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# Assembly panel: Non-Muslims can become Kuwaiti citizens

MoI, CSC move to cut expat numbers • Visa trafficking busted at Camp Arifjan

## All Gulf states to attend GCC Riyadh summit

CAIRO: The next Gulf Cooperation Council summit, to be held in Riyadh next month, may be an opportunity to end the rift within the group, Kuwait's deputy foreign minister Khalid Al-Jarallah told KUNA, adding it will be attended by all Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and non-GCC member Egypt have imposed sanctions on GCC member Qatar accusing it of cozying up to their regional rival Iran and supporting terrorism.

At last year's GCC summit, held in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain sent ministers or deputy prime ministers, rather than heads of state.



Khalid Al-Jarallah

Jarallah expressed optimism that this year's summit will see a high level of representation from all member states. "This summit is a glimpse of hope to revive the efforts of containing the long-standing Gulf dispute," he said. Jarallah noted that ministerial committees have been meeting in Kuwait and thus ensure that the GCC mechanism is maintained, effective and continuous.

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By B Izzak and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The National Assembly's legal and legislative committee yesterday approved a proposal to amend the nationality law to allow granting non-Muslims Kuwaiti citizenship. Under the current law issued in 1959, Kuwaiti citizenship can be granted only to Muslims and the amendment - if approved by the Assembly and the government - will remove a major obstacle for naturalizing non-Muslims. The committee easily approved the amendment mainly because three of its Islamist members, who normally oppose such proposals, have resigned. The Assembly, dominated by conservatives and Islamists, is not expected to accept the sensitive amendment.

Meanwhile, the interior ministry has made a number of recommendations to the demography adjustment committee comprising of elements from the interior ministry, ministry of social affairs and labor and the manpower authority to prevent any manipulation, said security sources. The sources explained that the highlight of the recommendation was to

ban transferring the residency visas of expats terminated from government positions to work for the private sector, which impedes the policy of replacement and adjusting demographic imbalances and opens the door wide to visa trafficking.

MoI also recommended reviewing the actual needs of expats, which leads to recruiting numerous marginal laborers of a certain nationality. Accordingly, MoI suggested imposing quotas per nationality, using timed contracts for government projects and hiring only those with enough experience and training in order to prevent visa trafficking.

In a similar move, the Civil Service Commission recently asked the education ministry to terminate the contracts of 1,186 non-Kuwaiti employees by the end of this year, said informed sources, explaining that the employees to be terminated include 312 teachers, 223 social and psychiatric researchers and 604 office boys.

The sources added that the education ministry had received a letter in this regard from CSC including the contracts to be terminated prior to setting the ministry's 2019-2020

budget. "If the ministry does not respond within a fortnight, the finance ministry will be contacted to take the needed measures to terminate the contracts and deduct their funding from the 2019-2020 budget," the sources explained.

Informed sources also said the public prosecution is investigating a visa trafficking case in which four expats and a citizen working at Camp Arifjan are facing charges of abusing their authorities in providing logistics services to sell around 1,500 residency visas to Asians for \$10,000 per visa, in addition to selling driving license exemptions for KD 1,000 each.

The sources added that the manpower authority has met the American side several times since June to discuss new changes to government contracts and refer the suggested changes to the Pentagon pending approval. The sources added that on receiving tips about the violations, the camp's authorities conducted a wide scale investigation which resulted in arresting the suspects and sacking and deporting others in collaboration with local authorities.

## News in brief

### Firms linked to rain damage banned

KUWAIT: The government yesterday banned all companies and architectural firms that designed and implemented housing, infrastructure and road projects damaged by recent heavy rainfall pending an investigation. Minister of Public Works Hussam Al-Roumi briefed the Cabinet about an investigation with individuals and companies into the causes of floods. The government assigned the ministry of public works and the fatwa and legislation department to refer to prosecution two parliamentary reports about damage in asphalt to hold those responsible accountable. The government also formed a team, chaired by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh, to renovate houses damaged by rainfall and provide suitable alternate housing. —KUNA

### Juvenile crimes highest in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The juvenile prosecution has raised a red flag by revealing that juvenile crimes in Kuwait are the highest in the world. It said 1,880 crimes were committed by 2,071 juveniles last year, 79 percent of whom are between 15 and 18 years old. The prosecution ran a study on a sample that included 108 juveniles who are serving final sentences, besides seven others still on trial. The study showed the crimes of this group surpass the global rate by 400 percent. It added the rate of crimes by this group doubled in the past five years by 250 percent, adding that the largest increase was in traffic crimes by 1,100 percent, followed by drugs and liquor cases by 200 percent. It said 83 percent of convicted juveniles from affluent families, while 9 percent committed crimes influenced by social media personalities. — Al-Jarida

### Sheikh Ahmad steps aside from IOC

BERLIN: Powerful International Olympic Committee member Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd Al-Sabah said yesterday he had temporarily stepped down from his roles in the Olympic body amid an ongoing legal case in Switzerland. The Kuwaiti IOC member heads Olympic Solidarity - the multimillion-dollar IOC purse that funds sports projects globally. He is also head of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). "Sheikh Ahmad has today decided to step aside temporarily from his roles and responsibilities as an IOC member and Chairman of Olympic Solidarity commission, pending the outcome of the IOC ethics commission hearing," said a statement from his office. —Reuters



## Saudi king urges action on Iran, backs Yemen peace

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman urged the international community yesterday to halt Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, and reiterated the kingdom's support for UN efforts to end the war in Yemen. The king's annual remarks to the Shura Council, a top governmental advisory body, were his first public comments since the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the country's consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2, which sparked a global outcry.

King Salman, who did not mention

the Khashoggi affair, condemned the actions of Iran, its archival for influence in the region, including in the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. "The Iranian regime has always intervened in the internal affairs of other countries, sponsored terrorism, created chaos and devastation in many countries in the region," the 82-year-old monarch said. "The international community has to work to put an end to the Iranian nuclear program and stop its activities that threaten security and stability."

The king said Riyadh supported UN efforts to end the conflict in Yemen, where a Saudi-backed coalition has been battling Iran-aligned Houthi rebels for nearly four years to restore the internationally-recognized government. "Our standing by Yemen was not an option but a duty to support the Yemeni people in confronting the aggression of Iranian-backed militias," he said.

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RIYADH: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz addresses the Shura Council yesterday. —AFP

## Auto titan Ghosn under arrest, faces ouster at Nissan

YOKOHAMA: Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn is under arrest in Japan over allegations of financial misconduct and faces being fired this week, the firm said yesterday, in a stunning fall from grace for one of the world's best-known businessmen. Ghosn's arrest and his likely dismissal from Nissan, and possibly Mitsubishi and Renault, sent shockwaves through the auto industry, where he is a towering figure credited with turning around several major manufacturers and leads an alliance of the three automakers.

Nissan's board will meet Thursday to decide his fate, and Mitsubishi said it would propose he be dismissed as chairman "promptly". Renault said its board would meet "shortly", after Ghosn was detained over allegations including underreporting his income. At a hastily organized press conference, Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa expressed "despair", but also suggested that Ghosn had accrued too much power and eluded proper oversight. "Too much authority was given to one person in terms of governance," he told reporters at Nissan's headquarters in Yokohama. "I have to say that this is a dark side of the Ghosn era which lasted for a long time."

The news of Ghosn's downfall emerged unexpectedly yesterday evening, with local media first reporting he was being questioned by prosecutors and that Nissan's headquarters was being raided. Shortly afterwards, Nissan said in a statement that it had been investigating Ghosn and Representative Director Greg Kelly for months after a whistleblower report. "These two gentlemen were arrested this evening, that's what I understand," Saikawa said at the press conference.



Carlos Ghosn

He said the company had uncovered years of financial misconduct including underreporting of income and inappropriate personal use of company assets. Saikawa gave few details about the nature of the improprieties, including refusing to confirm reports that Ghosn underreported his income by 5 billion yen, or around \$44 million, over five years from 2011. He said an ongoing investigation limited what details could be shared, and refused to be drawn on whether other people were involved, saying only: "These two gentlemen are the masterminds, that is definite."

News of Ghosn's arrest caused Renault shares to plummet more than 12 percent in Paris. The reports emerged after the trading day was over in Tokyo. And the apparent disintegration of Ghosn's career raised questions about the alliance of the three car companies, which the executive was often believed to be holding together personally.

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## Khan lashes out at Trump 'tirade', defends 'U-turns'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday lashed out at US President Donald Trump following his remarks that Pakistan doesn't "do a damn thing" for the United States despite billions of dollars in US aid for the South Asian nation. The friction threatens to further worsen already fragile relations between Islamabad and Washington, on-off allies who have repeatedly clashed about the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan's alleged support for Islamist militants.

Khan, who assumed power in August and is known for his fiery anti-American rhetoric, said in a series of tweets that "record needs to be put straight on Mr Trump's tirade against Pakistan" over the weekend. Trump, during a Fox News TV interview aired on Sunday, defended cutting aid to Islamabad and also suggested Pakistani authorities knew Osama bin Laden's location prior to his killing by US troops in a raid inside Pakistan in 2011.

Pakistan denies supporting Afghan Taliban insurgents waging war against US-backed troops in Afghanistan and Islamabad has also always rejected claims officials aided former Al-Qaeda leader bin Laden. "Instead of making Pakistan a scapegoat for their failures, the US should do a serious assessment of why, despite 140,000 NATO troops plus 250,000 Afghan troops & reportedly \$1 trillion spent on war in Afghanistan, the Taliban today are stronger than before," Khan tweeted.

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## Local

# First Deputy Premier thanks well-wishers after returning from treatment trip



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives well wishes during a reception held at the Army Officers Club on Sunday. — KUNA



Well-wishers gather at the Army Officers Club to greet First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah expressed sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his con-

stant follow-up during his medical treatment abroad. The First Deputy Premier also thanked His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-

Ali Al-Sabah. Sheikh Nasser in a speech during the reception held at the Army Officers Club on Sunday, expressed gratitude to the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-

Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Ministers, the Parliament Members and Kuwaiti people for their kind wishes during his medical treatment. Several senior state officials attended the reception. — KUNA

## Three MPs to grill oil minister over alleged violations

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Three lawmakers announced yesterday that they will file to grill Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi over alleged violations and for refusing to submit an investigation report to the assembly. MP Khalil Abul told reporters that he and MPs Faisal Al-Kandari and Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie have agreed to file to grill the minister but after the assembly debates the grilling of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on November 27 over rains mismanagement.



Bakheet Al-Rasheedi

Rasheedi was grilled in May over allegations of squandering public funds and MPs did not file a no-confidence motion against him but asked the government to form a committee to investigate the allegations. The government formed an independent committee which prepared a report confirming alleged violations against the minister and a number of senior oil executives.

The minister has refused to submit the report to the assembly saying it has been referred to a judicial committee but the assembly voted to ask the minister to distribute the report to MPs by Sunday. The minister did not. Abul said that they already have the approval of 10 lawmakers to file a no-confidence motion after the grilling debate.

MP Kandari confirmed that he will take part in the grilling, saying that the minister refused to distribute the report because it confirms financial allegations against the minister and some senior oil officials. MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain said he will support the grilling against the oil minister, describing it as "the grilling of billions." He also added that he will support the prime minister's grilling.

Meanwhile, the constitutional court yesterday accepted two lawsuits challenging an article in the national assembly's internal charter that the assembly used to keep the membership of two opposition lawmakers: Waleed Al-Tabtabai and Jamaan Al-Harbash despite receiving jail terms by the court of cassation. The court decided to start hearing the two cases, which claim that the article is not in line with the law, from next Sunday.

## Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation recognizes Zain

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, was recognized by the Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation during the 25th Waqf Forum held at Regency Hotel. The event was organized to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation, and was held under the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince's representative, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi, and Secretary-General of the Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation Mohammed Al-Jalahma recognized Zain represented by Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti for its role as one of the first Kuwaiti companies to dedicate a KD 1 million Waqf at the Kuwait

Awqaf Public Foundation since 1996 as endorsed by the Board of Directors, where all of the Waqf's annual proceeds are dedicated for various charity programs every year.

Zain expressed its pride in this recognition that further highlights the company's commitment to enrich the culture of giving and social contribution through launching humanitarian campaigns and supporting initiatives adopted by leading non-profit organizations inside and outside of Kuwait. Zain prides itself on the long track of records and contributions it has put in philanthropic areas over the years, being one of the leading companies in the private sector.

Zain spares no efforts to achieve its comprehensive Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility Strategy that closely focuses on supporting humanitarian initiatives. The company strongly believes that launching and supporting humanitarian initiatives help infuse a sense of responsibility into members of the society, and help support those who are in need of help.

The 25th Waqf Forum was held to highlight the most prominent achievements, charity initiatives, and relief projects adopted by the Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation across local and international



KUWAIT: Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi (right) and Secretary-General of the Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation Mohammed Al-Jalahma (left) recognize Zain represented by Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti.

levels and in collaboration with the various entities and organizations from the public and private sectors in Kuwait. The event also witnessed the recognition of these entities and organizations as success partners. Zain is proud of its long list

of programs and contributions that serve noble causes through strategically partnering with entities that adopt humanitarian work, including non-profit organizations, governmental institutions, and global entities.

