to be completely himself around her. He said: "You have to be honest with your other half. That's where the beauty of a real relationship is, being able to be your authentic self. I have that in my life now." And the 26-year-old singer feels it is important to keep his circle tight. He added to *USA Today*: "It's really about trying to keep as much time as you can for yourselves. Not letting the outside world penetrate the world that you create for each other, or the world with your family and friends and your inner circle. It's been really beautiful. Really nice. That's the most important thing in my life, maintaining a close-knit circle of friends, family and loved ones." Meanwhile, Priyanka recently hinted she wants to start a family with Nick as soon as possible. She said: "I just have a few of my friends who are having babies right now and I'm like, 'God I need to catch up!'" A source also claimed that Priyanka and Nick are ready to tie the knot "sooner than later". The insider shared: "Priyanka has already been planning the wedding for a couple of months now and is excited to call Nick her husband one day. Priyanka and Nick are on the same page about wanting to get married earlier rather than later, and are telling friends it will most likely be next year."

## Zoe Kravitz 'felt like a freak' at school

The 29-year-old actress has revealed that because she went to a private school in Miami where most of the students were white, she felt out of place, and wanted to start "straightening her hair" to remind people that she "was half white", rather than embracing the things that made her different. She said: "[Growing up] was a rough time for someone trying to discover who they are. I went to a private school in Miami, surrounded by wealthy kids, mostly white. I felt like a freak because my hair was different, and little kids would come up and say, 'Can I feel your hair?' The things that made me different were the things I didn't like about myself; I wanted to straighten my hair, remind people that I was half white." The 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald' star - who is the daughter of musical icon Lenny Kravitz - felt "awkward" growing up, but says she's now thankful of her weird phases, because she thinks being different made her "develop her personality". She added: "I went through a really awkward phase. I was short and brown, surrounded by tall girls with boobs and blonde hair. And my dad was dating supermodels, so I was waking up to Adriana Lima. I didn't have beauty as a crutch, and I'm thankful for that because I had to develop my personality." Zoe still feels "insecure" about her looks, but says she's working on loving herself, and can't believe people on the street tell her she's beautiful.



## Halsey puts rumors to bed she is dating John Mayer

The 'Alone' hitmaker had been romantically linked to the 41-year-old musician after the pair exchanged a series of flirtatious messages on social media. However, the 24-year-old pop star took to Twitter on Wednesday (07.11.18) to hit out at anyone suggesting they're an item, stating it's possible for two people of the opposite sex to be friends and not be "sleeping together". She wrote: "I just had a ground breaking idea. What if...we let female artists...have friends...without assuming that they are sleeping together? I know I know. It's like, completely ambitious but like, imagine if we like, tried ? (sic)" This week, Halsey shared a screenshot of her FaceTime session with the 'Love on the Weekend' hitmaker, and John commented: "It's saying that my billing address doesn't match with the one of my credit card? I've never had this problem before. Can you text me? Thanks (sic)" Halsey split up with her on/off boyfriend G-Eazy earlier this month, and recently released the music video for 'Without Me', which she explained is "a reminder that you deserve more". The 'Bad At Love' hitmaker makes references to the rapper in the promo and even has a lookalike playing him in the clip. Writing about the video on Twitter, the star said: "The story is a reflection of a combination of relationships I've been in, or watched the people I love go through. It's a reminder that you deserve more. And it's okay to not want to be taken advantage of. By your partners, your friends, your family. You deserve happiness. Don't be afraid of going and finding it." In the song itself, Halsey even references Justin Timberlake's classic breakup song 'Cry Me A River' in her own lyrics. At one point, in a nod to JT's bitter 2002 hit - which features an almost identical line - she sings: "You don't have to say just what you did. I already know, I had to go and find out from them."







Chocolate fair fashion show





## Lifestyle | Fashion



Models display chocolate dresses at the 2018 chocolate fair fashion show in Beirut yesterday. The popular chocolate fashion show showcased in its 5th edition the work of Lebanese designers and renowned pastry chefs, who teamed up to create beautiful chocolate gowns for the occasion. — AFP photos





# From Elizabeth to Lisbeth: Claire Foy's transformation

When director Fede Alvarez chose Claire Foy to star in the latest film in the “Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” series, he had no doubt the 34-year-old actress would easily transform herself into the intrepid cold-as-ice hacker Lisbeth Salander. After all, the British actress has experience playing a fearless woman with ice running through her veins when needed — Queen Elizabeth II.

“I saw ‘The Crown’ one day and I was like, ‘That’s it, this is all Lisbeth,’ because as crazy as that sounds, there is so much in common with the challenges of playing someone like Lisbeth or Elizabeth,” Alvarez told AFP in a recent telephone interview from Rome. Fresh off her Emmy-winning turn as the British monarch on Netflix’s popular drama, Foy is tackling one of the heroines of modern crime fiction — Salander, a Swedish hacker — in “The Girl In The Spider’s Web.”

The film, which opens Friday in US theaters, follows Salander as she is hired to hack into a defense program that can control the codes for the world’s nuclear weapons. The role — previously played by Noomi Rapace and Rooney Mara — represents a departure for Foy, allowing the actress to showcase a different, darker side. But the Uruguayan director says her regal role prepared her well. “They are very similar characters,” Alvarez said. “The queen is never allowed to show she’s angry or sad, always keeping a straight face in front of very different situations ... and Lisbeth doesn’t allow herself to show her true emotions — she’s pushing those emotions deep inside her.”

## Mixed reviews

“Spider’s Web” is based on a novel by David Lagercrantz, who was chosen to continue the so-called “Millennium” series begun by the late Stieg Larsson. The film has been met with mixed reviews, with industry magazine Variety saying fans are likely to be disappointed with the way Salander is portrayed. “The Girl in the Spider’s Web ... is more vested in fiery external explosions than internal pain, reducing Salander to a quirky Batgirl-like figure, soft-pedaling her feminism, practically eliminating her queerness, and tossing in an American so the US can save the world,” it said.



In this file photo taken on November 4, 2018, actress Claire Foy and director Fede Alvarez attend “The Girl In The Spider’s Web” New York screening at Henry Luce Theater in New York City. —AFP photos

The Rotten Tomatoes review aggregation website, which gave the crime thriller a 64 percent rating, said the critics’ consensus was that the movie “distills the action elements of its source material for a less complex — yet still reasonably effective — franchise reboot.”

## “Secret and shame”

Alvarez, who directed the 2016 hit thriller “Don’t Breathe,” said that as with any novel, it was difficult to adapt Lagercrantz’s work for the big screen and still remain faithful to the plot. “You have to sacrifice a lot of things — otherwise, it would be an eight-hour movie,” he said. He said he used the screenplay written by Steven Knight (“Peaky Blinders”) and Jay Basu, and adapted it to make it more personal.

he said news of the tour had left him “incredibly excited”. “Anything they do I’m there with bells on, front row, singing along,” Allison told AFP at London’s St Pancras Station, where the pop phenomena filmed their first music video for 1996 hit single “Wannabe”. The best-selling girl band — minus pop star-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham — unveiled plans Tuesday for next year’s UK tour, which will see them play Wembley Stadium, Britain’s biggest venue.

Beckham, who first grew to fame as Posh Spice, confirmed she will not be joining her former bandmates. “You’ve got to forgive Victoria if she wants to move on,” said Allison, who is not convinced of a mooted surprise appearance at some stage. “I don’t know how easy it would be to cross over from an elite world where you’re dealing with Vogue magazine and the biggest fashion houses,” he added. Tickets for the six concerts so far confirmed go on sale Saturday, with the band hinting further dates may yet be added.



In this file photo taken on August 12, 2012 Spice Girls perform during the closing ceremony of the 2012 London Olympic Games at the Olympic stadium in London on August 12, 2012.

## ‘Say You’ll Be There’: Spice Girls superfan hails reunion tour

LONDON: Spice Girls devotees celebrated the band’s reunion tour announced this week — and none more so than a long-time British superfan with the world’s biggest collection of their memorabilia. Alan Smith Allison, 37, last year quit working for charities to devote himself full-time to showcasing his and several other collectors’ thousands of Spice Girl items.

Ahead of opening his latest display in Britain later this month,



In this file photo taken on June 11, 2018 British actress Claire Foy (left) and Dutch actress Sylvia Hoeks pose during the photocall for the film “The Girl in the Spider’s Web” in Barcelona.

“Basically it was really making it about secret and shame, always about the family, whatever the story, as big as it is, even if the stakes are the world — it always has to be about yourself, something very close to the main character,” he said. “It’s also about a sin, something they have committed and they have to atone for.” In the case of Salander, the backstory concerns her estranged sister Camilla — played by Dutch actress Sylvia Hoeks (“Blade Runner 2049”) — who she hasn’t seen since she escaped their abusive father, a Russian crime lord. Hoeks said the movie was shot just as the #MeToo movement erupted and was impacted by the raft of allegations of sexual abuse that surfaced at the time. “We discussed it — it was a very hot topic,” she said. “We didn’t really change the script but for me, it was like the story and reality went hand-in-hand all of a sudden.” — AFP

## Director Steve McQueen says ‘Widows’ not just a heist movie

LONDON: At first glance, Steve McQueen’s latest film, “Widows”, looks like a fast-paced heist movie, but the award-winning British director says he wanted his Chicago-set movie to take a deeper look at the current political and social-economic climate. Adapted from an 1980s television series by British crime writer Lynda La Plante, “Widows” follows a group of women who plan a heist to pay off a large debt left by their dead husbands’ crimes.

Gender, race, crime and politics are all subjects touched on in the movie, which stars Oscar winner Viola Davis, “Fast and Furious” star Michelle Rodriguez and “The Night Manager” actress Elizabeth Debicki. “The whole idea of having this roller-coaster ride of a heist was ... to engage with that whole idea of escapism and ... the whole of that aspect of a thriller but not negate the political and the current ... social economical environment that we live in today,” McQueen told Reuters in an interview.

The London-born filmmaker, known for “12 Years a Slave” and “Shame”, said he decided to set the movie “in ... a heightened contemporary western city”, picking Chicago, the third-largest city in the United States. “I want to take ... this fiction and staple it into reality of our every day,” he said. “First, foremost my job is to entertain ... Secondly you’re hoping it will enlighten, you are hoping it will shed light on things which are happening every day which some people can actually recognize and be aware of.” “I can only hope that this film could do that, even if it’s just one person.” — Reuters





## 'Breaking Bad' film coming, but will Walter White be in it?

**NEW YORK:** Popular television drama "Breaking Bad" is coming back in movie format, the show's star Bryan Cranston said Wednesday, but it was not clear if his iconic character Walter White would return as well. The series, which ran from 2008 until 2013, told the story of White, a high school science teacher who responds to a terminal cancer diagnosis by turning into a powerful drug lord.

It is one of the best-reviewed shows in TV history and earned a total of 16 Emmys, including four best actor prizes for Cranston, and two Golden Globes. "There appears to be a movie version of 'Breaking Bad' but I honestly have not even read the script," Cranston, 62, said on The Dan Patrick Show, a national radio program. "So there's question whether or not we would even see Walter White in this movie."

Spoiler alert: White died at the end of the series, which aired in the United States on cable network AMC. But Cranston nevertheless said he would "absolutely" be interested in bringing White back should show creator Vince Gilligan ask him to do so. "He's a genius," Cranston said. "I'm excited about it because it's 'Breaking Bad.' It was the greatest professional period of my life. And I can't wait to see those people even if I just come by to visit." —AFP



In this file photo taken on August 26, 2014, actors Aaron Paul (L), Anna Gunn (C) and Bryan Cranston (R) pose in the press after winning the Outstanding Drama Series Award, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series Award, Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series Award and Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series Award for "Breaking Bad" during the 66th Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. —AFP

## DATING APPS USE AI TO HELP SEARCH FOR LOVE

**LISBON:** Forget swiping through endless profiles. Dating apps are using artificial intelligence to suggest where to go on a first date, recommend what to say and even find a partner who looks like your favorite celebrity. Until recently smartphone dating apps — such as Tinder which lets you see in real time who is available and "swipe" if you wish to meet someone — left it up to users to ask someone out and then make the date go well.

But to fight growing fatigue from searching through profiles in vain, the online dating sector is turning to artificial intelligence (AI) to help arrange meetings in real life and act as a dating coach. These new uses for AI — the science of programming computers to reproduce human processes like thinking and decision making — by dating apps were highlighted at the four-day Web Summit which wraps up Thursday in Lisbon.

Online dating pioneer eHarmony announced it is developing an AI-enabled feature which nudges users to suggest meeting in person after they have been chatting in the app for a while. "There is a lot of activity on dating apps but by and large there is not a lot of dates," eHarmony CEO Grant Langston told the annual tech gathering. "Guys don't know how to ask, it's astounding really how many people need help and we think we can do that in an automated way."

### "Takes pressure off"

British dating app Lovelflutter plans to use AI to analyze chats between its users to determine their compatibility and suggest when they should meet. "We will ping a message saying 'You are getting along really well, why don't you go on your first date'," said Lovelflutter co-founder Daigo Smith. Lovelflutter already suggests places to go on a first date that are equidistant from both people's homes using information from Foursquare, an app that helps smartphone users find nearby restaurants, bars and clubs. "It kind of takes the pressure off organising that first date," said Smith. Tinder founder

Sean Rad said AI will "create better user experiences" and predicted iPhone's Siri Voice assistant would in the future act as a matchmaker.

### Voice activated

An entirely voice operated dating app called AIMM which uses AI to mirror a human matchmaking service is already being tested in Denver where it has about 1,000 users. When you open the app, a soothing voice asks questions about what you like to do on a date or where you would like to travel. It then suggests suitable matches based on your personality. Once you have picked one you would like to meet, the app tells you about them.

After several days the app will help set up a time for a phone call between you and your match — and give advice for your first date based on what it knows about the other person. "It will say things like 'based on her personality inclination she is a traditional person, I would recommend dinner and a walk'," said Kevin Teman, the app's developer. The app also reminds you to ask questions "about the things that are important to you" during the date, he added. After the date, the app checks in with both people to see how it went and recommend whether they should continue to see each other or keep looking. Teman hopes to make it available across the United States early next year.

### Celebrity lookalikes

Badoo, a London-based dating app, is now using AI and facial recognition technology to let users find a match that looks like anyone at all, including their ex or celebrity crush. Users can upload a picture of someone and the app will find lookalikes among Badoo's more than 400 million users worldwide. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian, Oscar-winning actress Emma Stone and singer Beyonce are the most searched for celebrities globally since Badoo introduced the feature — dubbed Lookalikes — last year. —AFP

## Netflix to boost production of European series

**LISBON:** Netflix said Wednesday it will produce more series in Europe in languages other than English following the global success of Spanish crime caper "Money Heist" and German mystery "Dark". "We have seen that shows we have done were able to find gigantic global audiences, where the vast majority of viewing comes from outside the country of origin," Netflix chief product officer Greg Peters told AFP.

Ninety percent of viewers of "Dark", a show about missing children, live outside of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, he added in Lisbon at the Web Summit, Europe's largest tech gathering. "Can you think of any German show that has

had that much viewing outside" of German-speaking nations, he asked. Peters announced at the event that Netflix was producing two new series in Norway and Spain which will become available in 2020.

The US streaming giant has recruited Adam Price, the creator of hit Danish political drama series "Borgen", to produce its first ever Norwegian show "Ragnarok". The series imagines what would happen if a god of Norse was reincarnated as a teenager in today's world. Netflix's new Spanish series, "Alma", is about a young woman who loses his memory following an accident. It will be made by Spanish writer-director Sergio Sanchez, who is behind supernatural thriller "Marrowbone".

"We really think there's an opportunity to find stories that haven't been told, outside the US and the UK and we can grow that number by a huge amount," said Peters. Netflix's focus on Europe is not only a strategic choice but also a matter of necessity. The European Union has imposed a quota requiring streaming services to ensure at least 30 percent of their content is



Diego Avalos, Director of original international content for Latin America and Spain of Netflix, gives a speech at Four Seasons Hotel on November 05, 2018 in Mexico City, Mexico.

local programming. Netflix in January 2016 launched its service globally, simultaneously bringing its internet streaming TV network to over 130 new countries around the world. Since then it boosted investment in shows developed

outside the United States to lure new customers around the world and managed to turn non-English language shows into hits. Netflix currently produces programs in over 20 countries, including Brazil, India and South Korea. —AFP



# Noord: A guide to Amsterdam's coolest neighborhood



Bikes in front of Noorderlicht, a cafe housed in a building made of reused and sustainable materials.

From shipping hub to creative quarter, the ever-changing Amsterdam Noord neighborhood has cemented itself as one of the Dutch capital's coolest spots. With a new Noord/Zuid metro line supplying quick access, this once obscure 'hood is gaining traction as the innovative hotspot of the Dutch capital.

Separated from the rest of the city by the IJ river, Noord's industrial warehouses and residential areas can feel a world away from the city's famous Golden Age canals and crooked, dollhouse-like buildings. But what the neighborhood might lack in the quaint and charming department, it certainly makes up for in edge and excitement.

