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# Expats will be banned from public hospitals in 3 years

## Philippines Embassy denies it has implemented new rules for recruiting maids

By A Saleh and Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Well-informed health sources said the health ministry said expats will be banned from treatment in public hospitals within less than three years. The ministry also rejected parliamentary demands and proposals to cancel a decision to exempt some expats from increased health fees and only apply the exemption to domestic helpers, children of Kuwaiti women and GCC nationals.

The sources said lawmakers had complained that too many expats have been exempted, such as health ministry staff and others, and that these groups still pose a burden on public hospitals and prevent citizens from getting proper medical services on time. The sources said the health ministry argued that treating expats in public hospitals will be phased out shortly, but stressed that it was premature to start such measures now, because health insurance hospitals haven't begun operations and private hospitals are not currently equipped to deal with all expats.

Separately, Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Ma Teresa Olgado yesterday denied as "fake news" a report in Al-Rai newspaper which claimed the Philippine Embassy has started applying a new system for domestic helpers' recruitment. The report, quoting an anonymous source, said a sponsor's family must only have a maximum of four children to recruit one maid. If a family has more than four children, they should recruit an additional maid. If it is discovered later that the sponsor pro-

vided incorrect information about the number of family members, the embassy has the right to recall the maid, the report said.

Al-Rai said the new system stipulates that the recruitment contract which the sponsor signs must include a clause which allows embassy representatives to visit the maid and check on her at a time the sponsor agrees on. The embassy reserves the right to summon the sponsor if a complaint is made, the report said. Al-Rai added that the sponsor must provide the maid with a separate room, a cellphone connected to the Internet and one day off a week, while allowing the embassy to check on the maid on the day she starts working.

"This information is not true at all. Please refrain from writing articles attributed to the embassy that are not true and based only on speculations and unfounded information. This can damage and harm our normalizing relations with Kuwait. Please stop spreading fake news," Olgado asserted. Kuwait and the Philippines signed a labor pact in May, paving the way for lifting a ban on Filipino workers' deployment that was implemented after a Filipina maid's body was found in a freezer.

"The technical working committee in charge of drafting the labor agreement held its first meeting in Kuwait a few weeks back. The second round is yet to be scheduled - maybe it will take place in the Philippines early next year, so there are no such provisions yet. The two countries' parliaments will have to ratify the agreement too," Olgado told Kuwait Times.

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## Kuwait, French forces launch drills



KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti army has begun drills code-named "Pearl of the West" with live ammunition in cooperation with the French armed forces, the ministry of defense said yesterday. The army regularly conducts joint war games with French forces to boost combat readiness. Troops will fire live ammunition during the exercises, held at the Al-Udaira shooting range northwest of Kuwait City. The Kuwaiti-French maneuvers will continue until Nov 30. — KUNA

## Violence flares after botched Israeli Gaza op turns deadly

GAZA CITY: Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip killed three Palestinians yesterday after a barrage of rocket fire towards its territory from the enclave, as renewed violence threatened to derail efforts to restore calm. Israel's military said it had so far struck more than 20 militant sites in response to some 80 launches from the Hamas-run territory, reportedly rockets and mortars. Missile defenses had intercepted a number of the rockets, the military said.

The army said an Israeli bus was hit by fire from the Gaza Strip. Medics reported one person severely wounded. Medics also said six people from the southern

Israeli city of Sderot were lightly wounded. Israeli police said a rocket hit a house in Netivot, another southern Israeli town. Gaza's health ministry said three Palestinians were killed in the Israeli strikes. Militant group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said two were its members.

Hamas meanwhile claimed responsibility for the rocket fire on behalf of all Palestinian militant groups in Gaza, saying it was in revenge for a deadly Israeli military operation late Sunday. On Sunday, a clash erupted during an Israeli special forces operation in the Gaza Strip that killed seven Palestinian militants, including a local commander for Hamas' armed wing, and an Israeli army officer. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cut short a trip to Paris and rushed home as tensions rose, and yesterday convened a meeting of security chiefs.

Israel had stressed its covert operation on Sunday was an intelligence-gathering mission and "not an assassination or

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GAZA: Mourners carry the body of Nour Baraka, one of seven Palestinians killed during an Israeli special forces operation in the Gaza Strip, during his funeral yesterday in Khan Younis. — AFP

## MP files to grill PM over rain; govt rushes to pay damages

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Leading opposition lawmaker Shuaib Al-Muwaizri yesterday carried out his threat and filed to grill Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah for alleged mismanagement over heavy rainfall and its devastation effects on the country. Muwaizri last week issued an ultimatum to the prime minister to resign after the government allegedly failed to take the necessary actions to face heavy rains that lashed the country in the past two weeks, causing heavy damage. The lawmaker had promised that if the government does not resign over the issue, he will file to grill the prime minister.

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PARADISE, California: A burnt car and a gas station are seen after the "Camp" fire tore through the region near Pulga yesterday. — AFP

## More than 200 missing as winds fan devastating Calif wildfires

PARADISE, California: Thousands of firefighters entered a fifth day yesterday digging battle lines to contain California's worst ever wildfire as the wind-

whipped flames cleaved a merciless path through the state's northern hills, leaving death and devastation in their wake. The "Camp Fire" - in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains north of Sacramento - has killed 29 people, matching the state's deadliest ever brush blaze 85 years ago. More than 200 people are still unaccounted for, say officials.

It is the largest of several infernos that have sent a quarter of a million people fleeing their homes across the tinder-dry state, with winds of up to 100 km per hour fanning the fast-moving flames. As well as the historic loss of life, the blaze is also more destructive

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## Riyadh urges 1m bpd cut; Saudi, UAE giants team up for gas push

ABU DHABI: Saudi Arabia's energy minister called yesterday for a global output cut of one million barrels per day to re-balance the market, as Riyadh unveiled plans to cut production by 500,000 bpd from December. "The technical analysis we reviewed yesterday shows that we need a reduction approaching one million bpd to balance the market," Khalid Al-Falih told an energy conference in Abu Dhabi. The proposed reduction is from October production levels, Falih said.

Russia, another major producer, struck a more measured tone however, saying it preferred a wait-and-see approach. "I would not want to focus purely on production cuts," Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak told Bloomberg yesterday. "This is not the ultimate goal, to cut or not to cut," he added. "I think we would have to wait and see how the market is unfolding because our ultimate goal is market stability."

Oil prices have shed a fifth of their value over the past month due to oversupply and signs of a softer-than-expected impact from sanctions on Iranian crude exports. But they climbed yesterday as Riyadh announced plans to cut production in response to fears of oversupply. Falih said Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil supplier, would cut its production by 500,000 bpd as of next month to help stabilize the



ABU DHABI: Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber (right), Director General and CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) shakes hands with Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser after signing a cooperation deal yesterday. — AFP

market. The 15 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which include Saudi Arabia, alone pump over a third of global crude supply. Any official decision on global output cuts will be made at a key ministerial meeting for OPEC and non-OPEC producers in Vienna in early December, Falih said.

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# Amir receives Chief Justice, Defense Minister



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Justice Youssef Al-Mutawaa. —Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court, and President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Youssef Al-Mutawaa. His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

In other news, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad received a message from Prince of Wales Charles Philip over his health, wishing him good health and wellness. The Ministry of Defense said in a statement that the Defense Minister sent a message back to Prince Charles thanking him for the message, lauding his continuous concern for bolstering the bilateral relations and cooperation between

Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

Separately, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, with attendance of Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan, received yesterday at Bayan Palace the participants in the Arab International Aluminum Conference (ARABAL) held in Kuwait. — KUNA

## Youth, not oil, our greatest reserve: Sarah Abushaar to World Youth Forum

### 'Education is our countries' greatest defense spending against war and terror'

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH:** Sarah Abushaar, a politician and social activist in education, youth and women from Kuwait, delivered a speech during the World Youth Forum: a major event that took place recently in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in presence of Egyptian President Abdulfatah Al-Sisi and other senior officials. The following is a transcript of the speech:

"Mr President, Presidents with us, Members of Parliament, Honorable Ministers, fellow youth of the World Youth Forum.

"At the outset, I want to congratulate you Mr President and the youth of Egypt for what has been an incredible initiative for global youth. It's the first time that I've seen a President dedicate full time and focus to a forum on youth, sitting through every session, taking notes and engaging us in a real dialogue. That shows me as a young person that our voices matter and our issues matter. So I thank you.

"I'd also like to thank LOYAC-Kuwait, a regional youth empowerment platform, for nominating me to take part in this powerful experience with you all. I've been energized and inspired by the sense of purpose I've found here among young people from all around the world. I am Sarah Abushaar and it is my great honor to be speaking with you all.

"I want to start with a story. As a 7-year-old, I found myself standing in front of a tall, suited man, looking up at the towering structure that stood before me. I did not really understand what this man did, but I was told he was the president of a very powerful country.

"This did not really make a lot of sense to the 7-year-old version of me, but what I was very concerned about was how the power center of the earth had moved away from me and toward him as everyone focused their attention on him. He looked at me and he said: 'Young lady, what would you like to be when you grow up?' President of the United States of America!' I declared. It turns out I was speaking to President George Bush Senior.

"Now, I had no idea what I meant, of course, nor did I know then that I would end up interning at the White House several years later for some months. All I

knew as a 7-year-old was that the job looked like it was working great for him. President Bush responded: 'Well, young lady, if I'm alive then, you have my vote when you run.'

"The details of that moment have long faded, but I know that that story, that response, replaying itself in my mind, empowered in me a sense of possibility to think big and dream big, not confined by constraint, that even as a young girl, I, too, could be him.

"As I grew older and became increasingly conscious of the realities of my surrounding world, its conflict and its challenges, that childhood aspiration, that thoughtless response grew into a more concrete and grounded desire to take part in changing my world, in shaping its future.

"And I remember speaking with my grandmother about my growing aims to join government and work on political progress and peace. And her response was slightly different—she said, 'Allah yustur, la'eelik hilim tancee.' Basically, 'God forbid. Find yourself another dream, better not you end up in trouble for your big dreams.' And I think that so many of us young people have some version of my grandmother and hear some version of this language of the impossible. We are told to dream a little smaller to fit our contexts. But we tell young people to dream a little smaller not just directly, but in their opportunities, where many don't have the ability to even see the possibilities in the first place.

"As the news grabs our attention with headlines of 'oil' and 'turmoil', we lose sight of what is far more decisive to determining our prosperity and our peace. Our youth, not our oil, are our greatest power reserves, if we can unlock its potential. Our education, as young people, is our countries' greatest defense spending against war and terror if we invest what we waste on war and weapons today across our countries in empowering the problem-solvers and the peace-builders of the future.

"As I look within my life at what had been most transformative for me—I had the opportunity to gain a strong education in Kuwait where I grew up which, in turn, enabled my education at Harvard and which



SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Sarah Abushaar delivers a speech during the World Youth Forum.

empowered my desire to take part in building up my world and to drive this possibility for so many other young people.

"Beyond education, the other critical piece is empowerment and a voice—so many young people across the world today are eager to participate in building up their countries, in shaping their futures... I am among them as I know that many of you young people here today are, but this desire finds itself at odds with an environment where the opportunity for young people to participate is often limited.

"Very often I find myself in conferences on youth and yet the youngest person representing the voice of youth is 57 or 60 years old. And yes he was a youth — 30 years ago. We need to create the space for young people to participate in a future they are very much at the heart of, to take part in building a world that we will live.

"And that brings me to an important point—I was truly delighted to see at the start of this forum discussions on empowering young people with disabilities. To capture the potential that young people represent, we must also capture and engage the diversity of our

youth. If we are going to build a future that works for everyone, then we need everyone working on that future.

"When we are working on policies that affect people with disabilities, young people with disabilities have to be working on them. When we are speaking on questions or policies that affect women, young women need to be represented at the table working on them—people who are best positioned to understand the problems are in the best position to be working on the solutions. But driving progress cannot be the role of our governments alone. As young people we need to take the initiative and be the change where we can't see it.

"And recognize that there will be challenges but that change is not the work of a night; it is the constant commitment to a cause over the course of a life. Whatever you do, don't grow discouraged, don't grow disillusioned.

"Dream big. Believe in what you're working toward and work toward it every day, through challenge after challenge and failure after failure, persist and persevere and you will find that probabilities start to mean very little. Persist in what you believe in and work toward it every day."

During Abushaar's presentation, a video was played in which a young girl is heard saying: "Why should these innocent people be punished for praying to God in their own way? War has proven to us that all men bleed and that the blood is always red whatever the color of their skin... I have a dream, as Martin Luther King, once did, that one day, all of us humans are able to hold hands and unite and walk together as brothers and sisters."

Abushaar then commented on the video, saying: "That young girl and what she stood for is why I'm standing here. And from the Land of Peace, I insist and persist on my big dream of peace. Persist in what you believe in and work toward it every day. And as we do so, across our 163 countries, across our thousands of efforts, that amounts to something powerful."

"Persist in what you believe in. The world needs our big dreams. It needs our action," Abushaar concluded.



Sarah Abushaar addresses the audience.

# Iraqi President concludes visit to Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** Iraqi President Barham Saleh and his accompanying delegation concluded a visit to Kuwait yesterday, during which he held summit talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Saleh was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials.

The Iraqi President arrived in Kuwait Sunday in an official visit, during which he met with His Highness the Amir. He also met with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan and Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah were also amongst those received by the president. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah bids farewell to Iraqi President Barham Saleh. — Amiri Diwan photos



**National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem bids farewell to Iraqi President Barham Saleh.**



**His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah bids farewell to Iraqi President Barham Saleh.**



**First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah bids farewell to Iraqi President Barham Saleh.**

## POWs' case bleeding wound for Kuwaitis and Iraqis: President Saleh

Establishing railways, developing joint cities discussed in meeting with Amir: Saleh



**Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan meets with Iraqi President Barham Saleh.**



**KUWAIT:** Iraqi President Barham Saleh meets with representatives of the Kuwaiti press.

**KUWAIT:** Iraqi President Barham Saleh said concerning the case of Kuwaiti prisoners of war (POW) and Kuwaiti property in Iraq that there are files that have been resolved, while some files are stuck and others are on their way to a solution. The POW case is a bleeding wound not only for Kuwaitis, but also for Iraqis, said President Saleh, pointing out the atrocities committed by Saddam Hussein on both sides of the border. He was speaking during a press conference to Kuwaiti press chiefs on Sunday marking the occasion of his visit to Kuwait. "We brought back some of the Amiri Diwan's items that were stolen during the Iraqi invasion," he added. "This is evidence of Iraq's insistence on restoring the right to its owner, as well as an important message that we do not want to look in the past, but look forward into a new phase."

The Iraqi government had repeated its call for information leading to the whereabouts of the lost remains of Kuwaiti POWs missing since Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait. In a statement on Monday, Iraq's Interior Ministry said it would offer a reward in return, setting up a public hotline to receive these reports. In spite of the efforts, the government has not yet announced receiving any information on the matter.

### Southern Iraq projects

In response to a question on projects to be implemented in southern Iraq, Saleh said, "ahead of us today is a judicial project to make Basra the economic capital of Iraq, and that the Iraqi authorities might move forward with a complementary project making Basra capable of obtaining legal powers to be a distinct

development area."

"There is no doubt that Kuwait will be interested in the projects that will be implemented in Basra and we want to be in an understanding and coordination with the brothers in Kuwait," added Saleh. On the existence of security, economic, and political concerns, Saleh called for creating a 'network of joint interests' that he believes will help guarantee security for all countries of the region.

### New government

President Saleh expressed hopes that his new government would be able to live up to expectation and achieve various citizens aspiration and stressed at the same time that things are improving steadily, promising a better future. During the press conference, Saleh said, "our situation in Iraq is developing for the better and is giving hope. There is a state of expectation among citizens to achieve real progress. This increases the burden of the new government, which must be at the discretion of its citizens."

He also stressed the importance of internal reform and the completion of a modern and safe state considering that "that is achieved by a strong Iraqi administration and with the support of allies in the region." He added, "choosing Kuwait as the first destination in our

tour is a message showing the importance of Kuwait in the heart of the Iraqis and a great moral and political consideration for us. Moreover, we count a lot on His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and the leadership and people of Kuwait."

On the impacts of the Iraq Reconstruction Forum that was held in Kuwait on the formulation of Iraqi foreign policy and foreign politics, Saleh expressed thanks to Kuwait for organizing this forum assuring Iraq's keenness to continue monitoring the results to turn them into actual achievements. He added that the forum was successful and came out with international commitments to support Iraq, which is looking to strengthen its relations with the Arab world especially with the GCC for considerations to improve its economic, security, and political status. Iraq's Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi attaches great importance on this topic in order to achieve economic integrations that are important for the nations in the region, added Saleh.

### Establishing railways

Saleh pointed to the discussion he had with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday, which revolved around establishing railways between the two countries and developing joint industrial, commercial and economic cities to

facilitate visits and movement of capital between citizens of both countries. Iraq looks to be a significant player in reorganizing the region and find a stable security system based on the historical affinity and joint economic interests.

On future economic relations with Iran after recent sanctions by the U.S. Saleh said, "Iran is an important neighbor for Iraq, as we are linked historically, culturally, and through society. Our relations were not easy in the past, and we have a big challenge ahead of us to overcome the past and launch towards a new phase." Saleh also pointed to Iraq and Kuwait's keenness to terminate the case between them that was committed by the former Saddam Hussein regime, saying, "my hope is that our brother in Kuwait will move forward to a new phase as His Highness the Amir wishes, away from political debates as there are bigger and more important cases ahead."

On relation with Saudi Arabia, he said, "we attach importance to our relationship with Saudi Arabia and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz spoke to me by telephone after I was elected President, where he assured us the keenness of the Kingdom on bilateral relations with Iraq." He added that Iraq and Saudi Arabia are linked in well-known ties and major interest in the region, expressing hope for the ability of both countries to transfer the joint efforts into an actual program that would restore stability in the area. With respect to some of the urban projects implemented by Kuwait near the common borders, Saleh said that Iraq also has projects planned in Basra and in the near future even in the GCC. —KUNA



**We do not want to look in the past, but look forward**

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Rainclouds over Kuwait City. — Photo by Wadha Al-Sakran (KUNA)

# CONDOLENCES

**Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief  
Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan,  
management and staff**

convey their deepest condolences to

**Azad Hussain Abu Hussain**

on the sad demise of his  
**Father**

*May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him*

## ABK shares 'Secrets of Successful Career' with KU students

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait University (KU) welcomed Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), to host a full day lecture on how to build a successful career. The session, titled 'Secrets of a Successful Career,' was designed to provide insights and guidance for youth looking to further their professional careers or improve skills sought after by high-level executives in today's rapidly changing world.

Held on October 22, 2018, the session was attended by 20 students who actively participated and engaged with ABK executives. This one day lecture commenced with an introduction about ABK, opportunities available within the organization, its approach towards business and the rapid

growth of the banking industry. ABK elaborated on its various methods and innovative channels of recruitment that the students can use post their graduation for numerous job opportunities.

In addition, ABK demonstrated how to create a professional yet distinctive resume that would attract the attention of potential employers. Furthermore, using their niche knowledge of recruitment to their advantage, ABK offered insights on good first impressions and interpersonal skills that would motivate the next generation of job seekers.

ABK reiterated the importance of maintaining a positive mindset when faced with rejection, and encouraged students to maintain their individuality, while simultaneously inculcating new ways of thinking to become a career-driven citizen.

Through the session, ABK delivered a real world scenario, providing insights with a broader perspective to help them understand what potential employers are seeking. The session was aligned with ABK's commitment to support Kuwait's youth and encourage careers within the banking sector.



ABK team with Dr Majdi Quttainah from Kuwait University.



Fadel Al-Jazzaf from ABK during the session at Kuwait University.

Local

# Technical teams to assess Sabah Al-Ahmad City's damages after rain

## Fake degree suspect ordered to pay back KD 20,000 in allowances

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Jenan Bushehri announced forming special technical teams to assess the damage caused by the recent rain to Sabah Al-Ahmad City's infrastructure. Southern areas were affected the most by the stormy weather, and Sabah Al-Ahmad City was among the most heavily-affected. Bushehri said assessment teams will tour various sectors in the city and report back within a week, noting that a number of companies will immediately tend to the repairs as per the terms of the contracts signed with them without costing the housing authority any expense.

Bushehri added the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) is coordinating with the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to assess the damage and report to the neutral committee formed by Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hosam Al-Roumi. She stressed that concerned companies will be 'severely punished' in case any dereliction or manipulation was involved, adding that the housing authority's officials and employees will also be held accountable if they were involved in such dereliction.

Meanwhile, Oil Minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rasheed urged employees in various ministry sectors to be on alert to face the heavy rain forecast for tomorrow. Speaking during a meeting with ministry officials, Rasheed urged them to learn the lessons from previous contingencies and work on avoiding the rain's negative impact.

### Join efforts

In the meantime, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) representative in Kuwait Nabila Al-Anjari urged legislatives, executives, NGOs and all citizens to join efforts and face the effects of the recent rain, resolve the problem and prevent it from recurring, instead of

exchanging accusations and pointing fingers. Anjari added that full studies have to be made to reach final solutions for the problem of rainwater drainage and flooding of various streets regardless of the cost, because Kuwait is a rich country and has enough manpower and funds to do so.

The Municipal Council met yesterday headed by Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi to discuss the recent rains. Speaking during the meeting, Kuwait Municipality's director reminded that total rainfall recorded in 1954, when many old houses were damaged by the rain, was 300 mm, while the rain that recently fell was 130 mm in just two hours, which is beyond the state's capacity. He also noted that a construction consultant has been hired to build gigantic basins to make use of rainwater. Council members Abul Salam Al-Randi, Maha Al-Baghli and Abdul Aziz Al-Mojel raised the issue of cleaning companies and the state of cleaning in Kuwait, noting that the cleaning equipment was outdated and that streets need to be washed twice a week.



## Stock exchange photo priced at \$850,000

**Fake degree**  
The public prosecutor yesterday interrogated a popular media figure over charges of using a fake PhD degree, said informed sources, noting that the suspect will be detained unless he pays back all the sums he had received as allowances over the degree. The sources explained that the public prosecutor decided releasing the suspect if he paid a KD 1,000 bail, in addition to the KD 20,000 he had received in allowances for the fake degree.

### Second contest

Responding to the parliamentary voting by which MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Jamaan Al-Harbash retained their membership despite being sentenced to three years and six months in prison, the constitutional court yesterday received a second contest questioning the constitu-



**KUWAIT:** Damaged cars are pictured following heavy rain in a flooded parking lot in Fahaheel, south of Kuwait City, on November 10, 2018. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

tionality of article 16 of the Assembly charter.

### \$850,000

A photo of the Kuwait stock exchange taken in 2007 by the famous German photographer Andreas Gursky was astronomically priced at \$850,000 before it was displayed in New York to be auctioned on Nov 15, 2018. Commenting on the photo, art critic Dr Nina Zimmer said only a few artists managed to extract the traits of a certain culture or the mentality of a certain generation in one piece of work. "Gursky managed to sum up the social and economic situations in Kuwait in the late 20th century in this photo", she said. Notably, Gursky is a photographer and professor at the Kunstakademie Dusseldorf in Germany. He is known for his large format architecture and landscape color photographs, often employing a high point of view. He was born in Leipzig in Germany in 1955. In 2011, his Rhein II photo, which depicts the stretch of the river Rhine outside Dusseldorf, was sold for \$4.3 million to become the most expensive photo in the history of public auctions.

## No embezzlements at London health office

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health (MoH) emphatically denied yesterday social media reports about alleged embezzlements at Kuwait's Health Office in London. The MoH said in a press release that embezzlement took place in 2016 and the culprits were disclosed by the current office management, while reports in this regard were made public in 2017. "Investigations in this respect have been proceeding," the ministry said, and called on whoever concerned to be accurate in promoting such reports, abstain from spreading rumors and false information. —KUNA

## Fireman hurt in Salhiya blaze

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A fire broke out in the exterior of a building under construction in Salhiya, said security sources, noting that firemen from the Capital fire station rushed to the scene and managed to contain and control the flames, preventing them from spreading to other parts of the building. A fireman was injured and was taken to hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said that firemen battled a blaze reported yesterday in a Jleeb apartment, which left no injuries.

### Brawlers deported

The Interior Ministry's relations and security media department announced that two groups of Arab men, who were seen in social media videos fighting in Jleeb, were arrested pending deportation for rioting. The department added that the groups were fighting over a traffic problem. The fight had started between two drivers before it escalated and others joined them. Accordingly, the department urged all citizens and expats to respect the law and avoid engaging in any form of rioting.



**KUWAIT:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah awarded new army officers their new ranks during a ceremony held yesterday at Bayan Palace.



**KUWAIT:** Firefighters battle a blaze reported in Salhiya yesterday.

## OBITUARY



### C. T. Thomas

Ex- ASST. HEAD, Design & Supervision (Major Projects), MEW and MPW, Kuwait

Passed away in Kerala on 09th November 2018. Funeral in Kochi, Kerala on 13th November 2018.

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<p><b>2018</b></p>	<p><b>2016</b></p>	<p><b>2011</b></p>	<p><b>2009</b></p>
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# International

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Pneumonia to kill nearly 11 million children by 2030

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## Air India pilot loses license after failing breath test



SANAA: Houthi female supporters demonstrate to support Houthi militias fighting Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces in the port city of Hodeidah, during a rally in the capital Sanaa. — AFP

## 150 killed in battle for Yemen's Hodeida

### International pressure mounts for a ceasefire

**HODEIDA:** At least 150 people have been killed in 24 hours of clashes in Yemen's Hodeida, medics and military sources said yesterday, as international pressure mounted for a ceasefire in the vital port city. Government loyalists supported by a Saudi-led coalition are fighting to oust the Iran-backed Houthi rebels from the Red Sea city, whose docks are a lifeline to 14 million Yemenis at risk of starvation. "If the port at Hodeida is destroyed, that could create an absolutely catastrophic situation," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned. "The fighting must stop, a political debate must begin, and we must prepare a massive humanitarian response to avoid the worst next year," he said.

A source in the pro-government coalition said the insurgents had pushed back a large-scale assault aimed at moving towards the port. Government forces, led on the ground by Emirati-backed troops, have made their way into Hodeida after 11 days of clashes, reaching residential neighborhoods in the east on Sunday and sparking fears of street fights that would further endanger civilians trapped

in the city. Residents and government military sources have reported rebel snipers stationed on rooftops in civilian streets in eastern Hodeida, a few kilometers from the port on the western edge of the city.

Mariam Aldogani, Save the Children's field coordinator in Yemen, said that the people in Hodeida are living in a "state of fear". "There is ongoing fighting, and the situation is very bad," she told AFP over the weekend by phone, as strikes were heard in the background. The Hodeida offensive has sparked international outcry unprecedented in nearly four years of conflict between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed government. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday urged Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a major ally of Washington, to engage in peace talks.

#### 'Incalculable human cost'

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt will visit Saudi Arabia on Monday, where he will press King Salman and Prince Mohammed to support UN efforts to end the con-

flict, the Foreign Office said. Both the United States and Britain are major suppliers of arms to Saudi Arabia. Hunt will also meet senior officials from Yemen and the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates, a key pillar of the Saudi-led coalition supporting the Yemeni government. "The human cost of war in Yemen is incalculable," Hunt said ahead of his trip. "The only solution is now a political decision to set aside arms and pursue peace."

Aid groups fear for the safety of nearly 600,000 people living in Hodeida—and for millions of others dependent on its port for what little food and humanitarian aid trickles into impoverished, blockaded Yemen. A military official in Hodeida yesterday confirmed seven civilians had died, without giving further details. Medics in hospitals across Hodeida province reported 111 rebels and 32 loyalist fighters killed overnight, according to a tally by AFP. Sources at the Al-Alfi military hospital, seized by the rebels during their 2014 takeover, said charred body parts had been delivered there overnight. Military sources confirmed that

the Saudi-led alliance had targeted the rebels with multiple air strikes.

The rebels have begun to evacuate their wounded to Sanaa, the capital, which the Houthis seized during a 2014 takeover that included a string of ports on Yemen's coastline. Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in the Yemeni government's fight against the Houthis in 2015, triggering what the UN now calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Nearly 600 people have been killed since clashes erupted in Hodeida on November 1, ending a temporary suspension in a government offensive to take the city that began in June. The coalition has come under intense international pressure to end the conflict in Yemen, particularly following the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist killed in his country's consulate in Istanbul on October 2, was an ardent critic of Prince Mohammed, who has spearheaded the kingdom's controversial role in the Yemen war. — AFP

## Delhi's homeless to be given masks as smog worsens

**NEW DELHI:** New Delhi's homeless will be given cotton masks to help them survive in the world's most polluted major city, officials said yesterday, although experts said the basic coverings would be useless against deadly smog particles. Each winter the capital of 20 million chokes through haze so extreme that levels of airborne pollutants eclipse safe limits by more than 30 times.

The poor and homeless suffer the worst, through constant exposure to a toxic brew of car fumes, factory exhaust and construction dust. Measures to curb the smog—from reducing heavy goods traffic and firecrackers to banning farmers from using fire to clear their fields—have failed to clear the skies. Bipin Rai from Delhi's city government told AFP that 10,000 face masks would be given "to homeless families, women, patients and children as pollution levels are on the rise".

But experts said these masks offered little to no protection against the most poisonous pollutants in the air—particles known as PM2.5 so small they can penetrate the heart and cardiovascular system. "These masks are redundant, as fine particles harmful to the human body will not be filtered out," Vivek Chattopadhyay from the Centre for Science and Environment told AFP. "It is ineffective, and the government should instead offer medically approved masks." Rai, from Delhi's Urban Shelter Improvement Board, defended the scheme. "Has any expert who is commenting on the masks and their durability tested them? How can they comment on something they've not tried," he said.