## Kuwaiti official espouses interfaith dialogue

BERLIN: The chairman of the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq has called for more dialogue between people of different faiths to cope with the changes taking place around the world. The Kuwaiti official's remarks came amid a two-day international conference over interfaith dialogue, which kicked off in Berlin, Germany yesterday.

Maatouq, who also serves as an advisor at Kuwait's Amiri Diwan, emphasized that more dialogue among different faiths is needed to avoid all forms of religious wars. The Islamic faith has long extolled the merits of interfaith harmony, Maatouq added, saying that tolerance and acceptance are the most noble of virtues. He said that the talks represent an emphatic message condemning all political and religious practices that threaten global peace and security.



BERLIN: IICO Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq speaks during an international conference over interfaith dialogue in Berlin, Germany yesterday.

### Humanitarian endeavors

In other news, IICO Director General Bader Al-Sumait said that having contributed to a number of altruistic initiatives, Kuwait has established itself as a pioneer in the field of humanitarian action. He made



KUWAIT: Director General of the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) Bader Al-Sumait (center) attends a press conference to announce forthcoming talks over humanitarian endeavors. — KUNA photos

his remarks in a press conference to announce forthcoming talks over humanitarian endeavors. The endeavor deals with feeding around a billion of undernourished people across the globe, he revealed, citing the global hunger epidemic as a perennial concern.

The talks aim to raise awareness over the grave dangers of malnutrition, Khaled Al-Khulaifi, the head of the conference's media committee, explained, expecting

extensive media coverage for the event. Meanwhile, Dhari Al-Baijan, the head of a social media team covering the conference, said that 'new media' has emerged as an indispensable tool to promulgate ideas. He added that online viewers will get access to the festivities on social media, hinting that an unprecedented humanitarian initiative would soon take place in Kuwait, which is only fitting given its UN-bestowed moniker of humanitarian center. — KUNA

Local

# Kuwait presents \$50 million to Palestinian Authority's budget: Deputy Foreign Minister

Relations with Syria frozen' not severed: Jarallah



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub welcomes Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah.



Dignitaries attending the reception. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait, as part of its long-standing support for the Palestinian cause, presented \$50 million to Palestinian Authority's budget during President Mahmoud Abbas's recent visit, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said on Sunday. Jarallah confirmed that Kuwait continues to stand firm with the Palestinian cause and recently provided \$42 million to support UNRWA, and the recent visit of Abbas to Kuwait asserts the deep relations.

Speaking to reporters on sidelines of a reception held by the Palestinian Embassy to mark the 30th anniversary of Palestine's Declaration of Independence, Jarallah said that discussions between Abbas and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah resulted in very positive outcomes. Jarallah pointed to Kuwait's supportive role and efforts in the Security Council or through financial funding to the

Palestinian people.

In response to questions by the press, Jarallah said the discussions of Abbas with Kuwaiti officials were constructive. The Palestinian President honored many Kuwaiti officials on this visit with the presence of His Highness the Amir. Jarallah touched on the ongoing discussions between delegates from both countries in the Security Council to form a supportive position for Palestine on developments in Gaza ranging from massacres, crimes, and destruction by Israel. He also stressed that Kuwait would always provide political and financial support for the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Jarallah said that Kuwait's relations with Damascus are frozen and not severed. Kuwait has not made specific requests relating to re-opening its embassy in Damascus, but some Arab countries have started re-opening their embassies in Syria,



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub delivers a speech during the event.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah (right) joins Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub (center) and the ambassador's wife Rima Al-Khaldi in cutting the cake during a reception to mark the 30th anniversary of Palestine's Declaration of Independence.

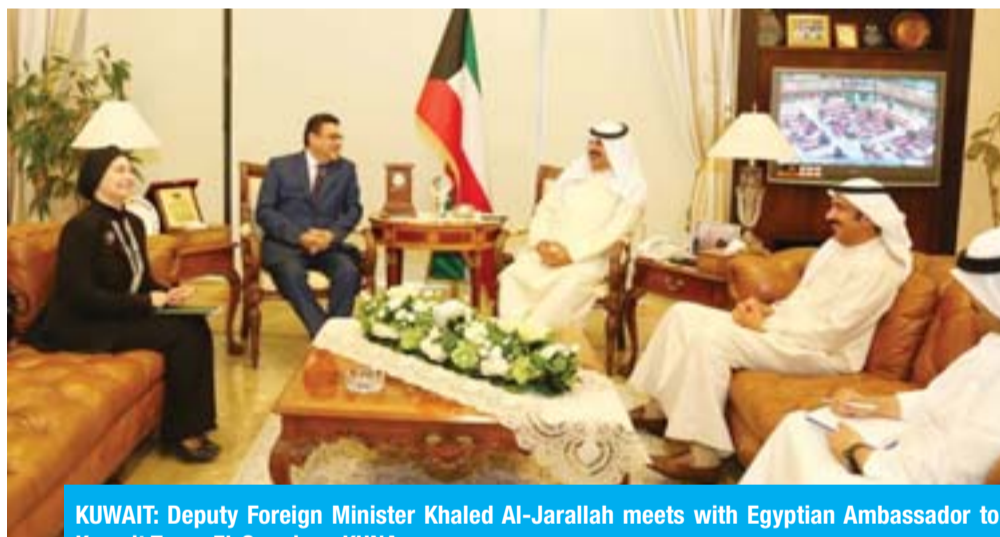
said Jarallah. He added that the Syrian embassy is still open in Kuwait, while the Kuwaiti embassy in Damascus is not, but there are daily flights between Kuwait and Damascus. —KUNA

## Egyptian envoy says ties with Kuwait to remain unaffected

**KUWAIT:** Egypt's Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq El-Qouni said yesterday that 'individual agendas' would never succeed in denting ties with Kuwait, after a recent smear campaign targeting a Kuwaiti lawmaker. Kuwait and Egypt have long shared a strong and tightly-knit relationship, Qouni said in a statement. He appreciated the 'positive' comments made by Kuwait's top lawmaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and his Egyptian counterpart Ali Abdel Aal as they sought to allay concerns that the uproar will have no bearing on bilateral ties.

The Egyptian diplomat went on to cite his meeting with Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah yesterday ahead of ministerial level talks next month. On the next round of talks, he revealed that a number of deals are expected to be sealed in a testament to the camaraderie the two nations enjoy. Jarallah also received yesterday Bhutanese Ambassador to Kuwait Tshering Gyaltsen Penjor, discussing cooperative relations and latest developments regionally and internationally. Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar attended the meeting.

Jarallah also hosted visiting US Congress members, discussing bilateral strategic partnership and the current regional and international developments. During the encounter, the US congress members touted the significant and great role played by the State of Kuwait through its balanced foreign policy that backs regional security and stability. The US delegation also underlined the significance of strategic partner-



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq El-Qouni. — KUNA



**Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Bhutanese Ambassador to Kuwait Tshering Gyaltsen Penjor.**

ship between both friendly countries. Ambassador Omar, Assistant for Minister for Americas Minister Plenipotentiary Reem Al-Lawrence R Silverman were present at the encounter. — KUNA

## Assistant FM praises historic ties between Kuwait, France



**KUWAIT:** Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister office Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah speaks during a ceremony for Kuwaiti graduates from France, held by the French Embassy. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister office Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah praised the historic and long-standing ties between Kuwait and France. Sheikh Ahmad said in a press statement on the sidelines of a ceremony for Kuwaiti graduates from France, which was held by the French Embassy in Kuwait on Sunday, that

the educational aspect between the two countries is historic and extends to more than four decades. French Ambassador to Kuwait, Marie Masdupuy, said the ceremony is the first network of communication between the Kuwaitis who studied in France, adding to the students attending the ceremony. "I hope you are proud of yourselves because we are proud of you," she said. — KUNA

## Kuwaiti ambassador hands in credentials to Czech president

**VIENNA:** The newly-appointed Kuwaiti Ambassador Rashed Al-Hajri handed in his credential to President of the Czech Republic Milos Zeman during an official ceremony, the embassy said in a statement yesterday. Ambassador Hajri conveyed the greetings from Kuwaiti leadership to President Zeman, the embassy added. Ambassador Hajri lauded the strength of Kuwaiti-Czech relations, vowing to further bolster ties during his tenure. Meanwhile, President Zeman asked Ambassador Hajri to convey his greetings to the leadership and people of Kuwait, wishing the Kuwaiti diplomat the best of luck in carrying out his duties. — KUNA



The newly-appointed Kuwaiti Ambassador Rashed Al-Hajri meets with President of the Czech Republic Milos Zeman.



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with visiting US Congress members.

## Local

# Support during crises embellishes Kuwaiti-Japanese trade-boosted ties

## Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan jumps 48.9 percent

**KUWAIT:** The strength of Kuwaiti-Japanese relations is illustrated in the position each has taken towards the other during times of strife and is characterized by excellent trade figures. This was evident as Tokyo supported Kuwait after the Gulf country suffered from an occupation orchestrated by its neighbor Iraq in 1990, and Kuwait was quick to dispatch aid to a Japan, severely affected by a tsunami-afflicted nuclear disaster in 2011. Tokyo stood by international efforts to condemn the invasion, demanding sovereignty be restored to Kuwait and handing over assistance worth over \$13 billion towards the goal, which culminated in a global allied military intervention. Amongst these efforts were economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad in spite of Tokyo's dependency on Iraqi oil, which led to 11.5 percent losses for Japanese companies.

Meanwhile, Kuwait donated five million barrels of oil to Japan (worth \$500 million at the time) amid rebuilding efforts as the latter struggled to contain the explosion of the eastern Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor due to a tsunami and earthquake. The donation was followed by a \$3 million donation to Aquamarine Fukushima, a scientific museum also hit by the 2011 tsunami, and another \$2 million in personal donations made by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Japanese Red Crescent.

### Fifth largest exporter

On trade, Japan is Kuwait's fifth largest exporter, occupying around 6 percent, according to figures recorded in August this year. These exports were worth KD 46.4 million (\$148.5 million). In the opposite direction, in the period between January and August, Kuwait exported KD 418.5 million (\$1.38 billion) to Tokyo, making it the fifth largest recipient of Kuwaiti exports. The

exports, predominantly of oil and bi-products make Kuwait the fourth largest oil provider to Japan. In September, for instance, some 6.9 million barrels of crude made it across the ocean, consisting 230,000 barrels-a-day, with Kuwaiti oil providing 7.9 percent of Tokyo's imports of the energy commodity - making it Japan's fourth largest supplier. These numbers are significant as the Japanese-Kuwaiti Businessmen's Committee meets for the 22nd time in Tokyo.

Attending these discussions will be representatives



## Japan is Kuwait's fifth largest exporter

from the Kuwait Central Bank, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) alongside a number of Kuwaiti businesses. Kuwait's Public Housing Authority, Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Kuwait's Silk City and Boubyan Island projects development body, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Kuwait's Stock Exchange, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and banking sector will also

form part of the discussions. Kuwait intends to conduct a briefing to attendees on its New Kuwait 2035 development plan, including lucrative opportunities for direct investment, and the latest key public-private joint venture projects. It will also contain ongoing and potential oil and power projects, recently-completed smart cities, plans to develop the Kuwaiti islands and the proposed 'Silk City' free trade zone and the country's efforts in backing local SMEs.

Since its establishment in 1995, the committee has made several accomplishments, namely completing a comprehensive review of environment protection policies in Kuwait in 2004 and assisting the application of Kids ISO 14000, a Japanese educational environment program, across schools in Kuwait. It has also helped alleviate bureaucratic obstacles for Japanese firms intending to do business in Kuwait. Its objectives are to encourage and promote the launch of feasible joint projects and ventures between both countries. Economic ties began before diplomatic representation, when the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah handed the Tokyo-based Arabian Oil Company Ltd oil and gas concessions in Kuwait's share in the neutral zone in 1958 - which ended in 2001.

Political relations followed soon after, with Japan being one of the first countries to have recognized Kuwaiti independence in 1961. Kuwait dispatched its first ambassador to Tokyo in 1962, with Japan, in turn, opening its own embassy in Kuwait two years later after it had already established a trade office in Kuwait City in 1961. This cooperation continued, as the state-owned Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, which came to replace the role of Arabian Oil Co in 2002, gained expertise and training from its Japanese predecessor as part of a deal, which handed the Tokyo firm part of the Kuwaiti earnings.

### Trade surplus

Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan jumped 48.9 percent from a year earlier to JPY 47.8 billion (\$424 million) in October, up for the first time in two months buoyed by strong exports, the Japanese Finance Ministry said yesterday. Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan soared 43.9 percent year-on-year to JPY 65.7 billion (\$583 million) for the fifth consecutive month of rise, the ministry said in a preliminary report. Imports from Japan also grew 32.1 percent to JPY 17.9 billion (\$159 million), also expanding for the fifth month. As exports increased by a wider margin than imports, Kuwait maintained monthly black ink with Japan for 10 years and nine months.