Noord boasts a maritime heritage dating back to the 1600s, but when shipbuilding declined in the 1980s, the industrial parts of Noord were left to crumble. Abandoned and in disrepair, the area attract squatters and artists in the 1990s before - as is so often the case - the hipsters and creative industry followed. Fast

forward 20 years and Noord has transformed into a 'place to be' where there's always an uber-cool new hotspot drawing in crowds from all over the city. The recently opened Noord/Zuid metro line provides a fast link to central Amsterdam and will no doubt play a role in the area's growing appeal to residents and visitors alike.

## Industrial chic

There is no better representation of Amsterdam's shipbuilding legacy than NDSM Wharf. Hop aboard the free ferry from Amsterdam Central Station and upon arrival you'll feel as if you've docked in a completely different city.

The Faralda Crane Hotel, a trio of suites perched atop an industrial crane, hangs overhead while at ground level Amsterdammers make the monthly pilgrimage to the IJ Hallen. One of Europe's biggest flea markets, the IJ Hallen is spread across a huge warehouse area. The market has an entrance cost of Å5 and sells

everything from dusty antiques to bikes. After rummaging for bargains, take a short stroll to the iconic Pilek restaurant and bar, which blends effortlessly into its surroundings. Constructed completely from shipping containers, it's particularly popular during the summer months thanks to its man-made pebble beach. Outdoor film screenings take place on Tuesdays throughout the summer, and yoga classes are held every Sunday morning.

NDSM Wharf is a popular location for festivals, exhibitions and other cultural events, so it's always worth checking what's going on there. The DGTL electronic music festival takes place each spring over three days.

## Bohemian vibes

Whether you're inside with a local craft beer or enjoying a spot of music on the outdoor stage, nowhere in Amsterdam feels more bohemian than Noorderlicht. This bar and eatery, inside an impressive, greenhouse-like setting,

boasts an outdoor area with river views and plays host to live music and small festivals. Venture further east and you'll discover the wood-clad Cafe de Ceutel. Located on the site of a former shipyard, the restaurant is all about sustainability. The building itself was crafted from recycled materials, while the menu is made up of organic, home-grown and locally sourced dishes. The waterside location and ample outdoor seating make it even more popular during the summer months.

## Skateboarders and tacos

On the east side of Amsterdam Noord, a host of hip venues have continued to pop up. Oedipus Brewing was the first in the area, offering thirsty patrons the opportunity to sample their signature drinks at the source. The taproom is set in a warehouse and decorated with colorful murals. Favorite tipples on tap include Thai Thai, an experimental Tripel from the brewery's early days.





Nearby on Gedempt Hamerkanaal, one of the more recent additions to Amsterdam Noord is SkateCafe, which opened its doors in 2017. The venue does it exactly what it says on the tin, featuring a mini skate ramp set in a casual bar and dining area. The large warehouse space is very much in keeping with the Amsterdam Noord vibe. It has unfinished concrete walls adorned with plants and furniture that looks like it's straight out of the classroom.

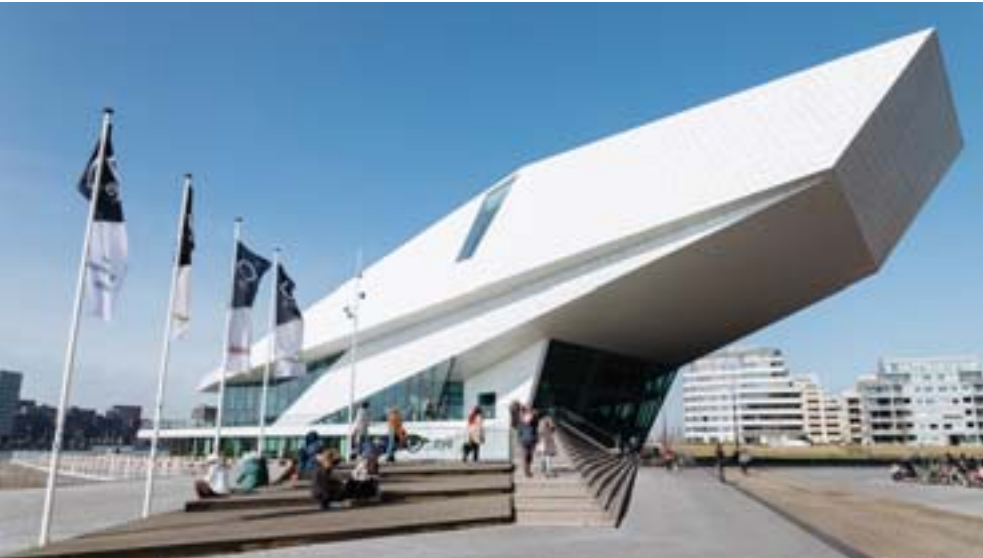
Feeling hungry after all that skateboarding? Just around the corner you'll find Mexican cuisine and cocktails at Coba Taqueria. This eatery has all the laid-back qualities of the typical Noord establishment, but with surprisingly gourmet small plates, including tacos and tostadas.

Eye-catching architecture

One of Noord's most striking buildings is the cutting-edge EYE Film Institute. Angular and bright white, the architectural masterpiece makes quite the impression when looking across the river from Amsterdam Central Station. Up close, it's equally as impressive and plays host to exhibition spaces, cinemas and a light and airy cafe with riverside views. Meanwhile the 22-storey A'DAM Tower provides quite the contrast to Amsterdam's relatively low-rise cityscape. The A'DAM Lookout, located atop the tower, offers one of the best views of the city. If you're feeling brave, Europe's highest swing kicks out over the edge of the building at a lofty 100 meters. Don't worry - you're strapped in! ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com))



Housed in a converted industrial crane, the Faralda Crane Hotel has three suites and stellar views.





# Shake, rattle and woah:

## The world's most beautiful bus rides



Unlike their revered, rail-bound cousins, long-distance buses are considered more of a necessary evil than rewarding travel experience. These unsightly, lumbering machines have a reputation for being uncomfortable, unpleasant and tireless champions of the very worst in musical radio.

But, when plying the right route, traversing a country by bus can be a genuine delight, offering penny-pinching travellers a front-row view of the world's scenic byways and lesser-seen landscapes, as well as granting opportunities to meet memorable characters and tuck in to local delicacies en route. So strap yourself in and leave your preconceived notions behind, as we embark on a whistle-stop tour of the world's most beautiful bus rides.

**Morocco: Marrakesh to Er Rachidia**  
**Distance: 308 miles (496km)**  
**Estimated duration: 11 hours**

The landscapes rolling past the windows along this 300-mile journey tend to transfix travellers in a style usually reserved for mobile phones and film screens; a phenomenon that is fitting given these

desert vistas, hemmed by the dramatic Atlas Mountains, have provided the backdrop to countless cinematic encounters, from Lawrence of Arabia to Gladiator to Game of Thrones. The story of this great voyage begins in the dizzying souks of atmospheric Marrakesh, quickly ramping up in tension as it approaches the High Atlas via the tortuous Tizi n'Tichka pass (2260m). Having meandered along heady mountain trails, the route passes an arid landscape of mudbrick kasbahs and palm groves to Ouarzazate, nicknamed 'Ouallywood' for its film studio, where a troop of Berbers, sporting colorful traditional turbans, may join your roving cast. The grand finale is Er Rachidia, a former French garrison town on the fringe of the Sahara, where sandboarding, camel treks and adventures in the great desert await. Top tip: For additional comfort, grab a seat on one of the premium bus lines running this route, such as CTM or Supratours.

**USA: New York City to San Francisco**  
**Distance: 2902 miles (4670km)**  
**Estimated duration: 75 hours**

'Heading out west' has been the maxim that's shaped millions of US journeys, from the Dust Bowl migrants to the pleasure-seeking

Beat Generation; the iconic image of its favoured son Jack Kerouac pointing his headlights west to the beatnik scene of San Francisco still entices generations of travellers to pack a bag and cross the American heartland in search of adventure.

After leaving the bright lights of the Big Apple, this coast-to-coast pilgrimage can take many forms, but following Kerouac's trail to 'Frisco' requires a stop - and fittingly wild night out - in Denver, the journey's rough halfway point, where passengers can also stretch stiff limbs hiking in the majesty of the Rocky Mountains. The mammoth three-day Greyhound route, which rolls through the cornfields of Nebraska and deserts of Nevada, also offers optional stop-offs in intriguing, lesser-visited cities such as Pittsburgh, home to avant-garde art museums in former mattress warehouses, and Salt Lake City, where you can hear the world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir perform - this overland odyssey really has it all.

Top tip: Long-distance aficionados looking for a meatier prospect should consider following this ride up with the once-a-week 100+ hour bus ride from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to Lima in Peru, reputedly the longest single bus journey in the world.





Australia's Great Ocean Road is arguably the most beautiful coastal route in the world

**England: Tavistock to Dawlish**  
**Distance: 37 miles (60km)**  
**Estimated duration: two hours**

It has been called the UK's rarest bus service: the 112 from Tavistock to Dawlish, which crosses the middle of Devon's stunning Dartmoor National Park, only runs on the fifth Saturday of the month... between April and September. This means that most years committed coach-connoisseurs only have two or three chances to make this journey, which owes its infrequency to being volunteer-run and competition from more popular routes.

Passengers who are organised or just downright lucky enough to catch the 112 can look forward to an up-close view of Devon's rolling moorland punctuated by granite tors and herds of Dartmoor ponies. The route passes a string of historic market towns before hitting the coast and trundling into Dawlish, where passengers will have just enough time for a traditional English Sunday roast dinner (roasted meat, potatoes and vegetables with gravy) overlooking the South Devon Coast before catching the equally rare return bus three and a half hours later.

Top tip: The small bus only has 16 seats, so get there early to guarantee your spot - you don't want to wait for the next service.

**Nepal: Kathmandu to Pokhara**  
**Distance: 127 miles (205km)**  
**Estimated duration: eight hours**

Anyone who considers the Everest Base Camp Trek Nepal's greatest challenge should try making this winding route west from the Nepalese capital without seeing their breakfast reappear. The sick bags are handed out at the beginning of this legendary hippy-trail journey, where travellers once rode with their luggage on the roof, a joint clasped tightly between fingers.

At one end of the line is Kathmandu, with its rickshaw-jammed alleyways leading to temple-cluttered Durbar Square, and at the other is the serene alpine lakeside town of Pokhara. It's only 200km (124 miles) as the danphe flies, but this is the realm of the Himalayas and the rickety bus spends the day spectacularly climbing mountain passes with aqua-blue rivers running far below. Though the views are mesmerizing, you'll be thankful for the occasional rest stop, where - for those who can beat motion-sickness with a monk-like inner-focus - hefty portions of delicious dhal bhat (a selection of curries with boiled rice) are served in rustic restaurants perched on picturesque precipices.

Top tip: Book your lakeside accommodation in Pokhara in advance, and ask your lodge to send someone to guide you through the scrum of hotel touts.

**Australia: Geelong to Apollo Bay**  
**Distance: 70 miles (112km)**  
**Estimated duration: two hours and 30 minutes**

There's no need to cough up for a hire car to experience Victoria's sublime Great Ocean Road, one of the world's most beautiful coastal journeys. Bus 101 departs from the historical port city of Geelong, just around the bay from Melbourne, and totters along almost half of the famed scenic route, stopping regularly to pick up wide-eyed backpackers and salty-maned surfers - the combination of which often results in a convivial in-vehicle atmosphere.

Sit on the left of the bus to eyeball the stunning coastal scenery, and on the right to marvel at the forested mountains. Along the way you can hop off at glorious stretches of sand such as Bells Beach for a revitalizing dip or take a short detour inland to Kennett River to spot koalas and glow worms. Final destination Apollo Bay is well located for further Great Ocean Road explorations, including the iconic

Twelve Apostles rock formations.

Top tip: There's tons of great detours along this route, but foodies should consider heading 30 minutes inland from Lorne to splash out on dinner at Brae, an eatery in a lovely cottage amid 30 acres of gardens that's consistently voted the best restaurant in Australia.

**Argentina: Rio Gallegos to Ushuaia**  
**Distance: 360 miles (580km)**  
**Estimated duration: 11 hours**

It's a trip to the end of the world; that's the civic motto of Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, and this poetic title sets the tone of this grand journey that'll have passengers feeling like pioneering explorers as they cross land, sea and international borders on a meandering voyage along the toe of Argentina.

Starting in the busy port town of Rio Gallegos, this bus route crosses the Chilean border, before boarding a ferry to cross the tempestuous Strait of Magellan, where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans meet. While watching the hulking glacial landscapes glide past from the ship's deck, it's easy to envisage yourself as a modern Magellan, the strait's Portuguese namesake, who passed through in 1520. After making port in Patagonia, hop back on the bus to cross the romantically-named Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire), a windswept archipelago that's home to storied shipwrecks and snow-scuffed mountain ranges, before arriving in Ushuaia, where the adventures continue with skiing, scuba diving and trips to Antarctica.

Top tip: The meal services on board the ferry are limited so take extra snacks, as well as warm clothes for time spent taking in the surroundings up on deck. ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com))





Though once the norm, you can still occasionally spy passengers sitting on the roof of buses in Nepal



The journey from Marrakesh to Er Rachidia winds through the magnificent High Atlas mountains



The UK's rarest bus services rolls through the pristine countryside of Dartmoor National Park



Comic

Word Search

Hip-Hop Artists

Find and circle all of the Hip-Hop Artists that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of a Lauryn Hill song.

HYMRALLIKURTISBLOWE  
TSEWEYNAKRRATSGNAGV  
ITETHEALCHEMISTRYTH  
MEJLOOCLLCRAIDMACKS  
STHSALFRETSAMDNARGE  
LSINGANALCGNATUWSGE  
LAISQOTUWAHLATETEIG  
ISVNNUOTPOLEHMTMBU  
WOWYASEEAIDEAODTYSF  
SNXYAIPHEHBPAIVHEHUE  
PIWLCNBNNHMLHEYSROH  
OCEOTLYUALLAFSTDAIT  
ODPLRRERNEAABOJFTRC  
NIARUBCFYDTTOAADSOO  
ISLAEYYSJBNRITKMU  
ETLODTSXOEEAJFUIBOM  
GLREOISYOHAORGAYRNE  
ECTHMC SATFENG B I H N F G  
EERUTANOMRESKCIREGA

AFRIKA BAMBATA  
BRAND NUBIAN  
BUSTA RHYMES  
COOLIO  
CORMEGA  
CRAIG MACK  
DE LA SOUL  
DJ SHADOW  
ERICK SERMON  
FAT JOE

FOXY BROWN  
GANG STARR  
GRANDMASTER FLASH  
HEAVY D  
KANYE WEST  
KILLARMY  
KURTIS BLOW  
LAURYN HILL  
LL COOL J  
MASTER P

MISSY ELLIOTT  
MUGGS  
NATURE  
NOTORIOUS B.I.G.  
ONYX  
QUEEN LATIFAH  
REDMAN  
SALT N PEPA  
SPOONIE GEE  
STETSASONIC

THE ALCHEMIST  
THE FAT BOYS  
THE FUGEES  
THE PHARCYDE  
THE ROOTS  
TLC  
WILL SMITH  
WU-TANG CLAN  
WYCLEF JEAN

Yesterday's Solution

Head & Neck

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

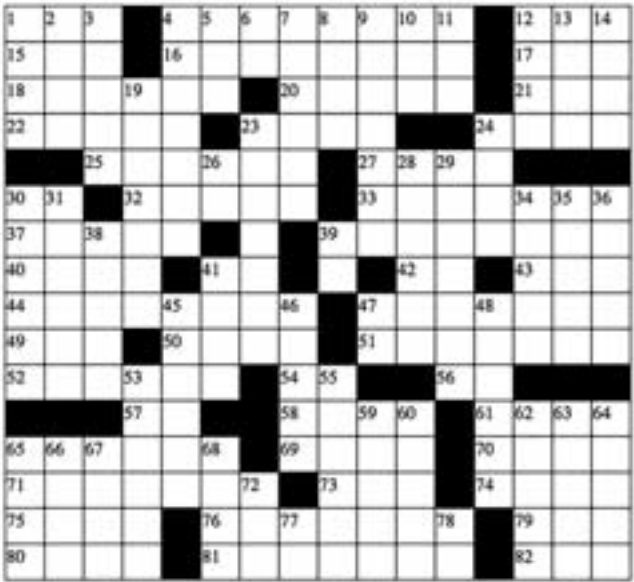
BRAIN  
CHEEKS  
CHIN  
EAR LOBES  
EARDRUM  
EARS  
EYEBROWS  
EYELIDS  
EYES  
FOREHEAD  
GUMS

HAIR  
JAW  
LARYNX  
LIPS  
MOUTH  
NAPE  
NECK  
NOSE  
NOSTRILS  
OESOPHAGUS  
PHARYNX

SCALP  
SKULL  
TASTE BUDS  
TEETH  
TEMPLES  
THROAT  
TONGUE  
TONSILS  
TRACHEA  
UVULA

The hidden word is: EYELASHES

Crossword 2056



- ACROSS
1. Electronic warfare undertaken under direct control of an operational commander to locate sources of radiated electromagnetic energy for the purpose of immediate threat recognition.