NEW DELHI: Commuters travel along a highway amidst heavy smog in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

Levels of PM2.5 measured by the US embassy in Delhi yesterday showed readings hit 378 — more than 15 times safe limits. The World Health Organization last year said exposure to air pollution killed 600,000 children around the globe every year.

Tiny particles in the air can be absorbed into the

bloodstream and have been linked to chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease. The report found that children in poorer countries are far more at risk, with a full 98 percent of all children under five in low- and middle-income countries exposed to PM2.5 levels above WHO air quality guidelines. — AFP

## Bahraini court sentences four Shiites to death

**DUBAI:** Bahrain's top criminal court yesterday sentenced four Shiite Muslims to death for a 2017 bombing that killed a policeman in the Sunni-ruled kingdom, a judicial official and the public prosecutor said. A statement by the prosecutor's office said the four were found guilty on charges of premeditated murder and possession of unlicensed arms "with terrorist aims" over the June 18, 2017 bombing.

A police officer was killed in the blast in Diraz, a flash-point village outside the capital Manama. A judicial source involved in the case, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said all four of those sentenced were Shiite Muslims. Only one of them is in custody, according to the London-based Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, which said the three others were tried in absentia.

Bahrain, a tiny Gulf state located between regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran, has been hit by waves of unrest since 2011, when security forces crushed protests led by majority Shiites demanding an elected prime minister. Authorities have since jailed hundreds of dissidents and stripped many of citizenship, banning all opposition groups under court orders. Diraz in particular has been rocked by protests, police raids, riots and sporadic bombings. The village is home to Bahrain's top Shiite cleric, Sheikh Isa Qassim, who was stripped of citizenship in 2016 and is under house arrest. Bahraini authorities accuse Shiite Iran of provoking unrest in the kingdom, which Tehran denies. Rights groups including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have criticized many of the trials as politically motivated and said they fail to meet basic standards of due process. — AFP

International

# Suicide bomber blows himself up in Kabul; at least six killed

## Latest in a wave of violence across war-torn Afghanistan

**KABUL:** Six people were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up in Kabul yesterday, close to where scores of Afghans had been protesting against Taliban attacks on the minority Hazara ethnic group. The attack is the latest in a wave of violence across war-torn Afghanistan as the Taliban intensify pressure on beleaguered government security forces, which are suffering record high casualties. Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said 20 were wounded in the blast, which struck in front of a high school in the downtown area of the Afghan capital.

Initial reports indicated most of the victims were members of the security forces, but Danish said civilians, including several women, had borne the brunt of the carnage. A photo shared on WhatsApp showed several bodies lying on the ground. "The suicide attacker on foot wanted to target protesters, but he was stopped at a security checkpoint some 200 meters from the site," interior ministry deputy spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said. A police officer at the scene said he saw 10 to 15 casualties on the ground, as well as body parts.

The centre of Kabul was blanketed with heavier-than-usual security for the protest, which began on Sunday night and continued into yesterday. "It was a huge blast near Istiqlal high school, very close to where the demonstrators were gathering," witness Qais Nawabi said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Demonstrators, including university students, had taken to the streets to demand the deployment of military reinforcements to two Hazara-

dominated districts in the southeastern province of Ghazni which have been attacked by the Taliban.

In other violence, a Taliban attack on Khak Safid district in the western province of Farah overnight killed up to 40 local police and civilians, provincial council member Dadullah Qaneh said. "They set the houses of local police members on fire, killed women and children and local police," Qaneh said. Provincial police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib confirmed the attack, but had no information on the number of casualties.

### Ethnic violence

The Kabul explosion came as Afghan security forces step up ground and air offensives in Jaghori and Malistan districts, where Hazara pro-government fighters and Afghan troops are battling the militants. Fighting in the area has been ongoing since Wednesday, fanning fears that the violence could be rooted in ethnic or sectarian differences. 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. "We have no news from our people living there," Asif Ashna, one of the protesters, said in a Facebook live broadcast. "If the government's duty is to protect the lives of the people then why have they not taken any measures in the past week?"

Protester Ishaq Anis said that security forces should be permanently based in Jaghori and Malistan



**KABUL:** Afghan medical staff members with stretchers wait outside an hospital of the Italian aid organization 'Emergency' in Kabul yesterday. —AFP

to prevent "further attacks against Hazara people". Hazaras have long criticized the government for failing to protect them from attacks by the Taliban and the Islamic State group, some even suggesting the blundering was deliberate. The escalation in violence comes as US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad returned to the region as part of efforts to convince the

Taliban to end the 17-year war. Khalilzad met with President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday. The former US ambassador to Kabul will also visit Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, where the Taliban has a political office. A Taliban delegation met with Khalilzad in Doha in October to discuss ending the Afghan conflict. —AFP



### In other violence, Taliban attack kills 40 police, civilians

## Gabon's president Bongo 'seriously ill'

**LIBREVILLE:** Gabon's presidency admitted for the first time on Sunday that President Ali Bongo, hospitalized for nearly three weeks in Saudi Arabia, is in a serious condition but said his health is improving. The 59-year-old leader was taken to hospital in the Saudi capital Riyadh on October 24 but his condition has now "greatly improved" and he is "recovering most of his functions," presidency spokesman Ike Ngouoni said.

Lack of official news - along with memories of the secrecy-shrouded death of Bongo's father Omar Bongo in 2009 - had sparked numerous rumors, including suggestions he was incapacitated or dead. Following discomfort and "persistent vertigo... the first tests revealed bleeding which justified medical surgical care in a highly specialized sector," according to a medical bulletin from doctors treating Bongo, quoted by Ngouoni. Ali Bongo "was treated with appropriate and thorough support that has so far significantly improved his general condition," it said. A foreign source close to Bongo and his French-born wife Sylvia told AFP on Wednesday that Bongo had had a stroke.

### 'Encouraging' physical recovery

The Bongo family has governed the oil-rich West African nation for five decades and long maintained close ties with former colonial master France under a system known as "Francafrique". Relations cooled after Ali Bongo was elected in 2009 following his father's death and French authorities launched a corruption

investigation into the family's assets. Gabon ranks 117 out of 180 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. "According to the medical team," Bongo is "gradually beginning a very encouraging phase of physical recovery," Ngouoni said without specifying Bongo's ailment.

The "head of state continues to perform his duties" and "the institutions of our republic are functioning perfectly in strict compliance with the constitution," the spokesman added. Gabon's official media watchdog on Friday said it had suspended a newspaper for three months for an article saying the country was on "autopilot" because of Bongo's hospitalization. L'Aube (Dawn) newspaper had run a story headlined "Gabon on (very dangerous) autopilot" and suggested that Prime Minister Lucie Mboussou would be appointed interim president. The paper's editor, Orca Boudiandza Mouelle, was also banned from working for six months.

### Bongo rule for decades

Ali Bongo served as foreign and defense minister during his father's rule, and after his death was elected head of state in August 2009. He was narrowly re-elected in 2016 after beating opposition challenger Jean Ping by a few thousand votes following a presidential poll marred by deadly violence and allegations of fraud. The opposition claimed the vote had been rigged and demanded a recount, which the country's constitutional court rejected. The country has large oil, mineral and tropical timber resources, and its per capita national income is four times greater than that of most sub-Saharan nations. But about a third of its population of 1.8 million still live below the poverty line - the result, say experts, of inequality, poor governance and corruption. —AFP



**Gabon's President Ali Bongo**

## Libyan players in Italy for fresh bid to solve crisis

**PALERMO:** Libya's key political players meet with global leaders in Italy yesterday in the latest bid by major powers to kick-start a long-stalled political process and trigger elections. A summit in Paris in May had seen the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) and eastern Libya strongman Khalifa Haftar agree to hold national polls on December 10, but that date has fallen by the wayside. Acknowledging the chaotic political situation since dictator Muammar Gaddafi was deposed in 2011, the United Nations on Thursday conceded elections will not be viable before at least the spring of 2019.

A question mark hangs over Haftar's crucial presence at the talks in the Sicilian capital Palermo, with Rome on Sunday denying a Haftar official's statement that Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte had paid a lightning visit to his Benghazi headquarters amid reports he might not attend.

A source close to the Italian government could not confirm if the two had been in telephone contact. "Haftar already succeeding in making the Palermo Conference about the importance of his role in any potential agreement in Libya going forward and reinforcing his position as the key actor in the Libyan crisis," said Mohamed ElJarh, CEO of research and consulting firm Libya Outlook. Analysts say the Sicily summit risks being compromised not only by tensions between Libyan factions, but also the competing agendas of foreign powers.

Just as in May, the key Libyan invitees



**TRIPOLI:** Libya's unity government Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj speaks during an interview with AFP in the capital Tripoli. —AFP

are Haftar, the eastern parliament's speaker Aguila Salah, GNA head Fayez al-Sarraj and Khaled al-Mechri, speaker of a Tripoli-based upper chamber. In an interview with AFP, Sarraj urged the international community on Thursday to find a "common vision" for the future of the chaos-hit North African nation. The GNA says it will use the Palermo talks to lobby for security reforms that unify the army, a constitutionally rooted electoral process, economic reform and an end to "parallel institutions".

### 'A fundamental step'

The US, Arab countries and European nations will all send representatives to the Tuesday talks, after a dinner set for Monday. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi is set to attend. For Rome's populist government, a top priority is stemming the

flow of migrants who exploit Libya's security vacuum in their quest to reach European shores, often via Italy. "The Palermo conference is a fundamental step in the goal of stabilizing Libya and for the security of the entire Mediterranean," Conte said last week.

UN envoy Ghassan Salame told the Security Council on Thursday that a national conference in early 2019 would be organized to provide "a platform" for Libyans to spell out their vision for the future. But diplomatic wrangling between Italy and France hangs over this summit. In September, Italy's defense minister and parliamentary speaker both partly blamed France for Libya's security crisis, which continues to simmer some seven years after the NATO-backed uprising toppled Gaddafi. The Italian swipes came as Tripoli was

plagued by militia clashes that killed at least 117 people and wounded more than 400 between late August and late September.

Rome and Paris have for months been at loggerheads over Libya's election timetable. While France repeatedly endorsed the December date, Italy opposed it. Italy has not been alone in pushing for elections to be delayed - the December 10 date was also viewed skeptically by Washington and Moscow. One Italian diplomatic source said that no definitive poll date should be set at the summit and it is "not sure that there will be a final document" after the talks. According to diplomats and analysts, Russia, France, Egypt and the UAE support Haftar, while Turkey and Qatar have thrown their weight behind rivals to the eastern strongman, especially Islamist groups. —AFP

## Mushrooms and tangerines: North and South Korea swap food gifts

**SEOUL:** South Korea has sent 200 tons of tangerines to the North in return for mushrooms Pyongyang gave earlier, Seoul said yesterday, in the latest reconciliatory gesture between the neighbors. Seoul is pushing ahead with a rapprochement with the nuclear-armed North while its security ally the US insists pressure on Pyongyang should be maintained until it denuclearizes. The tangerines - a rarity in the North - were being airlifted to Pyongyang from the southern island of Jeju, where they were grown, in four flights, the last one due yesterday afternoon.

The fruits reciprocate two tons of pine mushrooms sent by the North's leader Kim Jong Un during his September summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in, Seoul's presidential office said. The pine mushrooms - a delicacy claimed to help prevent heart diseases and diabetes, and a key Northern export to China - were distributed to Southern families separated from relatives in the North. "Tangerines are a speciality of the South that ordinary North Koreans normally don't have access to," Moon's spokesman said Sunday.

His office did not elaborate on the fruits' value but local media, citing local tangerine prices, estimated it at about 400 to 500 million won (\$350,000-\$440,000). Opposition politicians were critical. "This action runs counter to the current atmosphere of the international community," Liberty Korea Party floor leader Song Hee-kyung said in a statement. "South Koreans are sick and tired of such sentimental moves." Moon - a dove who advocates dialogue with the North to nudge it toward denuclearization negotiations - has met Kim three times so far and is seeking to hold another summit in Seoul in the near future. —AFP

## Pneumonia to kill nearly 11 million children by 2030

**PARIS:** Pneumonia will kill nearly 11 million children under five by 2030, experts warned yesterday on a global day aimed at raising awareness of the biggest infectious killer of infants worldwide. While in the developed world the severe lung infection mainly affects the elderly, in developing nations it is children who bear the brunt, with hundreds of thousands dying each year from the easily preventable disease.

More than 880,000 children - mainly aged less than two years old - died from pneumonia in 2016 alone. A new analysis conducted by Johns Hopkins University and the aid group Save the Children using forecasts based on current trends showed more than 10,800,000 under-fives would succumb to the disease by the end of the next decade. Furthermore, a handful of countries are set to carry the highest burdens, with 1.7 million children set to die in Nigeria and India, 700,000 in Pakistan and 635,000 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Yet there is some good news.

The study, published on World Pneumonia Day, found that scaling up existing vaccination coverage, coupled with cheap antibiotics and ensuring good nutrition for children could save a total of 4.1 million lives. Pneumonia, an inflammatory infection of the lungs that may be contracted via viral or bacteria infection, is treatable if caught early enough and the patient's immune system isn't compromised. But worldwide it hits young children who are often weak through malnutrition, killing more infants each year than malaria, diarrhoea and measles combined. —AFP

## International

# UK's PM stares into Brexit abyss as domestic opposition mounts

## Pro-Europeans line up to trash May's Brexit plans

LONDON: Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit strategy came under attack from all sides yesterday, increasing the risk that her plan for leaving the EU will be voted down by parliament and thrust the United Kingdom towards a potentially chaotic "no-deal" Brexit. In a sign that Brexit talks could go down to the wire, EU sources said they want clarity from London by the end of Wednesday at the latest if there is to be a summit this month to approve a Brexit deal. May's compromise plan, which seeks to maintain close trade ties with the EU in the future, is facing opposition from Brexiters, pro-Europeans, the Northern Irish party that props up her government, and even some of her own ministers.

"I think it's the worst of all worlds," former education minister Justine Greening, who supported staying in the EU in the 2016 Brexit referendum, told BBC radio, adding that she did not think there was any chance it could get through parliament. A British official voiced pessimism about the possibility of a breakthrough with the EU this week due to continued deadlock on the issue of the border between British-ruled Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

Sterling tumbled to a 1-1/2 week low of \$1.2838 on fears of a possible no-deal Brexit that many investors fear will weaken the West, panic markets and block the arteries of trade. Brexit talks with the EU ran through Sunday night until 0245 and resumed in the morning. "Technically speaking, the text is ready. But there is no political agreement from their side," a senior EU diplomat said. Economists polled by Reuters last week said there remains a one-in-four chance that London and Brussels will fail to reach a deal on the terms of departure.

### Neo-Nazis who named son after 'Hitler' guilty of terror offence

LONDON: A couple who gave their son the middle name Adolf in honor of Hitler were yesterday convicted of being members of a British neo-Nazi terrorist group. Adam Thomas, 22, and Portuguese-born

London calling  
Both sides need an agreement to keep trade flowing between the world's biggest trading bloc and the fifth largest national economy. The other 27 members of the EU combined have about five times the economic might of Britain. But May has struggled to untangle nearly 46 years of membership without damaging trade or upsetting the lawmakers who will ultimately decide the fate of any deal she can secure. "We have made good progress in the negotiations in relation to the Withdrawal Agreement but there are substantial issues still to overcome in relation to the Northern Irish "backstop", that remains the case," May's spokesman said.

### Sterling falls on fears of no deal

The "backstop" is an insurance policy to ensure no return to border controls on the island of Ireland if a future EU-UK trading relationship cannot be agreed in time. "The cabinet has backed the prime minister in moving forward with the negotiations with the EU and I expect cabinet will continue to do so," May's spokesman said. In Brussels, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier told ministers from the other 27 EU member states that he was waiting for a signal that May has mustered enough votes to get a deal approved by parliament.

If there is a breakthrough, a Brexit summit could be called for Nov 24-25. "It's such a mess politically in Britain, it's hard to see at this stage how she can win support for the package," said one diplomat. While May has for months faced fierce opposition from Brexit-supporting lawmakers, who say she has betrayed the referendum result by seeking such close ties with the EU, she is now facing increasing pressure from pro-Europeans too. Jo Johnson, the younger

partner Claudia Patatas, 38, from Banbury in south England, were charged along with Daniel Bogunovic, 27, from Leicester in central England with being members of banned group National Action (NA).

Jurors at Birmingham Crown Court in central England reached a unanimous verdict after being shown photographs during the four-week trial of Thomas wearing Ku Klux Klan robes while holding his baby. Thomas claimed the photographs were "just play" but also told the court he was a racist. —AFP



LONDON: Green Party of Northern Ireland leader Steven Agnew (left), Sinn Fein vice-president Michelle O'Neill (2nd left), SDLP leader Colum Eastwood (3rd right), Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable (2nd right) and Alliance Party of Northern Ireland politician Stephen Farry (right) hold a press conference in central London yesterday. — AFP

brother of leading Brexiteer and former foreign minister Boris, resigned from May's government last Friday, calling in a withering critique for another referendum to prevent her Brexit plans.

If a deal is voted down by parliament, the United Kingdom will face an uncertain future: leaving abruptly without a deal, the collapse of May's government, an elec-

tion, or, as some opponents of Brexit hope, a new referendum. The EU is not currently working to include any second referendum in its Brexit planning, sources in Brussels said. Brexiteers say leaving without a deal might be damaging in the short term but that in the longer term it would be better than signing up to obey rules from the EU for decades to come. —Reuters

### New border crossings open in divided Cyprus

DHERYNNIA: Cypriot officials opened two new border crossings yesterday for the first time in eight years, the latest push for peace by the two sides after UN-backed talks collapsed last year. Dozens of people from the island's Greek Cypriot south streamed across the eastern Dherynia border post, walking past United Nations peacekeepers into the breakaway Turkish-backed north.

At the same time, the Lefka or Apliki crossing opened in the northwest of the eastern Mediterranean island. Ahead of the Dherynia crossing's reopening, soldiers removed barriers wrapped in rusty barbed wire and a small group of riot police stood by. But despite arguments breaking out among onlookers in the run-up to the midday (1000 GMT) opening, the crowd passed peacefully across the border. The wreckage of a car could be seen off the main road through the buffer zone, while nearby signs warned of mines beyond a barbed wire fence.

The latest move was welcomed by Elizabeth Spehar, UN special representative and head of the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus. "Today is good day for Cyprus," she said in a statement. "These crossing points will play an important role in helping to increase people to people contacts, contributing to build much needed trust and confidence between the communities on the island." The development is also seen as a vital step to reviving peace negotiations, which collapsed in acrimony in July last year. "It's another asset to the peace talks," said Chris Charalambous, who was just 18 when war broke out more than 44 years ago.

Cyprus has been divided along ethnic lines since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded and occupied its northern third in response to a coup sponsored by the military junta then in power in Athens seeking to unite



DHERYNNIA: Barriers wrapped in rusty barbed wire block the road yesterday leading to the newly-opened Dherynia crossing, near the eastern village of Dherynia, into the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). —AFP

the island with Greece. For the first time since fleeing the conflict, Charalambous was looking forward to seeing his house, which he said lies in a military zone. "I'm just going to walk down and then I walk back, I don't know if I can stand spending time in the north," he said. Cyprus has been divided for more than four decades and the two communities lived isolated from one another until Turkish Cypriot authorities cleared the way for the free movement of people following a previous round of talks in 2003.

Petros Georgiou, a 57-year-old former resident, remembered "running to save his life" as a boy in 1974, down the newly-opened road. "I always believe that if people meet and talk they can understand each other if they are willing to listen," he said. Although Georgiou would cross the border, he said he would not spend his cash on the northern side. "Any money I will spend on the occupied area, I feel that I am supporting financially the occupation," he said. The decision to open the two border crossings came after President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci met last month in the UN-protected area in the divided capital Nicosia. —AFP

### UK's Prince Charles at 70: Man on a mission

LONDON: Britain's Prince Charles turns 70 tomorrow, having spent a lifetime forging his own path during a record wait for the throne overshadowed by public adulation for his mother. The Prince of Wales has battled a string of public relations headaches and accusations of being cold towards his first wife Diana as well as interfering in political affairs. Charles sees himself as a "dissident" working against the prevailing political consensus, according to his former spin doctor Mark Bolland.

The prince's life has been plagued by low self-esteem but driven by relentless striving to do the right thing, Bolland said. "The trouble is, there isn't a job description so you have to rather make it up as you go along," he said. Charles has been outspoken on issues close to his heart, notably architecture, the environment, farming, faith and alternative medicine. He has faced accusations that his "meddling" in public affairs would breach the political impartiality of a constitutional monarch. But he told a BBC documentary marking his 70th birthday: "The idea, somehow, that I'm going to go on in exactly the same way, if I have to succeed, is complete nonsense."

#### Shy boy

"I'm not that stupid," he said. "You operate within the constitutional parameters." Charles has put his principles into practice, building the Poundbury model village and launching an organic food range. His unwavering, lifelong worldview is also reflected in his sartorial style—he has worn the same shoes since 1971 and the same jacket since 1969, according to the Daily Mail.

Charles Philip Arthur George was born on November

14, 1948 at Buckingham Palace. He became the heir to the throne when his grandfather king George VI died on February 6, 1952 and his mother became Queen Elizabeth II. He is the longest-serving heir in British history and would become the oldest person ever to inherit the throne. A sensitive and shy boy, he was created Prince of Wales in 1958 aged nine, much to his bewilderment.

At 13, Charles was sent to Gordonstoun, the stark Scottish boarding school his father Prince Philip attended. Desperately lonely, Charles hated it, describing his years there as "absolute hell", and a "prison sentence". He became the first heir to the throne to receive a university degree, graduating from Cambridge in 1970. He served in the Royal Navy from 1971 to 1976, and while away for eight months in the Caribbean, his girlfriend Camilla Shand married her old boyfriend Andrew Parker Bowles, much to Charles's sorrow.

#### 'Fairytale' to nightmare

Under increasing pressure to find a wife, the 32-year-old prince proposed to 19-year-old Lady Diana Spencer in February 1981 after a brief courtship. In words that came back to haunt him, Charles was asked about being in love during an interview to mark their engagement and replied: "Whatever in love means". Their "fairytale wedding" on July 29 that year at St Paul's Cathedral in London was one of the great state occasions of the century. Their first child, Prince William, was born in 1982, followed by Prince Harry in 1984.

But the mismatch marriage collapsed and both parties embarked on affairs, with Charles returning to Camilla. He and Diana separated in 1992 and divorced in 1996. When Diana was killed in a car crash in 1997, Charles repatriated her body from Paris and insisted she be granted full royal honors in death. Camilla was gradually introduced to a hostile public as Charles's non-negotiable companion. They wed at Windsor Guildhall on April 9, 2005. —AFP

## CONDOLENCES

### Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, management and staff

convey their deepest condolences to

### Khaled Atiya Al-Thafiri

on the sad demise of his  
**Mother**

*May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her*



International

# Netherlands resumes visa service in Pakistan after brief suspension

## Twitter warns rights activists over government criticism

**ISLAMABAD:** The Netherlands resumed visa and passport services in Pakistan yesterday following a brief suspension, denying that its embassy had closed over security concerns after the country gave shelter to the lawyer of a Christian woman in a blasphemy case. Hard-line Islamists in Pakistan have blocked streets and called for the killing of judges after the Supreme Court overturned on Oct 31 the conviction of Asia Bibi, a mother of five, who had been on death row for eight years. Bibi's lawyer, Saiful Mulook, fled to the Netherlands soon after the verdict, citing death threats. The Dutch government said on Thursday that it had offered him temporary shelter.

On Friday the Dutch government said in a statement that its embassy in Pakistan, which is in a tightly guarded "diplomatic enclave", had temporarily halted issuing visas "due to circumstances beyond our control". Yesterday evening, the embassy updated the statement: "The Netherlands embassy in Pakistan has resumed all consular/visa related services." Pakistani media reported that the embassy had been forced to close because of threats. But the Dutch Foreign Ministry said reports of the embassy's closure were mistaken.

"The Dutch embassy in Pakistan is open," the ministry said. "I can add that we take the security of the embassy and our employees very seriously. This is also the subject of consultations between the Netherlands and Pakistan," an official at the Dutch foreign office said. No one answered the telephone at the Dutch embassy after office hours yesterday. Bibi, 53, was convicted of blasphemy in 2010 over allegations she made derogatory remarks about Islam, which is punishable by death in Pakistan. She always denied having committed blasphemy.

The militant Tehreek-e-Labaik (TLP) party, which has made blasphemy a rallying cry, took to the streets after the

Supreme Court ruling and blocked main cities and highways for three days. The protests ended after the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan struck a deal with the TLP that the state would not block a petition to review Bibi's acquittal in light of sharia Islamic religious law and ensure she wouldn't leave country until that was decided. Pakistani government officials have said Bibi is in a secure location while the court considers her case.

**Twitter warns**

Meanwhile, social network Twitter has warned two Pakistani rights activists against objectionable content, they said yesterday, a move that signals a continuing push by the south Asian nation to rein in free speech online. The warnings come a week after Twitter suspended the account of an ultra-right Pakistani cleric who issued threats to the government and judiciary over the acquittal of a Christian woman accused of blasphemy. "Warnings sent out by Twitter are an example of how online spaces are being regulated and are shrinking for internet users voicing their opinions," said Pakistani lawyer and internet activist Nighat Dad.

In recent emails, Twitter told activist Taha Siddiqui it had received complaints his account was in "violation of Pakistani law", he said, and it added that further action could be taken, but did not specify what. "Pakistani authorities ... are pressuring Twitter to take 'legal' steps against me," Siddiqui, a correspondent for France 24 television, who fled Pakistan this year, told Reuters. "Twitter should stop becoming a facilitator of repressive regimes."

Twitter's Asia-Pacific representative had no immediate comment when contacted by Reuters. Pakistan's information minister, Fawwad Chaudhry, told Reuters his office was "trying to establish close coordination" with Twitter to curb "hate



**KARACHI:** Supporters of the Pakistani religious Islamist group Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) gather during a protest rally against the release of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who was charged with blasphemy. —AFP

speech and death threats", but did not directly respond to questions on the case of Siddiqui, and another activist who received two warnings, Gul Bukhari. Bukhari, who was briefly abducted in July from a military cantonment in the eastern city of Lahore, said one of her email warnings from Twitter referred to a tweet that criticized the government's lack of action against a prominent cleric.

The cleric, Khadim Hussain Rizvi, had his account blocked last week after he threatened the Supreme Court judges who acquitted Asia Bibi and urged their cooks and servants to kill them. In a reply to Twitter, Bukhari said Rizvi's speeches violated the law because he was inciting violence against state officials. "In my tweet I am asking government to take action against him. —Agencies



**Ministry denies closing embassy**

## Air India pilot loses license after failing breath test

**NEW DELHI:** A veteran pilot had his flying license revoked yesterday after failing a breath test moments before captaining an Air India plane to London, India's aviation regulator said. Arvind Kathpalia, a pilot and senior executive with the national airline, blew positive for alcohol before entering the Dreamliner jet's cockpit for the nearly 10-hour flight to the United Kingdom on Sunday.

"He failed the breath analyser and as per rules we have decided to cancel his license for three years with immediate effect," an official with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation told AFP. He said Kathpalia was handed a three-month ban in 2017 for skipping a mandatory alcohol breath test. All pilots and crew are barred from consuming alcohol in the 12 hours before their flying duties and are subject to regular breath tests. Kathpalia has denied the allegations, describing them as a smear campaign leveled by rivals, local media reported.

More than 150 pilots from different Indian airlines have failed breath tests for alcohol in the past four years, the government said in response to a 2018 freedom of information request. India's aviation safety record tumbled this year, slipping from 66 percent to 57 percent on a ranking system kept by the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization. A perfect safety rating score is 100 percent. —AFP

## China labor activists missing in after raids

**SHENZHEN:** At least 12 Chinese labor activists have gone missing in recent days, in what sources close to them believe was a coordinated effort by authorities to silence the vocal group, most of them university students or recent graduates. Authorities took away at least nine activists in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen late on Friday, and three more activists were taken away on Sunday in the city of Wuhan, the sources said.

The Ministry of Public Security, which oversees police forces across the country, did not respond to a faxed request for comment. The detentions appear to be the latest action by the authorities against a small but growing movement driven by students and graduates of some top universities who have said they are motivated by the principles of Marxism. The ruling Communist Party, which espouses Marxism as one of its leading ideologies, opposes any form of activism or organization that has the potential to slip beyond its control.

At least five graduates of Peking University, one of the country's top universities, were among those picked up on Friday, student activists said. Last month, Cornell University in the United States ceased cooperation in two exchange programs with Renmin University, another prominent institution in Beijing, after students there were punished for supporting labor rights. The young activists attracted attention from across China converged in the south to support facto-

ry workers at Jasic International, a welding machinery firm, seeking to form a union.

Later that month, police in riot gear stormed an apartment in the city of Huizhou where the students were staying, detaining some of them. "I think the authorities have decided now is the right time to settle the score," one student activist at a university in Beijing said. "The authorities want to shut down the Jasic Workers Support Group in one fell swoop. Why else would they suddenly conduct raids of such a large scale and arrest so many people at once?" the student added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

**'That's him!'**

On Friday, unidentified men grabbed Zhang Shengye, a recent Peking University graduate, on the university's campus at around 10:30 pm and bundled him into a car, according to a witness and screenshots of posts, apparently written by students, on the university's internal messaging board. The posts were later deleted. A video circulated on social media by a Peking University student who said he was at the scene and who described what happened to Zhang.