Middle East's trade surplus with Japan surged 43.8 percent to JPY 697.7 billion (\$6.2 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region increasing 33.7 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 95.2 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, rose 33.1 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan expanded 9.3 percent, chiefly due to robust demand for cars and machinery. Japan's global trade balance returned to deficit in October, as higher energy cost pushed up import bills.

The world's third-biggest economy posted the first trade red ink in two months at JPY 449.3 billion (\$4.0 billion) last month. Overall exports gained 8.2 percent from the year before, thanks to strong shipment of automobiles and electronic components. But imports jumped 19.9 percent, with value of crude oil inflating 33.7 percent. China remained Japan's biggest trade partner, followed by the US. The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors. — KUNA

## ABK announces discounts at Royale Hayat Hospital

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is celebrating World Diabetes Day this month by teaming up with Royale Hayat Hospital to offer customers a range of discounts on diabetes related treatments and products till December 31, 2018.

ABK customers will be able to get up to 30 percent off treatments at Royale Hayat Hospital when they pay with an ABK debit or credit card. They will also be able to buy the Royale Hayat Hospital's diabetes mini package, which includes fasting blood sugar, HbA1C and micro-albumin for only KD 22, or the diabetes full package which contains fasting blood sugar, HbA1C, micro-albumin, complete blood count, lipid profile and renal profile for only KD 60.

The World Health Organization's World Diabetes Day is marked on November 14 every year and ABK is keen to use the opportunity to raise the profile of diabetes and the range of effective treatments which are available. Diabetes has become a major issue in Kuwait, with an estimated 15 percent of adults now suffering from its debilitating effects. If not treated effectively, Diabetes can lead to a heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure and lower limb amputation. ABK is committed to the wellbeing of the Kuwait community and its support for World Diabetes Day is part of its ongoing program to promote a better lifestyle.

## Kuwait, China seek to link vision with initiative

**SHANGHAI:** The relationship between Kuwait and China has seen a swift development during the past few years as the two countries share a mutual interest to attain a strategic economic partnership that links the 'New Kuwait 2030' vision with the 'Belt and Road' initiative through an integrated system of bilateral economic cooperation. The essence of 'Belt and Road' initiative comes in line with 'New Kuwait 2030' vision as Beijing and Kuwait seek to revive the historic Silk Road and establish a vital commercial zone to serve various world countries and contribute in the prosperity of global economy.

Kuwait's participation in the Silk Road project, by itself, reflects its strategic vision to transform into a regional and international commercial hub and restore its pioneering commercial and economic role in the region. Furthermore, Kuwait is the first Gulf country to sign a memorandum of understanding on the "Belt and Road" initiative with China, seeking to revive the Silk Road to change the shape and dynamics of international relations.

China has become Kuwait's number one commercial partner since the past two years, as well as second-largest buyer of Kuwaiti crude oil and its derivatives, confirming, by that, its distinctive economic relationship with the GCC-member state as the volume of trade between them has reached nearly \$12 billion in 2017. Currently, there are more than 40 Chinese companies in Kuwait with capitals estimated at \$20 billion. Reciprocally, Kuwait is the first Arab state to invest in the China Investment Corporation since 2005, with total investments that recently reached nearly \$10 billion. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to China in July 2018, has also expanded the Kuwaiti-Chinese



The Silk City.

ties to wider prospects and embodied the two countries' desire to boost their strategic partnership.

His Highness the Amir was invited as a guest of honor to inaugurate the 8th Ministerial Sino-Arab States Economic Forum, becoming the first Arab leader to share the opening speech with Chinese President Xi Jinping since the launch of the forum. During the forum, His Highness the Amir reiterated that there were talks with Chinese friends on gigantic future projects that reflect a real partnership with Beijing, referring to practical steps in this regard like the Silk City project and Kuwait Islands, voicing absolute con-

fidence in the Chinese leadership's directions and credibility. He also underlined the utmost importance of cooperation between the two sides in the energy sector through carrying out mega investment ventures in oil and natural gas, and tapping the Chinese expertise in the peaceful use of nuclear and renewable energy. Moreover, His Highness the Amir also elaborated that China is ranked the second importer of Kuwait's oil and its derivatives, adding that Kuwait's non-oil exports to Beijing reach \$480 million, while China's exports to Kuwait hit \$5.1 billion, pointing to Kuwaiti huge investments in China. — KUNA

## Cultural Centre welcomed GCC Deputy Ministers

**KUWAIT:** The Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre (SASCC) recently welcomed on site Deputy Ministers of Municipal Affairs from different GCC countries, as part of an introductory visit to Kuwait's newest and most prominent cultural landmark.

The Centre's management and its team were delighted to host Engineer Ahmad Al Manfoohi, General Director of Kuwait Municipality, along with other dignitaries from Kuwait, and the Deputy Ministers of Municipal Affairs from the UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar who toured the Natural History Museum, which is divided into the Ecosystem Museum and Our Earth Museum. Boasting a total of 22 galleries with over 1,100 exhibited objects, The Centre has indeed carved out a pioneering place for itself on the international cultural scene.

The group of esteemed deputy ministers explored in more depth the Natural History Museum, home to amazing reptiles and mammals that inhabited our planet around 65 million years ago, and other huge creatures that populated Kuwait's prehistoric seas. They were also introduced to the worlds of geology and geography; the role that Kuwait's climate and industrial sector play in the world; and the environmentally-friendly steps to maintain a greener planet.

To celebrate this inaugural visit, Kuwait Municipal Affairs and the Centre organized a lavish dinner for its guests, coupled with a performance of traditional Kuwaiti folklore by renowned local artists, at the Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre's Theatre.

Hailed as one of Kuwait's biggest achievements, the Centre is a distinguished initiative by the Diwan Amiri, whose unique features and exhibits have earned it the title 'Public Building of the Year' at the prestigious ABB LEAF Awards in 2017.

The Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre vision was developed by the Office of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the development of critical, creative, and interpretive thinking skills through its world-class exhibitions and bespoke public educational programs for the people of Kuwait.



Local

# Kuwait a leader in kidney transplants with 80-100 operations annually

KTS thanks doctors, donors, believers in organ donation



KUWAIT: Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Medical Services Affairs Fatema Al-Najjar speaks during the reception. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Dr Mustafa Al-Musawi, Chairman of Kuwait Transplant Society, addresses the audience.



A general view of people in attendance.

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Kuwait Transplant Society (KTS) hosted a dinner reception to honor and thank donors and people supporting KTS causes. KTS believes that by donating organs, people can save more lives. "Kuwait is a leader in kidney transplants in GCC countries with 80 to 100 operations taking place annually. The first kidney transplant in Kuwait took place in February 1979," said the Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Medical Services Affairs Fatema Al-Najjar, who was speaking at the event on behalf of Health Minister Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah.

Around 400 people suffer kidney failure every year due to diabetes and blood pressure, and half of them become eligible for kidney transplants, Najjar said. "Despite accessibility to medical facilities in Kuwait, the number of kidney donors is low, which remains a major

obstacle not only in Kuwait, but most countries of the world, especially in the Middle East and Asia. Patients are sometimes forced to wait for long periods of time or even travel abroad to buy kidneys and undergo transplants in unlicensed commercial centers that lack the necessary facilities to perform such delicate operations, which have resulted in complications for the patients," she noted.

Najjar stressed the importance of donating in order to solve such problems and reach an adequate number of organ donations. Kuwait's need for donors is increasing, she said, pointing to the start of a liver transplant program earlier this year, where several

transplants were conducted with remarkable success.

**Saving lives**

Dr Mustafa Al-Musawi, Chairman of Kuwait Transplant Society, said a deceased donor can save at least eight lives if the family decides to donate the organs. "People are aware now, but we must continue to educate people on the importance of organ donations. The most donated organs in Kuwait are kidneys and pancreas," Musawi said.

The Organ Transplant Center of Kuwait Transplant Society calls upon individuals to agree to donate their organ tissues after death.

KTS distributes consent cards bearing the message: In order to save lives and help patients, being of sound mind and without coercion, I hereby agree to donate my organs and tissues after death. Donators have to fill the card with their full name, signature, date and at least one witness with their signature. The donor will also have to provide their father's and family names, gender, date of birth, address, civil ID number, email address, contact details and home and work telephone numbers.

Kuwait Transplant Society was founded in 1984 in accordance with its statute: Educate citizens about the importance of organ transplants for patients who need them, provide patients health and social care, encourage research and scientific studies that aim to improve and develop methods of organ transplants, and the allocation of the necessary reward for the best research in this area. They also organize conferences and seminars for organ transplants and participate in local and international events.



**400 people suffer kidney failure every year**

## AAW joins 2019 Horeca as golden sponsor

KUWAIT: As a golden sponsor, Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa Commercial Company (AAW) announced joining other participants and sponsors taking part in the 2019 Horeca Kuwait exhibition, which is due to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref in the period of January 14-16, 2019.

In this regard, AAW's CEO Ali Faisal Al-Mutawa said that Horeca plays a major role in helping regional companies communicate with clients, adding that it opens new channels for hospitality and food industries' businesses. "Taking part in exhibitions helps encourage development projects and youth to start their own businesses in order to eventually diversify national income sources," he explained.

Further, Mutawa added that AAW has over a century of experience and excellence as a leading retail and distribution company. He added that it invests in seven various retail sectors and repre-

sents over 100 international brands it introduces to local markets.

Mutawa also noted that AAW runs the largest and most complex distribution operations in Kuwait with a storage capacity of over 250,000 square meters to deliver over 200 products to consumers on a daily basis. "We take pride in being present in every single supermarket and every single Kuwaiti home," he added. "We represent some of the world's most important and successful retail brands, and we are even the sole distributor of Procter and Gamble products and Roche Pharmaceuticals since 1965." He also noted that through this year's golden sponsorship, AAW would display the latest in coffee-making devices as well as cafe equipments at Horeca exhibition.

Moreover, Mutawa said that AAW has a legacy of almost 100 years as it was established in 1918 by Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa, starting with practicing modest commercial activities and importing consumer products such as rice, sugar, tea and fabrics from neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran.



Ali Al-Mutawa

## 'Flying gravel' only on old streets: Ministry

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Informed sources at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) said the new asphalt gravel mix has not been used yet, so it cannot be considered a failure. The sources were commenting on accusations that bad-quality material used in road maintenance projects caused damages to streets following the recent heavy rains. MPW sources said the problem of 'flying gravel' - a term commonly used to refer to small pieces of stone that damage vehicles in damaged streets - happen only on old streets that were not maintained for years. It said the ministry is keen on removing debris from the streets in coordination with Kuwait Municipality and other concerned departments and clean the streets of loose gravel to protect people and their property. Kuwait Municipality's cleaning department is carrying out cleaning operations to remove the loose gravel. Meanwhile, Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) is still pumping water out of Doha Spur and Seventh Ring Road in order to open both roads to traffic.

**Sudanese nationals**

The interior ministry banned the issuance of visas to Sudanese nationals born outside Sudan as a security precaution. An informed source said the circular that was distributed



KUWAIT: This archive photo shows a damaged sidewalk pictured following the recent rainstorms. — KUNA

to residency affairs departments in governorates is very clear - banning application of visas for Sudanese workers born outside Sudan, adding that this does not apply to those born in Sudan. The sources said security authorities are taking precautions because many non-Sudanese obtained Sudanese nationality recently and Kuwait should be cautious of their security situation before allowing them in the country.

**Pharmacist profession**

National Assembly's health committee rapporteur MP Osama Al-Shaheen said 'Kuwaitization' of the pharmacist profession is a priority that has been long overdue, but is being delayed by an act of someone, although it guarantees 825 jobs in the government and thousands in private hospitals. Shaheen received an answer from Health Minister Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah stating that there are 647 Kuwaiti and 825 expat pharmacists in the ministry. Meanwhile the number of Kuwaiti administrators is 11,895 and non-Kuwaitis 599.

## Man dead in Zour 270 Road accident

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: An Arab man died when his vehicle hit a lamppost on Zour 270 Road yesterday. Zour firemen freed the victim's body from his wrecked vehicle and handed it to forensics. An investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the accident.

**Licenses forgery**

The appeals criminal court freed 30 Syrian men on KD 100 bail each in a case in which they are accused of forging driving licenses after. The court's decision came after lawyer Hussein Al-Asfour submitted a request to suspend the punishment.

**Car thefts**

Repeated thefts have upset those affected and complaints have been lodged at police stations, saying almost every day a car is stolen, Al-Rai reported yesterday. A security source said one victim obtained security camera tapes from stores near where he had parked his car, and discovered the thief was a customer of a cafe he frequents. The case was sent to detectives to seek information about the suspect, who will be arrested and questioned about the video that shows him stealing the contents of the car. Detectives will also check his connection with repeated thefts in Industrial Jahra.

# NEW DELHI

From KD 41

Starting December 15th Jazeera Airways will fly to India's capital city, New Delhi.