4. (Judaism) An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem.

12. (slang) A gangster's pistol.

15. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet.

16. Cause to continue indefinitely.

17. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.

18. (of a woman's body) Having a large bosom and pleasing curves.

20. Back and sides of a hog salted and dried or smoked.

21. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.

22. A clan identified by their kinship to a common totemic object.

25. Of or relating to or characteristic of Hades or Tartarus.

27. The highest level or degree attainable.

30. After noon.

32. A genus of Lamnidae.

33. The number of the pregnancy that a woman is in.

37. Belonging to or befitting a supreme ruler.

40. Earn on some commercial or business transaction.

42. A chronic progressive nervous disorder involving loss of myelin sheath around certain nerve fibers.

43. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).

44. Food fish of the Indonesian region of the Pacific.

49. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).

50. A former copper coin of Pakistan.

51. Type genus of the Balaenidae.

52. A genus of trees of the family Betulaceae (such as birches).

54. A metric unit of weight equal to one thousandth of a kilogram.

56. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.

57. A bachelor's degree in religion.

58. Small spiny-finned fish of coastal or brackish waters having a large head and elongated tapering body having the ventral fins modified as a sucker.

61. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.

65. An acute viral disease of the nervous system of warm-blooded animals (usually transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal).

69. A river in northern England that flows southeast through West Yorkshire.

70. Advanced in years.

71. An area of ground used for some particular purpose (such as building or farming).

73. A Chadid language spoken in northern Nigeria.

Daily SuDoku

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

DOWN

1. At a previous time.

2. Drive away by crying "shoo!".

3. One of the twelve divisions of the calendar year.

4. God of dawn and light.

5. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.

6. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.

7. A university town in east central Illinois adjoining Champaign.

8. Strike sharply.

9. A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.

10. Relating to or containing the azo radical.

11. Adult female chicken.

12. Mentally or physically infirm with age.

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

14. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.

19. A kind of sealing material that is used to form a hard coating on a porous surface (as a coat of paint or varnish used to size a surface).

23. Of or relating to Immanuel Kant or his philosophy.

24. A group of girls or young women.

26. The square of a body of any size of type.

28. A Ukrainian peninsula between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

29. Dark sweet or semisweet dessert wine from Sicily.

31. (South African) An ear of corn.

34. An iconic mental representation.

35. (Mesopotamia) God of agriculture and earth.

36. Squash bugs.

38. Any monetary aid.

39. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.

41. A Russian river.

45. Ground snakes.

46. Relatively nontoxic South African herb smoked like tobacco.

47. A metallic element of the rare earth group.

48. Disparaging terms for the common people.

53. The state of existing and being localized in space.

55. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.

59. An unbroken or imperfectly broken mustang.

60. A woman gossip.

62. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.

63. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.

64. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.

66. Harsh or corrosive in tone.

67. The part of the face above the eyes.

68. (computer science) A standardized language for the descriptive markup of documents.

72. The organ of sight ('peeper' is an informal term for 'eye').

77. Being ten more than fifty.

78. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



TV Listings

**AM MOVIES**  
**ACTION**

00:15 Raze  
01:55 Kung Fu Yoga  
03:55 Killer App  
05:30 The Hollow Point  
07:10 Sugar Mountain  
09:00 Kung Fu Yoga  
10:50 Starship Troopers: Traitor Of Mars  
12:20 Iron Man  
14:30 Iron Man 2  
16:40 Countdown  
18:15 Sinister Squad  
19:45 In The Line Of Fire  
22:00 Code Of Honor  
23:50 The Delta Force

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

00:50 Whale Wars  
01:45 North Woods Law  
02:40 Intruders  
03:35 Growing Up... Cheetahs  
04:25 Whale Wars  
05:15 North Woods Law  
06:02 Mekong: Soul Of A River  
06:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
07:36 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
08:00 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
08:25 The Lion Queen  
09:15 Animal Cops Houston  
10:10 Whale Wars  
11:05 North Woods Law  
12:00 Mekong: Soul Of A River  
12:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
13:50 Growing Up... Cheetahs  
14:45 Animal Precinct  
15:40 North Woods Law  
16:35 Intruders  
17:30 The Lion Queen  
18:25 Animal Cops Houston  
19:20 Growing Up Clouded Leopard  
20:15 Vet Gone Wild  
21:10 Stars To The Rescue  
22:05 Mekong: Soul Of A River  
23:00 Intruders  
23:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees

**BBC FIRST**

00:15 Mum  
00:45 Friday Night Dinner  
01:10 Friday Night Dinner  
01:35 Holby City  
02:30 Doctors  
03:00 Doctors  
03:30 Father Brown  
04:20 Death In Paradise  
05:15 Carters Get Rich  
05:35 Carters Get Rich  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Holby City  
07:55 Casualty  
08:50 Father Brown  
09:35 Death In Paradise  
10:30 Casualty  
11:25 Casualty  
12:15 Holby City  
13:15 Father Brown  
14:05 Death In Paradise  
15:00 Casualty  
16:00 Doctors  
16:30 Doctors  
17:00 Doctors  
17:30 Doctors  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
19:20 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
20:10 Line Of Duty  
21:15 Ordeal By Innocence  
22:10 The Last Post  
23:10 Father Brown

**crime & investigation network**

00:00 Homicide Hunter  
01:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill

02:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
02:55 The Killing Season  
03:50 The First 48  
04:45 Cold Case Files  
05:30 Homicide Hunter  
06:15 Crimes That Shook Australia  
07:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
08:00 It Takes A Killer  
08:20 The First 48  
09:05 Cold Case Files  
09:50 Homicide Hunter  
10:35 Crimes That Shook Australia  
11:30 Crimes That Shook Australia  
12:25 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
13:20 Cold Case Files  
14:16 Evil Up Close  
15:10 It Takes A Killer  
15:40 It Takes A Killer  
16:05 The First 48  
17:00 Homicide Hunter  
18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
19:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars  
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
22:00 It Takes A Killer

**COMEDY CENTRAL**

00:05 Tosh.0  
00:30 Key And Peele  
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
01:20 Another Period  
01:45 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
02:10 Tosh.0  
02:35 Key And Peele  
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
03:25 Tosh.0  
03:50 Tosh.0  
04:15 Sweat Inc.  
05:05 House Of Food  
05:55 Ridiculousness  
06:20 Ridiculousness  
06:45 Ridiculousness  
07:10 Lip Sync Battle UK  
07:35 Lip Sync Battle UK  
08:00 Lip Sync Battle  
08:25 Lip Sync Battle  
08:50 Sweat Inc.  
09:40 Detroiters  
10:05 Detroiters  
10:30 Detroiters  
10:55 Lip Sync Battle  
11:20 Lip Sync Battle  
11:45 Key And Peele  
13:00 Kroll Show  
13:25 Kroll Show  
13:50 Workaholics  
14:15 Workaholics  
14:40 Detroiters  
15:55 Impractical Jokers  
17:10 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
18:25 Lip Sync Battle  
18:50 Lip Sync Battle  
19:15 Friends  
20:35 Corporate  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Norm Macdonald: Me Doing Stand-Up  
22:25 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
22:50 Tosh.0  
23:15 Tosh.0  
23:40 Deon Cole: Cole-Blooded Seminar

**Discovery Family**

00:30 NASA's Unexplained Files  
01:20 How It's Made  
01:45 How It's Made  
02:10 My Cat From Hell  
03:00 Tanked  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 Weather Gone Viral  
05:30 NASA's Unexplained Files  
06:20 How It's Made  
06:40 How It's Made  
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
07:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
07:50 My Cat From Hell  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 Tanked  
10:20 Ultimate Survival  
11:10 Destroyed In Seconds

11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
12:00 Rip Off Food  
12:50 Weather Gone Viral  
13:40 NASA's Unexplained Files  
14:30 How It's Made  
14:55 How It's Made  
15:20 My Cat From Hell  
16:10 Country House Rescue  
17:00 My Cat From Hell  
17:50 Tanked  
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
19:30 Ultimate Ninja Challenge  
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect  
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect  
21:10 How It's Made  
21:35 How It's Made  
22:00 Country House Rescue  
22:50 Ultimate Survival  
23:40 Ultimate Ninja Challenge

**ID INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY**

00:50 Sugar Town  
01:45 Sugar Town  
02:40 Evil Stepmothers  
03:35 Broken Trust  
04:30 The Perfect Murder  
05:25 The Perfect Suspect  
06:20 Betrayed  
07:10 I Almost Got Away With It  
08:00 California Investigator  
08:25 Evil Talks: Chilling Confessions  
09:15 Disappeared  
10:10 Murder Calls  
11:05 Betrayed  
12:00 Bride Killa  
12:55 Evil Talks: Chilling Confessions  
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
14:45 The Perfect Suspect  
15:40 Betrayed  
16:35 The Perfect Murder  
17:30 Evil Talks: Chilling Confessions  
18:25 Disappeared  
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
20:15 The Perfect Suspect  
21:10 Betrayed  
22:05 The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade  
23:00 The Devil Speaks  
23:55 Let's Kill Mom

**Disney HD**

00:10 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
00:35 Binny And The Ghost  
01:00 Hank Zipzer  
01:25 Alex & Co.  
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
02:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:40 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:05 Binny And The Ghost  
03:30 Binny And The Ghost  
03:55 Hank Zipzer  
04:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
04:20 Hank Zipzer  
04:45 Alex & Co.  
05:10 Alex & Co.  
05:35 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
06:00 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
06:25 Binny And The Ghost  
06:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks  
07:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
07:25 Raven's Home  
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
07:55 Tangled: The Series  
08:20 Bunk'd  
08:45 K.C. Undercover  
09:10 Bizaardvark  
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
10:25 Tangled: The Series  
10:50 Tangled: The Series  
11:15 Bizaardvark

11:40 Bizaardvark  
12:05 Liv And Maddie  
12:30 Liv And Maddie  
12:55 K.C. Undercover  
13:20 K.C. Undercover  
13:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
15:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
15:15 Bunk'd  
15:40 K.C. Undercover  
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
16:10 A.N.T. Farm  
16:35 Bizaardvark  
17:00 Tangled: The Series  
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
17:50 Raven's Home  
18:15 Stuck In The Middle  
18:40 Bunk'd  
19:05 K.C. Undercover  
19:30 Bizaardvark  
19:55 Descendants Wicked World  
20:00 Raven's Home  
20:25 Liv And Maddie  
20:50 K.C. Undercover  
21:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:20 A.N.T. Farm  
21:45 Bizaardvark  
22:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
22:35 Stuck In The Middle  
23:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
23:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
23:50 Lolirock

**Disney Junior**

00:15 The Lion Guard  
00:45 Sofia The First  
01:10 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
01:15 Zou  
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:00 PJ Masks  
02:25 PJ Masks  
02:50 The Hive  
03:00 Zou  
03:15 Zou  
03:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:20 The Hive  
04:30 The Hive  
04:40 Zou  
04:55 Zou  
05:10 Zou  
05:25 The Hive  
05:35 The Hive  
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:15 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
06:35 The Hive  
06:45 PJ Masks  
07:00 PJ Masks  
07:15 PJ Masks  
07:30 PJ Masks  
08:00 Disney Muppet Babies  
08:20 Puppy Dog Pals  
08:35 PJ Masks  
08:55 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
09:10 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
09:29 Vampirina  
09:45 Vampirina  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:30 Elena Of Avalor  
11:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
11:20 Puppy Dog Pals  
11:40 Puppy Dog Pals  
12:00 Disney Muppet Babies  
12:20 Paprika  
12:30 Paprika  
12:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:40 PJ Masks  
14:00 PJ Masks  
14:20 PJ Masks  
14:40 Paprika  
14:50 Paprika  
15:00 Claude  
15:20 Claude  
15:40 Trulli Tales  
15:55 Trulli Tales  
16:10 Paprika  
16:20 Paprika  
16:30 Vampirina

16:50 Vampirina  
17:05 Vampirina  
17:25 Disney Muppet Babies  
17:40 Paprika  
17:50 Paprika  
18:00 Claude Shorts  
18:25 Chip And Dale's Nutty Tales  
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
18:45 Puppy Dog Pals  
19:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
19:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
19:31 Vampirina  
19:45 Vampirina  
20:00 PJ Masks  
20:15 PJ Masks  
20:30 The Lion Guard  
21:00 Sofia The First  
21:25 Chip And Dale's Nutty Tales  
21:30 Elena Of Avalor  
22:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
22:15 Puppy Dog Pals  
22:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
22:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
23:01 Vampirina  
23:20 Vampirina  
23:40 PJ Masks  
23:55 PJ Masks

**Discovery CHANNEL HD**

00:15 Misfit Garage  
01:05 Cooper's Treasure  
01:50 Bear vs Shark  
02:35 Virus: Invisible Killers  
03:20 Misfit Garage  
04:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
04:50 Deadliest Catch  
05:35 Storage Hunters UK  
06:00 The Liquidator  
06:23 Beetle Crisis  
06:45 Storage Hunters UK  
07:10 How Do They Do It?  
07:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
08:20 The Liquidator  
08:45 Beetle Crisis  
09:10 Dirty Jobs  
09:55 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
10:45 Dirty Jobs  
11:30 Misfit Garage  
12:20 The Liquidator  
12:43 Beetle Crisis  
13:05 Storage Hunters UK  
13:30 How Do They Do It?  
13:55 Dirty Jobs  
14:40 Misfit Garage  
15:30 Cooper's Treasure  
16:15 Bear vs Shark  
17:05 Virus: Invisible Killers  
17:50 Abandoned Engineering  
18:40 Sinking Cities  
19:25 Misfit Garage  
20:15 Misfit Garage  
21:00 Diesel Brothers  
21:50 Trans Am  
22:40 Street Outlaws  
23:30 Gold Rush

**XD**

00:15 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
00:35 Boyster  
01:00 Boyster  
01:25 Counterfeit Cat  
01:45 Counterfeit Cat  
02:10 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
02:35 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
03:00 Boyster  
03:20 Boyster  
03:45 Dude That's My Ghost  
04:10 Dude That's My Ghost  
04:35 Counterfeit Cat  
05:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
05:29 Marvel's Avengers Assemble  
06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
06:29 Big Hero 6 The Series  
07:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
07:29 Big City Greens  
08:00 Furiki Wheels  
08:15 Furiki Wheels  
08:29 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
09:00 Phineas And Ferb  
09:29 Phineas And Ferb  
10:00 Randy Cunningham: 9th

Grade Ninja  
10:29 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
11:00 Counterfeit Cat  
11:29 Boyster  
12:00 Lab Rats  
12:29 Lab Rats  
13:00 Phineas And Ferb  
13:29 Furiki Wheels  
14:00 Disney 11  
14:29 Gravity Falls  
15:00 DuckTales  
15:29 Furiki Wheels  
15:45 Furiki Wheels  
16:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
16:29 Supa Strikas  
17:00 Big City Greens  
17:29 Big Hero 6 The Series  
18:00 Disney 11  
18:29 Lab Rats  
19:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
19:29 Kickin' It  
20:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
20:29 Milo Murphy's Law  
21:00 Furiki Wheels  
21:15 Furiki Wheels  
21:29 Star Wars Rebels  
22:00 Phineas And Ferb  
22:15 Furiki Wheels  
22:30 Big City Greens  
22:45 Phineas And Ferb  
23:00 Dude That's My Ghost  
23:25 Dude That's My Ghost  
23:50 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja

**E! HD**

00:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
00:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 Botched  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 Second Wives Club  
06:55 E! News Middle East  
07:10 Second Wives Club  
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop  
09:10 Botched  
12:00 E! News Middle East  
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
13:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:00 E! News Middle East  
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Very Cavallari  
21:00 Very Cavallari  
22:00 Very Cavallari  
23:00 E! News Middle East  
23:15 Model Squad

**itv CHOICE**

00:10 Alphabetical  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Don't Tell The Bride  
03:25 This Time Next Year  
04:20 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets  
05:15 Alphabetical  
06:15 Guess This House  
07:10 Don't Tell The Bride  
08:05 This Time Next Year  
09:00 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets  
09:55 Alphabetical  
10:55 Guess This House  
11:50 Don't Tell The Bride  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Emmerdale  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 Guess This House  
15:10 Don't Tell The Bride  
16:00 The Voice Kids 2017  
17:15 The Voice Kids 2017  
18:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:15 Emmerdale  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 Don't Tell The Bride  
21:00 The Voice Kids 2017  
22:20 The Voice Kids 2017



Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You seem to work best today when exchanging ideas with others. You may find yourself in a group who is able to throw ideas back and forth until problems are conquered and much progress is made. This is an ideal situation for you today. You may find this to be an extremely productive day in the workplace. Later this even you may find you have a deep desire to connect with friends, neighbors, and love ones. Great connections can be made, and fences can be mended with little effort. You exude a sincerity to those you love and are met with open arms, Aries. This is a time of grace and happiness in your world.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Are you happy? If not ask yourself what is missing. What needs to change to bring happiness into your world? Make a plan and set the wheels in motion. There comes a time we all need to assess our situation and make necessary changes. This is a great time for you to do some soul-searching. Make sure your feet are planted firmly on the ground. Reach out to those you respect the most and surround yourself with those who possess the wisdom and knowledge necessary to point you in the right direction. Set your goals and make it happen. There is no time like the present.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are one of a kind. Relationships take on greater meaning in your life. You want everything in your world in its place and everything running smoothly. One thing out of place will cause stress and tension in for you. You have a talent for bringing those around you into harmony and this makes you a wonderful leader. You are placing great focus on your marriage or a close relationship with someone dear to you. This is a great move and will result in a strong bond you have been craving. Gemini, all is well in your world and the steps you are taking will develop feed the deep roots needed for lasting love and support from many close to you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Bury the hatchet and let by gones be by gones. You crave peace and this is the path you must take to obtain just that. You have no room for tension in your life. It is a time you can work on being more sensitive to the needs of others. Keep your focus more on the wants of those around you rather than your own. To accomplish the peace you crave you will have to throw your selfishness out of the window. If a peaceful world is what you truly crave, you will have to create it.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You seem to be experiencing a time of great curiosity. You may be focused on the why's and how's of the world. You want answers to not only the direction your life is headed buy also what exactly the future holds for you. This may be a very spiritual time in your life. Education takes priority and you may be feeling a desire to travel and see more of what the world has to offer. You desire to get to know those closest to you on a much more intimate level. Leo, keep your focus on knowledge and experiencing all the world has to offer you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are ambitious, secure and responsible. All these qualities seem to combine to help you excel in any area you apply yourself. You are strong willed and have a desire to conquer the world and all that comes your way. You are taking time to reflect on any of your past short comings . This time of reflection is a guiding light for you now and will prevent you from repeating any of your past mistakes. Knowledge is power and the wisdom you have gained from past experience has you on the right track. You may feel as though you are on this journey alone. Not much support is felt from your peers. Do not worry. You will find this to be a very profitable time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Keep the faith. You may find keeping a positive and optimistic attitude may help you achieve your goals. A desire to broaden your horizons is great. Daydreams and visions of a new life seem to flood your mind. New surroundings may strongly appeal to you now. This may include who you choose to spend your time with or where you choose to spend it. The feeling that you are missing out on all this world has to offer seems to strongly weigh on you. Decide what you want, Libra. You have the power to make it happen.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Just because something seems easy doesn't mean it is right. Taking the easy way out can lead to trouble. Not feeling right about the path before you, you may choose the long way around to accomplish your goals. This is a great time in your life to work with others. You may find you are chosen as just the right person to lead a new project at work. Not only are you highly organized, your directional abilities are great. You may be offered a new position or asked to lead a project. Your confidence levels are high now and for good reason.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You seem to be experiencing a time of great curiosity. You may be focused on the why's and how's of the world. You want answers to not only the direction your life is headed buy also what exactly the future holds for you. This may be a very spiritual time in your life. Education takes priority and you may be feeling a desire to travel and see more of what the world has to offer. You desire to get to know those closest to you on a much more intimate level. Sagittarius, keep your focus on knowledge and experiencing all the world has to offer you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Kindness is contagious. Pay it forward. When you are happy, everyone around you is happy. They say you become what you surround yourself with. In your case you have chosen to keep only like-minded positive individuals in your world. Your circle may be small, but quality is much preferred over quantity any day. Others will be drawn to you today. Share your wealth and wisdom freely. You may have just the words to help someone who is going through a rough time, Capricorn. Be an inspiration to someone today.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Today finds you all about "YOU"! Your hard work and dedication seem to have finally paid off and you are on top of the world. You are admired by your peers and it seems as if the world is raining sunshine directly on you. You are on fire and seem to find sharing the spotlight with others and showering them with kindness, appreciation, and gratitude is extremely rewarding to you. You want to share this feeling and make sure others around you feel your gratitude and love. You feel as if you want everyone to feel this feeling. You are full of love of life and love of those all around you. A sense of pride and accomplish will fill your world for days to come.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is your time to shine. You are full of pride and proud of your accomplishments. You are being noticed in the workplace and have been excelling at your job. You are very observant of the feelings of those around you and are able to make them feel good about themselves. You feel much support from your peers and family. Everything in your world is beginning to feel healthy and come natural. You begin to feel as if something doesn't come from the heart it is irrelevant in your world. You surround yourself with people you feel are real and true friends. This is a great time for you and others begin to admire you not only for your accomplishments that the way you make them feel about themselves.

Country Codes

Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antiga	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Nigar	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	00595
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676



## Health

## After setback, US carbon tax push looks East

**SEATTLE:** Washington state voters have turned down what would have been the first US carbon tax - but "carbon pricing" efforts are expected to push on in 2019, with nearly a dozen largely eastern states considering legislative proposals, experts say.

Lawmakers in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont aim to introduce carbon pricing legislation, including carbon taxes and market-based carbon cap-and-trade measures, said Michael Green with Boston-based carbon pricing think tank Climate XChange.

The rejection of the Washington ballot initiative in mid-term elections this week "shifts the limelight to legislative approaches," he said. Also, "California, Washington, Oregon and British Columbia have dominated" the issue, Green said. "It's going to be the East Coast's turn to make it happen and lead on climate."

Putting a pricetag on greenhouse gas

emissions is considered crucial to stemming global climate change as it factors damage from climate change into economic decision making, including by businesses, economic experts say.

In Washington, the Carbon Emissions Fee and Revenue Allocation Initiative would have imposed a \$15 fee on each metric ton of carbon emissions, rising \$2 a year until the state's 2035 emissions target is met.

While backers had not yet conceded defeat as of late Wednesday, the "no" votes were leading with more than 56 percent.

The initiative's defeat came after Washington voters turned down a similar proposal in 2016 and the state legislature failed to pass a carbon tax in the 2018 legislative session despite having a Democratic majority and a governor who strongly favors climate action. Voters in Portland, Ore., did approve a business tax to fund renewable energy on Tuesday. But some carbon pricing advocates think state legislatures now represent a better

path forward.

Green said he believes carbon pricing will have more success if leaders take a multi-state approach. For example, proposed legislation in Rhode Island and Connecticut contains "trigger" clauses that would enact carbon pricing only if their larger neighbors in Massachusetts and New York, respectively, adopt such policies.

This strategy builds on the existing regional cap-and-trade system for electricity in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. Massachusetts Republican Governor Charlie Baker, who was re-elected Tuesday, expressed support for a regional carbon tax during a gubernatorial debate on November 1. But legislative groups believe that Washington state's multiple unsuccessful attempts at a carbon tax advanced the issue nationally.

"Despite the setback of the Washington ballot initiative failing, the progress made from this fight cannot be overlooked," said Jeff Mauk, executive director of the National

Caucus of Environmental Legislators.

"Washington was the first state to progress a carbon price to the Senate floor," he said, and a "strong and diverse coalition" of backers formed around the latest ballot initiative. Mauk pointed to the likelihood of a "cap-and-invest" bill being introduced in Oregon's next legislative session, and the potential for action in New Mexico, a state that has previously studied carbon pricing.

Progressive legislators are also pledging to continue pushing for carbon pricing in Washington, though this week's defeat suggests there may be less immediate momentum.

Carbon pricing advocates pointed to the continuing financial power of Big Oil, which funded the successful opposition campaign to Washington's carbon tax with more than \$30 million spent on negative ads. The industry also successfully opposed a ballot initiative in Colorado calling for greater distances between oil and gas drilling and public spaces. — Reuters

CLINIC  
PAGE

Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

### 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  
Laparoscopic 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: wbuhaimeed@gmail.com Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228

Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building



### Dr. Husain Alenezi

- Board Certified Urologist.
- Endourology Society-Approved Fellowship In Endourology And Robotic Surgery At Western University, Ontario, Canada.

#### Expert in diagnosing and treating:

- 1- Urinary Stones (Kidney, Ureter & Bladder) By Endoscopy & Laser
- 2- Prostate Cancer And Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- 3- Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms In Males And Females
- 4- Tumors And Malignancies Of The Urinary Tract (Kidney, Adrenals, Ureter, Bladder And Testes)
- 5- Male Factor Infertility And Varicoceles (Microscopic Surgery)
- 6- Erectile Dysfunction

Contact Taiba Hospital: 1808088

94449452

Twitter: @DrHusain\_Urol

## To advertise on this Page



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102

or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617

or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com



# CLINIC PAGE



**Kuwait Times**  
248 33 199

**DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY**  
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology  
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.  
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada  
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

◆ Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics  
◆ Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty  
◆ Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery  
◆ Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)  
◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)  
◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery  
◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders.  
◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

**Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122**  
@Malhajry

**DR. FAHAD S. BUHAIMEED**  
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

**ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES:**

- ◆ Dermatology board certified.
- ◆ Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- ◆ Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- ◆ Reference reviewer of International journal of Dermatology.

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

- ◆ Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- ◆ Laser Treatments.
- ◆ Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- ◆ Body & Face Contouring.
- ◆ Injectable Fillers & Botox.

**BEAUTY & BEYOND**  
SHARL, Ahmad Alhajry (E.N.T.), Building 18, Floor 11.  
Tel: (+965) 22060777  
@DrBuhaimeed, @fahadsb, @fahadnabk  
Email: dr.fahadnabk@beautybeyond.com.kw  
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

**DR KHALED ALMERRI**  
Consultant interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

Telephone: 1830003 Ext: 2400  
alsalam.int.hospital

**Specialized in:**

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6-Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist

Telephone: 1830003  
alsalam.int.hospital

◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada  
◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery  
◆ 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 European 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.

**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 & Gastrosocopy
- ◆ 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. Ahmad Alaeddine**  
Head of Cardiology departmenta  
at Dar Al Shifa hospital

● Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.  
● Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

**daralshifa**  
Tele:1802 555

**IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC**  
American Board Certified in General Surgery  
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  
◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies  
◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)  
◆ Hernia repair  
◆ Surgery for reflux disease

◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)  
◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries  
◆ Breast surgeries  
◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries  
◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy  
◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant

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

**Global Medical Center Welcomes**  
**Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader**  
Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

**Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar**  
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.  
Telephone: 1871111  
@globalmedcenter  
www.globalmed-center.com



# Classifieds

Friday, November 9, 2018

Kuwait Times  
Established 1961



## Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171	FlyDubai	22414400
Jazeera Airways	177	Qatar Airways	22423888
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536	KLM	22425747
American Airlines	22087425	Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
	22087426	British Airways	22425635
Jet Airways	22924455	Air France	22430224

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

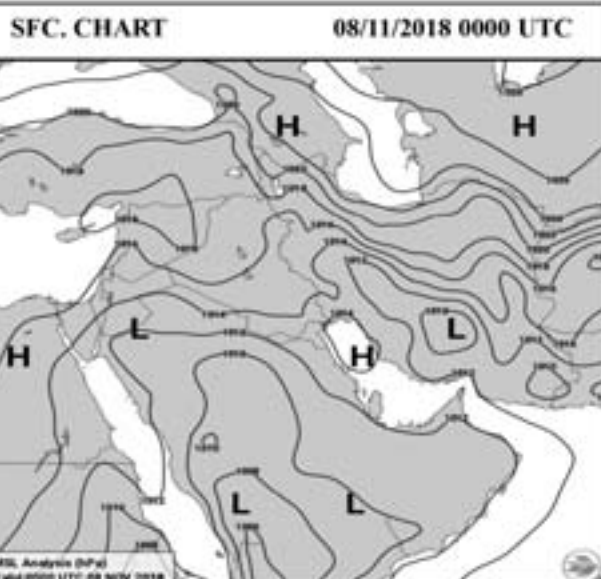
**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind to easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times north easterly wind to easterly wind, with speed of 18 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

#### WEATHER WARNING

Thunder Rain

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	27 °C	19 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28 °C	19 °C
ABDALY	29 °C	18 °C
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C
JAHERA	28 °C	19 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	20 °C
SALMIYAH	26 °C	20 °C
AHMADI	25 °C	20 °C
NUWAISIB	27 °C	19 °C
WAFRA	28 °C	18 °C
SALMY	27 °C	17 °C



#### 4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	11/09	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	27 °C	18 °C	SE	10 - 38 km/h
Saturday	11/10	Unstable with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	27 °C	18 °C	SE-S	20 - 45 km/h
Sunday	11/11	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	28 °C	19 °C	SE-NW	18 - 45 km/h
Monday	11/12	Fair and Partly cloudy	26 °C	16 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h

#### PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:45
Sunrise	06:06
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:36
Sunset	16:57
Isha	18:16

#### RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	26 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	58 %
MAX. Wind	NE 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

#### ACCOMMODATION

Sharing Accommodation available for decent Indian Christian bachelor or spinster, near Salmiya Garden. Contact: 66195097. (C 5432) 9-11-2018

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya

block 1, near gulfmart. Available 25 of November, Contact 94418396 or 69972330

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

## 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



## Business

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

38

Perry: US-Poland LNG deal to ease EU reliance on Russia



39

EU says eurozone growth to slow amid risks from US, Italy, Brexit



41

China Oct exports surprisingly strong in race to beat US tariffs



# Tesla names board chair to replace Musk

## Australian telecoms executive Denholm steps in as Musk leaves



SHANGHAI: Visitors look at a Model S-car of electric-carmaker Tesla Motors at the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai on Tuesday. — AFP

**NEW YORK:** Electric car pioneer Tesla yesterday named an Australian telecoms executive to chair its board of directors, after the controversial Elon Musk was forced by US authorities to step back from the role.

The appointment of Robyn Denholm, chief financial officer with Telstra and already a Tesla board member, is effective immediately but she will serve out her six-month notice period with the Australian company, Tesla said in a statement.

Musk had to resign as Tesla chairman under a September arrangement with US regulators to settle fraud charges stemming from a tweet in which he said he planned to take the firm private and had financing to do it. Under that settlement he and Tesla each had to pay a \$20 million fine but Musk was allowed to stay on as chief executive. He

will help ease the 55-year-old Denholm's transition, Tesla said. "To ensure a smooth transition during the remainder of Robyn's time at Telstra, Elon will be a resource to Robyn and provide any support that she requests in her role as chair," the electric car maker said.

Musk praised Denholm's input in her time on Tesla's board. "Robyn has extensive experience in both the tech and auto industries, and she has made significant contributions as a Tesla board member over the past four years in helping us become a profitable company," he said in the Tesla statement. "I look forward to working even more closely with Robyn as we continue accelerating the advent of sustainable energy," Musk added. Denholm said: "I believe in this company, I believe in its mission and I look forward to helping Elon and the Tesla team achieve sustain-

able profitability and drive long-term shareholder value."

### Colorful tweets

Musk was forced to resign as chairman after the US Securities and Exchange Commission charged him with securities fraud, alleging that he misled investors when he tweeted on August 7 that he had "funding secured" to delist Tesla at \$420 a share, a substantial premium over its share price at the time. The tweet was one of a number of issues that raised questions about the billionaire entrepreneur's aptness to lead Tesla. Days after settling with the SEC, Musk mocked the agency, in another tweet that labelled the agency the "Shortseller Enrichment Commission". That alluded to shortsellers, investors who have bet that Tesla shares will fall and who are frequently the subject of

Musk's derision.

The tycoon was the subject of controversy when he smoked a joint during a September podcast interview in California and discussed the end of the universe. Denholm has been chief financial officer and head of strategy at Telstra, Australia's former telephone monopoly, since the start of October. For 18 months prior to that she was Telstra's chief operations officer, and previously held senior roles at networking equipment company Juniper Networks. Telstra chief executive Andy Penn said: "We are sorry to see Robyn leave Telstra. We know that it has become increasingly difficult to balance her responsibilities as Telstra CFO with the increased activity of the Tesla board." In premarket trade on the Nasdaq exchange yesterday, Tesla's share price was up 0.24 percent at \$349.00. On



Robyn Denholm

October 24, Tesla reported a "historic" profitable quarter driven by demand for its Model 3 car aimed at the mass market. But the company remains burdened by billions in debt. — AFP



## Business

# Perry: US-Poland LNG deal to ease EU reliance on Russia

## Warsaw looks to diversify its gas supplies

**WARSAW:** Washington's energy secretary yesterday hailed a 24-year deal to deliver US liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Poland as signal for Europe on ensuring energy security and easing dependence on Russian supplies. The deal, the second multi-decade agreement with a US firm signed in two months, comes as Warsaw looks to diversify its gas supplies in an effort to wean itself off its heavy reliance on Russia amid tensions with Moscow.