"I heard one of them yell 'that's him, shove him into the car', and then I saw three to five people grab a student and bundle him into a car," the student says in the video. He said he and other students who were nearby were pushed to the ground and prevented from leaving until they deleted any photos or videos of the scene. Reuters could not independently verify the authenticity of the video, which showed no pictures of Zhang's suspected detention. A Peking University spokesman confirmed that someone had been detained but said the incident did not involve teachers or students. —Reuters

## 100,000 armed police deployed as volatile Indian state votes

**RAIPUR:** Tens of thousands of armed police were on duty yesterday as a restive Indian state wracked by violence went to the polls. Maoist militants have unleashed a string of deadly attacks ahead of the vote in mineral-rich Chhattisgarh, one of India's poorest states, killing 13 people in recent weeks. Hours before voting began, insurgents blew up an improvised explosive device in Kanker district on Sunday, killing a police officer. The Maoists, who say they are fighting for the rights of local tribes and poor farmers, have put up posters across the state urging voters to boycott the polls. The vote-one of five state elections this month and next ahead of 2019 general elections-is staggered because of the violence, with a second round on November 20.

"Some 100,000 security personnel, including central paramilitary force, have been deployed to ensure peaceful polling in the first phase," said senior police officer DM Awasthi. Election officers were airlifted to the most volatile areas where landmines planted by Maoists are a common threat, he said. The state has been governed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for 15 years. Chief Minister Raman Singh is seeking a fourth term and has blamed the rebels for impeding development projects in the state, home to around 25 million people. —AFP

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## Colombia's island fishermen battle to protect coral reefs

For nearly three decades, Javier Barker has fished in the Caribbean Sea surrounding the Colombian island of San Andres - but until recently he knew little about the importance of coral reefs that fish depend on to survive. "I used to think corals were just hard stones. I didn't know that corals are living creatures," said 40-year-old Barker, who began line fishing as a teenager with his family. "I now know corals are cradles for fish, and healthier corals equal more fish so corals are important for everyone," he said.

Worldwide, coral reefs from the Caribbean to the Pacific Ocean have come under growing stress as a result of rising ocean temperatures caused by climate change and other human-induced pressures including overfishing, pollution and tourism. Now fishermen are being enlisted in the fight to protect them. Barker is one of nearly 40 artisanal fishermen in Colombia's archipelago of San Andres and Providencia, in the western Caribbean, who are being paid \$125 a month by the government to farm coral in an undersea gardening project.

### Coral sea farms

The project, overseen by Colombia's government agency Coralina - tasked with promoting sustainable development in the archipelago - and by environmental group Conservation International Colombia, is billed as the second largest coral conservation project in the Caribbean, after one in Belize.

As part of the project, that began last year, about 10,000 fragments of coral are being reared in floating underwater nurseries in the emerald green waters around the archipelago, which is home to 80 percent of Colombia's tropical reefs. Project supporters hope corals grown in the nurseries can replenish and restore existing reef coral colonies in an area covering 60 hectares. The archipelago was declared a protected marine area - the Seafloor Biosphere Reserve - by the United Nations' cultural agency UNESCO in 2000.

### Barometers of change

Coral reefs in shallow waters are among the ecosystems most threatened by climate change and are a key barometer of global warming impacts, scientists say. Coral bleaching - a whitening driven by temperature changes or other stresses - can kill coral if it is severe enough. Coral are also at risk as oceans become more acidic as they absorb increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. "The archipelago is very vulnerable when it comes to issues relating to climate change," Erick Castro, deputy head of Coralina's sea and coast division, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "And corals are particularly vulnerable due to the warming of the oceans, rising sea levels, and coral bleaching," he said.

In the sea coral farms, it takes about a year for tiny fragments of coral - less than 7 centimeters (2.5 inches) long - to grow to become the size of a basketball, according to Maria Fernanda Maya, a biologist and the project's coordinator. So far eight coral nurseries have been created, and the first pilot batch of 250 fragment corals transplanted to a reef near San Andres last month, Maya said.

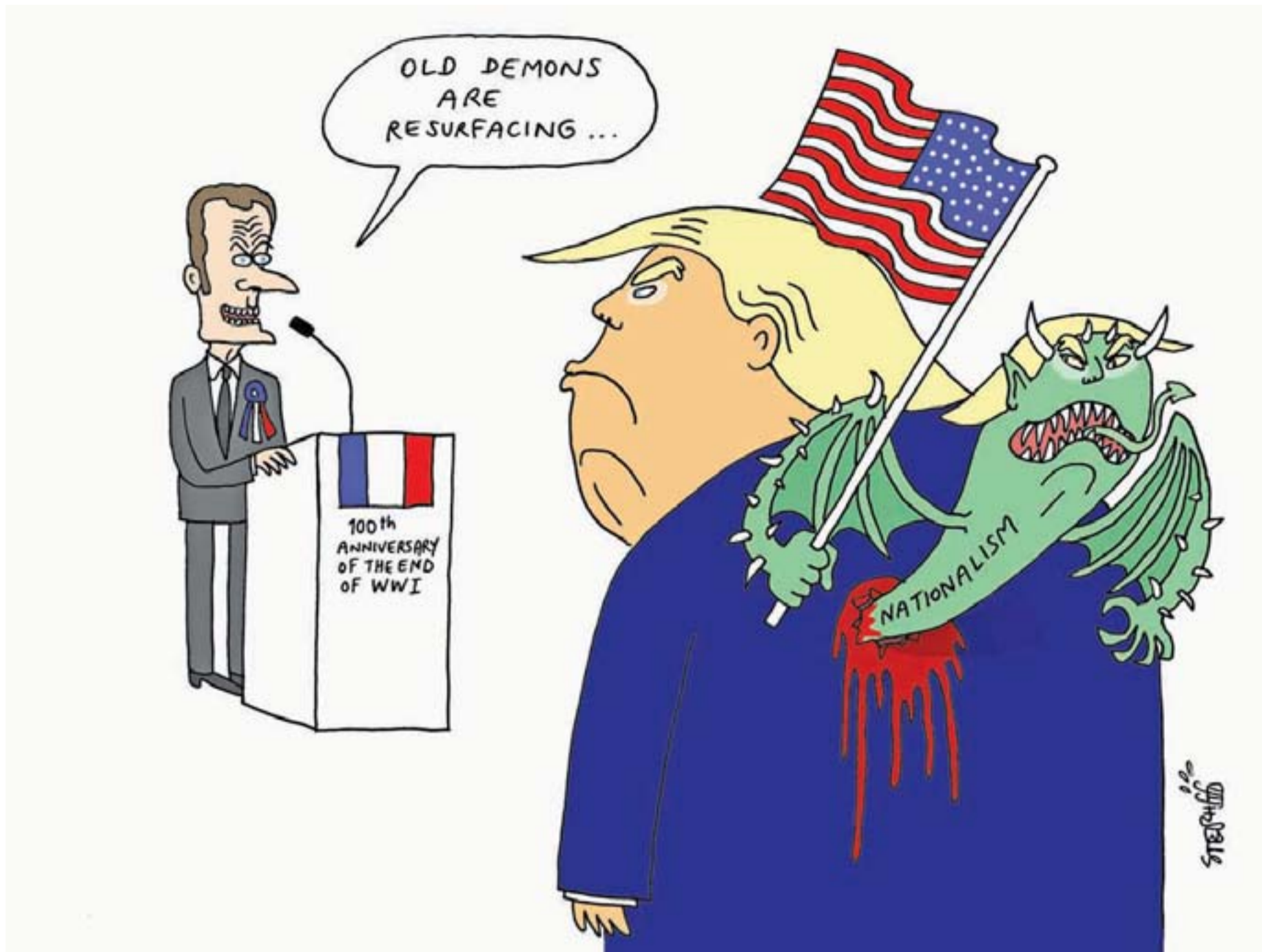
Results have so far been promising, showing a survival rate of about 85 percent among transplanted corals, Maya said. "There's a direct correlation between the state and health of corals and the conservation of other ecosystems," said Maya, who works for environmental group Corales de Paz, which is also providing funding and technical support for the project. "That's why protecting corals is so important."

For Barker and other fishermen, their work involves diving into the sea every two weeks to monitor the growth of corals and clean away algae. Fishermen also have to sign a contract that commits them to fishing in a sustainable way. That includes a ban on catching certain types of fish during the breeding season. "I'm proud to be part of something that is useful and helps the island. And having the extra income is a real help," Barker said. Similar reef restoration projects are underway in Belize in the Caribbean and in the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean.

Critics, however, say such coral restoration projects are labor intensive, expensive, require long-term funding - and may not ultimately be successful if global warming continues. Castro said it costs about \$50 per square meter to restore damaged coral. And "even with our coral restoration efforts, we will never be able to recover what has already been lost," he said. The other reality, he said, is that "for us, this is on a big scale but with regards to the magnitude of the problem this is on a micro scale."

Another concern is that tourism to the palm-fringed white sand beaches of San Andres has more than doubled to one million visitors since 2010 - something that also is taking a toll on the coral reefs, Castro said. With more scuba-diving tourists, boats and jet skis visiting the reefs, corals are being damaged and polluted, he said.

Protecting them will require fishermen, diving schools, hotel chains and islanders to all understand that conserving coral reefs is crucial for the island's tourism and its fishing economy, Castro said. As part of that effort, fishermen next year will give workshops on the importance of coral reefs in their local communities and in schools, while free diving courses will be provided for dozens of school children. "Islanders don't know what's underwater, what's in the ocean," Castro said. — Reuters



## Iran women debate if attendance spells victory

Iranian reporter Hedieh Khatibi says she had to pinch herself when she finally got to enter Tehran's Azadi stadium late Saturday to cover a football match there for the first time. "It was a dream come true at last. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," the journalist for sports newspaper Goal told AFP. "At any moment I was worried someone would come and tell me to leave."

As Khatibi took her place in the press box, around a thousand female fans were also packed into the arena to watch local giant Persepolis FC battle it out in the Asian Champions League with Japan's Kashima Antlers. The turnout was the biggest allowed to women in Iran in nearly four decades and, despite the home team losing on aggregate, little could dampen their spirits. "When the women arrived, all the men stood up and applauded them," Khatibi said. "It was so moving, 80,000 Iranian men were on their feet in respect and support of Iranian women."

Reformist papers in the Islamic republic hailed their attendance as a clear victory for women in the country. Gianni Infantino, head of world football's governing body FIFA who attended the match, welcomed it

as "a historic and festive day for football, a real breakthrough". But not everyone appeared so convinced that it was a genuine triumph. The game was not open to all women who wanted to attend.

Khatibi said that only "handpicked" people whose names appeared on pre-prepared lists were allowed into the stadium. The reformist Sazandegi newspaper reported those selected included relatives of the home side as well as football and futsal players. The women who were allowed in were seated in a separate stand and entered the stadium through a different route to the men.

### 'Insulting'

Sahar Tolouee, a veteran journalist at the reformist Shargh newspaper, said she was offered the chance to attend, but refused to be on a list as she found it "insulting". "To put you on a list like it's a gift when it's my right, and the right of all women to go to stadiums and watch football matches, is just unacceptable," the life-long Persepolis FC fan told AFP. "The doors of stadiums are still closed on Iranian women as a whole, they were just

opened on a select few for one day."

Following the 1979 Islamic revolution, women were banned from attending men's football matches in Iran. The first time women attended after the ban was on November 15, 2001 when some 20 Irish women were allowed to watch the Iran-Ireland World Cup qualifier. Iranian women had to wait four more years, until June 8, 2005 when a few dozen were allowed to watch the Iran-Bahrain World Cup qualifier.

After the 2005 match, women were permitted to watch men's football matches in stadiums on extremely rare occasions and in very limited numbers. The ban on women in stadiums has been frequently criticized from across the political spectrum. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, promised repeatedly to open up stadiums for women, during both his 2013 successful election bid and his 2017 reelection.

### 'A good omen'

On Oct 16, for the first time, some 100 Iranian women were allowed into Azadi stadium for a friendly match between Iran and Bolivia. The following day, Iran's prosecutor general warned there would be no

repeat of women watching football inside stadiums, saying it would "lead to sin". Clerics and conservatives in Iran argue that women must be protected from the masculine atmosphere at football games and the sight of semi-clad men.

Most conservative media and newspapers ignored the presence of women in the stadium in their coverage of the match. On Twitter and other social media there was a wide-ranging debate among Iranians about whether Saturday's relaxing of the ban was positive or not. Female member of parliament Parvaneh Salahshouri encapsulated the mood of those buoyed up by the move. "Even though I don't favor their hand-picked and minimal presence, I take the presence of women today as a good omen," she tweeted. "I hope for a day when Iranian women can freely and without limitation watch football matches alongside their family."

And after experiencing the atmosphere of the stadium, sports writer Khatibi insisted this was "a step in the right direction". "The door has been half-opened," she said. "We must all push to throw it wide open". — AFP

## Iraq rail service back on track after war with IS

At Baghdad's grand but half-empty railway station, a single train is sputtering to life. It is the newly revived daily service to Fallujah, a dusty town to the west once infamous as a Sunni insurgent stronghold. The driver and conductor assure that the tracks running through Anbar province are now clear of mines planted by Islamic State and of collapsed bridges the group blew up when it marauded through western and northern Iraq in 2014.

The rapid advance of the militants shut down the line, before U.S.-backed Iraqi forces drove them out of Fallujah in 2016 and defeated them in Iraq in late 2017. After a four-year hiatus, hundreds of rail passengers now travel the 50 km between Baghdad and Fallujah in just over an hour. By car, the journey can take several.

"The train saves time. The Baghdad-bound leg arrives at 8 am, which suits my schedule. It's also cheaper" than by car at 3,000 Iraqi dinars (\$2.50) for a ticket, commuter Thamer Mohammed said. "You don't have to stop at checkpoints, and it's safer. You avoid road accidents," said the 42-year-old, a Fallujah resident studying for a history doctorate in Baghdad.

The revival in July of the daily service, once a feature of an extensive rail network dating back to the Ottoman empire, is a vivid example of Iraq's attempts to recover from decades of unrest. Passengers see it as a metaphor for the country's state: security has improved enough to allow unhindered passage through countryside dominated for years by Islamic State and al Qaeda militants. But the train is dilapidated and shudders as it gathers speed.

The state of the tracks allow a steady pace of up to around 100 km per hour, but no more. Dozens of windows have been smashed by children who play in the dirt in poor Baghdad districts and pelted with stones as they cruise by. "I hope the service will keep running, but in the last few days there have been delays. Sometimes it

runs out of fuel on the journey, or has technical failures," Mohammed said.

Abdul Sattar Muhsin, a media official for the national operator Iraqi Republic Railways, said the company was in dire need of funding to keep the service running. "We did this with the company's money and we're operating at a loss," he said. Regular passengers include unemployed youth looking for work, a perennial problem in Iraq where demonstrations over lack of jobs, water and power turned violent in the southern city of Basra in September.

"I had a job interview with an NGO today in Baghdad, but I'm not holding out much hope," said Yassin Jasim, a recent graduate with a degree in medicine. "I try to get casual work in Fallujah, but there's little and it's low pay."

### Baghdad to Istanbul

Jasim and his family moved to the relative security of Erbil in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq while Islamic State held Fallujah. The city and fertile countryside along the Euphrates river suffered a series of bruising battles after the US invasion in 2003 that toppled Saddam Hussein. Fallujah became infamous in 2004 when four American security contractors were killed and their bodies hung from a bridge in the city.

Everywhere are reminders of a delicate security situation. Armed police patrol the train, which runs past a scrapyard of cars destroyed during fighting and the remains of a road bridge blown up by militants. Railway officials hope to restore services all the way to the Syrian border. Iraq's rail network, developed during the British mandate period and under Baath party rule in the 1960s, used to stretch to Istanbul and Aleppo in Syria via Mosul in northern Iraq.

Conflict with Iran in the 1980s, UN sanctions in the 1990s and violence since then have wrecked most of the old network, apart from regular services to Basra and now Fallujah. Plans to extend beyond Fallujah might be ambitious - tracks are buried in sand and Iraqi forces have been reinforced at the border after recent Islamic State counter-attacks in Syria.

For now, the Fallujah line is a big step forward. "It's great, I can regularly see my daughter now who is marrying a man from Fallujah," one woman said. "At the moment, things are fine." — Reuters

## From battles to tourism: Rebels turn into guides

The nine former rebel fighters, who traded their guns, battle fatigues and heavy rucksacks for paddles, helmets and life jackets, launch four rafts laden with visitors into the turbulent Pato River, deep in Colombia's dense Amazon jungle. The former guerrillas from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have chosen rafting as their path to reintegration, as the government pushes to make tourism a top engine of the Andean nation's economy.

"During the conflict, this region was rough, there were bullets and bombs all the time. Today, so much has changed - many people come to see the waterfalls, the mountain, the river," guide Duberney Moreno, 34, a 13-year veteran of the FARC, said on Friday. Nearly 13,000 former combatants and their unarmed sympathizers are participating in a reintegration process agreed as part of a 2016 peace deal to end more than 52 years of war with the government.

Reincorporation is considered fundamental to ensuring former FARC members do not return to the battlefield with smaller rebel group the National Liberation Army (ELN), numerous crime gangs and dissident groups that refused to demobilize. The conflict in Colombia has killed more than 260,000 people and millions more have been displaced, suffered sexual violence or been maimed by land mines or bombs.

Implementation of the polarizing deal has advanced slowly, but the FARC is now a political party with 10 guaranteed seats in Congress through 2026. Many former fighters have returned home to reunite with their families, but some 5,000 have remained in 24 demobilization zones like the one on the Pato, turning them into makeshift towns built on Marxist principles.

### Certified rafters

The government has budgeted some \$1.6 million to help those in the zones, which are protected by government forces, start some 300 farming, ranching, shoemaking, fishery, woodworking and now tourism projects. Many ex-combatants, most of whom come from poor, rural backgrounds, have also contributed the money they were given upon demobilization to the projects. Moreno and eight other former fighters got 200 hours of guide training and are now certified by the International Rafting Federation.

The site in Caqueta province cost \$20,000 to construct and features hiking trails and lodging. Former fighters cook meals and drive visitors two hours by mullt road from the nearest large town. "We have to keep supporting these initiatives - they create confidence in the peace process," said Jessica Faieta, deputy chief of the United Nations' mission in Colombia, which helps manage reintegration.

President Ivan Duque, who took office in August, has said tourism could be the country's new economic driver. Travel to Colombia has spiked in recent years, as stereotypes about violence are offset by positive media coverage of the country's diverse destinations. "I want tourism to be Colombia's new oil and for it to be the great invigorator of economic activity," Duque said at a recent event.

More than 3.3 million tourists visited Colombia in 2017, a 23.9 percent jump from 2016. Figures from the past two years were more than double rates in 2010 and before, when just 1.4 million people visited. The government estimates tourism has the potential to generate \$6 billion annually and some 300,000 jobs. Colombia has coastline on both the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean, Amazonian jungle, Andean glaciers and cosmopolitan urban areas, as well as a plethora of adventure sports and wildlife. Moreno and his colleagues are optimistic about their future on the river. "We want peace," Moreno said, standing on a beach along the Pato in the suffocating heat. "We believe a different Colombia is possible." — Reuters

## Business

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**17<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
12 NOVEMBER 2018, SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE: (L to R) Brunei's Finance Minister Amin Abdullah, Cambodia's Commerce Minister Pan Sorasak, Indonesia's Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita, Laos Industry and Commerce Minister Khemmani Pholsena, Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Minister Darell Leiking, Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Chan Chun Sing, Thai Deputy Commerce Minister Chutima Bunyapraphasara, Myanmar deputy director general of the ministry of planning and finance, Nyein Zin Soe, Philippine Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, Singapore's Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Trade and Industry Loh Khum Yean and Vietnam's Vice Trade Minister Tran Quoc Khanh pose for a group photo before the 17th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting on the sidelines of the 33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

# China calls for 'open world economy'

## Li arrives in Singapore, slams rising protectionism and unilateralism

SINGAPORE/MANILA: China will further open its economy in the face of rising protectionism, Premier Li Keqiang said as he arrived in Singapore yesterday for meetings with Asia-Pacific leaders that will focus on speeding up work on a major new trade pact.

Li's remarks in an article in Singapore's Straits Times newspaper came as Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called for more regional integration, saying multilateralism was under threat from political pressures. "China has opened its door to the world; we will never close it but open it even wider," Li said in the article, in which he called for an "open world economy" in the face of "rising protectionism and unilateralism". He did not directly refer to China's bruising trade war with the United States.

Notably absent from this week's meetings is US President Donald Trump, who has said several existing multilateral trade deals are unfair, and has railed against China over intellectual property theft, entry barriers to US businesses and a gaping trade deficit.

Vice President Mike Pence will attend instead of Trump, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are among those also expected to

join Li and the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It was not clear if Li and Pence will hold separate talks on the sidelines of the meetings, which would be a prelude to a summit scheduled between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the end of the month in Buenos Aires.

The encounter, if it happens, would come on the heels of high-level talks in Washington where the two sides aired their main differences but appeared to attempt controlling the damage to relations that has worsened with tit-for-tat tariffs in recent months. Li said China would "work with all relevant parties to expedite" negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), showcased to be a free trade deal that will encompass more than a third of the world's GDP. The pact includes 16 countries, including ASEAN nations, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, but not the United States.

### Political pressures

Singapore's prime minister made an impassioned plea yesterday for open markets and warned "political pressures" were driving countries apart, in a swipe at rising protectionism at the start of a gathering of world leaders.

Addressing a business forum ahead of this week's main meetings, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called for Southeast Asian companies to invest more in each other's markets and be more open to foreign competition.

"The more integrated and open our markets are, and the more conducive our rules and business environments to foreign investment, the larger the pie will grow, and the more we will all benefit," he said.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) "has great potential, but fully realizing it depends on whether we choose to become more integrated, and work resolutely towards this goal in a world where multilateralism is fraying under political pressures".

### Economic standoff

The US-China trade dispute has seen Trump slap higher tariffs on roughly half of Chinese imports, and Beijing retaliate with its own levies. The standoff is having an impact far beyond the world's top two economies, and leaders at the four days of meetings will be keen to voice their grievances to Pence, who is participating in Trump's place, and China's Li.

While Trump has railed at trade deals and pushed his isolationist "America First" agenda, Beijing has increasingly talked up the benefits of open markets.

In an editorial in Singapore's pro-government Straits Times newspaper yesterday, China's Li said the world was facing "challenges of rising protectionism and unilateralism".

"We should work for an open world economy by advocating, practicing and upholding openness," he wrote. This week's meetings are the biggest in a series of gatherings organized every year by ASEAN.

The main summit day is on Thursday, and the meetings are being attended by 20 world leaders, including those from the Southeast Asian bloc as well as Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Many of those attending the summit are expected to send a message in support of free trade by announcing major progress on a China-backed deal, the 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

With Trump having pulled the US out of rival pact the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the RCEP is now the world's biggest trade deal, covering half the world's population. — Agencies

## India's inflation rate drops, giving RBI a breathing space

NEW DELHI: India's retail inflation rate dropped sharply in October, giving the central bank leeway to allow easier lending policies, but plunging farm prices sent a stark warning to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the challenges he faces in rural areas in next year's general election.

The rate, which includes food and energy prices, dropped in October to 3.31 percent on a

year-on-year basis, the slowest pace in 13 months and remains below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target of 4 percent for a third straight month. The September inflation rate was a revised 3.70 percent. Inflation risks have ebbed after a fall in global crude oil prices by about 20 percent since early October to around \$71 a barrel.

The rupee has also stabilized after a slide of more than 14 percent in the first 10 months of this year, which has made it the worst performing Asian currency in 2018.

The RBI's monetary policy committee unexpectedly left the repo rate at 6.50 percent last month when markets had expected a hike. In October, the drop in consumer prices was mainly due to the fall in food prices, data released by the Statistics Ministry showed yesterday. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected the October retail inflation rate would ease to 3.67

percent, with estimates ranging from 3.23 percent to 5.20 percent.

A Prasanna, chief economist at ICICI Securities Primary Dealership Ltd, said food inflation continues to be more benign than expected despite fears that some prices might spike as the government steps in to buy crops at higher prices. "The Monetary Policy Committee will take comfort from headline and we expect a pause in December," he said in reference to the chances the RBI would raise rates before the end of the year. "We still expect a hike in February but will reassess the same given recent inflation prints and fall in oil prices," added Prasanna.

Slower inflation in food prices, which make up nearly half of India's consumer price index (CPI), are helped by bumper crop supplies and sale of subsidized foodgrain to nearly two-thirds of India's population of 1.3 billion. That has, in turn, helped keep overall inflation in check. — Reuters



MUMBAI: A vendor rests as he waits for customers at a vegetable market in Mumbai. — Reuters

## Business

# Al-Nahedh: Financing development projects in line with Kuwait Vision

## KFH Group CEO participates in 2018 IIF MENA Financial Summit in Abu Dhabi



ABU DHABI: Group Chief Executive Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh, during the summit.



**KUWAIT:** Group Chief Executive Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh emphasized the role of Islamic finance instruments in providing effective financing solutions, indicating the opportunity size in the Islamic Finance space is over \$2.5 trillion and expected to grow by a CAGR of over 9 percent to reach \$4 trillion mark by 2022.

Al-Nahedh statement was made during his participation in the 2018 IIF MENA Financial Summit held in Abu Dhabi under the theme "The Future of the MENA Financial Sector: Deepening and Diversifying MENA's Financial Markets".

He added: "On sector basis, Islamic banking assets contribute over \$1.5 trillion and expected to grow at a CAGR of 7 percent to over \$2 trillion in the next five

years. The other major sector includes Sukuk with a total of over \$350 billion while Islamic Asset Management size is over \$100 billion. The key opportunities for Islamic Finance includes Sukuk as an instrument to fund key infrastructure projects. Thus, Sukuk acts as an Instrument to tackle government budget deficits. Further, corporate Sukuk issuances act as alternative financing opportunities."

He pointed out that Kuwaiti banks have a great role to play in financing investment projects in the framework of the country's vision of development (Kuwait National Development Plan 2035) and paving the way for making Kuwait as a distinct center for Islamic finance.

Al-Nahedh said that KFH has successfully engaged in the financing of many projects such as Euro 200 mil-

lion credit facilities for Limak Insaat for the construction of a bridge in Turkey, Islamic portion of \$831 million syndicated facility for Kuwait Airport (jointly with conventional), KD 120 million credit facility transactions in favor of MINA HOMES, financing a company entering into contract with the Ministry of Electricity and Water with total value amounting KD 120 million, financing a transaction for purchasing 3 aircrafts with value amounting KD 124 million in favor of ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company.

He indicated that KFH has taken the leading position amongst main traders in the premier Sukuk issuances, representing a share of 30 percent of its value amounting \$10 billion, noting KFH Group trade volume in the sukuk market exceeded \$16 billion in 2017.

He continued: "KFH supports over 1000 customers of SMEs, which contributes in boosting the economy and creating new jobs for the youth."

Al-Nahedh explained that the development of the financial system is a cornerstone of economic development, indicating the importance of modernizing capital markets in a way that it can steer economic growth higher. He added that financial reforms solidify investor trust in capital markets through promoting fairness, transparency, efficiency, and protection from market and operational risks. Moreover, financial reforms increase the liquidity of the market by attracting foreign institutional investors that invest long term like pension funds, endowments, and large global fund managers.

### NBK International Economic Report

## Global markets suffer October selloff, US Q3 growth eases

**KUWAIT:** International financial markets suffered a rough October, with sell-offs in both equity and (in the first half of the month) bond markets amid tightening global liquidity conditions, a maturing economic cycle and geopolitical and trade war tensions. Although tighter Fed policy is key to this story, worries over economic and political stability in Europe have also intensified, with rising fears of a 'no deal' Brexit, an escalation of the Italy-EU budget battle and the announcement that long-standing German Chancellor Merkel will step down in 2021 adding to anxiety over slowing growth. In its biannual World Economic Outlook report, the IMF cut its forecasts for global growth by 0.2 percent to 3.7 percent for this year and next citing the impact of disruptive trade policies on supply chains, higher oil prices and the risk of continued capital outflows in emerging markets.

### US growth eases in Q3

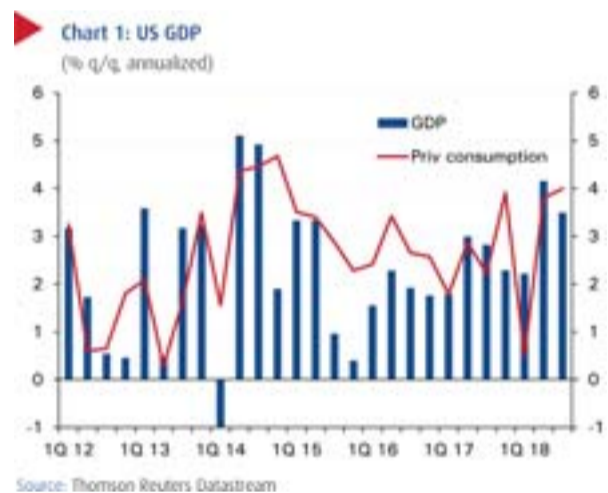
Although the pace of US economic activity may be easing slightly, data suggest that it remains robust, providing a boost for President Trump and the Republicans going into important mid-term Congressional elections but also keeping up the pressure on the Federal Reserve to stick to its current rate hiking path. After reaching a super strong 4.2 percent in 2Q18, GDP growth moderated only slightly to 3.5 percent in Q3 3Q18, once again supported by rapid growth of 4.0 percent in consumer spending which more than offset a drop in investment and weaker growth in net exports. The latter had been boosted in Q2 by a rise in exports as Chinese importers brought forward purchases of US soybeans to beat the imposition of retaliatory tariffs.

Labor market data was also very strong, with non-farm payrolls increasing by a larger-than-expected 250,000 in October following a soft (possibly storm-affected) September, and unemployment remaining at a 49-year low of 3.7 percent. However there remains uncertainty over how much slack exists in the labor market and therefore the risk of overheating: low unemployment and survey reports of skills shortages contrast with still-strong jobs growth, a low participation rate - meaning many people of working age are still outside the labor market - and moderate wage growth. The latter finally showed notable upward movement in October, reaching a post-financial crisis high of 3.1 percent y/y and will be closely watched going forward for signs of pipeline inflationary pressures.