Flying 4 times a week, flights will operate Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, leaving Kuwait at 00:50 arriving in Delhi at 07:00. Return flights depart Delhi at 08:00 arriving back in Kuwait at 10:10.

Included in the fare is 30kg baggage allowance in Economy and 50kg in Business Class.

Book now at [jazeeraairways.com](http://jazeeraairways.com), via the Jazeera app, through travel agents or call 177.



Dozens arrested near flashpoint Indian temple

## Indonesia's mosques spreading radicalism to government workers



CARACAS: Employees of Venezuelan app 'Pana' (Buddy) arrive to help a person whose car broke down in Caracas. As if being faced by constant lack of nutritious food and medicines were not enough for crisis-weary Venezuelans, they have to deal with a common fear - their country's shocking descent into everyday violence. — AFP photos

# Murder rate on the rise in Venezuela

## How do crisis-weary Venezuelans survive?

CARACAS: As if coping with constant food and medicine shortages were not enough for crisis-weary Venezuelans, many live in constant fear in a country where three people die violently every hour. The South American nation registered 26,000 homicides last year, 89 per 100,000 inhabitants and a figure 15 times the global average, according to the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence, a non-governmental group. How do ordinary Venezuelans try to survive in one of the world's most dangerous countries? "Venezuelans take precautions every day to try to protect themselves. But adapting to insecurity means they are losing their freedom," the group's director Roberto Briceno told AFP.

exposed to it. They rob you in the street, on the beach, in the market, at the hospital... it's terrible to live like this." Like her, almost everyone in Venezuela uses an older cellphone in public, keeping their smartphone out of sight.

after her car broke down. "We provide a service that's fast, reliable and simple-not everyone can have security escorts or bullet-proof their car," said Pana's chief, Domingo Coronil.

### Calling a 'friend'

The murder of former Miss Venezuela Monica Spear and her husband-shot dead by two youths in a roadside robbery in 2014

### Security upgrades

In a Caracas shopping center, Blindacars Express manager Julio Cesar Perez delivers two black vans with newly reinforced laminated glass for a client. "Delinquents don't discriminate between social class. We have low, medium and high-end vehicles coming in to us" for security upgrades, said Perez.

The owner of the vehicles said he uses one for his wife and children, and the other for his business trips outside Caracas. Thugs often target vehicles with stones, sticks or bottles to force drivers to stop, intent on robbery or even kidnap. "Horrible things happen. Insecurity is much worse than it used to be," said the businessman, who did not want to be identified for security reasons. "It used to be that only diplomats would bulletproof their cars, but in Venezuela ordinary citizens suffer the same problems now." In the streets of Venezuela it's rare to see a car without tinted, reinforced glass.

### Virtual curfew

Sundown brings challenges for the citizens of Caracas. Once filled with light and bustle, economic crisis and accompanying crime means the capital now switches off at

### Airport vigils

Eglis Torres, a 60-year old builder, recently spent the night on a bench at Caracas airport, when he was heading to

work in Costa Rica. He arrived at the airport at 5:00 pm for a flight departing 7:00 am the next morning. His wife waited with him until his plane took off before heading back home, by bus. "My car is old and it would be taking a risk to break down on such a dangerous road. The best thing to do is to wait at the airport and be with someone because they steal your suitcases," Torres said. "It's a night without sleep but you don't miss the plane and you don't lose your life." Most foreign airlines prohibit their crews from staying overnight in Venezuela. — AFP



**26,000 homicides in 2017, a rate of 89 per 100,000**

### Your cellphone or your life

Teacher Yamileth Marcano's younger brother Willis was stabbed to death for his smartphone as he left work. "Was that what his life was worth, a mobile phone? Every time I hear of another home in mourning, the bad memories come back," she said. Marcano, 46, lives in a house with barred windows and doors in eastern Caracas. Her son emigrated to Italy. The tipping point came when two youths on a motorbike put a gun to his head and told him to hand over his cellphone as he drove through Caracas. "I was screaming like crazy: 'give it to him!'" Marcano, who was in the car, said. "I was thinking of my brother." "Young and old are being killed. Everyone's

after their car broke down-is etched in the nation's collective memory. Since then, an application called "Pana"-a slang word for friend-was created to help ensure people could feel more secure on the road. Recently, bikers with high-visibility vests, dark glasses and radios sped to the rescue of a young medical student in distress on the highway. It took eight minutes for the rescue squad to reach Carmen Garcia after she had activated the "Pana" panic button on her mobile phone



CARACAS: A woman uses Venezuelan app 'Pana' (Buddy) in Caracas.

## Victims mourned; California wildfire death toll hits 77

PARADISE: The toll from the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California's history rose further on Sunday to 77, the sheriff's office said, after a vigil to honor the victims. "One human remain was located today," raising the toll by one in the so-called Camp Fire which broke out 10 days earlier in northern California, a statement from the Butte County Sheriff said, following US President Donald Trump's visit on Saturday to survey the devastation.

On Sunday, mourners gathered at First Christian Church in Chico, near the incinerated community of Paradise, to hold a tearful vigil for the fire's victims. "We will rise from the ashes," said a sign on the altar of the church, where survivors embraced, and one woman carried a picture of her father who died. "Of the 77 fatalities, we have tentatively identified 67 individuals," the sheriff's office said. The number of people unaccounted for has fallen to 993, from a peak that exceeded 1,200, the statement added.

Another three people died in a second major blaze that struck the more well-off Malibu area adjacent to Hollywood, where the film industry paid tribute to the fire victims on Sunday night at its annual honorary Oscars event. "Many thousands of our fellow Americans are homeless," the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, John Bailey, said in his opening address to the annual Governors Awards ceremony. Fire also hit Paramount Ranch, which hosts a screening of silent films. "Some of our own history was lost," Bailey said.

Further north, more than 10,000 homes have been destroyed in the Camp Fire blaze which has devoured an area roughly the

size of Chicago, and essentially wiped Paradise off the map. Thousands fled and many found temporary refuge at churches or in tents. The National Weather Service said low humidity and gusty winds would continue across portions of California through Monday but the pattern could change. The forecast for the Paradise area called for rain by Tuesday night, becoming heavy on Wednesday - a day before the major annual American celebration of Thanksgiving.

### Disappointment

During his visit Trump trod through ash, flanked by skeletal trees and twisted cars, seemingly shocked by the intensity of what he witnessed. He met firefighters, local leaders and the state's Democratic Governor Jerry Brown, but some victims expressed disappointment that he did not talk to them. "I heard he was in town, heard he left, but he's... I'm sorry, he's not going to get my vote next time," Cliff Trophies, a market gardener wearing a thick white moustache and a baseball cap, said in Chico. Reviving an earlier controversy, Trump repeated his claim that California had mismanaged its forests and was largely to blame for the fires. "I'm committed to make sure that we get all of this cleaned out and protected, (we've) got to take care of the forest, it's very important," Trump said in Paradise. Days earlier Trump had threatened to cut federal funding to California over its alleged "gross mismanagement" of forests.

Brian Rice, president of California Professional Firefighters, called Trump's earlier remarks "ill-informed", noting the federal government had cut spending on forest management. The president also inspected the damage from the Malibu-area fire. California, the largest and wealthiest US state, is regularly plagued by wildfires, but the Camp Fire has been unprecedented. After burning 150,000 acres (61,000 hectares) the Camp Fire is now 65 percent contained and will not be fully under control until month's end, said the California fire service, which has deployed more than 5,000 personnel and 28 helicopters in the battle. — AFP

## Germany bars 18 Saudis over Khashoggi case

BRUSSELS: Germany will bar 18 Saudis from entering its territory and Europe's Schengen passport-free zone over their alleged links to the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said yesterday. Maas said the move was "coordinated very closely with" states France and Britain and the broader EU as they seek more information in Khashoggi's death last month in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Berlin has "decided that Germany should impose an entry ban on 18 Saudi citizens, who are presumed to be in connection with this deed, in the Schengen information system," Maas told reporters.

"We are in close coordination on this issue within the European Union," he said, speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of EU ministers in Brussels. "Over the weekend, we stated that we expected further steps to be taken to clarify the situation. We will follow on this closely and reserve further steps for ourselves." The Schengen zone-which is composed of 22 EU nations and four non-EU countries. EU member Britain is not part of the passport-free

Schengen zone, but shares intelligence through Schengen Information System (SIS) for law enforcement purposes.

Germany called last month for EU countries to follow its lead and suspend arms sales for the moment to Saudi Arabia, prompting a dismissive response from French President Emmanuel Macron. France is the kingdom's second biggest customer after India. Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who was critical of Saudi crown prince Mohamed bin Salman, was killed after going to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to retrieve documents necessary to marry his Turkish fiancée. According to Turkish officials, an audio recording proves that Khashoggi was deliberately killed and dismembered soon after entering the consulate.

Saudi Arabia has offered shifting accounts of what happened, initially saying Khashoggi left the embassy after receiving his documents and later that he was killed when an argument degenerated into a fistfight. In the latest version, the Saudi prosecutor said a 15-member team went to Istanbul to bring Khashoggi back to the kingdom but killed him instead in a rogue operation. The prosecutor exonerated the crown prince, after indicting 11 Saudis and sacking five officials, including two members of Prince Mohammed's inner circle. The United States, traditionally Riyadh's closest ally, has sanctioned 17 Saudis for the crime. — AFP

International

# At APEC, China, others woo Pacific with a boulevard, Bible, barbecue

## Pacific leaders want development, not trade war

**PORT MORESBY:** After world leaders jettied out of Papua New Guinea following the acrimonious end to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, Pacific nation leaders gathered at Australia's High Commission for kangaroo sausages and cold beer. The final function on Sunday in the capital Port Moresby followed a whirlwind of diplomacy for the leaders of the sparsely populated but strategically important Pacific. While they have been feted by both East and West in the build up to APEC, key issues affecting them - climate change and development - were largely sidelined at the summit by a war of words between the super-powers on trade policy.

With both giants unyielding, APEC leaders failed to agree on a communique for the first time in the forum's history. "Let them fight it out...those are the issues that concern them," Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi told Reuters in an interview in Port Moresby. "They absolutely have no importance to us. All we are interested in is to build a small road, a small hospital, a small school building and all these things about trade issues are well beyond our comprehension."



**Pence aggressive, China persuasive**

President Mike Pence on Saturday, who said countries should not accept debt that compromised their sovereignty - a reference to China's Belt and Road project.

Such divisive comments did not necessarily go down well. "I was just pleased with the message from the Chinese president. I thought his views better represented how we feel," Papua New Guinean Treasurer Charles Abel told Reuters. He said he particularly appreciated Xi's remarks that developing countries are owed equal treatment as traders by developed countries. Abel, who is also deputy prime minister, added he felt Pence came across as a little too aggressive. "We're not interested in taking sides, we're just happy to work with all our good partners and we really appreciate the assistance that's coming," he said.

In Port Moresby, China had just added the finishing touches to a showpiece six-lane boulevard running between a main road in Port Moresby and parliament house. Xi also pitched the Belt and Road initiative to eight Pacific leaders in a meeting on Friday. Tonga signed up and earned a reprieve from debt repayments to Beijing. For his part, Pence said the United States would join Australia and PNG in building a port on Manus Island. The United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand also announced an ambitious \$1.7 billion plan to expand PNG's electricity grid and internet coverage.

**Snags**

The major economies also put on a show of soft power. Pence showed nine Pacific leaders a 400-year-old Bible that is in PNG's parliament after he helped secure its donation by a missionary. And on Sunday evening as sweltering heat gave way to a sea breeze,



**PORT MORESBY:** Vendors sell vegetables at a women's only makeshift market on the outskirts of Port Moresby yesterday - one day after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. —AFP

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison turned the sausages on the barbecue as he touted university scholarships and deeper ties with Australia. Neither Pence nor Morrison, though, matched China's rhetoric on climate change, a major security issue for Pacific islands where rising sea levels are forcing people to move to live on higher ground.

Climate change featured in Xi's bilateral meetings with Pacific countries, which are concerned by

Washington's withdrawal from the Paris climate accord and Australia's soft pedaling on the issue. "I have been to China and I have seen also the huge tree replanting and I've seen also the axing of major industries that are producing huge greenhouse gas into the air," said Samoa's Tuilaepa. "We expect all the countries to honour their commitments, signed together and if we are not able to contain the warming of the globe...the polar ice melts. You know what will happen." —Reuters

## Israel avoids snap polls for now; key minister remains

**JERUSALEM:** A key Israeli minister said yesterday he will not quit Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition for now despite sharp disagreements, potentially ending a crisis that has threatened to topple the government and provoke snap polls. The announcement by Education Minister Naftali Bennett was a dramatic climb-down from his Jewish Home party's earlier threat to leave Netanyahu's coalition if he was not named defense minister. Netanyahu has refused to give the post to Bennett, one of his main political rivals, despite the coalition crisis. Bennett, whose far-right party holds eight seats in parliament, said he would give Netanyahu time to correct course on a range of issues.