"This is a signal across Europe that this is how your energy future can be developed, the security of the country, the diversity of supply—this is a great day for Europe," US energy secretary Rick Perry said at a signing ceremony in Warsaw with Polish President Andrzej Duda.

Poland, which currently sources about two-thirds of its gas from Kremlin-backed Russian energy giant Gazprom, is also eyeing imports from Norway and Qatar. State-run gas firm PGNiG said it had sealed a two-tranche 24-year deal for LNG deliveries from the Texas-based Cheniere Marketing International, amounting to a total of 40.95 billion cubic meters of natural gas after regasification.

"This deal will provide Poland with energy security," said Duda, adding that the agreement reflects "a real transatlantic partnership." The

deal with the US firm is due to take effect in 2019, three years before Warsaw's current contract with Gazprom for 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year is set to end.

### Anti-trust complaints

PGNiG CEO Piotr Wozniak said the terms of the deal including "a competitive price, are fully satisfactory" although no value for the contract was provided in a statement, adding two further deals were planned. "We want to build a full supply portfolio," he said.

PGNiG struck a similar 20-year deal in October with the US-based Venture Global LNG for delivery of up to two million tons of liquefied natural gas per year. Poland in October filed a complaint with the EU's top court against a controversial deal by the European Commission to settle an anti-trust case against Gazprom. This allowed Gazprom to avoid billions in fines after eight eastern EU members including Poland claimed the Russian giant had abused its dominant position as a gas provider in their region.

The settlement with the EU came after Gazprom agreed to benchmark prices in eastern Europe against prices in the rest of Europe, and to drop clauses restricting the re-export of gas by clients. —AFP



**WARSAW:** Anatol Feygin (left), vice-President of Cheniere Energy, and the CEO of Polish oil and gas company PGNiG Piotr Wozniak (right) smile after signing a 24-year US deal to deliver liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Poland as (standing left to right) US ambassador to Poland Georgette Mosbacher, US Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Polish President Andrzej Duda and Poland's Energy Minister Krzysztof Tchorewski applaud, yesterday in Warsaw. —AFP

## Greece's 'red gold': Saffron trade blooms in wilted economy

**KROKOS, Greece:** Every autumn, Zisis Kyrou is more often found plucking flowers in northern Greece's purple saffron fields than in his office as a civil engineer. Saffron — the spice so expensive it's called "red gold" — has brought jobs and money to a region better known for coal mines and unemployment. A year ago, its producers began exporting to the United States. Now they're looking to China.

Most are young Greeks who were shut out of the job market during Greece's nine-year economic downturn. They returned to the countryside to make a living off the land.

"It was hard to find work in your field during the crisis, particularly in civil engineering, because there was no construction," said Kyrou, 34, as he harvested with pollen-stained hands.

In 2012, he returned to Greece from London with two university degrees. He eventually opened an engineering office in his village of Krokos, but most of his income comes from his four acres of land, which he hopes to increase. "I didn't imagine I'd return," he said. "But it was a decision I don't regret."

Greeks have been cultivating saffron for three centuries in the countryside surrounding Krokos, which takes its name from *Crocus*, the saffron flower. Alexander the Great is said to

have used it to heal battle wounds.

But until 2000, production was limited to 30 kg a year for domestic consumption, said Nikos Patsiouras, who heads Greece's Cooperative of Saffron. That changed in 2008, when the crisis hit. Greece now produces about four tonnes a year, 70 percent of which goes abroad. The Cooperative has doubled its members from 494 to 1,000. It also has increased its land from 592 acres in 2008 to 1,349 acres.

"A lot of young people found work in the fields — scientists," Patsiouras said. "I believe more will join."

Signs of the crisis are visible across Krokos, where shuttered shops line the streets. Unemployment in northwestern Greece is 23.5 percent, three points higher than the national average. But the fields are abuzz. "We have God on our side, who gave us such a unique product," Patsiouras said. "We hold on to it like the apple of our eye."

Saffron grows only in this region of Greece. Marketed as Krokos Kozanis, one gram costs about four euros in Greek shops.

It takes 150,000 flowers to make a kilo of the spice, which sells for about 1,500 euros. Flowers are handpicked, and at the cooperative women in blue overall weigh and package it. They are forbidden to wear make-up and perfume, to protect its flavor. Iran is by far the world's biggest saffron producer, but demand for the Greek variety is rising, Patsiouras said. Greece is in talks with China for exports in 2019. —Reuters

## UBS eyes new legal battle in US over subprime crisis

**ZURICH:** Swiss banking giant UBS said yesterday that it was bracing for another legal battle in the US over sales of mortgage-backed securities in the run-up to the financial crisis a decade ago. The bank said it had been advised that the US Department of Justice "intends to file a civil complaint as early as November 8, 2018."

"UBS anticipates that the complaint will seek unspecified monetary civil penalties" over transactions that date back to 2006 and 2007, it said in a statement. The bank insisted Thursday that the new US authorities' claims against it were "not supported by the facts or the law", and said it would contest any complaint "vigorously".

"UBS is confident in its legal position and has been fully prepared for some time to defend itself in court," it said.

Subprime mortgages — which are risky but classified as safe investments by credit ratings agencies — were at the heart of the 2007-2008 financial crisis that devastated communities around the world and brought a number of banking giants to their knees. US authorities have opened a number of cases



A logo of Swiss giant banking UBS is seen in Zurich. —AFP

against banks they accuse of intentionally converting "toxic" mortgages into seemingly safe financial products in the years leading up to the crisis. A number of banks have been slapped with heavy penalties, including UBS's compatriot Credit Suisse, which last year settled its case for a whopping \$5.28 billion.

UBS insisted yesterday that it was not a major player in US residential mortgages at the time the housing market crumbled. "This fact alone negates any inference that UBS engaged in an intentional fraud," it said. Earlier this year, UBS was among several large banks to settle a case over sales of subprime mortgages with the New York Attorney General, with the Swiss bank agreeing to dish out \$230 million in that case. —AFP



## Business

Friday, November 9, 2018

# EU says eurozone growth to slow amid risks from US, Italy, Brexit

## Italy, Britain remain worst performers in EU

**BRUSSELS:** Eurozone growth is expected to slow in the coming years as the bloc faces risks from US economic policies, Britain's unclear divorce terms from the EU and free-spending plans in high-debt members, like Italy, the EU Commission said.

In its quarterly economic forecasts released yesterday, the EU executive revised down its growth estimates for the euro zone next year and predicted a protracted slowdown until 2020, the last year for which forecasts are available. The revision, although expected, might complicate the European Central Bank's plans to wind down its stimulus program this year, but in more positive news for the ECB the Commission forecast higher inflation of 1.8 percent this year and next in the bloc. The ECB targets a rate close to 2 percent.

Under the forecasts, the eurozone will grow 2.1 percent this year after a 2.4 percent expansion in 2017. The slowdown will continue next year when growth is expected at 1.9 percent, slightly below the previous estimate of 2.0 percent. Although all eurozone states are expected to continue growing, in 2020 the bloc's economy will further reduce the pace of its expansion to 1.7 percent, the Commission said in its first estimates for that year.

Germany, the bloc's largest economy, is expected to expand by 1.7 percent this year after 2.2 percent growth in 2017, the Commission said, revising down its earlier estimate of 1.9 percent. Next year German growth will be 1.8

percent instead of 1.9 percent. It will go back to 1.7 percent in 2020.

Growth forecasts were revised down also for France and Italy, the second- and third-largest economies in the euro zone, with Italy remaining the worst performer in the common currency area, with forecast growth of just 1.1 percent this year, 1.2 percent next year and 1.3 percent in 2020. Italy's weak growth is partially matched only by Britain, which is not a member of the euro zone and will leave the EU in March. The British economy is estimated to expand by 1.3 percent this year and by 1.2 percent next, in line with previous forecasts. In 2020 growth is expected to remain at 1.2 percent.

### Risks

Projections on British growth are based on "a purely technical assumption" given the uncertain outcome of the Brexit negotiations, the Commission said. The EU overall is forecast to grow 2.1 percent this year, 1.9 percent next, and 1.8 percent in 2020. Brexit is one of the risks for the eurozone and the EU economy that could worsen the forecasts. The other main sources of uncertainties come from the United States and Italy, according to the Commission's analysis.

"The balance of risks to the growth outlook is clearly tilted to the downside," economic affairs commissioner Pierre Moscovici told a news conference saying that negative effects from external and domestic risks "cast shad-



MAUBEUGE: French President Emmanuel Macron (left) listens to Renault CEO Carlos Ghosn during a visit of the Renault factory in Maubeuge northeastern France yesterday. —AFP

ows" on the European economy.

Overheating of the US economy fuelled by "pro-cyclical fiscal stimulus" could lead to interest rates rising faster than expected, which would have numerous negative "spillover effects" beyond the United States, the Commission said, also warning of risks from trade tensions caused by the policies of the Trump administration and China's large exports to the United States.

The other risk is Italy, whose eurosceptic

government is pursuing free-spending policies despite its high debt, which is estimated to remain stable at around 130 percent of gross domestic product until 2020, instead of significantly decreasing as required by EU fiscal rules. "Doubts about the quality and sustainability of public finances in highly indebted Member States could spill over to domestic banking sectors, raising financial stability concerns and weighing on economic activity," the Commission said. —Reuters

## IMF fears possible Italy 'contagion' to weaker EU economies

**COPENHAGEN:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said yesterday it feared the consequences of a possible "contagion" of Italy's economic woes to European countries with "weaker macroeconomic fundamentals." Noting the "four-year high" in Italian sovereign bond yields, the IMF said "spillovers to other markets have been fairly contained."

"But there is appreciable uncertainty, and contagion from future stress could be notable, especially for economies with weaker macroeconomic fundamentals and limited policy buffers," the IMF said in its autumn forecast for Europe. Italy is under massive pressure since the European Commission on October 23 rejected its 2019 budget in a historic move, giving the ruling populist coalition in Rome until November 13 to present changes. Failing that, Brussels could put Italy into something called the "excess deficit procedure", a complicated process that could eventually lead to a fine of 0.2 percent of the country's GDP.

The Italian government—a coalition of the far-right League and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement—plans to run a public deficit of 2.4 percent of GDP, three times the target of its centre-left predecessor. The coalition's 2019 budget is based on an estimate of annual growth



SINGAPORE: Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde speaks during the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore on Wednesday. —AFP

of 1.5 percent—a figure considered optimistic by the IMF, which has forecast only one percent, and the Commission, which expects 1.2 percent.

Italian leaders insist the low growth rate is all the more reason to kickstart the economy through a spending spree, but Brussels fears the rising deficit could further feed Italy's exploding debt. Italy already owes 2.3 trillion euros (\$2.6 trillion), a sum equivalent to 131 percent of its GDP. Even if Brussels fails to punish Rome, many assume the markets will. Italy, as well as Turkey the IMF noted, "should prioritize measures that reduce fiscal deficits toward their medium-term targets and lower debt." —AFP

## Mozambique says Eurobond restructuring a relief for budget

**MAPUTO:** Mozambique's agreement with the bulk of its creditors to restructure a \$726.5 million Eurobond has good terms and conditions and was "a relief for the budget", Finance Minister Adriano Maleiane said yesterday. Mozambique, which has missed several repayments, said on Tuesday it had struck an agreement with the bulk of its creditors to restructure the Eurobond, including extending maturities and sharing future revenue from offshore gas projects. Under the deal, Mozambique would issue a new \$900 million Eurobond maturing in 2033 with a coupon of 5.875 percent — just over half what the current outstanding bond was designed to pay in interest.

"It's a relief for the budget until the time we get additional revenue," Maleiane told a business conference in Maputo. Speaking to Reuters on the sidelines of the conference, the minister said: "The commercial terms we reached with the four mem-

bers of bondholders ...I think it's good terms and conditions."

The four creditors who had agreed in principle to the restructuring controlled around 60 percent of the 2023 bond. Support from creditors holding 75 percent of the bond will be needed to activate collective action clauses. Maleiane could not comment on whether he was confident he would get the support needed to seal the deal. "I can't say anything on behalf the fifth group, but I think they are now interacting and digesting the proposal and they will come up with something before or at the meeting we have to convene in the first quarter of 2019."

Maleiane also said Mozambique was still in discussion with creditors over a \$535 million loan to Mozambique Asset Management (MAM) and a \$622 million facility for ProIndicus, a state-owned maritime security company.

"We haven't reached any agreement on kind of instruments or timeframes," he said referring to talks over restructuring the two loans.

A group of syndicated loan members who lent money to ProIndicus were looking for a similar restructuring deal that has been agreed with Eurobond holders, a spokesman for the lenders said on Wednesday. Maleiane reiterated that it was a priority for markets to trust Mozambique, which has been battling to recover from a debt crisis, two years after it acknowledged \$1.4 billion of previously undisclosed lending. —Reuters



## Business

# Respect our choices, Xi tells Trump ahead of G20 meeting

## China, US holding strategic dialogue today in Washington

**BEIJING:** China wants to resolve problems with the United States through talks but it must respect China's choice of development path and interests, President Xi Jinping said yesterday ahead of a meeting with the US leader in Argentina.

China and the United States have put tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods and US President Donald Trump has threatened to set tariffs on the remainder of China's \$500 billion-plus exports to the United States if their blistering trade dispute cannot be resolved.

Trump's administration has also accused China of interfering in US politics, charges China strongly denies, and the two have sparred over the disputed South China Sea and self-ruled Taiwan, which China claims.

Still, Trump and Xi plan to meet on the sidelines of a G20 summit, which is being held in Argentina at the end of November and early December, for high-stakes talks as the two countries try tentatively to get ties back on track.

Meeting former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Beijing, Xi said he and Trump would have a "deep exchange of views" in Argentina, the official Xinhua news agency reported. China and the United States should correctly judge each other's strategic intentions, and while China wanted to resolve problems via talks, the United States should respect China's choice of development path and legitimate interests, Xi added.

Xi said attention should be paid to "the increase in negative voices related to China in the United States", without elaborating. Speaking

earlier, the Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, said Xi and Trump reached an important consensus on the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties in a telephone call last week. Their meeting at the G20 summit would be of "great significance" in resolving bilateral problems, Wang said. "That will be of great significance for both sides to manage differences effectively and resolve issues in a practical way," Wang told reporters.

Wang said China stood ready to work with the United States to remove disruptions, build trust and prepare fully for the meeting.

"We believe that meeting will help chart the course for China-US relations," he said, following talks with Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne. Wang added that the more complex the situation is, the more important it is for both sides to remain "level-headed".

### Xi-Trump call

Relations between the two countries have warmed since the Xi-Trump telephone call, laying the ground for their G20 meeting. In a further sign of improving ties, Chinese Politburo member Yang Jiechi and Defence Minister Wei Fenghe are set to hold a security and diplomatic dialogue with US officials in Washington today.

Meeting US national security adviser John Bolton in Washington ahead of those talks, Wang said on Wednesday that the two sides should "properly manage differences and carefully prepare to ensure positive results in the Argentina



SHANGHAI: Visitors sitting beside various national flags during the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. —AFP

meeting", China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"China is committed to working with the US to achieve a no-confrontational, conflict-free, mutually respectful co-operation in which both sides win," added Yang, who heads the ruling Communist Party's foreign affairs commission and outranks Wang.

However, speaking in Singapore at a forum on Wednesday, former US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said there was a risk of an economic "Iron

Curtain" falling between China and the United States unless China carried out reforms and that some people in the United States would like to "divorce" China.

Beijing can help avoid this happening by ending practices like forced technology transfers, and providing better protection for intellectual property, and by also genuinely allowing market forces to drive key decisions. "If China doesn't move quickly, I suspect the calls for divorce will intensify," Paulson said. —Reuters

## US government's borrowing binge poses global risks

**LONDON:** The US government's finances are on an unsustainable trajectory and are likely to worsen further after the mid-term elections, adding to the list of problems facing the global economy and oil markets in 2019/2020.

The US federal government's outlays exceeded its receipts by \$779 billion in Fiscal Year 2018, which ended on Sept. 30, according to the Congressional Budget Office ("Monthly budget review", CBO, Nov. 7). The budget deficit would have been even worse at \$823 billion if certain outlays had not been brought forward and recorded in the previous financial year because the first day of Fiscal 2018 fell on a weekend.

Even so, the deficit increased to 3.8 percent of gross domestic product, up from 3.5 percent the previous year, and the highest since Fiscal 2013, when the economy was still recovering from the global financial crisis.

Government receipts increased by just \$14 billion (less than 1 percent) while outlays rose by \$127 billion (around 3 percent), worsening the deficit by

\$113 billion compared with the previous year. Higher receipts from individual income taxes (+\$96 billion), payroll taxes (+\$9 billion) and customs duties (+\$7 billion) were mostly offset by lower collections from corporate income taxes (-\$92 billion) and fines (-\$7 billion).