Trump may also be disappointed with the trade deficit, which has continued to widen despite protectionist policies and claims that the US is 'winning' the trade war with China. The goods and services deficit reached \$54 billion in September (around 3 percent of GDP) from \$53 billion in August and the bilateral deficit with China widened to a record \$40 billion. Import growth at 9.8 percent y/y outpaced export growth of 7.2 percent.

### Europe concerns linger

Both the economic and political outlooks in the Eurozone deteriorated last month. Data showed that growth momentum has eased and business confidence waned further. In addition, Italy's fiscal imprudence, the resignation of chancellor Merkel as leader of her party and the now increased prospect of a 'no deal' Brexit invited greater speculation over the future of the EU. While aware



of these developments, the ECB announced at its latest meeting that it still believes, albeit now less enthusiastically than before, that overall conditions permit it to end its stimulus program by the end of 2018. However, these developments greatly cloud the outlook for the EU, particularly ahead of major political events in 2019, when a new EU parliament and ECB president are due to be elected.

European growth eased more than expected in 3Q18, coming in at 0.2 percent q/q (1.7 percent y/y) compared to analyst expectations of 0.3 percent. This was the region's slowest quarterly expansion since 2014, and potentially reflects weaker momentum in Germany due to a softer global trade environment, and no growth in Italy. October's PMI data also suggests that momentum may weaken further in 4Q18, with the composite index dropping to a two-and-a-half year low of 52.7 over the month. Meanwhile, inflation hit its highest in six years at 2.2 percent on the back of rising energy prices. Core inflation, although up to 1.1 percent, increased less than expected.

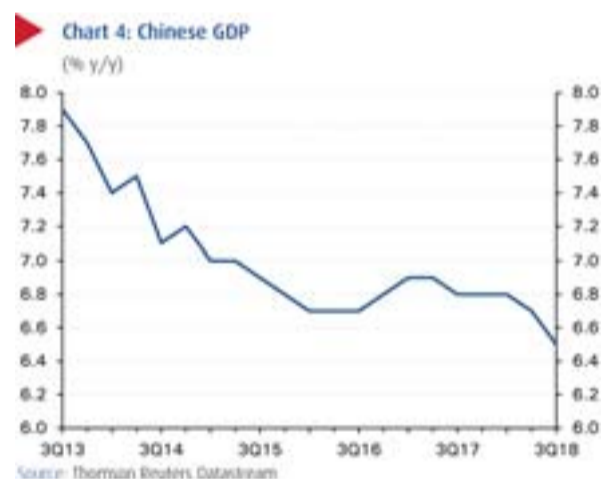
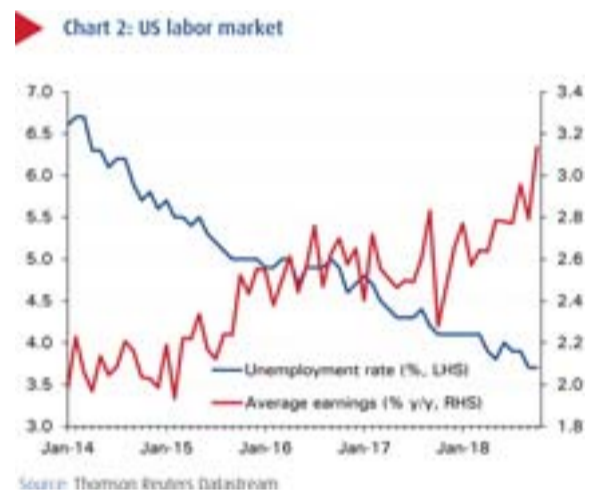
### BoJ keeps policy on hold

Japan's trade sector continues to struggle, not least because of the ongoing trade war between China and the US. In September, Japanese exports fell for the first time since 2016 on the back of a fall in demand from both China and the US as well as supply constraints following a series of natural disasters. The continued weakness in domestic demand also weighed on imports. Tepid demand and natural disaster-related effects are likely to have caused GDP growth to slow in 3Q18 (data due November 14th). Subsequently, to remain supportive of the economy, the Bank of Japan kept its monetary policy steady in October as widely expected. Monetary policy is likely to stay loose for the time being, especially after the central bank revised down its 2018 and 2019 inflation forecasts to 0.9 percent and 1.4 percent, respectively.

### Chinese growth slows

The Chinese authorities announced a slew of pro-growth policy measures over the past month in an attempt to shore up the economy, after third quarter GDP growth slowed to 6.5 percent y/y, its lowest rate since 2009. In addition to a 100 basis point cut in the reserve requirement ratio to prop up credit growth, the measures included income tax cuts and more deregulation, while some analysts also expect cuts in corporation tax. The government also promised to lower import tariffs in an effort to mend its trade ties with the US. Furthermore, the central bank announced that it would adopt a more flexible and preemptive approach to monetary policy in 2019 to further support lending activity whilst ensuring financial stability. Separately, after a seven-year hiatus, the Chinese government held a formal meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, to strengthen their economic ties, particularly in the financial and trade sectors.

Having reached a near four-year high of \$86/bbl in early October, Brent crude oil closed down almost 9 percent m/m at \$76/bbl by month's end. The bearish turn was linked to a weaker global demand outlook and the

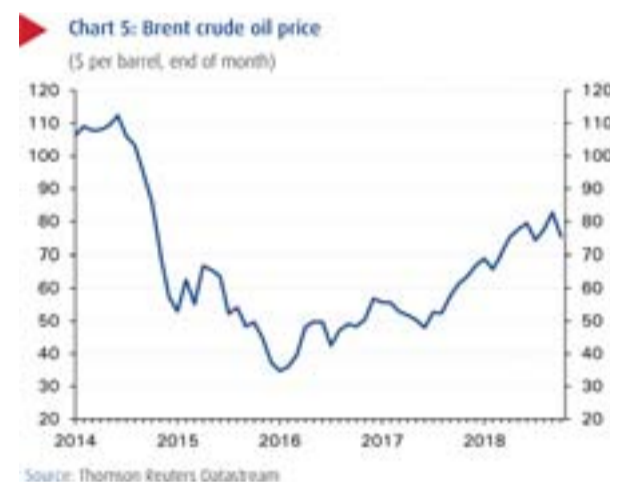
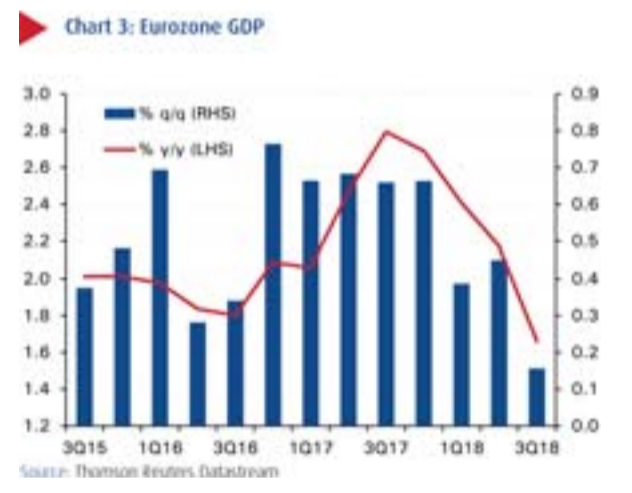


expectation that US sanctions on Iran will not be so aggressive as to leave the market short-supplied. Informing the latter was the US decision to temporarily extend sanctions waivers to eight of Iran's largest customers, including China, India and South Korea. Moreover, on the supply front, OPEC production increased in October by 430,000 b/d to a two-year high of 33.3 mb/d, according to preliminary estimates, while US crude output set another all-time record, reaching 11.2 mb/d, in the last week of October. Indeed, according to the IEA, supply is likely to have exceeded demand in every quarter of 2018.

### Oil prices support GCC

Regional economies continue to benefit from the higher oil price environment and elevated government spending. PMIs for Saudi Arabia and the UAE were in expansion territory in October, at 53.8 and 55.0, respectively. Credit growth in both countries has also gained momentum: the UAE posted growth of 3.7 percent y/y in September, the fastest in a year, while in Saudi, private sector credit rose 1.5 percent and the fastest since December 2016. Fiscal outcomes also continue to improve, with Saudi Arabia reporting a sizeable reduction in its deficit to 2.3 percent of GDP in the first nine months of 2018, from 6.4 percent of GDP for the same period in 2017.

The outlook for Bahrain's finances also improved in October after Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE agreed to provide the kingdom with a financial aid package worth \$10 billion. The offer appears to be contingent on the implementation of fiscal reforms, with the Bahraini authorities announcing soon afterwards a program of spending cuts and revenue generating measures designed to balance the budget by 2022. Parliament also approved draft VAT and pension laws. Meanwhile, after a brief period in expansionary territory in July and August, Egypt's PMI fell from 48.7 in September to 48.6 in October, the lowest reading of 2018. This indicates that there remains some weakness in the economic recovery as the reform program continues.



## Vietnam ratifies Pacific trade pact

**HANOI:** Vietnam yesterday became the seventh country to ratify a sprawling Pacific trade pact set to come into effect later this year, despite US President Donald Trump's pullout from a deal he derided as a "job killer".

Eleven countries revived a slimmed-down version of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) without Washington, though the new pact keeps the door open in case of a change of heart-or government-in the world's largest economy. Australia last month became the sixth country to ratify the deal, paving the way for the pact to come into force at the end of December with more than half of its members officially signed on.

Vietnam followed suit yesterday with a unanimous vote to approve the deal by lawmakers in the country's rubber stamp parliament. "This is an important political decision, affirming our country's active role in international integration," said Nguyen Van Giau, head of the National Assembly's external relations department.

Vietnam's fast-growing export economy stood to gain enormously from open access to US markets, a key outlet for cheap manufactured goods like Adidas shoes, Gap T-shirts and Samsung phones, before Trump pulled the plug on Washington's participation.

The protectionist president called the deal a "death blow for American manufacturing" and singled out Vietnam for taking jobs he would rather see on his home turf.

The trade pact was spearheaded by former US president Barack Obama who dubbed the comprehensive deal a "gold standard" for 21st century trade rules-and a crucial counter to China's rising global economic might. —AFP

## Business

# SoftBank unveils \$21 billion IPO of Japan's mobile unit

## IPO to help raise funds for company, transform it into an investment firm

**TOKYO:** Telecoms giant SoftBank will list shares in its Japanese mobile unit next month in a sale that could raise over \$21 billion and be one of the biggest tech IPOs in years.

The IPO will help raise funds for the company as it increasingly transforms into an investment firm, ploughing money into a broad range of companies and projects around the world. The IPO will take place in Tokyo on December 19 and will offer 1.6 billion shares in the SoftBank Corp mobile unit at 1,500 yen (\$13) each.

That values the mobile unit at 7.18 trillion yen, and the IPO could be Japan's biggest-ever, local media said. The company had announced in February that it was going ahead with the IPO after media speculation about the plan.

It said then that the listing would give the mobile unit "greater managerial autonomy." In its announcement yesterday, SoftBank said the listing would also help clarify the roles of the parent company (SBG) and its Japanese mobile unit. "SBG is accelerating investments on a global scale, while SB is a core company to the Group's telecommunications business," the statement said.

"It is hoped that each of the two companies will be able to provide information regarding their businesses to the market with greater clarity and thereby better

respond to the various needs of investors," it added. After the listing, SoftBank will hold 63.14 percent of the mobile unit.

Analysts at S&P Ratings said the IPO "would further underline SoftBank's transition to an investment holding company." Under its CEO Masayoshi Son, SoftBank has transformed from its beginnings in software and is increasingly seen as an investment firm.

Using the SoftBank Vision Fund, worth an estimated \$100 billion, Son has taken stakes in some of the hottest firms in the tech sector, including Uber, Slack, WeWork and Nvidia.

Nearly half the money in the fund comes from Saudi Arabia and SoftBank's close ties with the kingdom have come under scrutiny in recent weeks after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Earlier this month, Son condemned the killing but said he would continue to do business with Saudi Arabia.

"As horrible as this event was, we cannot turn our backs on the Saudi people as we work to help them in their continued efforts to reform and modernize their society," he said. He made the comments shortly after the company announced its latest earnings, showing an eight-fold jump in net profit in the six months to September—mainly due to strong returns from its investment funds. — AFP



**TOKYO:** In this file photo, people walk past a shop of Japanese mobile provider SoftBank in Tokyo's shopping district of Ginza. Japanese telecoms giant SoftBank announced yesterday it would list shares in its Japanese mobile unit, a sale that could raise over \$21 billion in one of the biggest tech IPOs in years. — AFP

## Suu Kyi beckons investors to Myanmar

**SINGAPORE:** Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday implored foreign investors to take a punt on her country—Southeast Asia's "final frontier"—but warned its resources are not open for exploitation at the cost of its people. Suu Kyi, Myanmar's de facto leader, has toured Asia in recent months beating the drum for her country's economy, which the World Bank forecasts to grow at seven percent next year. A tangle of investment laws, a weakening currency, high inflation, widespread corruption and conflict have chipped away at an economy that was hoped to take off following the start of civilian government in 2016 after decades of junta rule.

At the same time Suu Kyi's image as an upholder of human rights, and that of her country,

has been decimated by the Rohingya crisis.

Speaking at a business forum in Singapore ahead of a regional summit, she did not address the crisis which has sent hundreds of thousands of the Muslim minority into Bangladesh and extinguished optimism in some corners over Myanmar's future.

Rumblings of the potential re-imposition of some western sanctions over the treatment of the Rohingya have also darkened the economic outlook for the country.

But Suu Kyi was at pains to say Myanmar was still open for business. Myanmar is "Southeast Asia's final frontier market... we have land, we have (a) good young working population, we have unexplored resources," she said.

She warned investors not to expect an open season on the country's abundant natural resources which include precious stones, vast tracts of arable land and waterways. "We have to invest for the sake of social cohesion," and not "purely for economic gain," she said, referencing Myanmar's resource-rich but conflict-riddled borderlands. Chinese mega-projects have come under fire inside



**SINGAPORE:** Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi arrives on the stage to speak at a business forum on the sidelines of the 33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

Myanmar with accusations of land grabs, extractive practices and debt loading onto the government. Protests against Chinese projects are common.

Last week Myanmar successfully scaled down a China-backed port project from \$10 billion to \$1.3 billion at the strategically important Kyaukphyu area of Rakhine state, where the Rohingya were driven

from last year. Suu Kyi said Myanmar needs the help of investors, in particular from Asia, to pull itself forwards after years of ulcerous junta rule and urged businesses to gamble on an "adventure" in the country. Myanmar may face pressure over its handling of the Rohingya crisis later in the week as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit begins. — AFP

## Russian state bank secretly financed Rosneft sale after foreign buyers balked

**MOSCOW/LONDON:** It was billed as the deal that proved Russia remained open for business. "I want to congratulate you", Russian President Vladimir Putin told his trusted ally Igor Sechin, after greeting him with a warm handshake in the Kremlin in December, 2016.

Sechin had just announced the sale to Qatar's sovereign wealth fund and giant commodity trader Glencore of a 19.5 percent stake in Rosneft, the state oil giant that he runs.

The 10.2 billion euro (\$11.57 billion) privatization deal was designed to replenish Russia's coffers, depleted by falling energy prices and Western sanctions. Some Russian officials hailed it as proof that despite growing political isolation from the West the country could still attract global investors.

But now, nearly two years after the sale was first announced, nine sources with knowledge of the transaction have told Reuters that VTB, a Russian state-owned bank, itself financed a large share of the acquisition, undermining the deal's stated aim to bring foreign money into the country. Based on accounts from five of the sources, the value of the Russian loan to the Qatari sovereign wealth fund is around \$6 billion. VTB denied it issued a loan to the Qatari sovereign wealth fund, called the Qatari Investment Authority (QIA).

"VTB has not issued and is not planning to issue a loan to QIA to finance the acquisition," VTB data for September published by the Russian central bank showed that VTB loaned 434 billion rubles (\$6.7 billion) for up to three years to unnamed foreign borrowers after having raised 350 billion rubles via loans from the central bank itself. VTB's financial results, published on Nov. 8, showed that during the third quarter the volume of loans to its 10 biggest borrowers had gone up by 403 billion rubles, or approximately \$6 billion. VTB declined to comment on the transactions, and the central bank did not respond to questions. The QIA declined to comment. The Kremlin did not comment. Rosneft did not respond to questions about the VTB loan to Qatar.

### "Effective" privatization

Rosneft - the world's biggest listed oil company by output - is the jewel in Russia's corporate crown. But with Russia under sanctions, and facing the prospect of more sanctions to come, Sechin faced an uphill task in finding buyers or creditors willing to risk their own money to acquire a stake in Rosneft. The sanctions, imposed by the United States and European Union in the aftermath of Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region, limit the access of Russian firms to international debt markets.

In the end, to get foreign investors on board, Russia has had to loan them billions, according to the sources' account. Two sources familiar with the deal said that having a third party finance a large part of the acquisition was a condition for Qatar taking the stake.

With oil prices today significantly higher than in late 2016, Russia's need for foreign money has subsided. But should it need to tap international markets again, the story of the Rosneft sale points to the challenges it could face in bringing investors on board, especially as the United States levies more sanctions against Russia.

The nine sources who told Reuters about the VTB loan to Qatar included a source close to VTB management, a Russian central bank official and a Russian government source familiar with foreign

investments in Russia. At least four of the sources were directly involved in preparations for the loan. All the sources requested anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the deal.

In response to questions about how the privatization of its stake as a whole was conducted, Rosneft said the deal was market-based and transparent and in the interests of all shareholders. It said all decisions relating to the deal underwent the relevant procedures for corporate approval, that the deal was supported by governments where participants are based, and was subject to compliance procedures in the relevant jurisdictions. "This is a unique example of an effective privatization," Rosneft said in a statement.

### From Gulf to Japan

As the end of 2016 drew nearer, Sechin, one of Putin's closest lieutenants, was under pressure. The government had publicly announced it would sell a 19.5 percent stake in Rosneft by the end of the year. The state budget, battered by a collapse in oil prices, an economic slump and the impact of Western sanctions, was showing a deficit of 3.5 percent. Russia's economy was in its second year of recession and there was no prospect of a quick improvement in public finances.

By the autumn, Sechin, who is now 58, thought he had a buyer: the United Arab Emirates' sovereign wealth fund Mubadala.

According to two sources familiar with the developments, Mubadala agreed to buy the stake. But negotiations hit a snag after Rosneft twice changed the price tag, the two sources said, prompting the Emiratis to walk away from the deal.

Mubadala declined to comment. Rosneft did not address questions about the Mubadala discussions. Sechin turned east and started talks with Japanese officials, according to a Russian government official, a source close to Rosneft and a recording of a conversation involving Sechin that emerged as part of an unrelated court case in which Sechin was a witness.

The talks were held primarily with the Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry minister, Hiroshige Seko. If the deal was agreed, the owner of the stake would have become a large state Japanese investment fund such as GPIF, the government pension investment fund which has over \$1.4 trillion assets under management, or state-run Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp (JOGMEC), three sources familiar with the discussions told Reuters.

That deal also ran into difficulties, according to Sechin's account in the recording played in court, when Japan insisted on linking it to progress in a territorial dispute with Russia dating back to the end of World War Two. Eventually, the deal collapsed. Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry did not respond to questions. Rosneft did not address Reuters' questions about discussions with Japan. JOGMEC's press service said it could not comment. GPIF said it could not comment on a discussion between governments because it was not directly involved.

Still without a buyer, Sechin focused on two new potential suitors: Qatar's investment fund QIA and global commodities trader Glencore. Neither was prepared to put up all of the asking price, according to three sources.

In the past, Rosneft had gone to major Western banks, such as Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan, to finance transactions, but the big international lenders have announced no major new loan deals with Rosneft since sanctions were imposed in 2014.

In stepped Intesa Sanpaolo, a mid-sized Italian lender which had little experience in large Russian corporate deals. By early December, 2016, financing for the deal was falling into place. The buyers put in some of their own money: Qatar gave 2.5 billion euros and Glencore 300 million euros.

The rest was debt, of which Intesa put up 5.2 billion euros. The balance, according to Glencore at the time, would come from unnamed Russian banks. — Reuters

## Cash runs out in Khartoum as Sudan tries to halt economic crisis

**KHARTOUM:** Many cash machines in the Sudanese capital have run out of banknotes as the government scrambles to prevent economic collapse with a sharp devaluation and emergency austerity measures. Rising demand for cash due to inflation, lack of trust in the banking system and the central bank's policy of restricting the money supply to protect the Sudanese pound have all contributed to a liquidity crunch that has worsened in the past 10 days pending new banknote deliveries.

The banknote shortage comes one month after authorities let the value of the pound slide from 29 pounds to the dollar to 47.5 pounds and announced measures to tighten spending. "I move from place to place until I find a money changer with funds because a large number of the cash machines are empty," said Ahmed Abdullah, a 42-year-old government employee.

"Why are we suffering like this to get our money?" Sudan has suffered from a lack of foreign currency since losing three-quarters of its output of oil when the south of the country seceded in 2011. The lifting of two decades of US sanctions in October 2017 did not bring a hoped for reprieve. Rampant inflation, strict withdrawal limits and a currency crisis had already placed Sudan's economy in deep trouble before the latest liquidity crisis. President Omar al-Bashir, who seized power in a coup in 1989 and whose ruling party has said it would nominate him to run for reelection in 2020, has taken a series of steps to address the economic crisis in recent weeks. A new central bank governor changed the system for setting the exchange rate and a new prime minister announced a 15-month economic reform plan.

### Prices up

Though the streets have been quiet after rare nationwide protests triggered by bread prices early this year, further price rises since last month's devaluation have triggered fresh grumbling. Spot checks with traders and market vendors showed that over the past month the cost of a kilo of flour has risen 20 percent, beef 30 percent and potatoes 50 percent. Sudan's inflation stood at more than 68 percent in September, one of the world's highest rates.

At the start of the month the government bolstered flour subsidies to try to contain the



**KHARTOUM:** Residents stand outside an automated teller machine (ATM) in Khartoum. — Reuters

impact on bread. A week ago, the prime minister tweeted that he had met the central bank governor to address the cash machine problem, and was reassured over the supply of banknotes.

But an official at a commercial bank in Khartoum said the central bank was not injecting enough fresh currency, triggering the liquidity crunch and long queues at ATM machines. Sudan imported one shipment of new banknotes last month, and three further shipments are due to arrive soon, a finance ministry source said, without giving further details. Even after last month's devaluation the pound is still under

pressure and the gap between the official and black market rates has widened. On the black market, a dollar costs 52 pounds in sought-after cash and 58 pounds by cheque.

"We expect the price of the dollar to continue to rise," one black market currency trader told Reuters. "With the scarcity of foreign currency the practice of dealing at the cheque price has become widespread." The body of banks and exchanges that since last month has fixed the official rate daily strengthened the pound to 46.95 pounds days after the devaluation but soon returned it to 47.5. — Reuters

## ECB singles out Italy in concerns over rising debt

**FRANKFURT:** A top European Central Bank official warned yesterday against rising debt levels on the continent, where "contagion" from a struggling Italy "remains a possibility".

"In Europe we observe re-emerging debt sustainability concerns, both in the public and private sector," ECB Vice-President Luis de Guindos said in a Frankfurt speech. With debts of 130 percent of annual economic output (GDP) — more than twice the notional EU limit—and a budget showdown with Brussels, "Italy is the most prominent case," he added.

Investors fear the impact of weak national finances in Rome on the country's banks, which hold large amounts of sovereign debt. "Although contagion (from Italy to other countries) has been limited so far, it remains a possibility," de Guindos warned.

The recently-installed ECB deputy's warning matches concerns from the International Monetary Fund, which warned last week that interest rates on Italian government debt were at their highest level in four years. "There is appreciable uncertainty, and contagion from future stress could be notable, especially for economies with weaker macroeconomic fundamentals and limited policy buffers," the Washington-based institution said.

Rome said Friday it would not substantially revise its budget proposal for 2019 after it was asked to redo its homework by the European Commission. Beyond Italy, de Guindos highlighted risks stemming from financial firms other than banks. "Now that the banking sector is shrinking and becoming more resilient, our radar is shifting to the non-bank financial sector, which is more lightly regulated," he said.

Investment funds in the eurozone were managing 12 trillion euros (\$13.5 trillion) of assets by the end of 2017 — about 42 percent the size of banks' assets. The non-bank sector "may harbor leverage and liquidity risks that could amplify any potential shock from a reassessment of risks in financial markets," de Guindos said. — AFP

## Business

# Zain partners with Bildarb app for reservations and self-pickups

## Up to 35% of exclusive discounts for Zain customers

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the signing of a partnership agreement with Bildarb, a leading mobile application for table reservations and restaurant orders self-pickup. Through this partnership, Zain will offer its customers who use the app with exclusive discounts of up to 35 percent.

Zain's partnership with Bildarb comes under the umbrella of the company's strategy that closely focuses on enriching its digital partnerships with the aim of expanding the portfolio of innovative services and solutions - including mobile applications - offered to meet the needs and aspirations of Zain's customer base and business community, considered the largest in the Kuwaiti market.

Bildarb offers users a wide range of services that makes it easier to reserve tables and pickup orders from restaurants. These services include: reserving tables without having to wait in line or join waiting lists, enjoy being seated immediately,

pre-ordering and paying through the app before arriving to the restaurant, splitting payments between multiple people, locations and directions to restaurants within the app without the need for external apps, inviting family and friends to meals, and more.

Bildarb also offers many features to Zain's business customers, especially restaurants and cafe owners, such as improving productivity, developing services, expanding customer bases, organize operations, assist staff in providing better and faster customer service, online payment solutions, reviewing statistics through the admin portal, and more.

Through its partnership with Bildarb, Zain offers its customers and employees with exclusive discounts on reservations and orders from the following restaurants: 35 percent from Bruce and Clark, 20 percent from Freshii, 5 percent from Prime and Toast, 5 percent from Wasabi, 5 percent

from Pizzetta, 10 percent from Bonchon Chicken, 10 percent from The Kitchen, 10 percent from Chubby Balls, 10 percent from Humble Burgers, 10 percent from Proper Sliders, and 10 percent from Junkyard.

By signing such digital partnerships, Zain seeks to meet its customers' needs and aspirations through the offering of the latest innovative services and technologies. The company is always keen on offering the most advanced tools to enhance its customers' experience, and offer them an unmatched telecommunications experience on its largest network in Kuwait.

Zain's strategy is centered around digital transformation leadership and empowering the community to enjoy a smarter portable lifestyle, as well as using advanced technology to enable an easier and more flexible life. The company places itself as an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait.



## Japan PM calls for public works spending plan to help economy



TOKYO: World Trade Organization (WTO) director-general Roberto Azevedo meets with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Abe's official residence in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called yesterday for a new public works spending program to stimulate the economy amid growing concerns about global risks.

The spending, which is expected in the first half of next fiscal year starting in April, will focus on strengthening infrastructure to withstand earthquakes and frequent flooding, according to a presentation made at the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy (CEFP).

Some of Japan's top government advisers also called for stimulus to offset a decline in consumption expected after an increase in the nationwide sales tax in October next year. The rush to approve public works spending and other measures to support consumption highlights growing concern among policymakers about the economy.

"The prime minister asked me to take firm measures to ensure that our economic recovery continues," Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said at the end of the CEFP meeting.

"He also said the public works spending program expected at the end of this year should be compiled with this point in mind." Japan's economy is forecast to contract in July-September, and a recent slump in machinery orders suggests any rebound in the following quarters is likely to be weak if exports and business investment lose momentum. Government ministers will compile a preliminary public works plan by the end of this month and then submit a final version of the plan by year's end, according to documents used at the CEFP meeting.

Members of the CEFP did not say how large spending should be or how the government should fund the package. At the meeting, Abe said compiling the package has become an urgent matter, according to a government official. Japan's government is considering a 10 trillion yen (\$87.77 billion) stimulus package to offset the impact of a sales tax hike next, sources told Reuters last week, as concerns about consumer spending and the global economy grow.

Increasing spending on public works started to gain support after a strong earthquake in September caused a blackout in the northern island of Hokkaido and a series of typhoons damaged transport infrastructure in western Japan.

The advisers on the CEFP are academics and business leaders who are considered close to Abe, so their recommendations often influence policy decisions.

The CEFP met earlier yesterday to debate consumer prices and fiscal policy, which is where the advisers made their recommendations. The advisers did not lay out the specific steps the government should take to stimulate consumption, but government officials have previously said they are considering shopping vouchers for low-income earners and more spending on public works.

The nationwide sales tax is scheduled to rise to 10 percent in October 2019 from 8 percent currently.

The government already plans to exempt food and some daily goods from the tax hike to soften the blow, but there is still a lot of concern that the tax hike will wreck consumer spending and sentiment. The economy was tipped into a recession the last time the tax was raised in 2014. —Reuters

## Huawei rolls out its first 'HUAWEI Developer Day' series in MENA

KUWAIT: For the first time outside of China, Huawei has rolled out its 'HUAWEI Developer Day' workshop series bringing together the best smartphone developers across the Middle East & North Africa to announce HUAWEI developer alliance introduced in the region. The opening session was held in Dubai on 8 November, gathering more than 100 independent developer and design startups.

Powered by the HUAWEI Developer Alliance, the workshops are aimed at providing developers with insights into HUAWEI AppGallery and HUAWEI Themes, through interactive presentations and competitions. Using this platform to do a deep-dive into the latest technologies, developers can create intelligent solutions to provide an unparalleled smartphone experience for Huawei users worldwide.

Justin Chen, Managing Director of Huawei MENA Consumer Cloud Service Dept.: "We continue to deliver breakthrough technologies and achieve new industry standards by focusing on product innovation and exceeding customer expectations. Through the introduction of 'HUAWEI Developer Day' in MENA, we aim to establish a strong local mobile developer community to enhance our production capabilities and cement our position as a global iconic tech brand within the MENA region's mobile and technology ecosystem."