"If the prime minister is serious in his intentions, and I want to believe his words from last night, I am saying here to the prime minister we are removing at this moment all of our political demands and will help you in the huge mission of making Israel win again," Bennett said in a statement to journalists broadcast live on television. He acknowledged the backlash he may face for backing down from the earlier ultimatum. "I know I'll pay a political price-not the end of the world, you win some,

you lose some," Bennett said. "It's better that the prime minister beats me in a political battle than (Hamas leader Ismail) Haniya beats Israel."

Bennett's comments followed an impassioned address to the nation on Sunday night by Netanyahu. In the address, Netanyahu said he would retain the defense portfolio for now and seek to convince coalition partners to remain in the government. He said calling early elections now would be "irresponsible" due to what he described as a complicated security situation facing the country. Netanyahu also defended his security credentials in his statement, seeking to hit back at criticism of last week's controversial ceasefire that ended the worst escalation between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza since a 2014 war.

**'Back to winning'**

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman's resignation last week over the ceasefire threw the government into crisis. After Lieberman's withdrawal along with his Yisrael Beiteinu party, Netanyahu's government was left clinging to a one-seat majority in the 120-seat parliament. Key coalition partners had said that was unworkable even though elections are not due until November 2019.

Bennett hit back at Netanyahu's argument that Israel was in an especially complicated security situation, saying the country has always faced threats and managed to overcome them. At the same time, he accused



**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center) listens to an advisor as he attends the foreign affairs and defense committee meeting at the Knesset yesterday. —AFP

Netanyahu of leading a defeatist defense policy. "What's most dangerous to Israel is that we've begun thinking there's no solution to terror-to terrorists, to rockets, that there's nothing to do," Bennett said. "When Israel wants to win, we'll go back to winning." Netanyahu has defended the ceasefire and his backers say he and his security chiefs are on the same page when it comes to Gaza.

Many analysts question the wisdom of starting a war in the Gaza Strip without a strategy for how it will end. But Lieberman labeled the ceasefire

"capitulating to terror" when he resigned on Wednesday and Bennett says he disagreed with it as well. Israeli residents of southern communities hit by barrages of rockets from Gaza last week have also protested, calling for tough action against Hamas, with which Israel has fought three wars since 2008. A poll published after the ceasefire found 74 percent of respondents were unhappy with Netanyahu's handling of the escalation with Gaza and its Islamist rulers Hamas, though it also showed his party would still easily win the most seats. —AFP

## Top Yemen rebel calls for halt to military ops

**SANAA:** A high-ranking Yemeni rebel official urged his leadership yesterday to freeze military operations and stop firing missiles into Saudi Arabia as the UN prepares for peace talks. Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, head of the Houthi insurgents' Higher Revolutionary Committee and an influential political figure, tweeted that he also wants his group to announce "readiness to suspend and halt all military operations". He called on "all (Houthi) official Yemeni sides to issue directives to end launching missiles and drones against aggression countries... in order to deprive them from any reason to continue their aggression and siege."

The rebels should be ready "to freeze and stop all military operations on all fronts" to achieve "a just and honorable peace," he added. His comments came as UN special envoy Martin Griffiths is expected to visit the Yemeni capital of Sanaa this week to finalize arrangements for peace talks in Sweden. Houthi rebels have controlled the capital Sanaa since capturing it in late 2014. They have since fired hundreds of ballistic missiles into neighboring Saudi Arabia, which since 2015 has led a regional military coalition aiming to restore to pow-

er the government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi.

**'Firm assurances'**

Although Mohammed Ali al-Houthi is head of the Iran-linked rebels' Higher Revolutionary Committee, he is not their ultimate decision-maker — that power lies with supreme leader Abdulmalek Al-Houthi. Griffiths - whose efforts at kick-starting peace talks collapsed in September - said both the Saudi-backed government and the Houthi rebels have shown a "renewed commitment" to work on a political solution. He said both sides have given "firm assurances" that they would attend the talks, although no date has yet been set. Multiple attempts to hold negotiations between the government alliance and Huthis have failed, most recently in September, when the rebels refused to fly to Geneva for planned UN-hosted negotiations.

But Griffiths on Friday offered to travel with the Houthi delegation to Sweden "if that's what is needed." The rebels, whose delegates were trapped in Oman for three months after a previous round of talks collapsed in 2016, had accused the world body of failing to guarantee their delegation's return to Sanaa or secure the evacuation of wounded fighters. Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi said his call for an end to missile and drone attacks was aimed at "supporting the efforts of the (UN) envoy and proving our good intentions", adding that it follows "our contact with the UN



**HODEIDA:** Armored vehicles of the Yemeni pro-government forces are seen driving past destruction in an industrial district in the eastern outskirts of the port city of Hodeida. —AFP

envoy and his request to stop launching missiles and drones".

**'Stop the bloodshed'**

The Houthis' foreign minister, Hisham Sharaf Abdallah, met UN officials on Sunday evening, according to the rebels' Saba news agency. It quoted him as saying that the UN and the international community should "adopt the political path to stop the bloodshed and protect Yemenis' properties from destruction". Britain is set to present a draft resolution to the UN Security Council yesterday to address the crisis in Yemen, its ambassador said Friday. British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt

meanwhile arrived yesterday in Iran for the first time, with his agenda including talks with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif on the country's role in Yemen. Iran backs the Shiite rebels against Saudi Arabia. Fighting in Yemen intensified at the beginning of this month as the coalition renewed an offensive aimed at seizing Hodeida, a Red Sea city whose port serves as entry point for nearly all of the country's imports and humanitarian aid. But pro-government forces announced a pause in their offensive on last week as international pressure grew for a ceasefire amid fears that millions of Yemenis are now facing famine. —AFP

## Taleban confirms talks with US on Afghan conflict

**KABUL:** The Taliban held talks with US officials in Qatar on ending the Afghan conflict last week, the militants confirmed yesterday, but said no agreement was reached on "any issue". The statement comes a day after US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad expressed hopes in Kabul that a peace deal could be struck before the Afghan presidential election, scheduled for April 20 next year.

Khalilzad was in the Afghan capital after a second round of regional meetings with top government officials to coordinate efforts on ending the 17-year war. Senior Taliban officials met with a "high-ranking" US delegation in Qatar on November 14, 15 and 16, the militant group said in a WhatsApp message, without mentioning Khalilzad. The Taliban has a political office in the capital Doha that serves as a de-facto embassy. "These were preliminary talks and no agreement was reached on any issue," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

"We want to reassure our Mujahideen and Muslim nation that the representatives of the Islamic Emirate will never agree to anything that does not adhere to Islamic principles." The second Taliban-US meeting in as many months come as the militants step up attacks on beleaguered Afghan security forces, which are suffering an unprecedented level of casualties. The death toll among Afghan soldiers and police is nearing 30,000 since the start of 2015, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani revealed this month-a figure far higher than anything previously acknowledged. —AFP

## Defector soldier is North Korea general's son

**TOKYO:** The North Korean soldier who defected to the South in a hail of bullets last year is a general's son but says most Northerners of his age have no loyalty to Kim Jong Un, according to a Japanese newspaper. Oh Chong Song's dramatic dash across the border at the Panmunjom truce village in the Demilitarized Zone-under fire from his comrades - made global headlines last year, and saw him hospitalized with serious injuries.

It is very rare for the North's troops to defect at Panmunjom, a major tourist attraction and the only place on the frontier where forces from the two sides come face-to-face. The 25-year-old Oh is the son of a major-general, Japan's Sankei Shimbun newspaper reported, in what it said was the defector's first media interview. But despite his privileged birth-he described himself as "upper class" - he felt no allegiance to the North's leadership.

"Inside the North, people, and especially the younger generation, are indifferent to each other, politics, and their leaders, and there is no sense of loyalty." He was "indifferent" to the rule of Kim Jong Un, the third generation of the Kim family to lead the North, and had no interest in how his friends felt about it. "Probably 80 percent of my generation is indifferent and has no loyalty," he was quoted as saying. "It is natural to have no interest nor loyalty since the hereditary system is taken as a given, regardless of its inability to feed people." —AFP

## International

## EU ministers agree terms of 'painful' Brexit divorce

## European ministers sign off Britain's draft deal

BRUSSELS: European ministers signed off Britain's draft divorce deal yesterday as they launched a "painful" final week of negotiations on future cross-Channel ties. Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier and the Union's Austrian rotating presidency said the negotiated text would be presented to EU leaders at a signing summit on Sunday. "The first, difficult step is done," said Austrian minister for Europe Gernot Blumel, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, after the ministers met.

"A painful week in European politics is starting," Blumel said. "We have the divorce papers on the table. Forty-five years of difficult marriage are coming to an end." Meanwhile, detailed discussions continue on a parallel political statement setting out the bloc's ambitions for future relations with post-Brexit Britain — and on a possible extension to the transition period.

Britain will leave the Union on March 29 next year, but remain within its single market for a further 21 months as negotiators seek a deal to avoid a potential breakdown in trade between the key economic partners. If the parties struggle to find a deal before the end of this period, Britain can request a one-off extension. Barnier has suggested that this should expire at the end of 2022, but he said member states have yet to sign off on this. "I think that during this week we'll have a definitive proposition for this date. The decision will be made jointly between the United Kingdom and the 27," Barnier said.

## Trade deal hopes

Neither European member states, who want to protect access to their single market, nor hardline

British Brexiteers, who fear being trapped in a bloc where they don't make the rules, want an endless transition. Barnier stressed it was Prime Minister Theresa May's government that had requested the extension option and that he had agreed to it to reassure nervous businesses, but warned: "It can't be indefinite. It needs to be decided."

In London, May said she wants to reach a trade deal by the end of 2020 to avoid asking for an extension, but that if the transition is prolonged it should be out of the way by "the next general election." If May survives domestic anger over the deal, the next British election is scheduled for 2022. European negotiators plan to publish their version of the statement on future relations today. The draft withdrawal accord "is satisfying, it's workable, and we will invest our energy now in the political agreement," said Dutch foreign minister Stef Blok.

Preparations continued meanwhile for Sunday's summit, where May and her 27 colleagues will sign the withdrawal agreement. "We're in the closing stages of negotiating the deal at the moment," she said. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed." May will be in Brussels this week to see the president of the EU commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, for last-ditch talks on the future relationship. London wants to lay out in as much detail as possible a route to a

free trade agreement, in part to shore up support in a British parliament that may yet reject the deal. Brussels, meanwhile, insists Britain cannot have the same privileged access to the single market after Brexit on March 29 next year.

## UK political in-fighting

While the EU 27 have remained publicly united through the 17-month negotiation, Britain's political camps are fighting bitterly among themselves. Conservative hardliners and May's Northern Irish unionist allies have pledged to vote down the treaty despite the threat of a calamitous no-deal Brexit. The opposition Labor Party, scenting a chance to topple May's government, has also warned that its members will not support her deal.

EU officials are surprised by the furious debate and mostly refuse to intervene, but French minister for European affairs Nathalie Loiseau said both sides had "exhausted their margin to manoeuvre". Blok said it was imperative that the political statement "lays the foundation of our future relationship, it has to be ambitious". Some member states were annoyed that their rights to fish in British waters were not guaranteed in the withdrawal deal and have been left to future talks.

Spain also has concerns about the future status of



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May gestures as she takes a question after speaking at the annual Confederation of British Industry (CBI) conference in central London yesterday. —AFP

Gibraltar, the British territory on its southern coast. "The negotiations between the United Kingdom and the EU do not apply to Gibraltar... future negotiations on Gibraltar are separate negotiations," said Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell. "And that is what must be made clear. Until we have the future declaration and we know what it says, whether we agree or not, we are also not going to approve the withdrawal agreement." Nevertheless, Belgian foreign minister Didier Reynders said of the deal: "Here, it will survive. We are waiting for the same situation in London, but here in Brussels it will survive." —AFP



'First, difficult step is done'

## World powers clash over chemical arms watchdog new role

THE HAGUE: World powers traded accusations of hypocrisy in bitter clashes yesterday over the global toxic weapons watchdog's new ability to attribute blame for attacks like those in Syria and Salisbury. The United States and Britain went head-to-head with Russia, China and Syria over the boosted powers that members agreed to give the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in June. At a tense meeting in The Hague, Moscow and Beijing were accused of trying to stall the watchdog's new role indefinitely by proposing that the changes be subjected to "open ended" scrutiny before going live. US Ambassador Kenneth Ward said Russia's claims that the OPCW's new powers were illegitimate were "pungent hypocrisy", and warned against allowing a "new era of chemical weapons use to take hold". "What have they done for the last few years but to connive with their Syrian ally to bury the truth of what has happened in Syria, along with the dead killed by the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime," Ward said.

"And as if that wasn't bad enough, Salisbury comes along." The West pushed through the new powers after a string of chemical attacks in Syria, as well as a nerve agent attack on Russian former double agent Sergei Skripal in the British city of Salisbury in March. Britain accused Russia of carrying out the attack using a Soviet-era chemical called Novichok and the West has since imposed a series of sanctions on Moscow. British envoy to the OPCW Peter Wilson called any attempt to limit the watchdog's power to attribute blame for chemical attacks "unacceptable".