Government outlays increased for net interest on the public debt (+\$62 billion), social security (+\$43 billion), defence (+\$38 billion), Medicare (+\$16 billion) and Medicaid (+\$14 billion). Increased government spending, especially on defence, has helped fuel the acceleration in economic growth ("A big reason US economy is accelerating: government spending", Wall Street Journal, Oct. 25). But the federal government's deteriorating financial position and increased borrowing needs are also driving up yields on Treasury securities affecting borrowing costs across the entire economy and worldwide. Yields on 10-year US Treasury notes have risen to more than 3.2 percent, more than double the recent low in 2016, and the highest since 2011. Tax cuts and increased spending at a relatively late point in the economic cycle have also encouraged the Federal Reserve to keep raising interest rates in order to hold inflationary pressure in check. The combination of fiscal stimulus and tightening monetary policy has caused the exchange rate to appreciate, worsening the trade deficit as exporters and import-competing firms lose competitiveness to foreign rivals. —Reuters

## Bombardier to cut 5,000 jobs in restructuring

**MONTREAL:** Canadian aerospace and transportation manufacturer Bombardier yesterday announced 5,000 global job cuts over the next year to 18 months in a bid to "streamline" the struggling firm.

The Montreal-based group also announced the sale of "non-core assets" totaling around \$900 million, including the Q Series aircraft program and the de Havilland trademark, which was sold for some \$300 million to a Canadian investment fund. The restructuring announcement came as the company reported net income of \$167 million in the third quarter, compared with a loss of \$11 million a year earlier.

Bombardier Alain Bellemare President and CEO said of the restructuring, "we continue to make solid progress executing our turnaround plan." "With today's announcements we have set in motion the next round of actions necessary to unleash the full potential of the Bombardier portfolio," he said in a statement, adding that the firm "will continue to be proactive in focusing and streamlining the organization."



QUEBEC: The new Bombardier aircraft C-Series is shown in Mirabel, Quebec. Canadian aerospace and transportation manufacturer Bombardier yesterday announced 5,000 global job cuts over the next year to 18 months in a bid to "streamline" the struggling firm. —AFP

Excluding one-off and one-time items, Bombardier posted a quarterly adjusted earnings of 4 cents a share, above the consensus of analysts who expected a gain of 2 cents.

The strong profit came despite a five percent drop in quarterly sales from the same period a year ago to \$3.6 billion. For the full year, Bombardier expects revenues of approximately \$16.5 billion, at the low end of its guidance range.

Unable to recover the balance, the Canadian aircraft manufacturer decided to give up control (50.01 percent) of its subsidiary dedicated to the C-Series aircraft, now known as the A220, to the European giant Airbus. The transaction was completed in July. —AFP



## Business

# China Oct exports surprisingly strong in race to beat US tariffs

## Total trade surplus at \$34.02bn vs Sept surplus of \$31.69bn

**BEIJING:** China reported much stronger-than-expected exports for October as shippers rushed goods to the United States, its biggest trading partner, racing to beat higher tariff rates due to kick in at the start of next year.

Import growth also defied forecasts for a slow-down, suggesting Beijing's growth-boosting measures to support the cooling economy may be slowly starting to make themselves felt.

The upbeat trade readings from China offer good news for both those worried about global demand and for the country's policymakers after the economy logged its weakest growth since the global financial crisis in the third quarter. October was the first full month after the latest US tariffs on Chinese goods went into effect on Sept. 24, in a significant escalation in the tit-for-tat trade battle.

But analysts continue to warn of the risk of a sharp drop in US demand for Chinese goods early in 2019, with all eyes now on whether presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping can make any breakthroughs on trade when they meet later this month. China's exports rose 15.6 percent last month from a year earlier, customs data showed yesterday, picking up from September's 14.5 percent and beating analysts' forecasts for a modest slowdown to 11 percent.

"The strong export growth in October was buoyed by front-loading activities by exporters...." said Iris Pang, Greater China Economist at ING in

Hong Kong, noting the month is traditionally quieter due to long holidays.

"We expect exports to remain strong towards the end of the year as businesses are afraid of a failure in the Trump-Xi meeting, which could lead to broader tariffs on more Chinese goods from the US," Pang said. Washington has vowed to hike the tariff from 10 percent to 25 percent at the turn of the year, while Trump has warned that if talks with Xi are not productive, he could quickly slap tariffs on another \$267 billion in Chinese imports.

Despite several rounds of US duties this year, China's exports have been surprisingly resilient as firms ramped up shipments before even tougher measures went into effect.

Container ship rates from China to the US West Coast remain near record highs, suggesting shipments will remain solid well into November and possibly early December. China's exports to the US rose 13.2 percent from a year earlier in October. In another positive sign, China's exports by volume also showed solid growth, according to Oxford Economics, which estimated they rose "an impressive" 9.9 percent.

But analysts say robust export readings won't last much longer, noting Chinese factory surveys have been showing contracting export orders for months. US orders for Chinese goods at the latest Canton fair dropped 30.3 percent from a year earlier by value, as higher US tariffs made goods from batteries to farm tractors more expensive.

## China seat supplier looks for way into stretched market

**ZHUHAI, China:** China is squeezing itself into a gap in the market for aircraft seats - a low-key effort compared with plans for a Sino-Russian jetliner or the military might paraded at this week's Airshow China, but one that may earn it a key role in global supply chains.

Bottlenecks in the supply of seats have disrupted jetliner production and created a major headache for Western planemakers in recent years, as manufacturers struggled to keep up with booming air traffic and growing demand for customized cabin features.

Consolidation has already reshaped the market; first B/E Aerospace became part of US business Rockwell Collins, then France's Zodiac Aerospace lost a bid to stay independent and got taken over by Safran.

Now China is trying to secure its place in the new landscape. "It's a big opportunity," Wu Si, a sales manager at Jiatai Aircraft Equipment Co Ltd, a subsidiary of state aerospace giant AVIC,

told Reuters. China's expansion into seats reflects an ambition to build its position as a broad supplier to foreign planemakers while deepening the skills and post-sales experience needed to develop its own aircraft industry, analysts said. The breakthrough is not immediately obvious at China's largest air show, where AVIC's seats are tucked in a corner beyond promotional displays for fighters. Jiatai has been in the seats business since 1995, mainly supplying China-made aircraft like the Xian MA60 turboprop. It also equips the recently introduced ARJ21 regional jet. But it is speeding up its exposure to foreign markets, encouraged by Airbus and Boeing, who are still smarting from delays caused by a production crisis at Zodiac and are working to smooth seat supply.

Last week, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported that Airbus had delivered an A320 equipped with Jiatai seats for the first time. And Boeing said at the show it had recently added Jiatai's products to the catalogue of available seats for its best-selling 737 jet. The company has fitted out at least 25 Boeing jets since 2016. The move "continues the indirect pressure on traditional seats suppliers" including Recaro, Zodiac and B/E Aerospace, Agency Partners said in a note. Recent profit margins are a poor guide because of production problems, but in 2016, the last year before it was delisted, B/E Aerospace had an operating margin of 16.6 percent. In the same period, Airbus made 5.9 percent and Boeing 7.7 percent.—Reuters



**QINGDAO:** An aerial view of a port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province yesterday. China's exports to the US and the rest of the world grew more than expected in October, official data showed yesterday, as its traders apparently rushed shipments across the Pacific ahead of higher tariffs. —AFP

Trump has railed against China over intellectual property theft, entry barriers to US businesses and its persistently large trade surplus with the United States. Several rounds of talks this year have appeared to yield little progress. For the first 10 months of the year, China's surplus with the United States, its largest export market, totalled \$258.15 billion, widening sharply from \$222.98 billion in the same period last year. While the monthly surplus has eased somewhat to \$31.78 billion in October from a record \$34.13 billion in September, it remains elevated by historical

trends. For trade with all countries, China's surplus was around \$34 billion for October, compared with forecasts of \$35 billion and September's \$31.69 billion. While China's exports are expected to falter soon, its imports, especially commodities, could remain strong for months to come as Beijing rolls out more measures such as infrastructure spending to boost domestic demand, economists at ANZ said. Imports for October quickened to 21.4 percent from 14.3 percent in September, beating analysts' forecasts for a slight cooling to 14 percent.—Reuters

## With US absent, world's exporters turn to China

**SHANGHAI:** There is a notable no-show among the dozens of national pavilions at Shanghai's massive import fair—the United States—a metaphor for isolationist Trump policies that attendees say are pushing them closer to China. The China International Import Expo opened Monday with thousands of foreign companies wooing Chinese buyers with products including Italian helicopters, Canadian fur, Dominican cigars, and Japanese fresh fish.

China touts the first annual event as a milestone marking its economic transition from "the world's factory" to a major consuming nation, and President Xi Jinping opened it with a vow to import \$30 trillion in goods and services over the next 15 years.

But the US has snubbed the gathering amid

an increasingly bitter tariffs standoff with China, with Donald Trump accusing it of unfair trade practices.

And foreign businesses and officials at the show said the US president's combative approach to trade has made it imperative for them to turn more toward China. Sigfrido Reyes, an El Salvadoran trade official, said market turbulence caused by Trump had hurt his country by driving down prices of commodities such as coffee.

It now looks to China to reduce reliance on the United States. "What really worries us is the uncertainty. In an uncertain environment, everybody loses. So we don't want to have all our eggs in one basket," Reyes said.

China is expected to remain reliant on US electronics and other high-tech goods that it, and other countries, cannot yet supply. But tariffs imposed by each side could cut off the flow of a range of other US goods. While few dispute that China's mercantilist trade policies need to change, the trade spat has started to bite in the United States, where a Chinese shift to non-US suppliers of soybeans and other key import goods has left American farmers without buyers.

Major Chinese meat importers also have told AFP they will simply source from other countries.—AFP



## Sports

# Boxing superstar Mayweather cancels Japan kickboxing fight

## I had been 'blindsided' by organizers of the proposed bout: Mayweather

**LOS ANGELES:** Boxing superstar Floyd Mayweather on Wednesday scrapped a planned fight with a Japanese kickboxer, claiming he had been duped into agreeing to the contest. In a lengthy statement posted on social media, Mayweather said he had been "blindsided" by organizers of the proposed bout against Tenshin Nasukawa, set for New Year's Eve in Saitama.

"I want it to be clear that I, Floyd Mayweather, never agreed to an official bout with Tenshin Nasukawa," Mayweather wrote on Instagram. The 41-year-old retired welterweight champion said he had travelled to Japan last week to discuss participating in a private bout against Nasukawa for a "small group of wealthy spectators for a very large fee."

"This exhibition was previously arranged as a 'Special Bout' purely for entertainment purposes with no intentions of being represented as an official fight nor televised worldwide," Mayweather wrote. Soon after arriving at a press conference in Tokyo on Monday, Mayweather said he and his team "were completely derailed by the new direction this event was going."

"We should have put a stop to it immediately," Mayweather wrote. "I want to sincerely apologize to my fans for the very misleading information that was announced during this press conference. I can assure you that I too was completely blindsided by the arrange-

ments that were being made without my consent or approval."

In Tokyo on Monday, Mayweather had vowed to give "blood, sweat and tears" in the fight against Nasukawa. "It's always been a goal of mine to go outside out of the US and display my talent. The world has never seen Mayweather compete live in (Japan)," Mayweather told reporters at the press conference, framing the fight as an expansion of his businesses to the Far East.

Mayweather has not fought since his money-spinning boxing showdown with mixed martial arts star Conor McGregor in Las Vegas in 2017. Mayweather returned to retirement following that bout with a perfect 50-0 unbeaten record.

However the American has repeatedly hinted at coming out of retirement since that fight, most recently teasing a possible rematch against Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao. Nasukawa, 20, meanwhile, had told reporters on Monday it had been an "easy decision" to agree to fight Mayweather.

"It was a surprise offer but I accepted without hesitation," said Nasukawa. "I don't care what the rules are. I want to be the man who changes history. I'll do that with these fists, with one punch-just watch."

Mayweather said he had been reluctant to speak out at Monday's press conference because he did not want "to create a huge distur-



**TOKYO:** This handout photograph taken by Rizin Fighting Federation on November 5, 2018 shows Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa (R) posing during a press conference in Tokyo to announce his fight with US boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. (left) — AFP

bance by combating what was being said." "I am a retired boxer that earns an unprecedented amount of money, globally, for appearances, speaking engagements and occasional small exhibitions," he said.

US-based pundits however poured scorn on Mayweather's stated reasons for the U-turn.

Yahoo Sports combat sports columnist Kevin Iole greeted Mayweather's volte-face with scepticism. "Mayweather is hardly a shrinking violet and he has never - ever - failed to speak up on his own behalf since he became a professional boxer," Iole wrote. "One would have to be a fool to believe this." —AFP

## All Blacks call up big guns for England Test

**LONDON:** New Zealand have signalled their attacking intent against England by naming two playmakers in a full strength side for tomorrow's blockbuster Test at Twickenham. Two-time world player of the year Beauden Barrett and mercurial youngster Damian McKenzie will both start in the one-off Test in London.

As expected, the run-on XV has no players from the second-string All Blacks side that beat Japan 69-31 last week in Tokyo. It more closely resembles the side that defeated Australia 37-20 a week earlier in Yokohama, with Barrett again starting at fly-half and McKenzie at fullback.

Coach Steve Hansen said either player could marshall the attack, making the world champions difficult to predict for defensively minded teams such as England. "We think against sides that play a little differently than we do, having two playmakers makes it a lot harder for them to shut us down," he told reporters.

"It also takes away the frustration of that

person who is shut down when he's out there solo. It takes that away because he's got someone else to take a bit of the heat." The starting side has four changes from the side that faced Australia, one of them forced by injury this week when prop Joe Moody tore his eyelid at training, opening the way for Karl Tu'inukuafe.

Regular starters Brodie Retallick and Aaron Smith return at lock and half-back respectively, replacing Scott Barrett and TJ Perenara. Jack Goodhue returns to the centres after a bout of glandular fever, relegating Canterbury Crusaders teammate Ryan Crotty to the bench.

Hansen said the All Blacks wanted to "make a statement" at Twickenham, where they have only been beaten once since 2015. "England at home is always a massive challenge for anyone," he said.

"There'll be 80,000 people there. For us it's about making our own statement. To do that, we'll need to bring our own intensity and accuracy to an even higher level."

### Team (15-1)

Damian McKenzie; Ben Smith, Jack Goodhue, Sonny Bill Williams, Rieko Ioane; Beauden Barrett, Aaron Smith; Kieran Read (capt), Ardie Savea, Liam Squire; Brodie Retallick, Sam Whitelock; Owen Franks, Codie Taylor, Karl Tu'inukuafe.

**Reserves:** Dane Coles, Ofa Tuungafasi, Nepo Laulala, Scott Barrett, Matt Todd, TJ Perenara, Richie Mo'unga, Ryan Crotty. —AFP

## Dan Carter tips Japan to reach Rugby World Cup knockouts

**TOKYO:** All Blacks legend Dan Carter yesterday tipped Japan to reach the knockout stages of their home World Cup next year and warned favourites New Zealand will not have it all their own way. The 36-year-old fly-half, who confirmed his stint in Japan would bring down the curtain on his glittering career, said the Brave Blossoms were capable of reaching the quarter-finals.

"There is going to have to be a couple of upsets for Japan to make that but they are capable of it," said the three-time world player of the year, who is on a two-year deal with the Kobe Steelers. "They've got the team, the players, the coaching staff to pull off these upsets and I'd love to see them in the play-off stages of the next World Cup."

Japan will likely have to beat one of Pool A's Six Nations heavyweights, Scotland or Ireland, to reach the quarter-finals but Carter said last week's performance against New Zealand should give them hope.

A second-string All Blacks side hammered Japan 69-31 but the Brave Blossoms played their part in a pulsating game in Yokohama near Tokyo. "Not many teams are able to score five tries against the All Blacks. So the Japanese team should

be very proud of that," said Carter.

While the All Blacks are overwhelming favourites to lift their third successive Webb Ellis Cup, Carter said the form book does not count for everything. "Just because you're the number one side in the world doesn't guarantee you're going to win the Rugby World Cup," he said, adding that a lot of teams were peaking ahead of next year's tournament. "So, I'd like to think the All Blacks will win, but you're never 100 percent sure of that." However, Carter tipped his former side to have too much firepower for England at Twickenham this Saturday.

While Eddie Jones's men looked strong last week in their narrow 12-11 win over South Africa—the only team to turn over the All Blacks this year—Carter said the "speed in which they play the game might be a little too much for England to stay with them for 80 minutes".

Carter was world player of the year in 2005, 2012 and 2015, amassing a world-record 1,598 points in 112 Tests, and is the biggest draw in Japan's domestic league after completing a three-year spell with French side Racing 92.