Currently, the HUAWEI AppGallery is the top two Android applications in MENA. Apart from providing exposure opportunities and one of the best distribution channels for MENA developers, HUAWEI AppGallery has an integrated billing system offering a seamless mobile payment platform - including credit card transactions, gift card and carrier billing. Additionally, the HUAWEI Themes also supports billing and payment functions allowing designers and devel-



opers to upload their creations and receive payments.

HUAWEI Developer Day workshops in MENA will be held in Jordan next month, followed by Egypt, Pakistan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi - running until December 2019. In addition to HUAWEI Developer Day workshop, Huawei mobile

services will also bring series competition for developer and designer, such as Egypt AppCup associate with Egypt Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (TIEC), Honor global themes competition and MENA Theme development campus tour.

## AUB wins 'Best Bank for Private Banking Services Award' in Kuwait

KUWAIT: For the second consecutive year, Ahli United Bank has been awarded the Best Private Banking Services Award in Kuwait for 2018 by The Banker magazine, an international publication owned by the Financial Times Group. This award honors banking institutions that achieved remarkable success in implementing growth strategies, appropriate investment solutions and service levels in the area of private banking services and wealth management according to international standards.

On this occasion, Medhat Tawfik, Ahli United Bank's Senior General Manager Private Banking and Wealth Management, said: "The Bank's award for Best Private Banking services in Kuwait for the second consecutive year affirms the distinction of our services and products that we offer to our customers. This reflects the success we have achieved over the previous years and our commitment to customer service and providing them with the best investment consultation, in addition to our deep regional knowledge and extensive business experience. "It is worth noting that this is the second recognition this year as the best bank for private banking services and wealth management in Kuwait after being recognized by The Banker - Middle East. Tawfik added, "The Bank's winning of this award is a significant indicator of the Bank's high level of professionalism and the result of continuous programs implemented by the Bank that aim to provide the best possible level of service to private banking customers by a highly qualified and experienced team."

Tawfik expressed the pride of Ahli United Bank's management for receiving such recognition from a prestigious international source such as The Banker, stressing that private banking services and wealth management are the most important fields that the Bank is keen to develop to capitalize the valuable opportunities in wealth management and finance.

"The Bank will continue to emphasize its ability to provide customers with the best wealth management products and services while focusing on reducing the risks associated with market volatility by applying its integrated banking services model," Tawfik added.



Medhat Tawfik receiving the award

## Sterling falls on Brexit nerves, dollar rally

LONDON: The pound held near a 10-day low yesterday as the twin forces of a resurgent dollar and reduced expectations of a Brexit deal fuelled a selloff. In volatile trading, sterling fell to a 1-1/2 week low of \$1.2827 as negative headlines over the last 48 hours punctured growing optimism last week that an agreement between Britain and the European Commission was imminent.

"While some European officials are still sounding opti-

mistic that an EC-UK deal can be struck in the coming weeks, the market has grown more skeptical," said Marc Chandler, chief market strategist at Bannockburn Global Forex LLC. Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit strategy came under attack from all sides, increasing the risk that her plan for leaving the European Union will be voted down by parliament and thrust the United Kingdom towards a potentially chaotic "no-deal" Brexit.

May's compromise plan, which seeks to maintain close trade ties with the EU in future, is facing opposition from Brexiters, pro-Europeans, the Northern Irish party that props up her government, and even some of her own ministers. Sterling's losses against the euro were contained thanks to a dollar rally which lifted the US currency against every other rival, but the pound's drop on Monday has wiped out nearly two weeks of gains. —Reuters

What's On

# Success by ACK students in Huawei ICT skill competition

A total of 48 students from the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) took part in a recent Huawei ICT Skills Competition out of a total of 116 students nationwide. ACK students were placed first, third and seventh out of the top 10. Manager of the ACK Alumni and Career Placement Center, Dr Zeina Nehme, noted that this outstanding result reflected the dedication of the students to this opportunity. Dr Nehme added: "This was a great opportunity for our students to be part of an important national learning experience and we thank Huawei for their continuous efforts in developing our youth."

The top 25 students in the competition will now take part in coaching through the Huawei Training Center and from these participants a team will be selected to represent Kuwait at the international

finals in China. Of the 25 students in the short list group, 14 are from ACK and Dr Nehme expressed her great pride in this achievement.

Speaking on behalf of Huawei Technologies Kuwait Co. WLL, the Public Relations Manager, Mr. Sky Gaojun stated that: "Turn out for the ICT Competition was a great success and it was an honor to provide this opportunity for students. Collaborating with ACK and its students was a pleasure. Both faculty and students were extremely keen and helpful to the Huawei team. ACK students showed commendable focus and determination which is what we hoped for in the competition. We are definitely looking forward to future collaborations with the College." The ACK Alumni and Career Placement Center provides ongoing career support and networking to graduates.



## Burgan Bank renews sponsorship of Ahmadi Music Group



Burgan Bank, one of the leading financial institutions significantly contributing to the arts and cultural scene in Kuwait, continues to promote one of most prestigious local music and arts organizations, Ahmadi Music Group. Reflecting its commitment to fostering creativity and enriching the local cultural life, Burgan Bank embarks on its fifth consecutive year of sponsorship of the popular long-standing music group.

This year's performances will take the group back to the "Opera House" to assemble a substantial orchestra and a very large choir of close to 100 singers. Ahmadi Group will also revive their jazz opera, first performed eight years ago, which could possibly be the first artistic work entirely created and performed by a largely Kuwaiti cast that could be showed internationally.

Elevating the social landscape of Kuwait

even further, the group will host various other events throughout the year ranging from Fusion Jazz, Mozart Requiem, Family Seasonal Concert, Schubert Trout Quintet, Fully - Staged Jazz Opera, Beatles Sing-Along Concert, Handel Messiah, 1990's Rock Review and many more.

With a growing fan base, Ahmadi Music Group's many performances are regarded as one of the most reputed artistic and musical experiences in Kuwait, who performs a mix of jazz, classical, Broadway, opera and newly-commissioned music of which the members include both seasoned professionals and complete beginners. Running for over 65 years with top-notch musical standards, the locally and internationally operating group is increasingly contributing to the artistic fabric of Kuwait through its diverse performances.

Burgan Bank's annual generous support

enables Ahmadi Music Group to introduce and present large-scale classical music that follow international standards to the Kuwaiti audiences. The sponsorship seeks to advance the cultural scene in Kuwait, elevate local artistic talent and promote socially impactful initiatives that benefit the community as a whole.

Burgan Bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.

## BSK receives outstanding Cambridge Learner awards



The British School of Kuwait (BSK) is delighted to have received notification from Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) examination board of a number of Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards recognizing the exceptional success of their students in the summer 2018 examination session. A total of four students

received five awards, with former Year 12 student Mark Sedhom receiving a High Achievement Award for AS Level Computer Science. Mark is now pursuing his undergraduate studies in Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Toronto. Current Sixth Form student Rekha

Ravikummar received both a High Achievement Award for IGCSE Design and Technology as well as the Top in Kuwait Award for IGCSE Economics for her hard work during Year 11.

Another of our current Sixth Formers, Maria Elias excelled in her IGCSE Geography course, receiving the Top in Kuwait Award for this subject. Another high achiever was former Year 11 student Narrayan Raam Sankar, who achieved the Top in Kuwait Award for IGCSE English Literature. These are remarkable achievements by any standards and congratulations are due to the students, as well as their teachers and parents. The current Year 11 and Sixth Form students who will soon be taking their mock and midyear examination will be looking to follow in the footsteps of their role models and will be aiming for similarly great heights in the forthcoming examination sessions.

## ICSK CBSE Kuwait athletic champs for 17th year in a row



It was amidst great Jubilation that the 20th CBSE Kuwait Cluster Athletic Meet was initiated at the Amateur Athletic Federation Stadium, Khaifan. The Athletic Meet spanned across three days, from 21st October 2018 to 23rd October 2018 was a luminous affair, organized by the Indian Community School, Kuwait, heralding athletic teams from 14 schools across the country. The event is a spectator to 537 athletes jockeying for top positions in 66 track and field events.

The Indian Community School Kuwait, has proved to be an institution par excellence yet again as the invincible athletes of ICSK lifted overall championship trophy for the record 17th time with an incredible performance at the 20th Kuwait Cluster Athletic Meet. The ICSK team emerged winners with a total of 350 points and with a huge margin of 82 points over the runners-up team. The Gulf Indian School bagged the Second Position with 268 points and the United Indian School

secured the Third Position with 213 points.

The ICSK champions secured 22 gold medals, 16 silver medals, 6 bronze medals in a total of 66 events that were held as part of the CBSE Athletics meet. A new meet record was set at the CBSE Kuwait Cluster Meet, by the ICSK athletes. Archana Srinivas, Abigail Mary Yang, Audrey Lewis, Omaira Farahan & Abigail Fernandes of the ICSK in U-17 Girls 4x100 meters relay. The ICSK team also clinched 3 Individual Championships in the Girls Categories: Under 14-Desha Shenoy, Under 17- Abigail Mary Yang, & Under 19 - Dinah Stephen. The Inaugural Ceremony, on the 21st of October, 2018, was crowned with the presence of Chief Guest Mrs Shyamala Divakaran, Principal-Gulf Indian School.

The three-day event saw the athletes teeming with vigor fight tooth and nail in 66 events. The event stood testimony to revealing the character of the fierce athletes brimming with vitality and passion which ushered

in victory creating new meet records in track and field events by the students. The Valedictory Ceremony was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest- Mrs Asha Sharma, Principal, Indian Learners Own Academy. In the lively and exciting closing ceremony, the winners regaled themselves with the applause of acknowledgement, and the euphoria of victory and sportsmanship as the trophies and certificates were given away by the luminous dignitaries including the Principals of various CBSE schools in Kuwait.

The unflinching support of the ICSK School Management, untiring efforts of the physical education teachers and the talent and hard work of the students has made this unparalleled achievement possible for the ICSK. The management, staff and students of the ICSK extend hearty congratulations to the athletes and physical education teachers of the ICSK who have once again brought laurels to the school.

## Chococafe: The new place to start your day with a true rich breakfast

Breakfast is an important meal that has its own unique rituals for all of us. Acknowledging that every fine dining restaurant should provide each customer with a unique experience as the place to enjoy a meal and create unforgettable moments Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait, The Jewel of Kuwait City, is proud to introduce its new Chococafe new irresistible breakfast. The new single Arabic breakfast tray offers premium morning delights including eggs, served your way, labneh, grilled halloumi, sausages, tea of coffee, orange juice, pickles, vegetable crudites, served with fresh bread basket and croissant, daily at Chococafe from 8:00

am- 11:30 am, for 7 KD per person. Chococafe is renowned for its vibrant chic atmosphere, prime location overlooking the Arabian Gulf in Salmiya, and rich menu of food and beverage options inspired by the love affair with great coffee, innovative mouth-watering ingredients and flavorful desserts. The addition of the breakfast tray makes Chococafe the ideal place for quiet conversations with friends, colleagues or business associates to start the day. Reward yourself and enjoy a relaxed morning, pass by the ultra-chic Chococafe in Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait, a Radisson Collection hotel. Shisha is served outside in the garden daily.



## Palestinian Cultural Center exhibition

The Palestinian Cultural Center, in cooperation with the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Kuwait, is pleased to invite you to attend our second exhibition of 2018. The motto is "Jerusalem Calls Us" and the exhibition will lovingly display Palestinian embroi-

dery, art, and crafts expressing the Palestinian national identity as well as containing an array of books, ceramics and Palestinian culinary dishes. On the final day, Thursday at 6:00 pm, the Coral Zaman Band will perform a Palestinian Dabkeh. All are welcome to join us in solidarity with Palestine and its righteous cause.

Date: Monday 19th, Thursday November 22nd  
Time: 10:00 am - 13:30 pm & 16:30 pm - 20:30 pm  
Place: Women's Cultural and Social Society  
Khaldiya Block 2, Al-Ourouba Street



### NOTICE

## Kids Learn to Weave

Learn to Weave with Lynn's Linens! Kits for children over the age of 6 include all required materials. Mothers may attend with their children. Each children's kit is 6KD. A mother and child kit is 10KD.

A percentage of the fee goes to support the Second Chance charity. It will be held on Wednesday, November 21 from 4-6pm (Register by November 19) Villa No 67, Street 413, Block 4, Shuhada Area, Kuwait.

## Technology

# Ooredoo Kuwait organizes Business to Digital Forum

## Roudan: Digital economy is one of the most important pillars of global economy

KUWAIT: Minister Al-Roudan said: "The digital economy is one of the most important pillars of the global economy today." This came during his speech at the opening of the Business to Digital Forum organized by Ooredoo yesterday, which also witnessed the attendance of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, Mr Bader Al-Mashaan acting undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Yusef Al-Habeeb the General Manager of the Electronic Crimes Department and the General Manager of Ooredoo Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani. In reference to the digital transformation taking place, Al-Roudan said: "We are witnessing the birth of a new generation who are advanced in the cyber world, which poses a future need to deal with them according to their abilities. This requires us to be much more connected and tech savvy so we can be able to measure up to this future."

### Digital economy

The minister stressed the need for the Kuwaiti government sector to support this generation through the automation of services provided for them. Minister Al-Roudan pointed to the current governmental efforts to issue two new laws that will contribute to the development of business entrepreneurship and to support Kuwaiti youth, including the law of "crowd funding" that is expected to benefit youth start-up companies hugely, and will be issued during the current governmental session.

Adding to this is issuing a new law governing the electronic voting & attendance of members of shareholders societies of companies, due to the fact that shareholders are becoming so diverse and living in distant places that make it impossible for all to attend a meeting in one place. The minister added that Kuwait has a long history of successful start-ups working in the field of technology, which flourished on the level of regional and also international markets. He pointed out that the government and especially the Ministry of Commerce is concerned to enhance the digital economy in all sectors by creating a suitable environment for activating electronic business.

He also stated that there are examples of start-up companies that were sold for millions of dollars, including delivery companies, that were sold for more than 150 million dollars, while starting with a capital of 15 thousand dollars only, such as Carriage, which was sold in a deal worth millions of dollars through an acquisition by "Delivery Hero". He also referred to other successful examples, some of which were sold for also sold for millions of dollars such as Just Clean, 4Sale and other companies.

Al-Roudan pointed out that investors in these companies were not only foreigners, but also local citizens, which indicates an increase in confidence locally in such an economic sector. The minister stressed that investment in technology has become a haven for many young people to find a real opportunity to prove themselves, and achieve their ambitions and fight the specter of unemployment, starting just from a creative idea that can meet the requirements of the market. Digital economy can make these ideas turn into start-ups with promising profit prospect.

### Digital lives

Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Kuwait, followed in a welcome speech in which he stated that: "This "Business to Digital" forum is the first of its kind event in Kuwait presented by Ooredoo Kuwait, where we aim at transforming your world into a digital platform that gives you the advantage to move from idea to execution to most importantly: Revenue." He added: "In this fast moving world, a digital edge exists where digital information and physical resources combine in new ways to create value and revenue."

And he pointed out to the Vision of Ooredoo as "to continue enriching Kuwait's people digital lives". He stressed that Ooredoo supports HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision of New



General Manager of Ooredoo Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani speaks during the Digital Forum.



Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Nasser Al-Roudan gives the opening speech.

Kuwait 2035 "Develop and modernize the national infrastructure to improve the quality of life to all citizens". In reference to the Ooredoo Data center that opened in 2017, the CEO said: "this is a state-of-the-art center fully equipped to deliver an exceptional experience in services and solutions Like: Managed CPE, Cloud Services, NOC & Operations, 24/7 Support & Consultancy and much more... Guaranteed Easy Access, No Fraud, No Misuse. This will take us through the promising road of 5G which has been launched from Ooredoo Kuwait successfully last June 2018."

At the end of his speech, Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al-Thani, said: "Ooredoo Kuwait believes that the Youth is the country's greatest asset... Their passion, energy, and enterprise will take Kuwait to new heights... I promise you, Ooredoo and your business, will digitally succeed together." The opening ceremony also concluded a tour of the exhibition accompanying the forum which started at the Ooredoo booth before visiting the partners at the event. The Ooredoo corner introduced the latest technologies in support of the corporate sector and the services provided to the owners of companies whether they were small businesses or large companies. The tour then moved onto the partners participating in this exhibition: Simplit, Ericsson, Cisco, Fortinet and SAP who all showcased their services in the field of technology, information systems and other technological fields.



(From left) Hind Al-Sabeeh, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani and Khaled Nasser Al-Roudan listens to Abdul Aziz Al Babbain during the Forum.



(From Right) Bader Al-Mashaan acting undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Nasser Al-Roudan, General Manager of Ooredoo Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh and Yusef Al-Habeeb the General Manager of the Electronic Crimes Department.

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**Academic Certificates - Training**

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

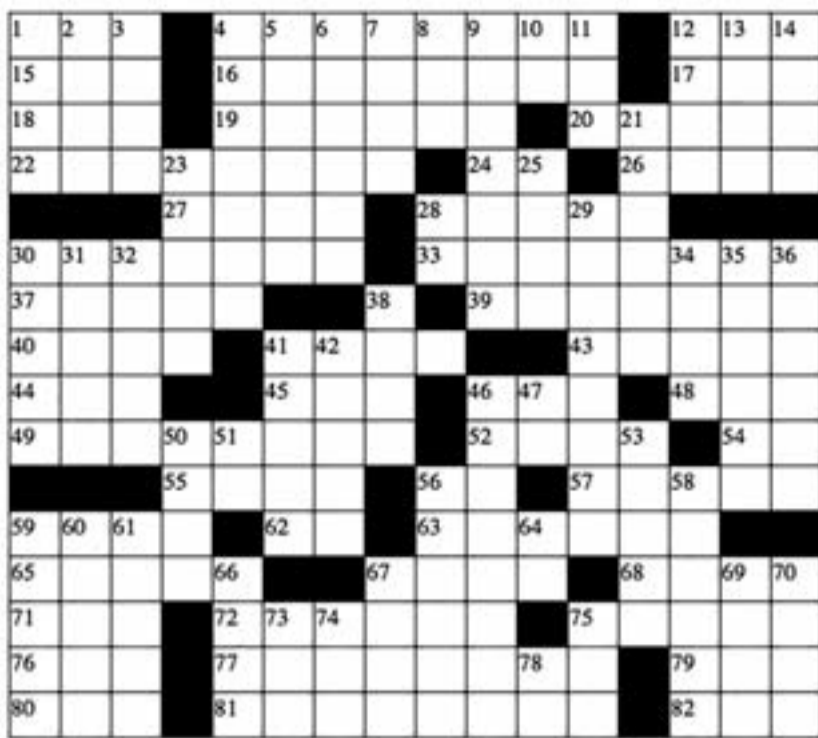
**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2059



ACROSS

1. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
4. A river in central Brazil that flows generally northward (with many falls) to join the Tocantins River.
12. A light touch or stroke.
15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
16. Being everywhere equidistant and not intersecting.
17. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
18. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
19. To this writing or document.
20. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
22. A small volcanic island in Indonesia between Java and Sumatra.
24. A heavy precious metallic element.
26. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
27. (informal) Being satisfactory or in satisfactory condition.
30. A town in southwestern British Columbia on Vancouver Island west of Vancouver.
33. Teaching pupils individually (usually by a tutor hired privately).
37. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
39. Marked by correspondence or resemblance.
40. A wine bottle made of leather.
43. A painful and involuntary muscular contraction.
44. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
45. The residue that remains when something is burned.
48. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
49. Of or relating to or characteristic of Bermuda or its inhabitants.
52. The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.
54. An associate degree in nursing.
55. A Loloish language.
57. An iconic mental representation.
59. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
62. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
63. Having a bib.
65. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
68. A desert in central Asia.
71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
72. Submit or yield to another's wish or opinion.
76. Not reflecting light.
77. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
79. A cgs unit of work or energy.
80. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
81. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
82. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.

DOWN

1. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
2. South American amadillo with three bands of bony plates.
3. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
4. Absence of the natural lens of the eye (usually resulting from the removal of cataracts).
5. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
6. (southwestern United States) A stream or brook.
7. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
8. In or of the month preceding the present one.
9. Type genus of the family Alopidae.
10. That is to say.
11. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
12. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
13. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
14. With no effort to conceal.
21. Husband of Elizabeth II of Great Britain (born 1921).
23. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
25. French filmmaker (1908-1982).
28. A unit of weight equivalent to 1000 kilograms.
29. A woman sahib.
31. The address where a person lives.
32. (KNO3) Used especially as a fertilizer and explosive.
34. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
35. Talks a great deal about uninteresting topics.
36. The expensive white fur of the ermine.
38. German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
41. The 18th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
42. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
46. Avitaminosis caused by lack of thiamine (vitamin B1).
47. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
50. God of death.
51. A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles.
53. The ending of a series or sequence.
56. In the same place (used when citing a reference).
58. Regarded with deep or rapturous love (especially as if for a god).
60. Of or relating to or in the style of a musical fugue.
61. Having winglike extensions.
64. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
66. A short labored intake of breath with the mouth open.
67. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
69. Brought into existence.
70. Any tree or shrub of the genus Inga having pinnate leaves and showy usually white flowers.
73. An accountant certified by the state.
74. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
75. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
78. Being nine more than ninety.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

It may seem you are the center of attention. Today could find you in the limelight. Your superiors at work seem to be paying close attention. Your job has become something you find great pleasure in and you actually enjoy going to work. Your peers seem to find great value in your ability to make practical decisions and admire you for your work ethic. You are able to clearly see what others want and need and seem to be in the right place at the right time to provide this for them. That brings much admiration your way. You may find you are looked at as a role model for many. You seem to have the ability to make clear decisions and will find this to be an extremely productive day.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself wanting to discover more about your roots. Where did you come from? What obstacles did your ancestors face? This is a great time to do some research and discover more about your heritage. Just as the past seems to be of great importance to you, so is the future. You are in a great frame of mind to do some future planning. Get your affairs in order. Spend some time researching the financial investments you have been considering. Change can bring great reward. Taurus. This is a great time to develop a financial plan for your future and for the future of your descendants.



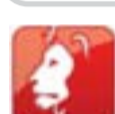
Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself in a bit of a conflict when it comes to balancing your home life and work life. You may find yourself passing an opportunity by at work because it will interfere with time with your family. This may be a hard decision to make at this time, but the payoff with your family will be well worth it. In a time for you to make sure your priorities are straight. You have a strong appreciation of your past. You are able to reflect and realize the obstacles and problems of your past talk to the lessons that made you and you are today. You are able to appreciate hardships and look at them in a more positive manner knowing you will come at a stronger person in the end.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Love and expressing all the deep emotions you have for others becomes very important to you. You may be feeling a need to be needed. Never doubt that you are. You may find yourself in deep appreciation of everyone and everything around you. You are able to find beauty in every situation and in everything that surrounds you. This is time in your life filled with love and others are drawn to your loving ways and kind heart. Be careful today, as all around you becomes so appealing.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may be feeling emotionally detached from your surroundings at this time. You tend to be viewed as detached by others when you are in all reality your mind is highly focused and your wheels are turning. You are fascinated by the unusual and are finding yourself lost in your thoughts. You may find it hard to focus in the workplace today. Today may not be the best day for important decisions in the work place as you have lost yourself in your thoughts. You are quick witted and are no stranger to finding yourself having to apologize for having offended someone. Bite your tongue, keep it to yourself today as this could result in a battle of words with someone close to you. Leo, settle in with a book tonight and give your mind a break from reality.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

What a great day to spend some time with those you love. Enjoy some time sitting around with friends and family. You may find taking a walk down memory lane will bring much laughter into your life today. You live and learn. You have had your share of both. Good times are yours for the taking. You may find yourself extremely sensitive to the needs of others. You find yourself very understanding. Others seem drawn to you today. You are the friend others want to have.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

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



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Discipline and patience are two things you desperately need to practice today. Do not make any decisions without thinking things through. Account for every detail and carefully make careful measurements. This will keep your mind active. You may find yourself leaning toward a healthier lifestyle. Changes are forthcoming. This can bring great reward in the future. Decisions made today will be good ones.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

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



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. The sun came up this morning, and you are still here. Try to focus on the present. Stressing ahead rarely changes outcomes. Many of the "what ifs" you fret about will never happen. Save your energy to deal with the realities. You are flexible, and you have the coping skills to handle whatever comes up. No problem is too large for you to conquer.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may feel as if you are encountering negativity and not everyone is supportive when it comes to very sensitive issues you are dealing with in your life. These issues are very personal, and you may just be sharing with the wrong people. You will find someone close to you who will serve as a confidant who is extremely understanding and supportive of all that makes you unique. Aquarius, now is a great time to think outside of the box and follow that new path or project that is calling your name. You may reap great reward from trying something new.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are a practical person with an abundance of common sense. You are able to use both of these qualities as assets to make your way to the top in the career world. You may be feeling a need to change your focus and tighten your circle a bit. You feel as if you need to spend more of your time and attention on you and yours. At this point you may have accomplished your goal in the workplace but feel you need to continue to work on your goal at home. This will be a balancing act to continue to make sure you thrive in every area of your life. Your communication skills are at all time high and you are able to relate and interact with ease to all who surround you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

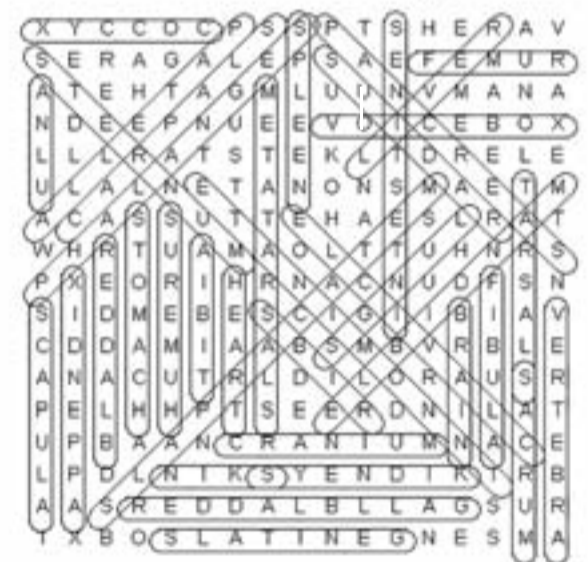
Insects

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



- |             |          |            |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| ANTS        | EARWIG   | MOSQUITO   |
| APHID       | FIREFLY  | MOTH       |
| BEDBUG      | FLEA     | SILKWORM   |
| BEEBLE      | FLIES    | SILVERFISH |
| BUMBLEBEE   | HORNET   | TERMITE    |
| BUTTERFLY   | LACEWING | THRIP      |
| CATERPILLAR | LADYBUG  | TICKS      |
| CICADA      | LICE     | WASP       |
| COCKROACH   | LOCUST   | WEEVIL     |
| CRICKET     | MAYFLY   | WORMS      |
| DRAGONFLY   |          |            |

Human Skeleton & Organs



- |                  |             |               |            |         |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| <b>Skeleton:</b> | - CARPALS   | - PATELLA     | - APPENDIX | - LIVER |
| - CLAVICLE       | - PHALANGES | - BLADDER     | - LUNGS    |         |
| - COCCYX         | - RADIUS    | - BRAIN       | - PANCREAS |         |
| - CRANIUM        | - RIBS      | - GALLBLADDER | - SKIN     |         |
| - FEMUR          | - SACRUM    | - GENITALS    | - SPLEEN   |         |
| - FIBULA         | - SCAPULA   | - HEART       | - STOMACH  |         |
| - HUMERUS        | - STERNUM   | - INTESTINES  |            |         |
| - INNOMINATE     | - TARSALS   | - KIDNEYS     |            |         |
| - MANDIBLE       | - TIBIA     |               |            |         |
| - METACARPALS    | - ULNA      |               |            |         |
| - METATARSALS    | - VERTEBRA  |               |            |         |

Hidden sentence: THE AVERAGE HUMAN ADULT SKELETON HAS TWO HUNDRED AND SIX BONES

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

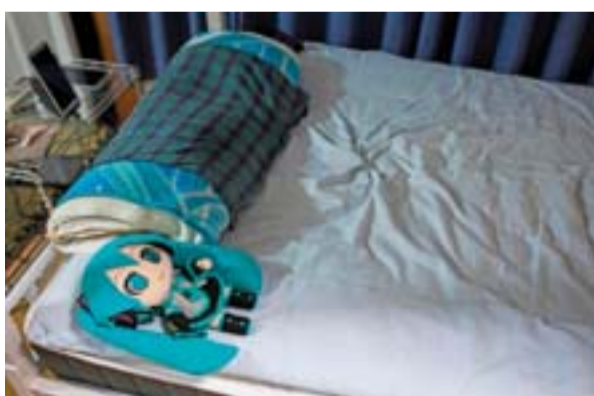
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018



The world's longest dragon boat carrying 179 rowers sail along the Mekong river during a ceremony in Prey Veng province yesterday. Cambodia won a place in the Guinness book of World Records yesterday for building the 87.3 meters-long wooden dragon boat.— AFP

## Crazy in love? The Japanese man 'married' to a hologram

Akihiko Kondo's mother refused an invitation to her only son's wedding in Tokyo this month, but perhaps that isn't such a surprise: he was marrying a hologram. "For mother, it wasn't something to celebrate," said the soft-spoken 35-year-old, whose "bride" is a virtual reality singer named Hatsune Miku. In fact, none of Kondo's relatives attended his wedding to Miku—an animated 16-year-old with saucer eyes and lengthy aquamarine pigtailed—but that didn't stop him from spending two million yen (\$17,600) on a formal ceremony at a Tokyo hall. Around 40 guests watched as he tied the knot with Miku, present in the form of a cat-sized stuffed doll. "I never cheated on her. I've always been in love with Miku-san," he said, using a honorific that is commonly employed in Japan, even by friends.



A doll of Japanese virtual reality singer Hatsune Miku, wearing a wedding ring, lies on the bed of Japanese Akihiko Kondo, at his apartment. — AFP photos



Japanese Akihiko Kondo poses with a doll of Japanese virtual reality singer Hatsune Miku, as both wear their wedding rings, at his apartment in Tokyo.