## 'Out and out lies'

But Russia's envoy Alexander Shulgin hit back, saying that Western claims of chemical weapons use by Damascus and Moscow were a "scam" and "out and out lies". He added that Russia had a "principled position regarding the illegitimacy" of the new investigative powers, adding that they "infringe on the properties of the UN Security Council", where Russia has a veto. Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad meanwhile launched a fierce broadside at the US and Britain. "You have taught people to use chemical weapons, you have used chemical weapons in the first two world wars. The Syrian government has never used chemical weapons," he said. "Where is your morality? This is sheer hypocrisy and sheer lies. I wish to use such undiplomatic language."

The meeting is also the first since the expulsion of four Russians accused by Dutch authorities in October of trying to hack into the OPCW's computer system, using electronic equipment hidden in a car parked outside a nearby hotel. At the time the organization was investigating the attack on Skripal as well as a major chemical attack in Syria. The OPCW says the two-week meeting of the 193 member countries is meant to "discuss the future of the organization".

## 'Strong and unified resolve'

New OPCW director-general Fernando Arias warned in his opening address yesterday that the "international norm against the use of chemical weapons has come under strain". "Their repeated use poses a challenge that must be met with strong and unified resolve," he added. Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013, the OPCW is responsible for upholding the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention to end the use of all toxic arms. So far it says it has overseen the destruction of 96.5 percent of the world's chemical arms stocks.

But in recent years it has seen its role expand to cover the investigation of a wave of chemicals attacks in the Syrian civil war, as well as the Salisbury attack and the 2017 killing in Malaysia of a half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. A "very small but very strong" investigative team will start work early next year with a mandate to go back and try to attribute blame for all chemical attacks in Syria since 2013, Arias said. The watchdog will also be able to point the finger for future attacks anywhere in the world, so long as it is asked to by the country on whose territory where the incident happened. —AFP

## Austria's Turkish community caught in nationality trap

VIENNA: Alper Yilmaz has no doubt where his home is. "My homeland is Austria, Vienna," he says. But with a far-right party sharing power and anti-immigration sentiment generally on the rise in Austria, Yilmaz-along with potentially thousands of other Austrians with Turkish roots—is worried he could be stripped of his citizenship.

Except in very special cases, Austria does not allow its citizens to hold dual nationality. But the far-right and anti-Islam Freedom Party (FPÖ) - junior partner in a ruling coalition with the centre-right Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) - last year claimed to have received a list of Turkish voters which it said could contain tens of thousands of illegal dual nationals. The affair drew comparisons to Britain's "Windrush" scandal, in which scores of British citizens of Caribbean origin were deported or detained because they had not collected the necessary paperwork proving their right to be there.

Now many of the Austrians of Turkish origin whose names appear on the list could face a similar administrative nightmare. Duygu Ozkan, a journalist for the Die Presse newspaper, said the dual nationality issue had become "virtually the only topic of conversation" for Austria's Turkish community. Austria, like neighboring Germany, invited thousands of Turkish citizens to come and work in the 1960s and 1970s, with many staying

and putting down roots. Turkish immigrants and their descendants now number around 270,000 out of the population of 8.7 million.

One of them is Cigdem Schiller, born in Austria 31 years ago to Turkish parents. Schiller—who handed in her Turkish passport to become an Austrian citizen when she was a teenager in 2003 — said that because of her presence on the list, she received a letter from the authorities in February asking her to prove she doesn't illegally hold dual nationality. After many visits to the Turkish consulate in the city of Salzburg where she lives, she says she eventually managed to do so. But the process was not easy and she argues that her case proves the list is unreliable.

## 'Kafkaesque'

Others have found themselves trapped in a similarly "Kafkaesque" situation. Earlier this year, the Salzburg authorities stripped a Turkish man on the list of his Austrian citizenship, a decision subsequently upheld by a court, which argued that the list—whose mysterious origin the FPÖ has never revealed—could only have been produced by a bona fide Turkish authority. The man's lawyer, Peter Weidisch, said his client found himself in the "extremely difficult situation of... being asked to prove that he hadn't done something". To make matters worse, the Turkish authorities also washed their hands of him. Weidisch said his client was told "you are an Austrian citizen, we can't help you". Yilmaz, who runs a cafe in Vienna, has no idea how his name ended up on the list.

Born in Turkey, the 53-year-old came to Austria in the early 1980s and adopted Austrian citizenship in 1988. He says

## Republican Rick Scott wins US Senate seat

MIAMI: Florida's outgoing Republican Governor Rick Scott has narrowly won a US Senate seat in a bitterly contested race with incumbent Bill Nelson, official results showed Sunday. Nelson conceded the seat he has held for three terms since 2001 after a machine and hand recount showed Scott had edged out the Democrat by just over 10,000 votes, or 50.05 percent to 49.93 percent, official final results showed. "Well, things worked out a little differently than Grace and I had hoped," Nelson said in a video message posted on social media. "It has been a rewarding journey as well as a very humbling experience. I was not victorious in this race, but I still wish to strongly reaffirm the cause for which we fought. A public office is a public trust."

## Michael Bloomberg donates \$1.8bn for college education

NEW YORK: Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg said Sunday he's giving \$1.8 billion for financial aid at Johns Hopkins University, believed to be

the largest ever donation to a post-secondary institution. Bloomberg said he was making the gift to help qualified low- and middle-income students more easily afford access to university in a country where post-secondary education fees at elite schools often exceed \$50,000 a year, a prohibitive barrier for most families. "I was lucky: My father was a bookkeeper who never made more than \$6,000 a year. But I was able to afford Johns Hopkins University through a National Defense student loan, and by holding down a job on campus," Bloomberg wrote in a New York Times op-ed.

"My Hopkins diploma opened up doors that otherwise would have been closed, and allowed me to live the American dream." Bloomberg, who made his first donation to Hopkins the year after he graduated—just \$5 - has since already provided \$1.5 billion for research, teaching and financial aid. The new donation will come on top of that, and serve as financial aid for qualified students from lower family income levels. "I want to be sure that the school that gave me a chance will be able to permanently open that same door of opportunity for others," Bloomberg wrote. —AFP



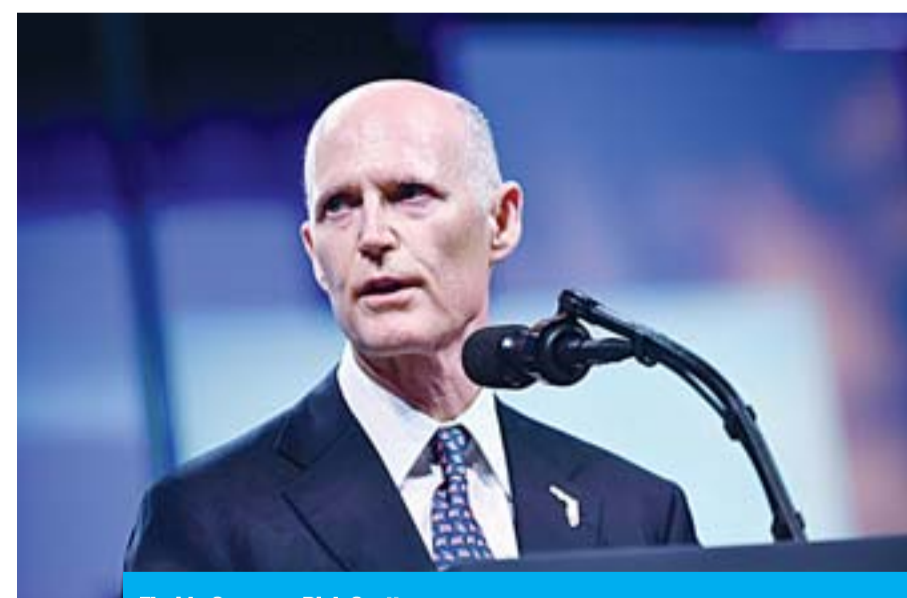
VIENNA: Alper Yilmaz poses with his Austrian passport at his cafe restaurant in Vienna. —AFP

he has had no official contact with Turkey since. Yilmaz said the Turkish consulate in Vienna suggested him to go back to Turkey to pursue his case. But the cafe owner is reluctant to go as he believes his status as an Alevi Kurd, and his opposition to the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, could put him in danger. Nationwide, 85 people have already had their citizenship revoked and the Vienna city authorities say they have hired an 26 extra staff to investigate 18,000 potential cases.

## Anti-Turkish rhetoric

Yilmaz feels he has been caught up in political manoeuvres outside his control. On the one hand, Turkish President Erdogan is keen to keep Turkish commu-

nities in Europe closely tied to the motherland, not least because they count among his most loyal supporters. According to Austrian media reports, some Turkish consular officials are reluctant to help Turks give up their nationality. On the other hand is the anti-Turkish and outright Islamophobic rhetoric spouted by the far-right FPÖ. Just last week the party posted a video about health insurance fraud that featured two fez-wearing cartoon criminals called Mustafa and Ali. It deleted the video after a storm of criticism. Yilmaz says he has no political axe to grind with any party, but simply wants the government to come up with a fair solution. "I am afraid, I have sleepless nights thinking: What happens now?" he says. —AFP



Florida Governor Rick Scott

erned Florida for eight years, called for unity. "We must do what Americans have always done: come together for the good of our state and our country," he wrote

on his Facebook page. "My focus will not be on looking backward, but on doing exactly what I ran on: Making Washington Work." —AFP



International

# Leaders of Hong Kong 'Occupy' protest deny nuisance charges

## Democracy leaders plead not guilty to 'political prosecution'

**HONG KONG:** Three leaders of Hong Kong's 2014 pro-democracy "Occupy" movement, which paralyzed parts of the Chinese-ruled city for nearly three months, denied public nuisance charges yesterday as international criticism of the erosion of civil liberties grows. Law professor Benny Tai, 54, retired sociologist Chan Kin-man, 59, and retired pastor Chu Yiu-ming, 74, face charges of conspiracy and incitement to commit public nuisance, and incitement to incite public nuisance.

The closely watched trial illustrates the tensions in the former British colony as disaffected democracy activists push back against attempts by Communist Party leaders in Beijing to tighten their grip on the city's freedoms and autonomy. Each charge carries a maximum jail term of seven years. Six others, including two lawmakers, are also facing public nuisance charges in a trial that is expected to last around 20 days. In a show of defiance, the nine defendants and more than 100 supporters unfurled yellow umbrellas, a symbol of the movement, outside the court, clapping and demanding an end to "political prosecution".

"A movement can be crushed but not defeated," the nine said in a joint statement. "These charges enable

the government to abuse the power of prosecution and infringe on the freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. The nine defendants unanimously decided not to plead guilty." Tai told Reuters he hoped the trial would be an opportunity to "reboot the spirit of the people". Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula, with the guarantee of a high degree of autonomy and freedoms denied citizens in mainland China, including freedom of speech and the right to protest. However, critics, including foreign governments, business groups and activists, say that the guarantee is ringing increasingly hollow.



### Supporters call for 'universal suffrage' at the courthouse

vote for its next leader. The "Occupy" campaign germinated in September 2014, ahead of schedule, and became part of what grew into the biggest populist challenge to Beijing since the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in Beijing in 1989. Hundreds of thousands of people, including many youngsters and students, took to the streets in sustained occupation of major streets.

Government prosecutor Andrew Bruce detailed in court how the three "Occupy" leaders had given speeches and interviews urging more people to join the "unlawful occupations". He said this had been a "joint enterprise" to conspire with others to try to fuel the movement for a "prolonged and indefinite" time. Lawyers for the defendants, however, questioned the basis for this allegation. The six other defendants are veteran democratic party member Lee Wing-tat, democratic lawmakers Tanya Chan and Shiu Ka-chun, activist Raphael Wong and former stu-

dent leaders Eason Chung and Tommy Cheung. "Even if the court finds us guilty, history will show that we committed no crime," Cheung, now a columnist, told reporters. Some critics say the case could have repercussions for hundreds of other protesters who have not been charged, and create a chilling effect on the Hong Kong democracy movement. The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission warned in a report to Congress last week that China had "ramped up its interference" in Hong Kong and had "closed down the political space for pro-democracy activists to express discontent".

Authorities have banned a political party advocating Hong Kong independence, barred democracy activists from contesting local elections and disqualified six opposition lawmakers from the legislature. A senior Financial Times journalist, Victor Mallet, was barred from the city this month after he helped host an independence activist at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in what critics said was an attack on freedom of speech. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has repeatedly stressed Hong Kong respects media and other freedoms but has so far refused to give an explanation for denying Mallet entry. —Reuters

## Indonesia's mosques spreading radicalism

**JAKARTA:** Dozens of Indonesian mosques that cater to government workers are spreading radicalism and calling for violence against non-Muslims, the country's intelligence agency said yesterday. Its findings come six months after Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya was rocked by a wave of suicide bombings at several churches during Sunday services, killing a dozen people. They were the deadliest terror attacks in about a decade and once again put religious tolerance in the world's biggest Muslim majority in the spotlight. The Indonesian State Intelligence Agency said yesterday it has probed about one thousand mosques across the Southeast Asian archipelago since July and found that imams at some 41 places of worship in one Jakarta neighborhood alone were preaching extremism to worshippers - mostly civil servants who work at nearby government ministries.