Entering his mid-30s, Carter said his Japanese odyssey will likely be the last chapter in his storied career. "I've been playing for 15-16 years now. I haven't fully decided yet when I'm going to finish but I think this would be a great place to finish my career," he said. Asked whether he might be tempted into coaching, he quipped that coaches "work harder than the players, so that would be quite intense". And while he said he "could not imagine" a better place to live and play than Japan, he admitted the local language was causing him some difficulties. —AFP



## Sports

Friday, November 9, 2018

# Kuwait wins bronze as China dominates on Day 4

## 8th Asian shotgun and 11th Airgun championships



By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait was able to put a dent in the dominance of South East Asian countries in the Airgun competition by winning the bronze medal of the 10m air pistol for men following the end of the 4th day of competitions in the 8th Asian shotgun and 11th Airgun championships of Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, as China continued its tight control of the gold medals.

The team of Ali Al-Mutairi, Saud Al-Ajmi and Hamad Al-Namshan had a score of 1706 points, placing them third while China was first with

1731 points and Singapore silver with 1706 points. The Chinese dominated the first three places in the individuals event, as world champion for 2018 and Asia juniors in 2017 Jiayu Wu won the gold medal with the score of 240.5 followed by Junzhi Huang with 238.9 points and Hao Zhang third with 219.1.

In the women's 10m Airpistol event Ranxin Jiang won the gold medal with a score of 243.3 while Singapore's Xiu Hong Teh won silver with 235.3 and China's Xue Li won bronze with 215.9.

In the women's teams China was first with 1723 points, while Taiwan took silver with 1705 and Singapore took bronze with 1680.



In the juniors events in the 10m air pistol India's Chaudhary Saurabh won gold with a score of 239.8, Arjun Singh Cheema took silver with 237.7 and Taiwan's Wei-Te Huang won bronze with a score of 218 points. In the team event India was first, China second and Kazakhstan third.

In the 10m air pistol women junior Xiaoyu Wang was first with 238.9 points followed by China's Keyi Wang with 234.8 and Mei-Fang Yans from Taiwan was third with 216.5. In the teams event China was first, India second and Chinese Taipei third.

Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Secretary Gen-

eral, Tournament Director Obaid Al-Osaimi lauded Kuwait's team winning the bronze medal in the 10m pistol event following fierce competition from the rest of teams.

He said the credit goes for the Airgun department men at the club, and expected more achievements in the coming days.

Meanwhile, Deputy Technical Director of Airgun Department Abdallah Barakat said the 10m pistol team of Ali Al-Mutairi, Hamad Al-Namshan and Saad Al-Ajmi had a very good performance, and was satisfied with what took place so far specially elite squads from South East Asia are participating.

## Cancer-hit Lee announces badminton comeback bid

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian star Lee Chong Wei yesterday said he plans to return to badminton after successful treatment for nose cancer, insisting he had no intention of retiring. The ex-world number one said he could resume training as early as next month and was targeting a competitive comeback at the All England Open in March.

"I finished all my treatment... and have recovered very well," a cheerful and healthy-looking Lee, 36, told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur. "I want to come back to court," he said, adding: "As of now, I am not retiring."

The three-time Olympic silver medallist was making his first public appearance since his shock diagnosis was announced in September. Lee, who returned from treatment in Taiwan last month, said it was his "dream" to play in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, which would be his fifth Summer Games.

"I think qualify (for the Tokyo Olympics) should be no problem for me," he said, but added that his health was his current priority. "I just try my very best because I love my country... and I love badminton," he said.

The player however conceded that if his health does not improve enough, he may have to hang up his racquet: "If my condition is good, I will continue. If I can't, I will stop." Lee, who enjoys superstar status in Malaysia, was diagnosed with early-stage nose cancer, forcing him to pull out of the Asian Games and world championships.

The father of two said that when he found out about the illness, "I was crying for a week, couldn't eat, couldn't sleep". On the advice of his doctors he travelled to Taiwan for treatment, during which he

lost five kilos (11 pounds). "This is the toughest period of my life," said Lee, who has slipped to eighth in the world rankings. "But I had the support of my loved ones to continue fighting." Lee said that he underwent over 30 sessions of treatment at the hands of seven doctors.

He said they have given him a clean bill of health, and has regained three kilos since coming home. Nose cancer is perhaps the biggest blow suffered by Lee, who was banned after testing positive for a proscribed anti-inflammatory at the 2014 world championships.

Lee returned to the sport in 2015, after authorities accepted he took the drug inadvertently. His unsuccessful attempts to capture Malaysia's first ever Olympic gold medal at three consecutive Summer Games were followed avidly back home, as was his long-running rivalry with Chinese superstar Lin Dan. His last shot at Olympic gold at Rio 2016 ended in failure when the Malaysian lost out to China's Chen Long in a nail-biting final. — AFP



Lee Chong Wei



## Sports

# England's Jennings ton puts Sri Lanka on the ropes

## England sets the hosts a daunting 462 for victory

**GALLE:** A Keaton Jennings century helped England put Sri Lanka on the ropes in the first Test yesterday, setting the hosts a daunting 462 to win at notoriously low-scoring Galle. England declared at 322 for six on day three with Jennings 146 not out after a patient innings that saw him deal deftly with the home side's spin attack.

At the close of play, Sri Lanka were 15 wicket loss with Dimuth Karunaratne on seven and Kaushal Silva on eight after hanging on for seven overs, with a further 447 to make at a ground where no team has successfully chased more than 99.

In the morning session a somewhat shaky Rory Burns, brought in to fill the huge shoes of the retired Alastair Cook, was run out for 23. Moeen Ali, out first ball in the first innings, fared little better, driving straight to Rangana Herath at mid-on off Dilruwan Perera for three.

Herath, in his last game before retiring, then got England captain Joe Root out for the second time in the match, caught behind for three. But Jennings played cautiously and looked comfortable against spin against Perera and the other spinners. An LBW appeal off Dhananjaya de Silva when Jennings was on 58 was turned down and Sri Lanka chose not to review.

Ben Stokes hit a brisk 62 off 93 balls that saw three sixes, including one back over Perera's

head and an almighty sweep high over midwicket off Dhananjaya de Silva to bring up the 300.

But shortly before tea he became Perera's second scalp, a demon of a ball pitching outside leg and angling back to take the Durham all-rounder's off stump. Jos Buttler smashed a quick 35 before being caught off Herath while Foakes belted out 37 before falling to spinner Akila Dananjaya.

England made 342 in the first innings thanks to a century from Ben Foakes, filling in as wicketkeeper for the injured Jonny Bairstow. Sri Lanka were then bowled out for 203, leaving them 139 behind, falling to a spin attack led by Ali who took four for 66.

Jennings's performance will go some way to silencing his critics—many of whom were calling for him to be dropped after his poor home series against India this summer.

After stumps yesterday the South Africa-born 26-year-old conceded that the past half year had been "tough for me personally", but that he relishes the pressure. "I enjoy it. I love the process of being involved, I love the process of feeling the heat, feeling the pressure, and I suppose waking up in the morning knowing you are on a knife edge," he said.

"So it makes today that much more special," he said.



**GALLE:** Sri Lanka's Kaushal Silva (L) takes a catch to dismiss England's Jos Buttler during the third day of the opening Test match between Sri Lanka and England at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle yesterday. —AFP

"I have only watched Keaton Jennings live in two test matches and he has got a hundred in both I must be his lucky charm !!!," former Eng-

land great Allan Lamb said on Twitter. "Well played fantastic and thoroughly deserved by the hard work." —AFP

## Kohli draws flak for 'leave India' remark

**NEW DELHI:** Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli was in the eye of a storm on social media yesterday after he suggested a local cricket fan relocate to another country for preferring to watch English or Australian batsmen.

The 30-year-old was reading out tweets when he came across one which described Kohli, currently the top ranked test batsman, as "overrated" and that Australian and English batsmen were more pleasing to watch than "these Indians".

"I don't think you should live in India then," Kohli, who has 27.1 million followers on Twitter, said in a video posted on his new app to sell exclusive merchandise. "You should go and live somewhere else, you know. Why are you living in our country and loving other countries? I don't mind you not liking me but I don't think you should live in our country... Get your priorities right," he added with a wry smile.

Kohli's comments evoked sharp reactions as people on social media pulled out a 2008 video, in which Kohli, then captain of the India under-19 team, described South African Herschelle Gibbs as his favourite batsman.

Also resurfaced his 2016 tweet in which he had congratulated Angelique Kerber on her Australian Open victory, declaring the Ger-

man as his favourite women's tennis player. "Virat Kohli's statement is a reflection of the bubble that most famous people either slip into or are forced into," cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle tweeted.

"The voices within it are frequently those that they wish to hear. It is a comfortable bubble and that is why famous people must try hard to prevent it from forming." Married to Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, Kohli is the biggest name in Indian cricket and his face is plastered on billboards across the cricket-obsessed country of 1.3 billion.

A highly successful cricketer with a penchant to get under an opponent's skin, Kohli is the sole Indian in the Forbes magazine's 2018 list of the world's 100 highest-paid athletes. He endorses foreign brands including Puma, Audi, Tissot and Uber. One critic posted a picture of Kohli posing with an Audi and suggesting he move to Germany since he loved foreign cars.

Criticism came from India's movie industry as well. "If you want to remain #KingKohli it may be time to teach yourself to think 'What would Dravid say?' before speaking in future," actor Siddharth tweeted, referring to former captain Rahul Dravid who was famous for his batting technique and his economy of words. "What an idiotic set of words to come from an #India #captain!" the actor added. One fan, however, said Kohli may have had a brain fade moment and shouldn't be attacked. —Reuters

## Boult hat-trick fuels N Zealand's win over Pakistan

**ABU DHABI:** Trent Boult became the third New Zealand bowler to claim a one-day international hat-trick as his side defeated Pakistan by 47 runs in the first match in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. Pace spearhead Boult reduced Pakistan to 8 for 3 in their chase of 267 after he dismissed Fakhar Zaman (one), Babar Azam (nought) and Mohammad Hafeez (nought) in the third over. He finished with figures of 3 for 54 as Pakistan were bowled out for 219 in 47.2 overs.

"It's nice to be back out there and get the win for the boys," said Boult, who missed the 3-0 loss in the preceding Twenty20 series due to the birth of his child. "I think the new ball is a key part of the game and we know what early wickets can do to chasing totals.

"The hat-trick ball I was just trying to make him play and to slide one onto the pads is a great feeling." Veteran batsman Ross Taylor top-scored with 80 while wicketkeeper Tom Latham struck 68 off 64 balls to lead New Zealand to 266-9 after they won the toss and batted at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

In response Pakistan crumbled to 85-6, before Sarfraz Ahmed (64) and Imad Wasim (50) added 103 for the seventh wicket. However, once Pakistan skipper Sarfraz dragged a Colin de Grandhomme delivery onto his



**ABU DHABI:** New Zealand cricketer Trent Boult (L) celebrates after he dismissed Pakistan batsman Babar Azam during the first one day international (ODI) cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand. —AFP

stumps New Zealand were almost home and dry. Grandhomme took 2 for 40 while Lockie Ferguson finished with 3 for 36.

Boult exposed Pakistan's batting woes early on, bowling Zaman off his pads before having Azam caught at slip and then trapping Hafeez leg-before with a sharp in-swinging delivery.

He joined fast bowlers Danny Morrison (v India at Napier in 1999) and Shane Bond (v Australia at Hobart in 2007) as the only New Zealanders to take an ODI hat-trick.

Imam-ul-Haq (34) and Shoaib Malik (30) added 63 for the fourth wicket but both fell in successive overs before the Sarfraz-Wasim stand briefly reignited hopes. Earlier, New Zealand recovered from 78-3 and then 210-7 to set a challenging target. —AFP



## Sports

Friday, November 9, 2018

# LeBron scores 24 points as Lakers edge Timberwolves

## Leonard returns to lead Raptors past Kings

**LOS ANGELES:** LeBron James scored 24 points, and Kyle Kuzma and Josh Hart had 21 apiece as the Los Angeles Lakers held on in a back-and-forth affair Wednesday to earn a 114-110 victory over the visiting Minnesota Timberwolves. James added 10 rebounds and nine assists, just missing out on his second triple-double as a member of the Lakers. Brandon Ingram scored 20 points for Los Angeles, which won for the third time in the past four games. Powered by their veteran backcourt, the Wolves got 31 points from Derrick Rose and 24 from Jimmy Butler. Minnesota remained winless away from home at 0-7, and it dropped its fourth consecutive game overall. Tyson Chandler made his Lakers debut and finished with two points and six rebounds in 27 minutes. Chandler's contract was bought out by the Phoenix Suns on Sunday, and he signed with Los Angeles on Tuesday.

### RAPTORS 114, KINGS 105

Kawhi Leonard, who missed the two previous games with a jammed foot, scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Toronto won at Sacramento. Serge Ibaka added 14 points and 14 rebounds, and Jonas Valanciunas had 11 points and 10 rebounds as the Raptors completed a four-game sweep of a Western swing for the first time in team history to go to 11-1 in their best start in franchise history. Pascal Siakam had 21 points for Toronto, Kyle Lowry had 16 points and eight assists, and OG Anunoby chipped in with 11 points. Buddy Hield and Willie Cauley-Stein each scored for 24 for the Kings, and De'Aaron Fox added 20.

### HEAT 95, SPURS 88

Hassan Whiteside posted 29 points, 20 rebounds and nine blocks to lead host Miami past San Antonio. Whiteside, who missed Miami's previous game due to a knee injury, made 10 of 18 shots from the floor and fell one block short of what would have been the fifth triple-double of his career. Heat guard Wayne Ellington, who had only played 12 minutes this season prior to Wednesday, made his first start of the season and provided 20 points. He shot 6-for-10 on 3-point attempts as Miami stopped a nine-game losing streak against San Antonio. San Antonio was led by Patty Mills, who had 20 points, and Davis Bertans, who added a season-high 19 points.

### 76ERS 100, PACERS 94

Joel Embiid had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lift Philadelphia past Indiana in Indianapolis. Dario Saric scored 18 points and Ben Simmons added 16 points and 10 rebounds as the Sixers won for the first time in six tries on the road this season. The win also snapped an eight-game losing streak at Indiana. Victor Oladipo scored a season high 36 points to lead the Pacers. Domantas Sabonis added 16 points and 11 rebounds.

### PELICANS 107, BULLS 98

Anthony Davis had 32 points and 15 re-

bounds as host New Orleans ended a six-game losing streak with a victory against Chicago. Davis, who missed three games and struggled in three others during the losing streak because of an elbow strain, looked his old self as he added seven assists. Jrue Holiday added 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Zach LaVine led the Bulls with 22 points, Jabari Parker had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Wendell Carter Jr. had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

### JAZZ 117, MAVERICKS 102

Donovan Mitchell scored 23 points to lead six Utah players in double figures during a win over Dallas at Salt Lake City. Alec Burks scored 18 points for Utah, and Rudy Gobert had his 10th double-double in 11 games, contributing 17 points and 10 rebounds. The Jazz finally managed to record their first home win in five tries. Rookie Luka Doncic was Dallas' top scorer, as he poured in 24 points.

### GRIZZLIES 89, NUGGETS 87

Marc Gasol hit two tiebreaking free throws with 4.6 seconds remaining, and Memphis survived two late misses by Denver to remain unbeaten at home. The Nuggets had one shot at a win and a second at a tie in the final 2.4 seconds, but Nikola Jokic misfired on a 3-point attempt and Murray, after grabbing the rebound, failed to connect on a short jumper just before the final horn. Gasol and Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 20 points apiece for the Grizzlies, who improved to 4-0 on the season at home. Gary Harris had 20 points to lead the Nuggets, who had won five straight.

### KNICKS 112, HAWKS 107

Tim Hardaway Jr. showed no ill effects from the bad back that caused him to miss the previous game, scoring 34 points to lead New York to a win at Atlanta. The Knicks also got 17 points and 11 rebounds from Enes Kanter. Allonzo Trier scored 16 points and Frank Ntilikina scored 14 before fouling out.

Atlanta was led by rookie Omari Spellman's 18 points and 10 rebounds, career highs in both categories. Kent Bazemore added 16 points and seven rebounds, and Taurean Price scored 16 points.

### THUNDER 95, CAVALIERS 86

Dennis Schroder scored a season-high 28 points as Oklahoma City picked up its sixth consecutive win, a decision over host Cleveland. Oklahoma City was playing without point guard Russell Westbrook, who turned his left ankle Monday in a win over the New Orleans Pelicans. Paul George finished with 18 points for the Thunder, and Jerami Grant scored 12 points. Rookie Collin Sexton scored 15 points to lead Cleveland, which dropped its fourth game in a row.

### PISTONS 103, MAGIC 96

Detroit overcame two double-digit deficits to earn a victory at Orlando. The result



**LOS ANGELES:** LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers gets fouled by Josh Okogie #20 of the Minnesota Timberwolves in front of Tyus Jones #1 during a 114-110 Lakers win at Staples Center on Wednesday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

snapped a five-game losing streak for the Pistons, who had started the season 4-0 before the skid. Andre Drummond finished with 23 points and 19 rebounds, including 19 points and 12 rebounds before halftime, to lead Detroit. Blake Griffin scored 20 points,

and Reggie Jackson added 15. Evan Fournier, who hit a game-winning shot Monday night against the Cavaliers, scored 27 points Wednesday to lead the Magic. D.J. Augustin added 16 points, and Aaron Gordon and Terrence Ross had 15 points apiece. — Reuters

## Capitals finally win two in row

**WASHINGTON:** T.J. Oshie scored with 1:14 left to give the Washington Capitals a 2-1 victory over the visiting Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night. The Capitals, who beat the Edmonton Oilers on Monday, won back-to-back games for the first time this season. Pittsburgh, meanwhile has lost five in a row, the first time that's happened under coach Mike Sullivan.