"I've been thinking about her every day," he told AFP a week after the wedding. Since March, Kondo has been living with a moving, talking hologram of Miku that floats in a \$2,800 desktop device. "I'm in love with the whole concept of Hatsune Miku but I got married to the Miku of my house," he said, looking at the blue image glowing in a capsule.

### 'Drop dead, creepy otaku!'

He considers himself an ordinary married man—his holographic wife wakes him up each morning and sends him off to his job as an administrator at a school. In the evening, when he tells her by cellphone that he's coming home, she turns on the lights. Later, she tells him when it's time to go to bed. He sleeps alongside the doll version of her that attended the wedding, complete with a wedding ring that fits around her left wrist. Kondo's marriage might not have any legal standing, but that doesn't bother him. He even took his Miku doll to a jewellery shop to get the ring.

And Gatebox, the company that produces the hologram device featuring Miku, has issued a "marriage certificate", which certifies that a human and a virtual character have wed "beyond dimensions". Kondo's not alone either: he says Gatebox has issued more than 3,700 certificates for "cross-dimension" marriages and some people have sent him supportive messages. "There must be some people who can't come forward and say they want to hold a wedding. I want to give them a supportive push," he says. Kondo's path to Miku came after difficult encounters with women as an anime-mad teenager.

"Girls would say 'Drop dead, creepy otaku!'," he recalled, using a Japanese term for geeks that can carry a



Japanese Akihiko Kondo poses next to an image of Japanese virtual reality singer Hatsune Miku, on a screen at his apartment in Tokyo, a week after marrying her.

negative connotation. As he got older, he says a woman at a previous workplace bullied him into a nervous breakdown and he became determined never to marry.

In Japan, that wouldn't be entirely unusual nowadays. While in 1980, only one in 50 men had never married by the age of 50, that figure is now one in four. But eventually Kondo realized he had been in love with Miku for more than a decade and decided to marry her.

### A 'sexual minority'

"Miku-san is the woman I love a lot and also the one who saved me," he said. And while Kondo says he is happy to be friends with a "3D woman", he has no interest in romance with one, no matter how much his mother pushes for it. Two-dimensional characters can't cheat, age or die, he points out. "I'm not seeking these in real women. It's impossible." Even in a country obsessed with anime, Kondo's wedding shocked many. But he wants to be recognized as a "sexual minority" who can't imagine dating a flesh-and-blood woman.

"It's simply not right, it's as if you were trying to talk a gay man into dating a woman, or a lesbian into a relationship with a man." "Diversity in society has been long called for," he added. "It won't necessarily make you happy to be bound to the 'template' of happiness in which a man and woman marry and bear children." "I believe we must consider all kinds of love and all kinds of happiness." — AFP



Japanese Akihiko Kondo poses with a doll of Japanese virtual reality singer Hatsune Miku, as he shows their marriage certificate, at his apartment in Tokyo, a week after marrying her.

## Guitarist Joe Perry recovering after collapsing at NY concert



In this file photo US guitar player Joe Perry performs with The Hollywood Vampires band as part of the Hellfest metal music festival in Clisson, western France. — AFP

Famed Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry was recovering in hospital Sunday after collapsing shortly after performing with rock superstar Billy Joel in New York's Madison Square Garden. Perry, who is 68, suffered "shortness of breath and was treated backstage by paramedics who gave the guitarist oxygen and used a tracheal tube to clear his airway," said a statement from a spokesman. It said he was "alert and responsive" on Sunday, but would have to cancel an appearance later in the day at a rock 'n' roll fantasy camp in Florida. "Perry is expected to return to the road later this month," the statement said.

Perry was playing hit song "Walk This Way," penned by him and Aerosmith's Steven Tyler and later covered by hip-hop group Run-DMC, shortly before he collapsed in his dressing room. TMZ reported, Perry, who has been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and, with Aerosmith, into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is ranked by Rolling Stone as one of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time. — AFP



## Morrissey mobbed on stage

**M**orrissey had to cut short his concert in San Diego after fans stormed the stage. The former Smiths star was playing his 1988 song 'Everyday Is Like Sunday' at the Copley Symphony Hall over the weekend, but a stage invasion during the encore meant the 59-year-old singer was rushed off by security. His manager Peter Katsis has hit back at claims Morrissey was under threat or that any of his passionate fans tried to physically assault him. In a statement on Facebook, he said: "Nobody tried to punch M last night. Morrissey's fans are not malicious. 'The fans were simply doing what they have been doing for almost 30 years. Trying anything they could do to jump onstage and touch him, or hug him.'" While Peter admitted one fan went further than the others, he played down the incident and praised security for how they handled everything. He added: "The fan in

question was certainly more aggressive in reaching out for him than most, so security had to do their job and subdue the fan. That's all it was. In the end no one was hurt, and no one was arrested." According to TMZ, Morrissey was taken off stage and didn't return, although people in the crowd waited to see if he would come back out to finish the show. When it became apparent the concert was over, people started to leave, and it's reported that Morrissey didn't do his usual meet and greet session after the event. For recent shows, the star has been finishing with 'Everyday Is Like Sunday', followed by The Smiths' 'How Soon Is Now?', meaning fans only missed out on one song due to the abrupt ending.

## Minoque confirmed for Hampton Court Palace Festival



**K**ylie Minogue will headline Hampton Court Palace Festival 2019. The 'I Should Be So Lucky' hitmaker has been confirmed as the first artist set for the annual event, and the shows on June 20 and 21 will be her only London dates of the summer. She will take to the stage in the 3,000 capacity Base Court - one of the Tudor courtyards in the palace grounds, with tickets set to go on sale on Friday. Stephen Flint Wood - SVP & Managing Director of Arts & Entertainment, IMG - said: "We are absolutely delighted to announce Kylie Minogue as the first artist to perform at the 2019 Hampton Court Palace Festival. "Kylie will be making her debut at the Festival and have no doubt her shows will be truly special with a star of her magnitude performing in the idyllic setting of Hampton Court Palace. "Further announcements of world-class musical talent will be announced in the coming weeks." The announcement comes amid Kylie's ongoing 'Golden' arena tour, which she brought to the UK with a hit-filled setlist as well as tracks from her chart-topping latest album. Over the next couple of weeks, she will perform shows in Italy, Germany, Austria, Netherlands and Denmark, before rounding the year off with shows in Ireland and Northern Ireland ahead of an Australian run in March 2019. Meanwhile, the open air event itself is in its 27th year, and lets punters enjoy a picnic in the spectacular Palace Gardens, including drinks available from Champagne PIAFF.

## Dwayne Johnson will kill off Kevin Hart in Jumanji sequel

**D**wayne 'The Rock' Johnson will kill off Kevin Hart in the 'Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle' sequel. The 46-year-old actor has responded to his friend and co-star's Comedy Act win at the People's Choice Awards, and joked he'll use his creative control to write him out of the next movie. Along with a middle finger emoji, he joked: "I mean I'm happy for my son, but you gotta be s\*\*\*in' me?! I do all the heavy lifting in our comedy act and HE takes home the gold? "Welp, seeing as I'm producer of Jumanji, guess who's character is gonna die in the opening scene when we start shooting in Jan. #BuhByeKey (sic)" His tongue-in-cheek comments come after Hart - who has also starred opposite him in Central Intelligence - took a jab at the former WWE champion in his acceptance speech on Sunday night. He said: "Huge, HUGE! Let's just get down to the nitty gritty - I'm better than Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, let's just underline that. In your face, people don't like you - they like me. "With that being said, I'd like to thank all the people that voted for me. I've gotta thank just in general, the awards in general. "You guys have forever embraced me. You've shown me love. Thank you guys. So dope. I can't believe it. Another People's Choice Awards. "I will continue to do it for you guys, because you're the guys that matter. The people and their choices. You see what I did there?"



## Willem Dafoe compares DC and Marvel



**W**illem Dafoe loves the contrast between Marvel and DC movies. The 63-year-old star played Norman Osborne - and his alter ego the Green Goblin - in Sam Raimi's 'Spider-Man' trilogy 18 years ago, and next week he will be back in a comic book blockbuster as Vulko in James Wan's 'Aquaman' film. He told CinemaBlend: "They are different. They're very different - because they have different aims. "They're working with different materials, their working with different intentions. But that's okay! I like to mix it up because that way you don't get stuck. "You don't start to believe that there's only one way of doing things, and you don't start to believe there's only one way of living, and you don't start to believe there's only a certain kind of film that's worth making. It keeps you loose." The actor compared the differences between projects to his work on stage and screen, and explained it's important to have variety when it comes to the roles and projects he takes on. He added: "It's beautiful, and it's a privilege to be able to have those different experiences. And I don't value anything in judging one against the other. I have some preferences, but I don't lean on them. "It's like my relationship with theater and film. I love doing theater, but when I'm doing theater I miss film a little bit. When I'm doing film, I love it, but I miss theater! I guess it's human nature." 'Aquaman' - which also stars Jason Momoa, Amber Heard and Nicole Kidman.

## Sir Cliff Richard to headline Greenwich Music Time

**S**ir Cliff Richard will headline Greenwich Music Time in 2019. The 78-year-old is overjoyed to be playing on the bill at the Old Royal Naval College on Monday 1 July, and he said it is sure to be a "particularly special" evening because of the venue. Sir Cliff - who is the first name to be announced for next year's event gushed: "I'm so delighted to be coming back to Greenwich Music Time next year. "Performing once again in such a unique location will be particularly special. Live shows are the best part of being an artist. "I can connect with my incredible fans directly and thank them for all of their endless love and support." The 'Summer Holiday' singer's career has spanned six decades and he has sold more than 250 million records worldwide. His Greenwich Music Time concert will feature tracks from his upcoming album 'Rise Up' - which is released on November 23 - and his greatest hits. His new record marks his first LP comprised of entirely new material in 14 years. Peter Taylor, director and concert promoter at Cuffe & Taylor, said: "We are so excited to welcome Sir Cliff back to Greenwich. This show is going to be very special, there is no one quite like Cliff. Fans are in for a treat and we are over the moon to have him as our first announcement for the 2019 bill." Tom Jones, Noel Gallagher, Il Divo, The Jacksons, Seal, Joe Bonamassa, 10CC have all performed as part of the Greenwich Music Time series of concerts. Tickets go on sale at 10 am on Sunday 18 November and are available at [greenwichmusictime.co.uk](http://greenwichmusictime.co.uk).



## Victoria Beckham is still part of Spice Girls

**V**ictoria Beckham is still part of the Spice Girls. The fashion designer decided not to be part of the hugely popular group's upcoming reunion tour, but her bandmates - who told her about their plans to make sure she didn't feel left out - have insisted she's still part of their music family. Geri Horner told The Sun newspaper: "The five of us have always had this thing where we support each other on and off the stage. "We did speak to her and meet up with her and we said, 'Look, you're in the band, on and off the stage it doesn't matter'. And she was just really supportive. "In life you get to a point where you want everybody to be happy and feel comfortable and things change, and she was just really positive." While Mel B insisted she is still hoping for a full reunion one day, Mel C commented on the idea Victoria is getting paid a lot of money for the comeback despite not being part of it. She responded: "Well, you know, that's debatable, but the thing is we're very proud of Victoria. "She works incredibly hard and what she's achieved is amazing and she will always be a Spice Girl." While the star hasn't signed on for the UK stadium tour in 2019, she did send her best wishes to the band - completed by Emma Bunton - following their recent announcement. She previously said: "Being in the Spice Girls was a hugely important part of my life and I wish my girls so much love and fun as they go back on tour. "I know they will put on an amazing show and the fantastic fans-past and present-are going to have a wonderful time."



## Katherine Langford joins Knives Out



**K**atherine Langford has joined the cast of 'Knives Out'. The '13 Reasons Why' is among a host of new additions, including Riki Lindhome, Ra'el Castillo and Edi Patterson, to Rian Johnson's star-studded murder mystery, joining the likes of Daniel Craig, who will play a detective named Benoit Blanc, who is tasked with solving the case at the heart of the story. Don Johnson is also involved in the project, which has been described as a classic whodunnit with a modern twist, as are Chris Evans, Michael Shannon, Lakeith Stanfield and Ana De Armas. Meanwhile, director Rian previously revealed that he and his long-time producing partner Ram Bergman were looking forward to working with Daniel and were grateful the 'James Bond' star had been able to find a "small window" in his schedule to shoot the movie. He said: "I have been a huge fan and always wanted to work with him and as I worked on the script, trying to get it right, Ram and I were wringing our hands over who could be the detective. "Then, serendipitously, we heard Daniel might have a small window, and it worked out. He's an actor of extraordinary range, and we are looking forward to the fun of finding that modern detective, and collaborating with Daniel on creating a new 'Poiret'." Details of the movie are being kept tightly under wraps, but Media Rights Capital, who own the world rights to the project, recently promised it will be a "fun and inventive" story. Co-presidents of film Brye Adlett and Jonathan Goffman said in a statement: "We have been massive fans of Rian and Ram [Bergman, co-producer]'s since we saw 'Brick' and have been pursuing them ever since. "Knives Out' is such a fun, inventive and entertaining film and we are thrilled to partner with Rian, Ram and Daniel on this exciting, original project." — Bang Showbiz

Lifestyle | Features



A domestic helper from the Philippines, who is also a swim instructor, providing lessons during a swimming class provided by the Splash Foundation at a swimming pool in Hong Kong.



Domestic helpers from the Philippines attending a swimming class provided by the Splash Foundation at a swimming pool in Hong Kong.



A domestic helper from the Philippines swimming with a float at Repulse Bay in Hong Kong. — AFP photos

# Hong Kong domestic helpers jump in deep end



A domestic helper from the Philippines swimming with friends at Repulse Bay in Hong Kong.

## S Korea's 'Garlic Girls' curlers create stink over alleged exploitation

The 'Garlic Girls' South Korean curling team who became a media sensation with their unlikely run to this year's Olympic final have accused their coaches of exploitation and verbal abuse as their sporting dreams turn sour. The five women from a small rural town famous for farming the pungent bulb, rank outsiders at the start of the Pyeongchang Winter Games, shot to fame after stunning top teams Canada and Switzerland.

Their giant-killing feats—despite limited funding for their little-known sport—quickly earned them celebrity status in the South, with memes of the curlers going viral online. But just months after becoming the first Asian curlers to claim Olympic silver, they say they are "miserable" and in a "desperate situation". Sidelined from the national team, the women have slipped from seventh to 14th in the world rankings.

Former Korean Curling Federation (KCF) vice-president Kim Kyung-doo subjected them to "countless cases of verbal abuse", they said, and their coaches were imposing excessive control over their private lives. The team accused them of seeking to sideline glasses-wearing captain Kim Eun-jung—whose trademark stare became an emblem of the Pyeongchang Games—after she married and told the coaches she planned to start a family. "The human rights of the athletes are being violated," the curlers wrote in a letter to the Korean Sports and Olympic Committee (KSOC). "We've reached a point where it has become unbearable."

The coaches had also kept back their prize money from international competitions, they added, reportedly amounting to tens of thousands of dollars since 2015. Coaches are hugely powerful in South Korea's hierarchical sporting system, with the power to dictate an athlete's career in a close-knit community where personal connections are almost as important as talent. The coaching staff denies the accusations.

### National trials

The curlers are also known as 'Team Kim' for their shared surname, and use food-based nick-

names for ease of identification: the captain is Annie—a brand of yogurt—Kim Yeong-mi is Pancake, Kim Kyeong-ae is Steak, Kim Seonyeong is Sunny—as in 'sunny side up'—and Kim Cho-hee is Chocho, a type of cookie. They say they have been the unwitting victims of a power struggle within the Korean Curling Federation.

Kim Kyung-doo—the KCF official who they accuse of repeatedly berating them—is a long-standing backer of the team and the father of their head coach, whose husband oversees their administrative and financial affairs. Kim is suing the KCF after he was dismissed for failing to organize an election for the presidency, which he was holding in an interim role. His daughter is also embroiled in a dispute with the organizing body.

The coaches discouraged the curlers from competing in the national trials, the team claimed, in an effort to deprive the KCF of their star attraction. In the event the group entered at short notice but with little preparation, they only finished second. That left them unable to take part in international competitions with only the national representatives' costs covered by the KSOC, and the cash-strapped KCF unable to afford to send a second team.

"We were baffled when we were told not to try out for the national team," the curlers said, adding: "We cannot but think that we are being used in their personal dispute. We have been at a standstill since the Olympics and we are miserable."

### 'Not obedient'

In a separate interview with South Korean broadcaster SBS, the curlers accused the coaching staff of attempting to undermine captain Kim after she confronted them on the team's behalf. "Each time I became someone who wasn't obedient," Kim Eun-jung told SBS. The team's administrator Jang Ban-seok insisted everything the coaches had done was in the interests of the curlers.

The team had to prepare for captain Kim's pregnancy plans, he said. "Eun-jung is our only skip and we can't just rely on Eun-jung," Jang told AFP. "If Eun-jung becomes pregnant and leaves, we wouldn't have a skip." In an emailed statement to reporters, Jang said all the team's prize money had been spent on overseas training and competitions with the full consent of the athletes. "None of the coaching staff were motivated by personal greed," he added. The sports ministry in Seoul has launched an investigation. — AFP



A file photo shows silver medalists team South Korea on the podium during the curling women's medal ceremony at the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games at the Gangneung Curling Centre in Gangneung. — AFP

Every Sunday in Hong Kong the city's army of domestic helpers packs into parks or onto pavements, bridges and walkways on their one mandatory day off. With a marginalized position in society and low income, the force of more than 300,000 maids, mainly women from Indonesia and the Philippines, can find it hard to access public facilities like libraries and leisure centers. Some NGOs say as well as difficulties meeting the cost, helpers also face discrimination—especially if they are in groups—and can have difficulties providing information for membership such as proof of address if their employers do not supply it.

But Marilyn Maliglig has found an alternative way to spend her day off—confronting her water phobia at a free swimming class for domestic helpers in Hong Kong. "I cannot float, that's the problem," the 41-year-old told AFP before her first class. "I really can't swim in the water at all." Although the city depends on domes-

tic helpers to keep it running, some maids are barred from using swimming pools for their own leisure at the residential complexes where they work. They are only entitled to one day off a week which they spend setting up temporary camps around the city with music, food, prayers and dancing.

British swimming enthusiast Simon Holliday said he was inspired to set up swimming classes for domestic helpers after he spotted a group one Sunday, looking bored and sitting on cardboard boxes on the pavement. "Many people feel strongly about helpers and their contributions to Hong Kong society. They want to give them an opportunity to do something for themselves," Holliday told AFP.

His charity Splash offers free swimming lessons for marginalized communities in Hong Kong, including refugees. Helpers say they cannot afford paid-for lessons and the class gives them a chance to learn a new skill and to relax after a trying six-

day week. "We want other things to do. Because we always do the same things at home," said Jasmine Arcana, from the Philippines, who has been working in Hong Kong as a helper for eight years.

Nearly 1,200 domestic helpers have taken part in the program since it began three years ago. Some have gone on to be open-water swimmers, taking advantage of Hong Kong's many beaches. Russelle Vertudazo was afraid of the water until she started at Splash two years ago—now she dons a wetsuit and goggles every Sunday morning to swim with a dozen other helpers along the southern bays of Hong Kong Island. Vertudazo, 31, said the main reason she started to swim was to make new friends—like many helpers. "Most of us in Hong Kong don't have many places to go," she told AFP. "I like how I can swim as far as I can. I feel free." — AFP



A miniature model of the Mars Curiosity rover in a lab at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt.

## How to drive a robot on Mars

Some 78 million miles (126 million kilometers) from Earth, alone on the immense and frigid Red Planet, a robot the size of a small 4x4 wakes up just after sunrise. And just as it has every day for the past six years, it awaits its instructions. Around 9:30 Mars time, a message arrives from California, where it was sent 15 minutes earlier. "Drive forward 10 meters, turn to an azimuth of 45 degrees, now turn on your autonomous capabilities and drive." The Curiosity rover executes the commands, moving slowly to its designated position, at a maximum speed of 35 to 110 meters (yards) per hour. Its batteries and other configurations limit its daily drive span to around 100 meters. The most Curiosity has rolled on Mars in a day is 220 meters.

Once it arrives, its 17 cameras take shots of its environs. Its laser zaps rocks. Other tools on board drill into a particularly interesting rock to study small samples. Around 5 pm Martian time, it will wait for one of NASA's three satellites orbiting the planet to pass overhead. Curiosity will then send several hundred megabytes of scientific data via large ground antennae to its human masters on Earth.

### A miniature lab

On the ground floor of building 34 at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, scientists pore over Curiosity's data every day at 1 pm, in a large windowless room full of scientific instruments and computers. The scientists are looking for any indication of life on Mars. Inside Curiosity lies a "marvel of miniaturization," says Charles Malespin, the deputy principal investigator for Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM), a chemist's lab the size of a microwave oven. "It's the most complicated instrument NASA has ever sent to another planet," said Malespin, who has devoted his professional life to the project since 2006.

SAM analyzes samples of Martian soil by heating them in an oven that reaches 1,800 Fahrenheit (1,000 Celsius). The hot rocks release gas, which is separated and analyzed by instruments that offer a sample "fingerprint." At Goddard, Maeva Millan, a French postdoctoral researcher, compares this chemical fingerprint to experiments carried out on known molecules. When

they look similar, she can say, "Ah, that's the right molecule."

It is thanks to SAM that researchers know there are complex organic molecules on Mars. And SAM has helped scientists learn that the Martian surface—geologically speaking—is far younger than previously thought. "If you're going to go to Mars, you don't want to bring stuff that's already there that you can use for resources," such as water, said Malespin. "If you want to mine the soil and heat it up and release the water, you can bring a big oven with you and you have all the water you want." The same goes for various materials that could be used to make rocket fuel, allowing the Red Planet to serve as a future service station for rockets.

### No joystick

On the other side of the United States, at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, about two dozen men and women make up the team that drives Curiosity. "My favorite part of the day (is when) I get to sit down and start looking at the imagery from Mars and understand where the rover currently is," said Frank Hartman, who has driven both Curiosity and another, older rover, Opportunity. "And my feeling is that sometimes I'm probably the first person on Earth looking at some of these pictures."

The Mars drivers' main job is to write the sequence of commands for the rover to follow the next sol, or "day" on Mars, which lasts 24 hours and nearly 40 minutes. There is no joystick, and no real-time communication with the robotic vehicle. There is a delay whenever drivers realize something has gone wrong, whether it's Opportunity getting buried by a Martian dust storm earlier this year, or one of Curiosity's wheels getting pierced by a sharp rock. Or the breakdown of Curiosity's drilling machine, which happened at the beginning of this year and took a few months to resolve.

"We haven't been to any of these places before," said Hartman. "And so we always have to be aware of the fact that we know so little about what we're encountering." As years pass, these scientist-drivers become attached to their robots. When Opportunity went silent after 14 years of tooling around on Mars, Hartman and his colleagues felt a sense of grief. Opportunity "retired with honor," said Hartman.

Curiosity, which landed in 2012, has so far traveled just over 12 miles (19.75 km). It must wait another year before reaching its goal, Mount Sharp. Then, a few months later, it will lose its Martian monopoly. Two rovers—one American and one European—are scheduled to land on the planet in 2020. — AFP



Engineers examine the Parker Solar Probe during a media preview at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. — AFP photos

# Kurdish women pedal, dunk, spike as Iraq's top athletes

When Iraq's female cycling team snatched bronze and silver medals at a landmark pan-Arab race, it was thanks to athletes from the autonomous Kurdish region. The country's toughest female competitors, its best-equipped facilities and most experienced coaches are not in the capital Baghdad, but in the Kurdish-majority northern region. And the three medals won by the Iraqi female cyclists in September at the tournament in Algeria were seen as proof of this sporting prowess in a region that has governed itself since 1991. The team earned a bronze in the relay race, where three of its four cyclists were Kurdish, and also scooped a bronze and a silver in individual events. The silver-winning athlete, Mazda Rafiq, hails from the Kurdish region's second city, Sulaimaniyah. "Since I was a little girl, I've wanted to represent Iraq in a cycling race, and today I was able to do that," said the 20-year-old.

Rafiq, who trains in the region's capital, Arbil, credits her victory to "the support of society and our parents". Decades ago, all of Iraq's 18 provinces had thriving female athletic scenes, with active clubs in different sports. But the 1980s saw a string of violent conflicts begin, followed by an international embargo that brought development projects to a screeching halt and the rise of militias. Those factors, combined with growing conservatism in parts of Iraqi society, all chipped away at sports culture for women. However in the north, relatively insulated from these trends, Kurdish women have enjoyed an athletic awakening—one that Iraq's clubs and national teams are making use of now.

## 'More open'

A female cycling team in the southern conservative city of Diwaniyah regularly coaches two Kurdish athletes from Sulaimaniyah—more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) to the north—for national and regional competitions. "They are better, and the club knows they'll help them get a better score," said Sajed Salim, of Iraq's Cycling Federation. One reason for the success of Kurdish female athletes may be the relatively lax social norms in the autonomous region, said Iraq volleyball champion and club coach Randy Metti. "Kurdistan is more open to women's sports than the provinces of the south," he said, where traditions and tribal customs restrict how much women and girls can do outside the home.

Metti coaches the Akad Ainkawa women's volleyball team in Arbil three times per week, all year long. Player Mirna Najeeb brings her seven-month-old daughter to every training session. "I was advised not to exercise six months after giving birth but I told the whole world that I would start again," she said. Najeeb and fellow Akad players are regularly called up to Iraq's national team to compete internationally. "A player has everything here—modern training facilities, interested clubs, and great coaches," she told AFP.

The clubs also enjoy widespread public support and are popular meeting places. "The fact that they have restaurants and recreational spaces encourages families to come support the female athletes," said Khaled Bashir, a member of Iraq's Volleyball Federation. That popularity often translates into material support for local clubs, allowing them to pursue more training and keep improving. Elsewhere in Iraq, teams rely on funds from the ministry of youth and sports, which barely cover basic expenses. "There are talented athletes everywhere, but they do not emerge in the other provinces because the structures are not the same as those in Kurdistan," said Bashir.

## Dunking across sports

The numbers speak for themselves. This year's national volleyball championship brought together "11 female Kurdish teams against four other female teams from the rest of Iraq—all of them from Baghdad," he said. Women's basketball, too, has become a hit sport in Iraq thanks to Kurdish athletes—including all-girl teams in Dohuk, Halabja and Arbil. The relative calm enjoyed by the region has contributed to their advancement, said the head of Iraq's Basketball Federation, Hussein al-Omeidi.

"That stability in the region's towns when it comes to daily life and to security is vital to the athletic excellence of our female teams," Omeidi told AFP. Out of Iraq's seven female basketball clubs, three of them are from the Kurdish region—a source of pride for female basketball federation member Wassen Hanoun. "It's an important proportion that really shows how much female Kurdish sports dominate," she said. — AFP



Iraqi Kurdish women train at a gym.

An Iraqi Kurdish woman trains at a gym in Arbil, the capital of the Kurdish autonomous region in northern Iraq. — AFP photos

## Food ads stir questions in Nigeria about gender roles

Adverts in Nigeria depicting career women gleefully juggling their job with kitchen duties have sparked a heated debate about gender roles in the fast-changing society of West Africa's largest economy. The campaign is for the seasoning brand Maggi, which sells over 90 million stock cubes in Nigeria each day, according to company figures. In a video ad, a 30-something mother and self-described "boss lady" proudly introduces herself as a "chief quality inspector" in her corporate life and a "kitchen grandmaster" at home. She switches between presentations in the boardroom to cooking in an ultra-modern kitchen.

With an apron over her office clothes, she blows out the flame from a gas lighter—rather like James Bond dissipating the smoke from his gun—as she whips up a dish for her loving family. "I love what I do," she enthuses. A billboard ad, meanwhile, features a beaming woman with her two children, with the caption: "Mummy. Teacher. Taste Master." The ad campaign, released last month, has divided opinion in a country where women are often expected to conform to established gender roles at a time of radical changes in lifestyle.

Many social media commentators were excited by what they saw as a "modern" portrayal of women in a position of power, balancing multiple roles with ease. One Twitter user said of the video: "I like the fact that she is a mom, boss lady and still a slayer." Another said: "I love that a woman is being portrayed as the multi-tasker that she is." But others described the advert as "misogyny" and "well-packaged suffering" and questioned why the person in the kitchen was not a man.

### Stereotypes

Nestle, which owns the Maggi brand, was surprised by the controversy, stating that the advert was intended to celebrate women in a country where most cook more regularly than their partners despite working too. Victoria Uwadoka, the company's corporate communications manager, said it welcomed the debate the campaign had generated. "Today, the reality is that most women are juggling professional life and family responsibilities," she said,

adding that Nigerian society was evolving. "We believe cooking should be open to everyone." Gendered roles in food adverts are a controversial issue around the world. Traditionally, Nigerian women are expected to be the main caregivers, looking after the home and children. But the younger generation is challenging that idea in the country's rapidly urbanizing cities. Jolaoluwa Ayeye is a 26-year-old writer in Lagos and co-host of popular podcast "I Said What I Said", which embodies the voice of a young generation of Nigerian women.

"I think the Maggi advert reflects current Nigerian norms but at the same time reinforces stereotypes that Nigerian women are trying to reject," she said. "It is uncomfortable and difficult to work from sun-up to sundown doing work that should and could be done with proper delegation and sharing of domestic workloads. 'It's not cute or sexy—and in 2018, let's be realistic, it's very unnecessary.'"

### 'Unrealistic'

According to the World Bank, 51 percent of Nigeria's population of more than 180 million lives in the countryside, where traditional, conservative ideals are more prominent. With the remainder in growing urban centers, the ad campaign has highlighted a wider debate between modernists and traditionalists. Best-selling Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in June told US news satire program "The Daily Show" she was happy for people to hold the door for her. But the author of "Half of a Yellow Sun" and "We Should All Be Feminists" said she hoped "they're not doing it for this idea of chivalry", as it implied women were weaker than men.