The agency found about 17 clerics expressed support or sympathy for Islamic State and encouraged parishioners to fight for the jihadist group in Syria and Marawi, the Philippine city overrun by foreign IS fighters last year. Some clerics also called on the faithful to commit violence on behalf of IS - which claimed the May bombing attacks in Surabaya - and spread hatred or vilify Indonesia's minority religions, which include Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism. "The majority of people who go to these mosques are government workers so that's why this is alarming," intelligence agency spokesman Wawan Purwanto said. "These are people who are running the country."

The agency did not release details about what it found at hundreds of other mosques covered by its probe. But it said that it also found worrying signs of radicalism at seven university campuses among several hundred it spot checked as part of the probe. The spy agency's investigation was sparked by an independent anti-terrorism expert's report last year that found imams at dozens of mosques across Indonesia were expressing intolerance and support for IS. "We have to avoid this because we don't want people in Indonesia fighting against each other — that will lead to (bad) things," Purwanto said. —AFP

## Dozens arrested near flashpoint Indian temple

**PAMBA:** Indian police arrested 68 people taking part in protests around a controversial Hindu temple ahead of a Supreme Court ruling yesterday on whether it should be given more time to let women enter. The Sabarimala temple in the southern state of Kerala has become a major battleground between Hindu radicals and gender activists. Tens of thousands of pilgrims have thronged to the hilltop shrine since it reopened Friday amid unprecedented security. "We arrested 68 devotees after overnight protests around Sabarimala," V N Saji, assistant commissioner of Kerala police said. The region has been increasingly tense with Hindu organizations and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) opposing the Supreme Court order to let women in the temple. There have been several protests and strikes.

Many pilgrims going to Sabarimala have also complained about restrictions on their movement during the new clampdown. The Kerala government sent thousands of police to the region fearing a repeat of pitch battles between devotees and security forces in October, when the temple first reopened after the Supreme Court ordered the lifting of a longstanding ban on women of "menstruating age" between the ages of 10 and 50. The ban reflected an old but still prevalent view in some areas that connects menstruation with impurity in Hinduism.

Police said many of those arrested late Sunday had been protesting against a ban on spending the night on the hilltop around the temple. Media showed images of shirtless devotees - following the pilgrimage tradition - chanting mantras as they faced off with police. About 700 women have registered to pray at the temple over coming weeks however none has yet made it to the hilltop. Protesters stopped one leading woman activist from leaving the state's main airport to get to Sabarimala. The board which manages Sabarimala temple will ask the Supreme Court for more time to admit women, citing a lack of infrastructure. In January, the country's highest court will also hear challenges to its decision to lift the ban on women. —AFP



KOCHI: Indian Hindu activists protest following the arrest of devotees at Sabarimala temple in Kochi in the southern state of Kerala yesterday. —AFP

## New machine aims to end India sewer death shame

**NEW DELHI:** Hundreds of "manual scavengers" die each year cleaning out sewers in cities across India but a machine unveiled for Monday's World Toilet Day could help to end that tragic record. Thousands of mostly low-caste Indians are employed in one of the world's dirtiest jobs unclogging human waste from underground pipes. More than 1,300 have died, mainly suffocated, in the past three years, according to the Sulabh International charity.

The men are called "manual scavengers" because they mainly scrape the waste with their bare hands without any protective gear or masks. The machine launched by Sulabh

injects high pressure water into the tunnels and tanks and then collects the waste with a mechanical bucket operated from ground level. A remote control inspection camera generates high-resolution images of the sewer system. Bindeshwar Pathak, the Sulabh International founder, said that forcing humans into the sewers was "demeaning". "We hear so often the tragic news about sewer workers losing their lives," he said.

"This machine can safely clean the waste matter and it will gradually make manual scavenging redundant. "With this machine we hope no person will die in the sewers any more." Indian lawmakers have passed several laws aiming to stamp out the age-old practice of manual scavenging, the latest in 2013. But many scavengers are still used through subcontractors. In rural areas, women "scavengers" clean out primitive non-flush toilets with basic tools, although the practice is now on the wane. Pathak also unveiled a giant Indian-style toilet pot to raise awareness about sanitation in a country where some 150 million people do not have home toilets. —AFP

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## From sexuality to size: Women find their voice through podcasts

Looking for a podcast where Asian women chat about taboos, plus-sized women discuss dating, or Muslim feminists talk politics? Scroll through any list of popular podcasts, and you would be hard-pressed to find one that fits the bill. Even though a third of people surveyed by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism this year said they listen to a podcast once a month, like many traditional media outlets, most of the voices heard are those of white men.

Women only hosted or co-hosted about a third of the top 100 podcasts on the Apple podcast chart in 2017, according to WNYC Studios, a New York-based podcast creator and distributor. From film, television and news media, an increasing number of women, boosted by the #MeToo movement, are pushing for more control to address gender parity and tackle sexual harassment.

Jennifer Sendrow, organizer of Werk It, a women's podcast festival run by WNYC Studios, said the lack of female hosts and producers reduces the diversity of stories being told. "Gender inequity hurts everyone. It makes podcasting a less inclusive, less interesting, less vibrant place, not just for people making podcasts but for people listening to podcasts," she said in a phone interview. "We want women to be listening and we want women's stories to be told," said Sendrow, whose organisation wants women-hosted podcasts to make up half of the top 100 podcasts within the next five years.

## Amplifying voices

It is a trend that some companies, like tech giant Google and audio streaming company Spotify, are hoping to foster, running podcast boot camps for women in cities like Sydney, New York and London. Alexandra Adey, head of podcasts partnerships in Britain for Spotify, said media companies have a responsibility to boost diverse voices. "The media in general, and podcasting, is a white and male-dominated environment," said Adey in an interview during a Spotify podcast boot camp in London. "It's really important for us to make sure we're amplifying the voices of people who wouldn't necessarily have their voices amplified. And to get new and fresh talent into the podcasting industry," she said.

There is a booming market for it, too. In the United States alone, the number of females tuning into podcasts has jumped by nearly a third in a year, according to a September report by Westwood One, one of the largest distributors of audio content to radio stations nationwide. While there are more male listeners overall, the time that women spent listening to podcasts every week grew six times more than men over the past year, to 5.5 hours from 4.6 hours, the study showed.

## The first

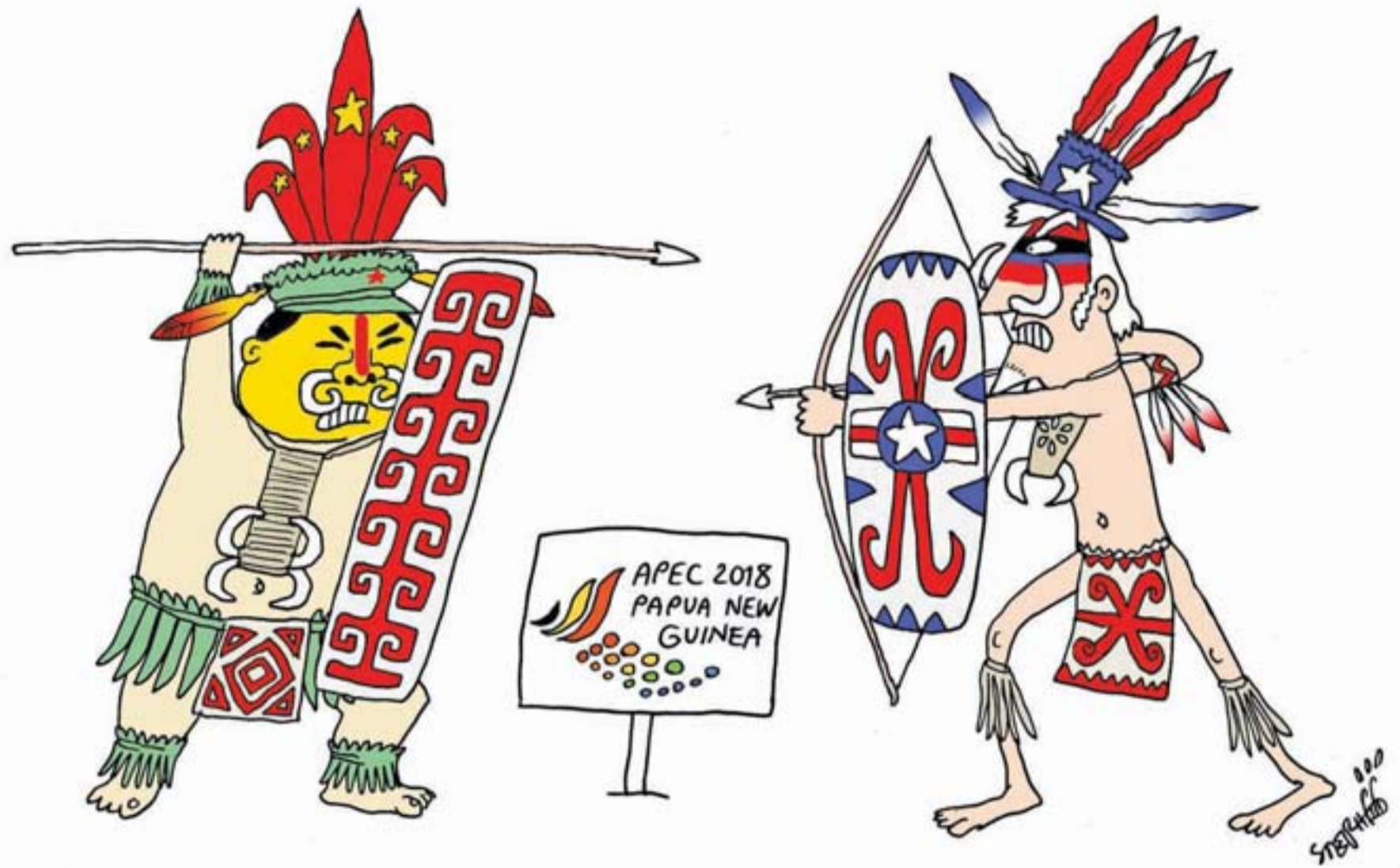
Hungry for stories that reflected her experiences as a woman from a traditional Indian family, Sangeeta Pillai decided to start her own podcast to delve into taboos, like sexuality and menopause. "I fought and fought and fought to have a voice - and it feels like I'm at a place in my 40s where I'm confident about talking about these things that I've never talked about," said the 46-year-old host of "Masala Podcast". "Podcast is a medium where you can forget that there's a microphone sometimes. It allows for intimate, real, authentic conversations," said Pillai, one of a dozen women selected to attend the Spotify boot camp in London.

Another attendee, Jasmine Darko, 23, who had never used an audio recorder before, said she planned to host and produce a podcast series on plus-sized women called "The Fullness". "(A podcast) breaks down the barrier in that you don't have to look a certain way. It's much freer than having the pressure of being in front of a camera," she said. "I don't know any well-known podcasts headed up by plus-sized women, let alone women of color. So I want to be the first one."

More women need to be in senior, decision-making roles too, said Tanzila Ahmed, co-host since 2015 of "#GoodMuslimBadMuslim" - an independent podcast about politics and culture. "Companies that run these networks are usually men-heavy," she said in a Skype interview. "I would love for it to move in a direction where women are not just owning their own voice, but literally owning the companies that broadcast the voices."

Men hold nearly two-thirds of senior jobs in media companies globally, according to a study by the United Nations' cultural agency UNESCO and the International Women's Media Foundation. "We still have to look at institutionally who is commissioning the podcast. There's still a gatekeeping process," said podcaster and radio host Beverley Wang from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Unlike in traditional media, the rules in podcasting are still being written, Wang said, and most people can get their voices heard regardless of their gender or background. "At its core, it is much more democratic. If you have an idea, a voice, a phone or microphone and access to the Internet, it's so simple," Wang said. — Reuters

## TARIFF TRIBAL WARFARE



## China using global stage to diminish Taiwan

All Taiwan wanted to do was to host rugby teams from around the region for a series of matches. Instead, Chinese representatives challenged the self-ruled island's proposal this summer, saying China should take over the events. After a month of negotiations, the two sides agreed to take turns hosting the games over the next six years. Rugby is a minor sport in both places, but diplomats and officials say the spat illustrates China's willingness to swipe at Taiwan over the pettiest of points.

"They want to entirely block our sporting events. If we are to host one, they will either try to kill it, or try to take the hosting rights from you," Chinese Taipei Rugby Football Union General Secretary Jeremy Pai, who is involved in the negotiations with China, told Reuters. The Chinese Rugby Football Association said the challenge simply aimed to promote rugby in China and had no political motivation.

From a painted-over Taiwan flag after a Chinese complaint in Australia, the revocation of an Olympic game in Taiwan, and the sudden absence of two Chinese players in a Taiwan golf competition, China is using the international stage to assert its sovereignty over the island. China regards Taiwan as a wayward province and has grown increasingly suspicious that the government of President Tsai Ing-wen wants to push for formal independence.