Oshie, who had been knocked out of the game due to injuries in the first and third periods (stick to the face and shoulder to the face, respectively), came back in time to take a John Carlson pass and beat goalie Casey DeSmith from just outside the crease for the game-winner. The tally snapped a 1-1 tie and gave Washington the victory in a game where the Penguins applied constant pressure. Pittsburgh outshot Washington 42-22, but Penguins goalie Braden Holtby came up big with 41 saves.

### PREDATORS 4, AVALANCHE 1

Colton Sissons notched the second hat

trick of his career, Pekka Rinne had 24 saves, and Nashville beat Colorado in Denver. Ryan Hartman also scored and Nick Bonino had three assists for the Predators, who won their fourth straight and their 11th straight regular-season game against the Avalanche. Colorado has lost four in a row, two in overtime.

Matt Calvert scored his first goal and Semyon Varlamov stopped 30 shots for the Avalanche, who lost their third straight.

### DUCKS 3, FLAMES 2

Ryan Miller made 37 saves to move into a tie for 17th place on the all-time wins list as host Anaheim held off Calgary. With his 372nd career win, Ryan matched the total of Andy Moog, who played with four teams from 1980-98. Miller also moved within two wins of tying John Vanbiesbrouck for the most NHL victories by a United States-born goalie.

Ryan Getzlaf scored the game-winner in the third period for the Ducks, who won for the second time in three games. Anaheim's Jakob Silfverberg and Adam Henrique had first-period goals. Matthew Tkachuk and Mark Jankowski scored for Calgary, which had its four-game win streak snapped. — Reuters



## Sports

# Lewandowski double leaves Bayern on verge of last 16

## Bayern claim top spot in Group E with 10 points

**MUNICH:** Robert Lewandowski scored twice on his 100th European appearance to leave Bayern Munich on the verge of the last 16 after a 2-0 win over AEK on Wednesday. Lewandowski converted a first-half penalty then volleyed home with an athletic leap after the break to leave him on 56 goals in Europe.

The victory saw Bayern claim top spot in Group E with 10 points. Benfica's 1-1 draw at Ajax virtually assures Bayern of a place in the last 16 and a point against Benfica in three weeks will guarantee their place in the knock-out phase. "We took a good step forwards and had the game under control in the decisive moments," said Lewandowski. "We know that we can do better, but the win was very important for our self confidence."

The win at the Allianz Arena will ease the pressure on head coach Niko Kovac with the defending Bundesliga champions only third in the table before Saturday's showdown at leaders Borussia Dortmund.

"We deserved the win and managed to keep them scoreless," said Kovac. "In the second half we should have rewarded our hard work with two or three goals. 'There were no fireworks out there and neither were any expected.'"

Kovac abandoned his experiment of playing Joshua Kimmich in the central midfield role va-

cated by injury to Thiago Alcantara. The initiative had only resulted in a performance Kimmich described as his "worst in three years at Bayern" in Saturday's lacklustre league draw with Freiburg.

Instead, Javi Martinez controlled the midfield against Greek side AEK and it was a cross from Kimmich, who reverted to right-back, which led to the second goal.

Bayern had a scare after five minutes when AEK defender Vasilis Lampropoulos slipped his marker, Mats Hummels, and glanced his header just wide of the post from a corner. The hosts eventually took the lead, at the sold-out Allianz Arena in front of 70,000, when Lewandowski was pulled down by his shirt in the area.

The Poland striker sent AEK goalkeeper Vasilis Barkas the wrong way as he converted the spot-kick with half an hour gone. However after the disappointing draw with Freiburg, this was another unimpressive display from Bayern.

The hosts were too often content to defend deep rather than go on the attack, as they tend to do on European nights at home. They made a brighter start to the second half when Kimmich fired in a cross which Leon Goretzka volleyed straight at Barkas just before the hour mark.

The Germans then began to turn the screw. Lewandowski had a shot saved and AEK's dis-



**MUNICH:** Bayern Munich's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski vies for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group E football match Bayern Munich v AEK Athens FC in Munich, southern Germany, on Wednesday. — AFP

cipline waned as midfielder Andre Simoes and Lampropoulos both picked up yellow cards. The hosts finally scored their second when Kimmich whipped in a corner, which was flicked on to Lewandowski, who volleyed

home at the far post on 71 minutes. There was plenty of relief at the three points won when the final whistle went, but Bayern will need to improve significantly if they are to be challenge for the title. — AFP

## Low-profile Eriksson relishing new role in Filipino outpost

**MANILA:** When Sven-Goran Eriksson arrived to take up his new role as head coach of the Philippines at the weekend, there were no TV cameras to greet him, nor were there any fans clamouring for photos and autographs.

The Swede's latest national team job is already a stark contrast to any of his others, transporting him to a country passionate about basketball but with little knowledge of soccer, despite the sport's fervent following throughout East Asia. But after spending five years as England manager, hounded by the media and seeing his private life splashed across front pages, the soft-spoken 70-year-old is enjoying the anonymity. "Nobody recognised me, it's very, very good," Eriksson told Reuters before taking his third training session with the Philippines national team.

"You see, it's not a football country. If I was in England or Italy or somewhere, people would know who I am, but that's nice, it's very good." Eriksson takes charge of the "Azkals" (street dogs) just a week ahead of a hectic schedule of

back-to-back tournaments, starting with the month-long Suzuki Cup, the Southeast Asian championship, and the more prestigious Asian Cup in January.

He hopes to capitalise on a mood of quiet excitement in Filipino soccer, stirred by a maiden Asian Cup appearance and national goalkeeper Neil Etheridge becoming the first Southeast Asian to appear in the English Premier League with Cardiff City. Eriksson recently turned down jobs with Cameroon, which he said involved too many people, and Iraq, which had "big ambitions" and expected an Asian Cup win.

After former England defender Terry Butcher quit as coach in August without overseeing a single match, Eriksson made the move to the Philippines, where he said the game's relative obscurity was part of the appeal. "It's something new even for me. It's a country with more than 100 million people and football is not important, and I want to try to make it important," he said. "I thought, why not try to do something very good with the Philippines? They're very low in the FIFA rankings list (116th), so let's try to get that up."

"I know that basketball is the biggest sport here, but let's try change that and why not? If we get some success, it could grow very quickly." Success might come easier than domestic attention, however. Eriksson's first media appearance only made the inside pages of Philippine newspapers, behind American college basketball, a police chief presiding over a shooting contest, and a story about a gymnast worried about not getting a visa. — AFP

## Benzema brace helps Solari's Real thump Plzen

**PLZEN:** Karim Benzema's first-half brace propelled Real Madrid to a 5-0 thrashing of Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League on Wednesday, putting the holders one win from the last 16 after a third straight victory under Santiago Solari.

Former Real midfielder Solari took over from the sacked Julen Lopetegui as interim coach on October 29, and has now seen his side score 11 times without reply following wins over Melilla and Real Valladolid.

"I think we played a very nice game today, we scored wonderful goals," Solari told reporters. "A 5-0 win in the Champions League-I can only be happy with that." The 42-year-old Argentinian dismissed questions about his possible future as Real's head coach.

"I only think about the next game. Football is about the present and it's the next game that matters," he said, with a trip to Celta Vigo on Sunday next up for Real. Benzema struck first in the 21st minute on Wednesday, weaving his way through the Plzen defence and beating goalkeeper Ales Hruska with a low shot.

Casemiro made it two shortly afterwards by nodding in a Toni Kroos corner, and Benzema headed home himself in the 37th minute after Gareth Bale had found him unmarked just yards out. Bale scored five minutes before half-time,

beating Hruska with a low left-footed shot at his far post following Benzema's flick-on header. Kroos rounded off the scoring in the 68th minute, curling a sumptuous lob over the stranded Hruska following a pass from rising star Vinicius Junior, who came on as a second-half substitute.

The 18-year-old Brazilian, signed from Flamengo for 45 million euros in the close season, made his Champions League debut after scoring his maiden La Liga goal against Valladolid at the weekend. Real are now level with Roma at the top of Group G on nine points, after the Italians' 2-1 win at CSKA Moscow earlier on Wednesday. CSKA are third with four points, while Plzen sit at the bottom and are out of contention to progress.

Real were without the injured Marcelo and fellow defenders Raphael Varane and Dani Carvajal, who did not travel to Plzen, a western Czech city famous for its lager beer. Real overcame an early scare when Nacho cleared a low cross against his own crossbar, while Plzen midfielder Roman Prochazka curled a shot just past Thibaut Courtois's goal.

But they were quick to regain their composure and put Plzen on the back foot. Bale headed wide from close range and then saw his long-range shot kept out by Hruska while the Plzen defence cleared the ball away from Benzema hungry for a rebound. Benzema then narrowly missed Bale's cross just in front of a gaping goal. Plzen, the reigning Czech champions, had two attempts on goal from long range in the second half, but Jan Kopic saw his effort stopped by Courtois and Patrik Hrosovsky, who scored for Plzen in their 2-1 loss in Madrid in October, fired wide. — AFP



## Sports

# Juventus fightback infuses United with belief as City derby looms

**LONDON:** Evoking memories of their astonishing Champions League win in 1999, Manchester United breathed new life into a stuttering season by improbably turning around their match against Juventus in the final five minutes to win 2-1.

Not since the Nou Camp final of 1999, on arguably the club's greatest-ever night, when the Red Devils scored twice in stoppage time against Bayern Munich to complete the treble, have United landed such a sucker punch on one of Europe's true heavyweights.

Turin was also the setting for United heroics that year as Alex Ferguson's side came from 2-0 down to beat Juventus 3-2 in the second leg of the semi-final. And while manager Jose Mourinho was quick to point out the chasm that still exists between that United vintage and his current crop, this was just the boost he and his side needed before facing the relentless force of Premier League champions Manchester City on Sunday.

"When Manchester United had heroics here, Manchester United was the best team," said Mourinho after Wednesday's win. "(It) is a different situation but it is a fantastic victory for us. It's not just about the points we lost at home, it's about the feeling of how well we played."

United had been outclassed by the Italian champions on home soil two weeks ago, the 1-0 scoreline barely a reflection of their dominance. Mourinho talked of defenders Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci giving classes at Harvard University on how to defend, while

United's centre-back Chris Smalling admitted to being in awe of Juventus, the losing Champions League finalists last year.

Cristiano Ronaldo's stunning first Champions League goal for the club had Juventus four minutes away from stretching their unbeaten start to the season to 15 games and booking their place in the last 16.

However, for all of United's troubles so far this season, they do not lack fight, as Mourinho's men once again hauled themselves off the canvas to hit back in the final stages to take a huge step towards qualifying for the knockout phase.

Having not made a single change at Old Trafford two weeks ago, Mourinho's substitutions made a big impact. Unsettled by the presence of Marouane Fellaini, Bonucci turned the ball into his own net for United's winner after Juan Mata's perfectly executed free-kick brought the visitors level.

After overturning a 2-0 deficit against Newcastle to win 3-2 just before the last international break, fightbacks have also helped Mourinho so far negotiate a devilishly difficult run of fixtures many believed would be his last in charge. Only a 96th-minute equaliser for Chelsea prevented another come-from-behind win against Mourinho's former side, while United also won late on at Bournemouth at the weekend after what their manager described as a "chaotic" first-half performance.

That never-say-die attitude will be needed for the derby on Sunday, with City averaging four goals a game at home in the Premier



**TURIN:** Juventus' Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini (L) and Manchester United's English midfielder Jesse Lingard go for the ball during the UEFA Champions League group H football match Juventus vs Manchester United at the Allianz stadium in Turin on Wednesday. — AFP

League this season. "I want the feeling of it doesn't matter where we go, we go to compete, and I think this is also a feeling that the Manchester United supporters around the world they want to have," said Mourinho.

United's failure to finish above City in any of the five seasons since Ferguson's retirement has been symptomatic of their slide from being one of Europe's powerhouses to second best in their

own city. Defeat at the Etihad would see them fall 12 points behind the Premier League leaders after just 12 games.

"I think it's always good to be the outsider, so people expect bad of us and then we surprise people," said United midfielder Paul Pogba. Having partied like it's 1999, United need to dig deep again and show that in 2018 they can turn the tide against the blue half of City. — AFP

## Ronaldo still out of Portugal squad

**LISBON:** Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo was left on the sidelines again as expected by Portugal coach Fernando Santos who named his squad yesterday for Nations League games against Italy and Poland.

Ronaldo was initially left off Portugal's squads earlier this season as he tried to settle into life in Turin following his summer move from Real Madrid. But the five-time Ballon d'Or winner spent much of last month vehemently denying allegations of rape. A former American model Kathryn Mayorga, 34, accused Ronaldo of raping her on June 13, 2009, just before he joined Real Madrid from Manchester United. When asked about Ronaldo's absence, Santos said: "The only thing I can say is that he deserves winning the Ballon d'Or. It would be a travesty if he didn't win it. That's all that matters now." Portugal face Italy in Milan on November 17 and host Poland three days later in Guimaraes.

### Portugal squad:

**Goalkeepers:** Rui Patricio (Wolverhampton/ENG), Beto (Goztepe/TUR), Claudio Ramos (Tondela)

**Defenders:** Cedric Soares (Southampton/ENG), Joao Cancelo (Juventus/ITA), Jose Fonte (Lille/FRA), Luis Neto (Zenit Saint-Petersburg/RUS), Pepe (Besiktas/TUR), Ruben Dias (Benfica), Mario Rui (Napoli/ITA), Raphael Guerreiro (Borussia Dortmund/GER)

**Midfielders:** Andre Gomes (Everton/ENG), Bruno Fernandes (Sporting Lisbon), Danilo Pereira (FC Porto), Joao Mario (Inter Milan/ITA), Pizzi (Benfica), Renato Sanches (Bayern Munich/GER), Ruben Neves (Wolverhampton/ENG), William Carvalho (Real Betis/ESP)

**Forwards:** Bernardo Silva (Manchester City/ENG), Bruma (RB Leipzig/GER), Goncalo Guedes (Valencia/ESP), Rafa Silva (Benfica), Andre Silva (Sevilla/ESP), Eder (Lokomotiv Moscow/RUS). — AFP

## Jesus says 'no pressure' despite slow start for City

**LONDON:** Gabriel Jesus insisted he had not been feeling the pressure before roaring back to form with a hat-trick in Manchester City's 6-0 Champions League demolition of Shakhtar Donetsk. Coming after a poor World Cup, the Brazil striker had made an underwhelming start to the campaign, with just two goals and only six starts before Wednesday's match.

The 21-year-old started to put that behind him as he netted two penalties at the Etihad Stadium and chipped the goalkeeper to claim his first City treble. "It was a very special night for me," said Jesus, who has been playing second fiddle to the in-form Sergio Aguero this season.

"I've been working very hard. I never enter in the pitch under pressure to score goals but I know my position requires me to score goals. If I am helping my teammates in some way, giving assistance, passing the ball, I'll already be very happy but, of course, in my position I have to score."

Jesus dedicated his hat-trick to his mother, who was at the game. City proved far too strong for the Ukrainians, overpowering them for a second time in a fortnight to take command of Group F and move closer to qualification for the last 16.

They were aided by a huge slice of luck for their second goal, however, after David Silva had given them an early lead. Raheem Sterling was unchallenged when he

fell in the area after stubbing his toe and Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai remarkably awarded a penalty.

Jesus accepted the chance and later grabbed another from the spot after Silva was felled. Between the penalties, Sterling scored a stunning goal and City wrapped up the win with a late effort from Mahrez and Jesus's cool injury-time lob.

The win should put City in good heart heading into Sunday's derby against Manchester United but Jesus feels the team can still get better. "We cannot be in the comfort zone ever," he said. "I do not like that, it does not help anyone. We have to improve a lot. Who does not have to improve?" — AFP



### MATCHES ON TV LOCAL TIMING

**SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA**  
Levante v Real Sociedad 23:00  
beIN SPORTS HD 3

**ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE**  
Frosinone Calcio v ACF Fiorentina 22:30  
beIN SPORTS HD 4

**GERMAN BUNDESLIGA**  
Hannover 96 v VfL Wolfsburg 22:30  
beIN SPORTS HD 5

**FRENCH LEAGUE**  
LOSC Lille v RC Strasbourg 22:45  
beIN SPORTS HD 6



# Sport Times

www.kuwaittimes.net

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018



**Kuwait wins bronze, China dominates  
on Day 4 of 11th Airgun competition**

See Page 43