Her comments sparked a debate online and within Nigeria, with many celebrities such as the popular singer Banky W criticizing her politics as "going too far". Politician Rinsola Abiola, who is standing for parliament in elections in February,

said depictions of women like that in the TV advert were unrealistic, especially to younger people. "I acknowledge that it resonates with a lot of women who live that way. I have an elder sister just like that woman but I'm exactly the opposite of that advert", she said.

"For me the purpose of an advert is not just to present social norms but advocate for better structures." The advert comes after concern that just 31 women in the two main political parties were running for 469 seats in parliament. Those norms were epitomized by President Muhammadu Buhari when he dismissed his wife Aisha's view on domestic politics. He told a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in 2016 that the First Lady belonged "in my kitchen and my living room and the other room". — AFP



A billboard advertising Maggi a popular food seasoning is seen in Lagos. — AFP Photos

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy and with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h.

**BY NIGHT:** Cool with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 12/11/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	25 °C	20 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	26 °C	18 °C			
ABDALY	26 °C	16 °C			
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C			
JAHRA	27 °C	18 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	25 °C	19 °C			
SALMIYAH	26 °C	21 °C			
AHMADI	25 °C	21 °C			
NUWAISIB	26 °C	20 °C			
WAFRA	27 °C	19 °C			
SALMY	24 °C	15 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/13	Clouds will increase gradually	26 °C	15 °C	NW-NE	10 - 32 km/h
Wednesday	11/14	Unstable with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	23 °C	19 °C	SE	20 - 50 km/h
Thursday	11/15	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	26 °C	20 °C	SE	20 - 45 km/h
Friday	11/16	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	25 °C	20 °C	SE-NE	15 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:48
Sunrise	06:09
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:33
Sunset	16:55
Isha	18:14

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	25 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	99 %
MIN. RH	62 %
MAX. Wind	W 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
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Dasmah	22532265
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### Flight Schedule

### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 13/11/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 13/11/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	254	Amman	00:05	JZR	113	Doha	13:30
JZR	406	Kochi	00:10	JZR	123	Dubai	13:40
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	MSR	611	Cairo	14:10
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:15
JZR	722	Alexandria	00:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:00
PGT	858	Jeddah	00:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
KAC	102	London	01:20	QTR	8512	Doha	15:25
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:40
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	743	Dammam	15:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	THY	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	QTR	1087	Doha	16:25
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	16:35
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	16:40
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:00	LMU	5511	Cairo	16:45
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	IGO	1752	Chennai	16:55
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	101	Bahrain	17:00
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	QTR	1077	Doha	17:40
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	070	Dubai	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	JZR	215	Jeddah	17:45
QTR	8193	MST	05:00	KAC	303	Mumbai	18:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	JZR	713	Sohag	18:00
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	JZR	121	Dubai	18:00
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	THY	771	Istanbul	18:10
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	KAC	623	Doha	18:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	QTR	8193	Doha	18:20
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	KAC	167	Paris	18:35
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	RJA	643	Amman	18:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	18:40
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	18:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	KAC	165	Rome	19:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:10	FEA	442	Asyut	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	KAC	8613	Bahrain	19:20
BAW	157	London	07:05	FDB	054	Dubai	19:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	BAW	156	London	19:30
JZR	708	Luxor	07:15	KAC	501	Beirut	19:30
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	KAC	787	Jeddah	19:55
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	613	Bahrain	20:00
FEA	241	Alexandria	07:40	JZR	731	Cairo	20:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	117	Shannon/New York	20:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	691	Muscat	20:30
JZR	102	Bahrain	08:25	KAC	541	Cairo	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	561	Amman	20:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	741	Dammam	20:55
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KAC	101	London	21:00
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	671	Dubai	21:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	151	Mashhad	21:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	UAE	856	Dubai	21:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	22:00
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	22:10
KAC	624	Doha	10:40	FDB	056	Dubai	22:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	617	Doha	22:15
JZR	122	Dubai	11:20	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	22:20
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	IRA	674	Lar	22:25
JZR	216	Jeddah	11:45	JZR	211	Jeddah	22:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:30
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:25	QTR	1071	Doha	22:40
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	SVA	513	Riyadh	22:45
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	IRC	6508	Shiraz	22:50
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	GFA	214	Bahrain	22:55
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	JZR	213	Jeddah	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	KAC	515	Tehran	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:10	JZR	611	Tbilisi	23:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	JZR	405	Kochi	23:05
QTR	1078	Doha	13:35	MEA	405	Beirut	23:10
QTR	8511	Doha	13:55	QTR	1075	Doha	23:15
KAC	774	Riyadh	14:00	SAW	702	Damascus	23:20

# Scientists set to swap dusty old kilo for something more stable

**LONDON:** After years of nursing a sometimes dusty cylinder of metal in a vault outside Paris as the global reference for modern mass, scientists are updating the definition of the kilogram. Just as the redefinition of the second in 1967 helped to ease communication across the world via technologies like GPS and the Internet, experts say the change in the kilogram will be better for technology, retail and health - though it probably won't change the price of fish much.

The kilogram has been defined since 1889 by a shiny piece of platinum-iridium held in Paris. All modern mass measurements are traceable back to it - from micrograms of pharmaceutical medicines to kilos of apples and pears and tonnes of steel or cement. The problem is, the "international prototype kilogram" doesn't always weigh the same. Even inside its three glass bell jars, it gets dusty and dirty, and is affected by the atmosphere. Sometimes, it really needs a wash.

"We live in a modern world. There are pollutants in the atmosphere that can stick to the mass," said Ian Robinson, a specialist in the engineering, materials and electrical science department at Britain's National Physical Laboratory. "So when you just get it out of the vault, it's slightly dirty. But the whole process of cleaning or handling or using the mass can change its mass. So it's not the best way, perhaps, of defining mass."

What's needed is something more constant. So, at the end of a weeklong meeting in the Palace of Versailles, Paris, the world's leading measurement aficionados at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures will vote on Friday to make an "electronic kilogram" the new baseline measure of mass. Just as the metre - once the length of a bar



**SEVRES, France:** A handout photo taken in 2018 and made available yesterday shows a scientist at work on the kibble balance, an electromechanical weight measuring instrument that measures the weight of a test object very precisely by the strength of an electric current and voltage. — AFP

of platinum-iridium, also kept in Paris - is now defined by the constant speed of light in a vacuum, so a kilogram will be defined by a tiny but immutable fundamental value called the "Planck constant".

The new definition involves an apparatus called the Kibble balance, which makes use of the constant to measure the mass of an object using a precisely measured electromagnetic force. "In the present system, you have to relate small masses to large masses by subdivision. That's very difficult - and the uncertain-

ties build up very, very quickly," Robinson said. "One of the things this (new) technique allows us to do is to actually measure mass directly at whatever scale we like, and that's a big step forward."

He said it had taken years of work to fine-tune the new definition to ensure the switchover will be smooth. But while the extra accuracy will be a boon to scientists, Robinson said that, for the average consumer buying flour or bananas, "there will be absolutely no change whatsoever". — Reuters

## Ex-farm supervisor charged over Australia strawberry sabotage

**SYDNEY:** Police investigating a major Australian strawberry needle contamination scare that sparked nationwide panic yesterday identified a former farm supervisor as their main suspect. Pins and needles were found stuck into the fruit in September, leading supermarkets to pull boxes from shelves across Australia and New Zealand and forcing farmers to dump crops. The sabotage and a rash of suspected hoaxes and copycat attacks also prompted the national government to raise criminal penalties for fruit tampering.

My Ut Trinh, 50, who worked at one of the strawberry farms where the tampered produce was grown, was arrested and charged with seven counts of contaminating goods by Queensland state police on Sunday. She faced court yesterday and bail was denied after prosecutors said she could suffer retribution for her alleged actions. The Australian reported. The court was told she was motivated by spite and revenge when she allegedly inserted the needles into the berries in early September, the newspaper added.

Earlier, police spoke of the challenges investigators faced as they tried to figure out the source of the contamination. "This has probably been one of the most trying investigations that I've been part of," Detective Superintendent Jon Wacker told reporters in Brisbane. Wacker said Trinh, an Australian citizen, "was a supervisor at a farm", with Queensland's Courier Mail identifying her employer as the Berrylicious and Berry Obsession farm - one of the growers at the heart of the scare.

Wacker said investigators had "strong evi-



My Ut Trinh

dence" including DNA. He said police collected 230 reports nationwide of strawberry contamination affecting 68 brands, most within his state, with the majority involving sewing needles. Some cases were also found to be "a hoax or a false complaint", Wacker added. Police had earlier questioned at least two minors over suspected hoaxes.

The Queensland Strawberry Growers Association welcomed the arrest, but noted the high number of unresolved cases, adding that the seven counts in Trinh's charge sheet suggested that most of the 230 reports were either copycat actions or hoaxes. "It was a crisis driven by social media and the only real victims were the strawberry growers, and to some extent other Australian fruit growers and exporters," the association said in a statement. — AFP

## Riyadh urges 1m bpd cut; Saudi...

Continued from Page 1

Oil producers will continue to evaluate the market data prior to the Vienna summit, "but if we need to trim production by one million bpd, we will do," Falih added. The UAE's energy minister, Suhail Al-Mazrouei, said balancing the market would "require changes in the strategy" of producers. "We need not overreact" to falling prices, Mazrouei said, adding that crude was a dynamic market. Iraqi energy minister spokesman Assem Jihad told AFP his country, also an OPEC member, was hoping for "any decision that would help balance and stabilise the market".

Falih's comments followed a meeting in Abu Dhabi at the weekend, where major producers started laying the groundwork to cut supply in 2019, reversing an almost year-long expansion. The group, including Russia and Saudi Arabia, warned that crude supply would outstrip demand next year. In a final statement, they said they had "reviewed current oil supply and demand fundamentals and noted that 2019 prospects point to higher supply growth than global requirements". That in mind, they vowed to consider "options on new 2019 production adjustments, which may require new strategies to balance the market".

Falih yesterday said inventories had been building up, adding that "the 25 producers will not allow this to continue" and that they had signalled they would do

"whatever it takes to balance the market." "We are going to do everything we can to keep inventories and supply-demand fundamentals within a reasonably narrow band around balance," he said.

Meanwhile, the state energy giants of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Aramco and ADNOC, signed a cooperation deal yesterday aimed at bolstering gas production and revenue. The framework deal saw the two biggest Arab oil firms agree to jointly explore investment opportunities and swap know-how as they seek to tap into natural gas and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) markets. Increased cooperation between ADNOC and Aramco will ensure greater energy security and long-term economic prosperity for both nations," ADNOC CEO Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber said in a statement.

No further details on the specifics of the agreement were provided but the two Gulf heavyweights have been focusing on raising their gas production. Last week, UAE's supreme petroleum council approved investments worth \$132 billion over the next five years to boost oil and gas production. Under the investment plan, UAE aims to become self-sufficient in natural gas and later a net exporter. At present, the Gulf state imports a part of its gas requirements from Qatar through a pipeline.

Those imports have continued despite a diplomatic standoff since June last year as Saudi Arabia and UAE have sought to isolate Qatar. As part of its energy push, ADNOC on Sunday granted French major Total an exploration and production concession agreement for natural gas. The concession agreement aims at producing one billion cubic feet daily of gas by 2030. — AFP

with the effects of the heavy rainfall".

Opposition MP Mohammad Al-Mutair said there is no need to even debate the grilling and the Assembly should proceed straight into voting against the prime minister. Under Kuwaiti law, following the debate of the grilling, at least 10 lawmakers can file a non-cooperation motion against the prime minister and it must be accepted by a simple majority of elected MPs (currently 49) to be approved. In this case, the issue goes to HH the Amir, who will decide on the situation and can change the prime minister or call for fresh elections. But based on the available opinion of lawmakers, the grilling is likely to end with a debate only, or 10 MPs may file a non-cooperation motion, but it will not be approved.

Meanwhile, the government continued its assessment of the situation and has assigned a joint committee to study cases of people who suffered damages in order to be compensated. The council of ministers yesterday decided to pay the blood money for Ahmad Al-Fadhli, a stateless man who died because of the rain. MPs have called on the government to compensate people for damages caused by the heavy rains. The National Assembly holds its first working session in the new term and the first meeting after the heavy rains today. The issue is expected to be debated in the Assembly.

coordinated and assisted by local authorities.

"The telephone access was added as per a request of our president, but he did not demand an Internet connection too. Of course, if the employer is generous enough to provide it, this is a welcome gesture," she said. The copy of the contract of both the parties was provided to Kuwait Times by Olgado. "Whatever is written here is only the current agreement that the embassy is implementing. There are no additional provisions because the labor agreement is yet to be ratified," she concluded.

## More than 200 missing as winds

Continued from Page 1

than any other on record, having razed 6,500 homes in the town of Paradise, effectively wiping it off the map.

Some 4,500 firefighters from as far as Washington and Texas have been working to halt the advance of the inferno as "mass casualty" search teams backed by anthropologists and a DNA lab pick through the charred ruins to identify remains - sometimes reduced to no more than shards of bone. At least 31 people have died in fire zones in north and south California, where acrid smoke has blanketed the sky for miles, the sun barely visible.

On the ground, cars caught in the flames have been reduced to scorched metal skeletons, while piles of debris smolder where houses once stood, an occasional brick wall or chimney remaining. The Camp Fire has matched the 1933 Griffith Park disaster in Los Angeles - until now the single deadliest wildfire on record - according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

Police say 228 people are unaccounted for in the Paradise area alone, although many may be in emergency shelters. Several fire-affected areas have been left with no cell phone service. At the latest count the flames had reduced 45 sq km of Butte County's forested hills mostly to charred wasteland - although just three firefighters have been injured in the effort to quell its advance.

At the southern end of the state, the "Woolsey Fire" has destroyed mansions and mobile homes alike in the coastal celebrity resort of Malibu, where the body count has been limited to two victims found in a vehicle on a private driveway. The National Weather Service

has issued a "red flag" alert warning of "extremely critical" weather conducive to the spread of fire through today, with especially high winds expected in mountainous areas.

While some Malibu-area residents were allowed to return home late Sunday, the city of Calabasas, just northeast of coastal Malibu, came under evacuation orders. "This is not the new normal, this is the new abnormal. And this new abnormal will continue, certainly in the next 10 to 15 to 20 years," California Governor Jerry Brown said Sunday in a stark warning over the likely damaging effects of climate change. "Unfortunately, the best science is telling us that the dryness, warmth, drought, all those things, they're going to intensify."

Over the weekend the "Woolsey Fire" engulfed parts of Thousand Oaks, where the community is still shell-shocked after a Marine Corps veteran shot dead 12 people in a country music bar on Wednesday. The blaze has consumed around 85,500 acres, destroyed at least 177 buildings and was 15 percent contained, Cal Fire said. Singer Miley Cyrus's home was one of the buildings destroyed in southern California. "Completely devastated (sic) by the fires affecting my community. I am one of the lucky ones. My animals and LOVE OF MY LIFE made it out safely & that's all that matters right now," she tweeted. "My house no longer stands but the memories shared with family & friends stand strong."

Many of the southern California area's residents own horses, and for the past days Twitter has been flooded with messages from people seeking and offering help. Actor James Woods, a rare political conservative in liberal Hollywood, has made new friends by using his Twitter account to help find missing people and getting help for pets, including horses. The Ventura County Humane Society said it was "deeply humbled by a \$100,000 donation from (actress) Sandra Bullock and family" to rescue and care for animals evacuated from the fires. —AFP

Palestinian militants yesterday attended by thousands, including masked Al-Qassam members carrying rifles, some firing into the air.

On the Israeli side of the border, residents said they had stayed close to shelters throughout the night. "I was sitting in my living room and around 10 pm or 11 pm, I suddenly heard the sound of helicopter gunships firing," said Gadi Yarkoni, head of a regional council in the area and a resident of Nirim Kibbutz. "It was right above the village I'm living in. It was very unpleasant."

The clashes came after months of deadly unrest along the Gaza-Israel border had appeared to be calming. Recent weeks have seen Israel allow Qatar to provide the Gaza Strip with millions of dollars in aid for salaries as well as fuel to help ease an electricity crisis. Before the flare-up, Netanyahu had defended his decision to allow Qatar to transfer the cash to Gaza despite criticism from within his own government over the move, saying he wanted to avoid a war if it was not necessary.

Naftali Bennett, Netanyahu's education minister and rightwing rival, compared the cash flow to "protection money" paid to criminals. Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza have fought three wars since 2008, and recent months have raised fears of a fourth. Deadly clashes have accompanied major protests along the Gaza-Israel border that began on March 30. At least 230 Palestinians have since been killed by Israeli fire, the majority shot during protests and clashes, while others died in tank fire or air strikes. Two Israeli soldiers have been killed in that time. Egyptian and UN officials have been mediating between Israel and Hamas in an effort to reach a long-term truce deal. — AFP

## MP files to grill PM over rain...

Continued from Page 1

He was among several MPs who called on the government to resign. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said he received the grilling and that it will be most likely debated on Nov 27, but it could be discussed today if the prime minister agrees. The grilling is based on the issue of rain and alleges that heavy rains that lashed Kuwait on Nov 9 revealed "unquestionable facts" that the prime minister has failed in carrying out his job of coordinating between various ministries in carrying out their duties in countering catastrophes and disasters.

It also alleges the absence of a clear policy by the government in facing catastrophes and crises, which resulted in the death of two persons, besides heavy damage to public and private properties, and caused a state of panic among the public. The grilling states that although the heavy rains took place in time of peace, the government failed to effectively deal with it, and "everyone has clearly seen the government's confusion in coordinating to deal

## Expats will be banned from...

Continued from Page 1

The Al-Rai report's clauses about visiting and reserving the right to visit the housemaid are not acceptable to Kuwait, she said, adding it will agree only if the visit is



Sports

# Verstappen threatens to 'punch' Ocon as Hamilton wins Brazilian Grand Prix

## Verstappen ordered by FIA to perform 'two days of public service' as punishment

SAO PAULO: Dutch driver Max Verstappen was accused of trying to punch French rival Esteban Ocon after a controversial clash at Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix which was won by five-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

Red Bull star Verstappen was seen on TV pushing Force India's Ocon three times and accused of threatening to hit him, after the pair had collided on track. The collision on lap 44 of the 71-lap race at Interlagos' famed Senna S curves cost Verstappen the race and he had to settle for second place.

The livid Dutchman, 21, had earlier said he did not see the Frenchman in the paddock after the race, but made no effort to avoid him in the drivers' weighing room where he walked straight at him.

"We were at the scales room," said Ocon. "He wanted to punch me. He pushed me and he was wanting to be violent. It was not professional."

Ocon added that his rivalry with Verstappen "goes back a few years" and said he "has always been the same". "I was behind Max for two laps," Ocon told Sky Sports. "On the first lap, I was a lot faster and, on the second lap, I was a lot faster. The rules say you are allowed to un-lap yourself so that's what I did."

"I'm used to the fights with Max. He's always been the same. It goes back a few years," Verstappen swore so much on team radio that his comments bleeped out after he described him as an "idiot".

Ocon was given a 10-second stop-go penalty by the race stewards for causing the collision. A video clip of the post-race incident went viral soon afterwards but Verstappen said he had no regrets.

"He came out of the pit lane and he had the right to overtake, but the level of risk he was taking, it was not right," he explained. "The stewards gave him a penalty. You can say, 'Max, you should have given room', but we were not racing and you don't expect that."

Asked about confronting and pushing Ocon, he

said: "We are all passionate about the sport, but it would be odd if I shook his hand. I don't care what people say. "I'm a winner. To get taken out by that and to get a stupid response from their side. I was not happy about that." Verstappen told his team over the radio on the slowdown lap that he had better not bump into Ocon because there could be trouble. The Ocon incident overshadowed a brilliant drive from Verstappen who had charged from fifth on the grid to take the lead.

"The car was working brilliant today. I don't know what to say. I am happy for second, but we should have won," added Verstappen. Verstappen's Red Bull team boss Christian Horner said: "I think Max has been pretty restrained. It cost him a Grand Prix victory. "He's driven his heart out with a damaged car - Esteban was lucky to get away with a push to be honest. Emotions are running high and I told him to just get yourself under control on the cool down lap."

"Max has lost a victory through no fault of his own today. What on earth Ocon was thinking there, it just beggars belief. Why on earth is he racing the leader?" Later Sunday, Verstappen was ordered by the FIA to perform "two days of public service" as punishment for the incident.

Verstappen was "extremely upset by the incident on the track" and the stewards said they accepted his explanation that it was not his intention to strike Ocon, but that he was 'triggered' and this caused him to lose his temper", said a statement.

Meanwhile, 33-year-old Hamilton took advantage of the collision that cost Verstappen the lead in the closing stages to regain the initiative and then hang on with worn tyres as the Red Bull came home second.

His win allowed Mercedes to claim a fifth successive constructors title. Kimi Raikkonen finished third on his 150th start for Ferrari ahead of Daniel Ricciardo in the second Red Bull, Valtteri Bottas in the second



SAO PAULO: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (C) celebrates with his trophy on the podium after winning the F1 Brazil Grand Prix, while Mercedes took the constructors title, at the Interlagos racetrack in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Sunday. — AFP

Mercedes and Sebastian Vettel who came home sixth for Ferrari.

The result ended Ferrari's hopes of stopping Mercedes' title triumph, brought Hamilton his 10th win of the year and 72nd of his career. It was also the first time he had won a late-season race after winning the

drivers' title.

"It was an honour to drive for them (Mercedes) today," said Hamilton. Charles Leclerc finished seventh for Sauber ahead of the two Haas cars driven by Romain Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen with Sergio Perez 10th for Force India.—AFP

## 8th Asian Shotgun and 11th Airgun Championships concludes



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait ended the 8th Asian Shotgun, and 11th Airgun Championships with a bang as shooters collected four medals including the gold of the double trap by Saad Al-Mutairi and his teammate got silver, while the bronze was claimed by Oman's Ahmad Al-Hatmi.

Kuwait's team of Saad Al-Mutairi, Ahmad Al-Afasi and Jarrah Al-Shuwaier won the silver medal in the teams' double trap event, second to Oman which won the gold medal, as Kazakhstan ended in third place.

In mixed trap event Kuwait's Abdulrahman Al-Hawal won silver behind the team of Chinese Taipei while China won bronze. The Chinese junior mixed team won gold, Kazakhstan silver, and China's second team won bronze.

President of Kuwait and Arab shooting Federations, Chairman of the Organizing Committee Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi said competitions during the championship were at a higher standard, which is evident by breaking several and Asian records, and he thanked all participating teams for their cooperation. He said Kuwait organizers and officials exerted great efforts to ensure the success of the Championship, under the bad



Abdulrahman Al-Faihan (left) and Sarah Al-Hawal

weather the country was under. Championships Director, Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi said the club is satisfied with the winnings of Kuwait shooters under the strong competition by the Asian continent champions. He said the club will organize HH the Amir International Shooting Grand Prix in February with the participation of major world shooters. Al-Osaimi thanked all those who worked within the championship sub-committee which contributed to the great success of this continental event.



Medal Tally			
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
China	23	14	12
India	5	5	2
Kazakhstan	4	5	6
Kuwait	3	7	2
Thailand	2	-	-
Oman	1	-	-
Singapore	-	4	3
Chinese Taipei	-	1	6
UAE	-	1	1
Japan	-	-	1
Bahrain	-	-	1
Qatar	-	-	1

## Countdown to 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' begins

KUWAIT: With just days to go until the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', Gulf Bank along with Pro-Vision Sport Management held a press conference to announce the launch of Kuwait's most exciting sporting event. The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' will take place at 7am, Saturday, 17 November at Souq Sharq.

Hosted and attended by Gulf Bank senior leadership team, and leadership from partner Pro-Vision Sport Management. The conference saw speakers from Marathon sponsors' Gulf Bank, Pro-Vision, Kuwait Airways, Public Authority of Sports, and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society was also represented at the event.

Each year the Marathon partners with a leading group to raise awareness of an important issue. This year, Gulf Bank Marathon 642 has partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent Society to bring medical aid to those who are unable to afford medical treatment. All donations made will go towards the provision of medical devices such as, pace-makers, cochlear devices, hearing aids, electric wheelchairs and stents.

Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External



Communications, Gulf Bank, said, "With just days to go before the marathon, we can feel the excitement building. We expect this year's event to be an incredible success, welcoming runners from all walks of life. This year's event is in sponsorship of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society and their initiatives, and we are proud to be partnered with and supported by both private and public institutions in support of our mission to spread their message."

Set to take place on November 17th, 2018, the marathon, which serves as a qualifying race for international marathons, has four categories which are open to runners of all abilities. From the 5K Family Fun Walk/Run

and the 10K Souq Run to the more advanced 21K Half Marathon and Kuwait's only 42K Full Marathon. The route starts and ends at Souq Sharq, with runners making their way along the Gulf Road, past Kuwaiti landmarks such as Souk Al Mubarakiya, Al Seif Palace and Kuwait Towers.

To find out more about the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon and to book your place, visit [www.gulfbank642marathon.com](http://www.gulfbank642marathon.com) or @GulfBank642 on Instagram. Donate now to help raise much-needed funds for those suffering from chronic illness or disabilities through the official website of the Red Crescent Society <https://donation.krcs.org/kw/en-US/Campaign>

## AIBA submits report to IOC with Tokyo fate at stake

LAUSANNE: The International Boxing Association is counting on a crucial report being submitted to the International Olympic Committee yesterday to lift the threat over its inclusion at Tokyo 2020 and beyond.

Boxing risks ejection from the Games after controversial Uzbek businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected AIBA president this month. Whether the IOC delivers a KO on its Tokyo presence will be decided at an executive commission meeting in the 2020 host city next month.

Rakhimov's election has caused consternation at the Olympic movement with the 67-year-old linked to organised crime by the US Treasury Department. Rakhimov vehemently denies the allegations, telling AFP his appearance on the US Treasury's list was "a mistake".

IOC president Thomas Bach has said he was "extremely worried about the governance of AIBA". The IOC, which has frozen relations with the AIBA, was already losing patience with one of the blue riband Olympic sports since a judging scandal at the 2016 Rio Games.

The substance of yesterday's report is being kept under wraps but it concerns "governance, finance, ethics, sport integrity, democracy, assessment, and WADA," AIBA's general director Tom Virgits told AFP.

"The IOC has requested we not release our reports until a decision has been rendered," the American said. It follows an earlier review on internal reforms handed over in April. Bach says Rakhimov is not boxing's only issue.

"The problem with the AIBA is not just the election of someone as its president," he commented last week. "For more than a year we have expressed our deep concern over its general governance and finances."

"It's all this that has pushed us to take such a rigid stance. "We've given them the opportunity in November to submit a report outlining their point of view. "Once we've got it we'll study it in Tokyo at the start of December."

With the AIBA's Tokyo presence in jeopardy the IOC says it "will do everything to protect the athletes. In the event of exclusion it plans to stage a boxing championship during the Games in Tokyo. "We don't want athletes to be punished by the bad behaviour of some officials," Bach said.

"Irrespective of the decision taken in December we will make the necessary efforts to ensure that athletes have the possibility to pursue their Olympic journey."

Rakhimov, previously interim president, won 86 of the 134 second-round votes in the ballot in Moscow on November 3 to beat his only opponent, former boxer Serik Konakbayev of Kazakhstan.

On the eve of his election Rakhimov assured delegates and fans that "boxing will naturally be at the Olympic Games in 2020, Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles in 2028". Konakbayev meanwhile will be meeting "IOC officials shortly", revealed a source close to the affair. —AFP

## Sports

# Mushfiqur Rahim's record innings put Bangladesh on top

## Zimbabwe, ahead in the two-match tournament 1-0

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on day two of the second Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday:

#### Bangladesh 1st innings (overnight 303-5)

Liton Das c Mavuta b Jarvis	9
Imrul Kayes c Chakabva b Jarvis	0
Mominul Haque c Chari b Chatara	161
Mohammad Mithun c Taylor b Jarvis	0
Mushfiqur Rahim not out	219
Tajjul Islam c Chakabva b Jarvis	4
Mahmudullah c Chakabva b Jarvis	36
Ariful Haque c Chari b Jarvis	4
Mehidy Hasan not out	68
Extras (b9, lb8, w1, nb3)	21
Total (7 wickets dec, 160 overs)	522
Did not Bat: Mustafizur Rahman, Khaled Ahmed	
Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Kayes), 2-16 (Das), 3-26 (Mithun), 4-292 (M Haque), 5-299 (Islam), 6-372 (Mahmudullah), 7-378 (A Haque)	
Bowling: Jarvis 28-6-71-5 (w1, nb1), Chatara 22-2-12-34-1, Tiripano 24.4-6-65-1(nb2), Raza 22-1-111-0, Williams 30-4-80-0, Mavuta 31-1-137-0, Masakadza 2-0-7-0	

#### Zimbabwe 1st innings

H. Masakadza c Mehidy b Tajjul	14
B. Chari not out	10
D. Tiripano not out	0
Extras (bl)	1
Total (1 wicket, 18 overs)	25
To bat: B. Taylor, S. Williams, S. Raza, P. Moor, R. Chakabva, B. Mavuta, K. Jarvis, T. Chatara.	

**DHAKA:** Mushfiqur Rahim became the first wicket-keeper-batsman in history to score two double hundreds in Tests as Bangladesh built a strong total in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Dhaka yesterday.

Mushfiqur hit an unbeaten 219 to help Bangladesh declare their first innings at 522-7 an hour into the final session, before the hosts reduced Zimbabwe to 25 for one at stumps on the second day. Tajjul Islam removed Hamilton Masakadza for 14 after an edge flew to Mehidy Hasan at first slip for Bangladesh's first breakthrough.

Masakadza was earlier spared when he was dropped at seven by Ariful Haque at first slip off the bowling of debutant Khaled Ahmed. Brian Chari, 10 not out, and nightwatchman Donald Tiripano (naught) prevented further damage.

Zimbabwe, ahead in the two-match tournament 1-0, needs at least a draw to win their first Test series in seven years. But it was Mushfiqur who shone, pulling leg-spinner Brendon Mavuta for a single at square leg after the tea break to become the first wicketkeeper-batsman ever to score two double hundreds in Test cricket. "I wasn't in bad form in Tests, but yes I wasn't getting a big innings. I believed that it was around the corner," Mushfiqur said at the close of second day's play. "I knew that converting a fifty would ensure a big score. I had a lot of self-belief. I had my preparations in place."

Mushfiqur, who played 421 balls and hit 18 fours and a six, also surpassed Shakib al Hasan to become the highest individual scorer in an innings for Bangladesh in Test cricket. Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad called the batsmen to the dressing room soon after Mushfiqur nudged Sean Williams for a single to pass Shakib's 217 against New Zealand at Wellington in 2017.

Mushfiqur shared a record 144-run in their unbroken eighth wicket stand with Mehidy Hasan, after Kyle Jarvis took two scalps in the afternoon session to complete his third five-wicket haul in Tests.

Mushfiqur also had a hand in the previous eighth wicket record when he added 113 with Naeem Islam



**DHAKA:** Bangladeshi cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim (L) plays a shot as Zimbabwe's cricketer Regis Chakabva (R) looks on during the second day of the second Test cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

against England in 2010. Jarvis, who claimed three wickets on the opening day, removed Mahmudullah for 36 and Ariful Haque for four but Mushfiqur and Mehidy denied the visitors further success.

Resuming on 303-5, Bangladesh began cautiously on day two, scoring just 22 runs in the first hour before Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah finally opened up. Mushfiqur, who now has six Test centuries, took 56

balls to score his first boundary in the morning. Zimbabwe suffered a blow when fast bowler Tendai Chatara was stretched off after damaging his hamstring while delivering a ball in the morning. Zimbabwe Cricket said Chatara had suffered a suspected quad muscle strain and was out of the match. Zimbabwe won the opener by 151 runs in Sylhet, their first Test win in five years. — AFP

## Finch warns faltering batsmen of shake-up for India ODIs

**HOBART:** Australia's one-day batsmen are under mounting pressure to keep their places after a lacklustre series defeat to South Africa, captain Aaron Finch warned yesterday, with a potential shake-up looming.

While the hosts won in Adelaide to snap a seven-game losing streak, they crashed heavily in Perth and lost again in Hobart by 40 runs. None of the key batsmen performed consistently, although number three Shaun Marsh hit a fighting 106 in the decider on Sunday.

Finch admitted "we're all under pressure when we lose, no doubt about that" and hinted at changes ahead of their next series against India, ranked two in the world, in January. "Between the batting line-up not having got it right for a little while now there's going to be questions asked whether it's Maxi, Lunny, Heady, or myself or Stoin," he said, referring to Glenn Maxwell, Chris Lynn, Travis Head and Marcus Stoinis.

"It's important that we really nut out the balance of the side and get that right over the next two months. We have to either adapt our game plan a little bit around the way the side structures up best or we slightly change our personnel to fit a style that we think can win."

Big-hitting Lynn was elevated to open the batting in Hobart in a bid to get quick runs on the board, but it failed spectacularly when he was out first ball. Despite this, Finch said the powerful right-hander, a prolific scorer in twenty20s, is likely to open again as Australia look for more aggression early in the innings. "Yeah, it could be a long-term plan," he said. "It was an attacking option to put Chris at the top, to change him and Travis (Head), to put a couple of guys up there who can get us off to a flyer. It was an attacking move."

"If I had my time again I'd still do it," Lynn, who has played 14 twenty20 internationals, is still developing in the longer form of the game, but showed his abilities in the second game of the three-match series by smacking 18 off the first four balls of a Kagiso Rabada over. He was out on the fifth, but Finch said it demonstrated how he can turn a game. "We saw it in Adelaide when he flicked the switch against Rabada in that over. Yes, he got out, but he changed the whole momentum of the game totally," he said. — AFP

## Kuchar survives scare to end title drought

**MEXICO CITY:** Matt Kuchar survived a late scare to clinch his first title in four years on Sunday with an one-shot victory at the US PGA Tour's Mayakoba Classic in Playa del Carmen.

The 40-year-old American, who had started the final round with a four-shot lead, squeezed home ahead of New Zealand's Danny Lee after posting a two-under-par

## Australia 'different ball game', says India's Sharma

**NEW DELHI:** Batsman Rohit Sharma said India were brimming with confidence after their crushing home victories over the West Indies but warned that winning their first Test series in Australia was a challenge of a different order.

India completed a 3-0 Twenty20 series sweep over the West Indies on Sunday, to add to their 2-0 Test whitewash and 3-1 victory in the ODIs, extending their dominating home form. But Sharma said an away series against old rivals Australia, even without their batsmen Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft, who are banned for ball-tampering, would be a much sterner test. "Australia is always challenging when it comes to going out there and performing. Every time you go there, you are tested as a player, as an individual and as a team as well," the veteran opener said after Sunday's win. "I think we have got to be at our best and when you win a series like this (West Indies) and when you play like that in the tournament you are high on confidence. It's all about taking that confidence to Australia and doing what we did as a team."

## Mashrafe to stand in election

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh's one-day international captain Mashrafe Mortaza will stand in next month's election, the ruling party announced yesterday, after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina endorsed the superstar's foray into politics.

A photograph of 35-year-old Mashrafe, who enjoys rockstar status in cricket-mad Bangladesh, alongside Hasina ran on the front pages of many newspapers in the South Asian nation of 160 million.

A spokesman for Hasina's Awami League said Mashrafe had been given the "green light" from the prime minister, who is seeking a third consecutive term in office on December 30. "He plans to contest from Narail," said spokesman Mahbul Alam Hanif, referring to Mashrafe's hometown district in western Bangladesh.

Mashrafe has not commented publicly on his running for the Awami League. Cricketing authorities said there was no prohibition on active players trying their hand at politics. "To run in an election is his constitutional

69. "I didn't want a three-footer on the last hole," Kuchar said. "I was hoping to have a three or four-shot lead for some wiggly room. But man, that felt awfully good."

Lee had surged up the leaderboard after a six-under-par 65 to ramp up the pressure on Kuchar at the Camaleon Golf Club Course. The 40-year-old Kuchar looked to be comfortably on course for the win after two birdies and seven pars on the front nine saw him reach the turn at two under.

A long birdie putt from off the green at the 11th followed by a further birdie at the 13th left the world number 40 cruising towards the title at 24 under. But back-to-back bogeys on the 14th and 15th, and Lee's final round, left Kuchar only one shot clear heading to the 18th.

Kuchar however was not about to be denied his first win since 2014 and he duly parred the par-four 18th to



**KOLKATA:** In this file photo taken on November 5, 2018 Indian T20 cricket captain Rohit Sharma (2L) celebrates with teammates the wicket of West Indies cricketer Shai Hope during the first T20 cricket match between India and West Indies at the Eden Gardens Cricket Stadium in Kolkata. — AFP

India barely have time to catch their breath before heading on Friday to Australia, where the first of three T20 matches is in Brisbane on November 21. They will also play four Tests and three ODIs.

The world's number one Test side are only too aware that away from home, their form is fragile. They went down 2-1 in South Africa and then 4-1 in England this year. — AFP



Mashrafe Mortaza

right. If he wants to exercise these rights, we have no issue," Bangladesh Cricket Board spokesman Jalal Yunus told AFP.

"We expect him to keep the balance between his playing career and politics." — AFP

secure the victory. Last season Kuchar failed to make the US Ryder Cup team for the first time in a decade and finished out of the top 10 in the FedExCup standings for the first time since 2007.

"My 2018 wasn't what I wanted," said Kuchar. "This is a high note. It's amazing thing to get a win. I go from 'Hola' to 'Aloha'. I'm pretty excited about that." Lee meanwhile was left to rue a costly bogey on the 15th hole which ultimately cost him a share of the lead and a possible playoff.

The bogey was the only blemish on a round that included seven birdies, leaving him 21 under for the tournament with a 72-hole aggregate 263. J.J. Spaun and Richy Werenski finished three off the lead on 19 under after their closing rounds. Spaun carded a closing 65 while Werenski posted a 67 for a share of third place. — AFP

## 'Silly mistake' by Pakistan gifts India 10 runs in T20 win

**PROVIDENCE:** Pakistan's batters gifted India 10 penalty runs by consistently running on the pitch as they succumbed to a seven-wicket defeat by their rivals in the Women's World Twenty20 on Sunday.

Underdogs Pakistan posted a challenging total of 133-7 in Guyana thanks to fifties from Bismah Maroof and Nida Dar, but twice were penalised five runs for running down the middle of the pitch, including on the final ball of their innings.

"Look, it's a silly mistake from us, we shouldn't do this kind of thing and we should learn from this," Dar admitted. India are top of the early Group B table after also beating New Zealand in their opening match on Friday, while Pakistan have suffered two straight losses.

Mithali Raj, India's record run-scorer in T20 internationals, opened the batting and struck a 47-ball 56 as last year's World Cup runners-up made the most of their headstart to wrap up victory with an over to spare.

After a dominant performance against New Zealand in which captain Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to score a T20I century, her side were sloppy and dropped five catches in the field.

"It will be playing on our minds that we shouldn't be doing the same mistakes in the coming matches because at some point it might cost us," admitted Raj. India next face Ireland on Thursday, after Pakistan also take on the lowest-ranked team in the tournament on Tuesday. — AFP

## Sports

# Cavani bags hat-trick as perfect PSG leave Henry's Monaco down and out

## Marseille bounce back to beat Dijon 2-0 at the Velodrome

PARIS: Thierry Henry's disastrous start as coach of Monaco continued on Sunday as Edinson Cavani's VAR-assisted hat-trick helped Paris Saint-Germain to an easy 4-0 win that saw them extend their perfect record in Ligue 1 this season.

Neymar netted a penalty to complete PSG's victory, as they made it 13 wins from 13 league games under Thomas Tuchel, further stretching their start to the season that is a record in France and in Europe's so-called big five leagues.

The result for them came after a week marred by revelations from French investigative website Mediapart that youth scouts at PSG had subjected potential signings to racial profiling for several years.

But while they go 13 points clear of second-placed Lille at the Ligue 1 summit, the club who have been their main challengers continued their deeply worrying slump, with Henry again left to look on helplessly from the touchline.

Champions in 2017, Monaco are in the relegation zone and five points away from outright safety having failed to win in six matches in all competitions since the Arsenal and France great took charge.

The principality side have now gone 16 games without a win, with this result following a 4-0 home reverse against Club Brugge which knocked them out of the Champions League.

They are on their worst run in France's top flight in 32 years, at a time when Football Leaks claims about their Financial Fair Play (FFP) breaches and the arrest of their Russian billionaire owner Dmitry Rybolovlev on corruption charges have cast a further shadow over the club. Henry has picked up a squad who have

been cursed by injuries, and here he was missing a dozen players due either to injury or suspension at kick-off. Belgian international Nacer Chadli lasted just 20 minutes before coming off hurt, and his replacement Jordi Mboula pulled up with a hamstring injury at the start of the second half.

The average age of his bench here was under 19, while his starting line-up featured a 17-year-old debutant in defence in Benoit Badiashile. It was little wonder, then, that PSG-themselves showing six changes following their Champions League draw at Napoli-found the going so easy. They went ahead in the fourth minute when Neymar drove the ball across goal for Cavani to convert.

The goal was initially disallowed before being given by the Video Assistant Referee, and the same thing happened in the 11th minute when Cavani turned the ball in again after the flag was wrongly raised for an offside against Moussa Diaby.

In contrast to those two goals, a fine Julian Draxler finish in first-half stoppage time was initially given before being disallowed on review. However, Diaby squared for Cavani to complete his hat-trick in the 54th minute, and Neymar then rolled in a penalty after Kylian Mbappe had been fouled by France teammate Djibril Sidibe.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Lucas Ocampos and Adil Rami scored as Marseille bounced back from a run of four straight defeats to beat Dijon 2-0 on an emotional afternoon at the Velodrome. A minute's silence was held before kick-off in memory of the eight people killed when two buildings collapsed in the southern French city on Monday.



MONACO: Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Angel Di Maria (C) vies the ball with Monaco's French defender Djibril Sidibe during the French L1 football match Monaco vs Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday at the "Louis II Stadium" in Monaco. — AFP

The result lifted Marseille up to sixth in the table, back to within three points of third-placed Montpellier, who beat them 3-0 last weekend.

Bordeaux were held to a goalless draw at home by Caen, while Rennes drew 1-1 with local rivals Nantes. — AFP

## Ronaldo keeps Juve flying high with 'important' win over AC Milan

MILAN: Cristiano Ronaldo scored as Juventus bounced back from their midweek Champions League defeat by Manchester United with a 2-0 win over 10-man AC Milan in Serie A on Sunday, as Gonzalo Higuain missed a penalty before being sent off for the hosts.

Mario Mandzukic headed in the opener in the eighth minute at the San Siro with Ronaldo adding a second on 81 minutes as Juventus maintained their six-point cushion ahead of the international break.

It got the defending seven-time Serie A champions back on track after suffering their first defeat of the season by United following two late goals despite Ronaldo's stunning volley.

"Winning tonight was the only way to put aside what happened in the final five minutes of the Champions League game," said Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri. "It was important to win without conceding a goal and to regain the six-point advantage over Napoli who are having an excellent championship."

A third loss of the campaign, however, saw AC Milan drop out of the Champions League places behind Lazio who moved back into fourth despite a 1-1 draw at Sassuolo. Inter Milan's seven-match winning streak ended with a 4-1 defeat at Atalanta, with Luciano Spalletti's side losing second place to Napoli who came from behind to beat Genoa 2-1 on Saturday.

Juventus have 34 points from 12 games-six ahead of

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli with Inter a further three behind. "I'm very happy, especially for the team, because playing away to Milan is always very difficult," said Ronaldo.

"It was important to win, because Napoli beat Genoa last night and we had to keep our distance." Allegri's side rarely looked threatened by AC Milan with Mandzukic rising highest to nod in an Alex Sandro cross to dampen spirits among the 75,000-capacity crowd at the San Siro.

The Croatian World Cup runner-up could have made it two shortly after, meeting a cross this time from Ronaldo but Milan skipper Alessio Romagnoli blocked.

Higuain returned from a back problem to face his parent club but it was to be a nightmare outing for the forward who had been loaned out to Milan last summer to make space for Ronaldo.

The Argentine missed a penalty awarded after Medhi Benatia handled in the area five minutes before the break with Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny tipping the ball onto the post.

Ronaldo tested Gianluigi Donnarumma in the AC Milan goal early in the second half before finally blasting in nine minutes from time for his first goal at the San Siro. Minutes later Higuain saw red after shouting at the referee in frustration after a foul on Benatia, and was led off the pitch in tears. "I told him not to exaggerate, to calm down and not to risk a major penalty," said Ronaldo of what he told Higuain on the pitch. "He was nervous, he was losing, but we must not blame him, he didn't say anything."

Earlier on Sunday, defender Gianluca Mancini scored for a third consecutive game as Atalanta dominated Inter Milan at home in Bergamo. Mancini headed home in the 62nd minute to add to Hans Hateboer's eighth-minute opener, with Berat Djimsiti and Alejandro Gomez sealing all three points for the hosts late on.

Inter captain Mauro Icardi had equalised when he slotted in a penalty just after the break, but his side finished with ten men after Marcelo Brozovic was sent off two minutes into injury time. Roma got back to winning ways with a 4-1 success over Sampdoria to move up to sixth, within three points of the Champions League places behind Lazio



MILAN: AC Milan's Italian forward Patrick Cutrone (C) heads the ball next to Juventus' Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini (R) during the Italian Serie A football match AC Milan vs Juventus on Sunday at the San Siro stadium in Milan. — AFP

and AC Milan. Rock-bottom Chievo earned a 2-2 draw at home against Bologna to move onto zero points, having had three deducted for false accounting. But coach Gian Piero Ventura told players he was quitting after the game, as he did not believe he could save them from relegation. Elsewhere, Empoli got their first win since the opening match of the season, beating fellow strugglers Udinese 2-1, who they joined on nine points. — AFP

## Resurgent Salah scores again

PARIS: Egyptian Mohamed Salah is back where he spent much of last season-stealing the show among the African stars in the major European leagues. He took his English Premier League season goal haul this season to six at the weekend with the opener for title challengers Liverpool in a 2-0 home win over bottom club Fulham.

The reigning African Footballer of the Year has put an early-season barren spell behind him to trail leading scorer Sergio Aguero of Manchester City by two goals.

England  
MOHAMED SALAH (Liverpool)

After an uncertain start that led many to wonder if last term's goal-laden season was a flash in the pan, the Egypt striker looks to be regaining his old form. Seconds after basement club Fulham had a goal controversially disallowed, Salah crowned a rapid counter-attack with a composed finish to score the Reds' opener, his eighth goal this season in all competitions, in a 2-0 win that maintained their unbeaten run in this league campaign.

SOL BAMBA (Cardiff)

The Ivory Coast defender scored a dramatic last-minute winner as the Bluebirds sealed a much-needed 2-1 win over Brighton in manager Neil Warnock's 100th game in charge of the Welsh capital club. Bamba's spectacular overhead kick hit the post before Callum Paterson's follow-up was deflected onto the crossbar. But there was no third let-off for the Seagulls with Bamba, quickly back on his feet, thumping the loose ball home.

Italy  
GERVINHO (Parma)/NICOLAS NKOULOU (Torino)  
Former Arsenal winger Gervinho scored his third goal this season as Parma came away with a 2-1 win from Torino after a defensive mix-up involving Cameroonian Nkoulou saw the Ivorian surge forward with a brilliant solo run after nine minutes to help the promoted side move up to 10th in Serie A, two points off the Europa League places.

CHRISTIAN KOUAME (Genoa)

Ivorian forward Kouame scored his second goal for Genoa after moving to the top-flight side last July by heading in a Romulo cross after 20 minutes. But after a 13-minute second-half interruption due to torrential rain, Napoli scored twice to win 2-1 and move back to second in Serie A.

JOEL OBI (Chievo)

Nigerian midfielder Obi scored his first goal for new club Chievo when he tapped in the second goal as the rock-bottom side from Verona held on for a 2-2 draw against Bologna. It was just the third point this season for the club who finally broke out of negative territory to sit on zero points after 12 games, having being deducted three points for false accounting.

Germany  
JEAN-PHILIPPE GBAMIN (Mainz 05)

The Ivory Coast striker gave Mainz an early lead in their 3-1 win at Freiburg by scoring his second goal in as many games with a shot from outside the box on six minutes. It was the 23-year-old's first goal on the road in 340 minutes as Mainz picked up a second straight win to climb to ninth in the Bundesliga.

France  
PELE (Monaco)

The Portugal-born Guinea-Bissau international midfielder made just his second Ligue 1 start since joining Monaco from Rio Ave in the close season. Sent off in a defeat at Reims in his last game, the 27-year-old could not do much to help Thierry Henry's struggling side as they went down 4-0 at home to runaway league leaders Paris Saint-Germain.—AFP

## Silva believes City's derby win have ended United's title bid

MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Bernardo Silva reckons a derby win over Manchester United has dealt a huge blow to their local rivals' title hopes, saying Jose Mourinho's men would need to be "almost perfect" between now and the end of the season if they were to win the Premier League.

City, the reigning English champions and Premier League leaders, opened up a 12-point lead over United with a 3-1 victory at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday. Goals early in each half from David Silva and Sergio Aguero put City in command at 2-0 up before United pulled one back through an Anthony Martial penalty just before the hour mark.

City, however, sealed victory four minutes from time when Ilkay Gundogan crowned a 44-pass move to slot home from close range. This was United's fourth defeat in 12 games and left them eighth in the table. Before kick-off City manager Pep Guardiola had insisted United would remain title contenders even if they lost, but Silva was not so sure. "It won't be easy. Not only Man City — (they are) 10 points from Liverpool, a lot of points from the other ones as well," Silva said.

"They need to be almost perfect and wait for the other ones to lose a lot of points. I think it won't be easy," the Portugal international added.

Silva, who provided the final cross from which Gundogan scored, was proud of the way City responded after Martial gave United hope of a comeback. "After their goal we knew they would have confidence to try to come for a second but I think our performance was amazing. We didn't concede one chance-only the penalty.—AFP

## Real Madrid 'very happy' with Solari: Butragueno

MADRID: Real Madrid director Emilio Butragueno has said the club are delighted with Santiago Solari's spell in charge after the team posted their fourth consecutive win by beating Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Madrid claimed a 4-2 victory at Balaidos and the expectation is Solari will now be given the job full-time, following a transformation in results. Four victories during his tenure have brought 15 goals scored and just two conceded while Real have cut the gap behind Barcelona to four points in La Liga.

The win over Celta was the club's last fixture before Solari's two weeks as an interim coach ends during the international break. "He has done excellently," Butragueno said on Sunday. "He arrived in a very particular moment and has achieved very good results, above all today against Celta in a very difficult game. We are very happy with how things have gone."

Butragueno would not confirm whether Solari's position would be made permanent but it is likely the Argentinian will remain in the post, at least until the end of the season. "We will see," Solari said. "I usually don't plan too far ahead but in principle, it's my day off tomorrow." "The important thing is to do everything for the good of the team and Real Madrid. Nothing else is important for me."

Madrid defender Alvaro Odriozola said the players are behind Solari. "These things are decided by those at the top, we just have to work to get out of the crisis," Odriozola said. "We'll go to the death with him, he's a great coach and of course we want him to continue."

Madrid dominated a chaotic match against Celta that featured three goals and a red card in the final 10 minutes. Karim Benzema scored a brilliant opener before instigating a second, his shot cannoning in off Gustavo Cabral.



VIGO: Celta Vigo's Spanish forward Iago Aspas kicks the ball during the Spanish league football match between RC Celta de Vigo and Real Madrid CF at the Balaidos stadium in Vigo on Sunday. — AFP

Hugo Mallo pulled one back for the hosts in the second half but Sergio Ramos chipped in a late penalty to put the result beyond doubt and Cabral was sent off for receiving a second yellow card. Dani Ceballos' stunning effort made it four, with Brais Mendez adding a late Celta consolation.

"The team showed a lot of personality to come through all the circumstances of the game," Solari said. Madrid suffered a spate of injuries as Casemiro, Sergio Reguilon and Nacho were all forced off. Gareth Bale took a knock to his left ankle in the first half but was able to continue.

"Gareth made a massive effort, his ankle was very swollen," Solari said. "Celta played very aggressively, on the edge of the rules." — AFP

**25** Verstappen threatens to 'punch' Ocon as Hamilton wins Brazilian Grand Prix



**26** Mushfiqur's record innings puts Bangladesh on top



**27** Cavani bags hat-trick as perfect PSG leave Henry's Monaco down and out



## Harden powers Rockets to first home win

Walker, Parker help Hornets knock off Pistons



HOUSTON: James Harden #13 of the Houston Rockets shoots the ball against the Indiana Pacers on Sunday at Toyota Center in Houston, Texas. — AFP

HOUSTON: James Harden scored a game-high 40 points and Houston won on its home floor for the first time this season. The Rockets, last in the league in field goal percentage, shot 36 for 74 (48.6 percent) and converted a season-high 20 3-pointers. Victor Oladipo led Indiana with 22 points and Bojan Bogdanovic chipped in 20. Bogdanovic assisted on a Cory Joseph basket with 1:18 remaining that enabled the Pacers to claw to within eight points, but Chris Paul responded with a driving layup with only 62 seconds left to play. The Pacers had their five-game road winning streak snapped and lost to Houston for the second time in six days.

**TRAIL BLAZERS 100, CELTICS 94**

Damian Lillard scored 19 points and dished out 12 assists and Al-Farouq Aminu

sank a pair of 3-pointers down the stretch as Portland beat Boston. Jusuf Nurkic scored 18 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won four in a row and seven of eight. Jayson Tatum scored a season-high 27 points and Kyrie Irving 21 for the Celtics, who have lost four of five.

**LAKERS 107, HAWKS 106**

LeBron James scored 26 points, including a put-back layup with 15 seconds remaining, and Kyle Kuzma added 18 as L.A. held off a late rally by Atlanta. In just his third game with the Lakers, center Tyson Chandler blocked a shot by rookie Trae Young at the buzzer to seal the victory. The Lakers improved to 7-6 to move over .500 for the first time this season. James had a chance to give the Lakers the lead from the free-throw line with 15 seconds remaining but missed

both shots. Kuzma got the rebound, but missed a put-back shot. James rebounded that miss and scored inside for the late lead. Taurean Prince scored 23 points and Kent Bazemore added 21 for the Hawks, who lost for the fourth time in their last five games and the seventh time in their last nine. Young had 20 points, 12 assists for Atlanta.

**MAGIC 115, KNICKS 89**

Orlando scored the first 10 points and never trailed on the way to a 115-89 rout of the host Knicks. Orlando has won two straight and four of five while the Knicks lost by at least 20 points for the third time this season. Terrence Ross scored a game-high 22 points for the Magic while Nikola Vucevic had 21 points and 14 rebounds in just 26 minutes. New York native Mo Bamba had 15 points and eight rebounds in his

homecoming while Evan Fournier added 12 points. Kevin Knox led the Knicks with 17 points while Enes Kanter recorded a double-double with 16 points and 15 rebounds.

**HORNETS 113, PISTONS 103**

Kemba Walker and Tony Parker each scored 24 points, leading Charlotte Hornets to a 113-103 win in Detroit. Cody Zeller contributed 14 points, six rebounds and three blocked shots, while Jeremy Lamb chipped in 10 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals for the Hornets. Charlotte forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist left the game in the second quarter with an ankle sprain. Andre Drummond recorded his fifth 20-20 game of the season with 23 points and 22 rebounds for Detroit. Reggie Bullock supplied a career-high 23 points and Reggie Jackson tossed in 19 points with seven assists.

**BUCKS 121, NUGGETS 114**

Brook Lopez scored a season-high 28 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as Milwaukee handed Denver its third consecutive loss. Khris Middleton had 21 points Malcolm Brogdon scored 20 for the Bucks. Lopez hit a career-high eight 3-pointers, six in the third quarter when Milwaukee built a double-digit lead. Paul Millsap scored 25 points to lead the Nuggets, who received 20 points from center Nikola Jokic. Millsap added eight boards and six assists. — Reuters

## Rams bounce back to beat Seahawks, Saints and Chiefs roll on

LOS ANGELES: Jared Goff threw two touchdown passes as the league-leading Los Angeles Rams bounced back from their first loss of the season to hold on for a 36-31 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday.

The Rams had all week to reflect on their 45-35 setback to New Orleans Saints, but after suffering two consecutive defeats they were able to come out on top. The Rams improved to a NFL best 9-1 with the win. It was also a welcome distraction for southern Californians, who endured a tough week with fatal wildfires and a horrific mass shooting near the Rams' Thousand Oaks training facility. The team held a moment of silence before Sunday's game. The fire tragedy hit home for Goff, who was one of

thousands forced to evacuate their homes. He passed for 319 yards as the Rams swept their season series with the Seahawks. "It's just been a tough week for the whole city, the whole area up there," Goff said. "Hoping today provided a little bit of joy and regularity for those people."

The turning point came late in the fourth quarter when Rams Dante Fowler forced and recovered a fumble from Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson. On the next play Rams receiver Brandin Cooks ran nine yards for his first rushing touchdown of the season, and Greg Zuerlein kicked the extra point to give Los Angeles a 36-24 lead with 5:49 to go.

Just under four minutes later, Wilson connected with Mike Davis on a three-yard pass for a touchdown-but that was as close as the Seahawks would get as the Rams used a rock solid defense to keep them out of the end zone down the stretch.

On their last possession Wilson overthrew to receiver Tyler Lockett near the sidelines. Rams receiver Cooper Kupp could be out for a spell after he left the game in the second half with a knee injury. He will be evaluated by team doctor's on Monday. "Yeah, I don't think it's very good." Rams coach Sean McVay said. Elsewhere, Drew Brees passed

another milestone as the New Orleans Saints piled up the points in a 51-14 demolition of the Cincinnati Bengals. Veteran quarterback Brees produced a sublime performance to make 22 of 25 pass attempts for three touchdowns and 265 yards.

The 39-year-old's latest masterclass saw him vault over Brett Favre into second place on the list for all-time career passing touchdowns with 509, 30 behind Peyton Manning in first place.

"You play long enough I guess these things happen," Brees said of his milestone. "I just consider myself very grateful to have played for as long as I have with this team and these teammates." Brees's display was the centerpiece of another dominant win for the Saints, who ended the Rams' unbeaten start to the season last week and are rapidly emerging as favorites for next February's Super Bowl. The win saw the Saints improve to 8-1 at the top of the NFC and strengthened their claims to have the best offense in the NFL. The Saints have averaged more than 36 points a game in their nine outings so far, and the Bengals never looked like staunching the scoring in Sunday's clash in Cincinnati.

In other games on Sunday, the Kansas City Chiefs continued their impressive campaign



LOS ANGELES: Wide receiver Robert Woods #17 of the Los Angeles Rams is tackled by cornerback Shaquill Griffin #26 and free safety Tedric Thompson #33 of the Seattle Seahawks during the fourth quarter at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Sunday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

with a 26-14 win over the Arizona Cardinals at Arrowhead Stadium. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw for two touchdowns and 249 yards as the Chiefs pulled further ahead at the top of the AFC West at 9-1.

Although it was the first time Mahomes

had failed to throw for 300 yards since the opening game of the season, the Chiefs quarterback set a new franchise record for touchdown passes in a season. Mahomes latest two touchdowns took him past the mark of 30 set by Len Dawson 54 years ago. —AFP