The rising Chinese pressure, which also includes military drills and the snatching of the island's dwindling number of diplomatic allies, comes ahead of Taiwanese mayoral and magisterial elections this weekend that are

seen as a bellwether for the ruling party's performance in the 2020 presidential race. Diplomats and observers say no front appears off limits for China in its efforts to diminish Taiwan's stature. In recent months, that has included rising Chinese scrutiny over how companies from airlines, such as Air Canada, to retailers, such as Gap, refer to the democratic island.



## Beijing has never renounced use of force

China, which sees Taiwan as the most sensitive issue between it and the United States, is working to stamp out even simple references to the island internationally, they said. "China is willing to break international norms to pursue its narrow interests," said a person with direct knowledge of the matter who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue.

## 'Double-edged sword'

In May, a Taiwan flag students painted on a statue at

an Australian festival was covered by local authorities after Chinese consular officers from in Brisbane reported a "problem". "The Australian government's agreement with China is that Australia does not recognize Taiwan as a separate country," Margaret Strelow, mayor of Rockhampton in central Queensland, wrote in a statement after the incident.

But officials in Taiwan said the Chinese pressure could be counterproductive, as public resentment towards Beijing runs high. More than 80 percent of Taiwanese think China's bid to squeeze the island's international space hurts cross-strait ties, an August poll from Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council showed. "China should think whether such moves would backfire," said Yao Chia-wen, a senior adviser to the president, adding that Beijing's "double-edged sword" could reinforce public support for Tsai's independence-leaning Diplomatic Progressive Party.

Some are ready to challenge China, which has never renounced the use of force against Taiwan. A referendum popular among younger Taiwanese, which will be on the ballot this weekend, seems calculated to rile Beijing: It asks whether the island should join the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as Taiwan, rather than "Chinese Taipei" - the name agreed to under a compromise in the late 1970s. "The Chinese suppression on Taiwan will not stop until it was unified by China," Taiwanese volleyball player Huang Pei-hung wrote in a post widely shared on Facebook to rally support for the referendum. "Please work hard to help rectify Taiwan's name." — Reuters

## Two years after pivot, Duterte still waiting on China dividend

Two years after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced a divorce with old ally the United States in return for bumper business ties with China, he doesn't have much to show for it. Duterte left Beijing in 2016 with \$24 billion of Chinese loans and investment pledges for his ambitious infrastructure overhaul, a few weeks after saying the Philippines was being treated like a dog by Washington and would be better off with China.

But only a fraction of China's pledged support has materialized, exposing Duterte to criticisms he has been complicit in allowing China to pose threats to Philippines' sovereignty, and been left high and dry by Beijing. When Xi Jinping visits the Philippines this week, Duterte will need the Chinese president to put his money where his mouth is and help Duterte justify his geopolitical concessions to a historic rival, according to Richard Heydarian, a Manila-based defense and security analyst.

"Otherwise, we can definitely conclude that there's really nothing much in the rhetoric and the Philippines has been taken for a ride," Heydarian said. "Duterte's naivety with China has been a slam dunk strategic coup for China, no doubt about it." Philippine's Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said it would be unreasonable to expect all the Chinese pledges to come through after only two years, but officials were hopeful intervention by Xi after his visit could help. "We're very optimistic this will, their head of state, will pressure their bureaucracy to speed up the process," he said last week.

Duterte's signature "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program, the centerpiece of his economic strategy, involves 75 flagship projects of which about half are earmarked for Chinese loans, grants or investments. But according to publicly available Philippine government documents reviewed by Reuters, only three of those - two bridges and an irrigation facility worth a combined \$167 million - have so far broken ground. The rest, including three rail projects, three highways and nine bridges, are at various levels of planning and budgeting, or are awaiting Chinese government approval for financing, or the nomination of Chinese contractors.

## 'Positive results'

China's foreign ministry said major projects agreed by



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte attends the ASEAN-Plus Three (APT) summit on the sidelines of the 33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Singapore on Nov 15, 2018. — AFP

both sides "are proceeding smoothly and continue to achieve positive results". China wanted to boost trade and investment and "promote the early commencement of building of even more agreed upon projects," the ministry said in a statement to Reuters. Chinese committed investments in the Philippines in the first half of this year were just \$33 million, about 40 percent of that of the United States and about a seventh of Japan's, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, tracking a similar trend the previous year.

Trade between China and the Philippines has picked up significantly, but data suggests mostly in China's favor. Chinese exports to the Philippines grew 26 percent in the first nine months of 2017 from the same period a year earlier, outpacing its imports from Manila, which grew 9.8 percent. Net foreign direct investment from China has, however, surged to \$181 million for the first eight months of this year, from \$28.8 million for all of 2017, according to the Philippine central bank.

## Pressure needed

Duterte has made a point of praising China effusively and confessing his "love" for Xi. He even jokingly offered his country to Beijing as "a province of China". Many ordinary Filipinos as well as international lawyers and diplomats are incensed by Duterte's refusal to even raise with China the Permanent Court of Arbitration's (PCA) 2016

award that ruled in the Philippines' favor, and invalidated Beijing's claim to most of the South China Sea.

Instead, Duterte is seeking an agreement with China to jointly explore offshore gas at the disputed Reed Bank in the resource-rich and strategic waterway. Some lawmakers fear that could be tantamount to recognizing Beijing's claim to a site that the PCA ruling said China has no sovereign rights to under international law. Duterte has also been against Southeast Asian countries taking a united stand against China militarization and at a regional summit last week, he warned against causing friction, because the South China Sea was "now in their (China's) hands".

Heydarian said if Duterte was unable to show an economic dividend from his China gambit, it could weaken his hand ahead of 2019 mid-term elections that might determine the success or failure of his presidency. To stand a chance of delivering on his policy agenda, Duterte needs his allies to command a majority in Congress and the Senate to ensure key legislation is passed to enable reforms aimed at generating revenue, attracting investment and creating higher-quality jobs. "If after Xi Jinping's visit, there's still no big move by China to invest in the Philippines, if China's militarization and reclamation will just continue unabated, you're going to have a situation where Duterte will come under extreme pressure," he said. "The opposition is going to use that to pin down Duterte and his allies as Chinese lackeys." — Reuters

## Business

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LYON: Women look at silk fabric rolls during the first edition of the 'Silk in Lyon' festival at the Palais de la Bourse in Lyon. The first edition of 'Silk in Lyon' reveals the thousand and one facets of silk, in the heart of its French capital since Francois 1er. More than a hundred French and foreign professionals, including Chinese and Italians, gather until November 18 at the Palais de la Bourse to present their creations but also to make the public discover the history of silk and all the stages of its manufacturing. — AFP

# Iranian jobs go as US sanctions bite

## US sanctions bring chill to business climate

LONDON: Tamnoush, an Iranian company that makes fizzy drinks, has shut down its production line after 16 years and laid off dozens of workers. It was facing massive losses as US sanctions pushed up the price of imported raw materials. "All our 45 workers are jobless now. The men are driving taxis and women are back to being housewives," said CEO Farzad Rashidi. Reuters interviews with dozens of business owners across Iran show hundreds of companies have suspended production and thousands of workers are being laid off because of a hostile business climate mainly caused by new US sanctions.

The Iranian rial has fallen to record lows and economic activity has slowed dramatically since US President Donald Trump withdrew from the big powers' nuclear deal with Tehran in May. He imposed sanctions directed at purchases of US dollars, gold trading, and the automotive industry in August. Iran's vital oil and banking sectors were hit in November. "We have lost around

five billion rials (\$120,000 at the official rate) in the last few months, so the board decided to suspend all activities for as long as the fluctuations in the currency market continue. It is stupid to keep driving when you see it's a dead end," Rashidi said.

The country has already experienced unrest this year, when young protesters angered by unemployment and high prices clashed with security forces. Official projections indicate unrest could flare up again as sanctions make the economic crisis worse. Four days before parliament fired him August for failing to do enough to protect the jobs market from sanctions, labor minister Ali Rabiei said Iran would lose a million jobs by the end of year as a direct result of the US measures. Unemployment is already running at 12.1 percent, with three million Iranians unable to find jobs.

A parliamentary report in September warned that rising unemployment could threaten the stability of the Islamic Republic. "If we believe that the country's

economic situation was the main driver for the recent protests, and that an inflation rate of 10 percent and an unemployment rate of 12 percent caused the protests, we cannot imagine the intensity of reactions caused by the sharp rise of inflation rate and unemployment." The report said if Iran's economic growth remains below 5 percent in coming years, unemployment could hit 26 percent. The International Monetary Fund has forecast that Iran's economy will contract by 1.5 percent this year and by 3.6 percent in 2019 due to dwindling oil revenues.

### Producers struggling

Iran's vice president has warned that under sanctions Iran faces two main dangers: unemployment and a reduction in purchasing power. "Job creation should be the top priority ... We should not allow productive firms to fall into stagnation because of sanctions," Eshaq Jahangiri said, according to state media. But business owners told Reuters that the government's sometimes

contradictory monetary policies, alongside fluctuations in the foreign exchange market, price increases for raw materials, and high interest loans from banks have made it impossible for them to stay in business.

Many have not been able to pay wages for months or had to shed significant numbers of workers. A manager at the Jolfakaran Aras Company, one of the biggest textile factories in Iran, told Reuters that the firm was considering halting its operations and hundreds of workers might lose their jobs. "Around 200 workers were laid off in August, and the situation has become worse since. There is a high possibility that the factory will shut down," the manager said, asking not to be named.

Ahmad Roosta, CEO of Takplast Nour, was hopeful that a drought in Iran would provide a boost for his newly launched factory, which produces plastic pipes used in agriculture. "I will wait one or two months, but I will have to shut down if the situation remains the same ... The farmers, who are

the main consumers of our products, cannot afford them," Roosta told Reuters.

The sanctions have affected the Iranian car industry, which had experienced a boom after sanctions were lifted two years ago and it signed big contracts with French and German firms. French carmaker PSA Group suspended its joint venture in Iran in June to avoid US sanctions, and German car and truck manufacturer Daimler has dropped plans to expand its Iran business.

Maziar Beiglou, a board member of the Iran Auto Parts Makers Association, said in August that more than 300 auto parts makers have been forced to stop production, threatening tens of thousands of jobs in the sector. A spokesperson for Iran's Tire Producers Association blamed the government's "changing monetary policies over the last six months" for problems in the sector. "Fortunately tire factories have not slowed down, but the production growth that we had planned for was not achieved," Mostafa Tanha said in a phone interview from Tehran. — Reuters

## Erdogan, Putin celebrate key step in gas pipeline

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin yesterday marked the completion of the offshore phase of a gas pipeline underneath the Black Sea, the latest sign of burgeoning cooperation between Ankara and Moscow. Erdogan hailed the TurkStream pipeline, which aims to pump some 31.1 billion cubic meters of gas from Russia to Turkey annually, as a "new step" in Turkish-Russian energy cooperation, which he said showed the "high level" of relations between the two countries.

Ties between Russia and Turkey plunged to their lowest level in years in November

2015 when Turkish forces shot down a Russian warplane over Syria. But after a reconciliation deal in 2016, relations have recovered with remarkable speed with Putin and Erdogan cooperating closely over Syria, Turkey buying Russian-made air defense systems and Russia building Turkey's first nuclear power plant. Yesterday's ceremony marked the completion of the building of two undersea lines stretching 930 kilometers across the Black Sea from Anapa in Russia to Kiyikoy in Turkey at a depth of some 2 kilometers.

The pipeline was laid by the special pipe-laying vessel Pioneering Spirit, which is the area of some six football pitches. Putin and Erdogan watched via video link in Istanbul as the last section was welded and laid into the sea by the vessel. Putin said he believed TurkStream and the Akkuyu nuclear power station would become "clear symbols of the growing development of Russia and Turkey's multi-faceted partnership." "This (TurkStream) will without doubt turn Turkey into a serious European hub and this will without doubt have an effect on the geopolitical position of the Turkish Republic," he added.

### 'Political will and courage'

The onshore section of the pipeline in Turkey still needs to be built and TurkStream expects the gas to start being pumped at the end of 2019. The aim is that half of the gas pumped through the pipeline will go to ensure the energy needs of western Turkish cities like Istanbul, Bursa and Izmir and the other half sent on to other European countries. Despite in theory being on opposite sides of the Syrian civil war, regime backer Russia and rebel supporter Turkey have worked closely to end the conflict and stave off a government assault to re-take the key region of Idlib.

Meanwhile, Ankara and Moscow have agreed terms on the delivery of S-400 missiles in a deal that had alarmed NATO member Turkey's Western allies. "We have never determined our bilateral relations with Russia according to demands or pressure from other countries," Erdogan said to loud applause. Putin meanwhile personally praised Erdogan, saying the TurkStream project could not have been released without the Turkish president. "Such a project needs political will and courage. Because in the circumstances of



ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan (R) and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin shake hands on stage during a ceremony to mark the completion of the sea part of the TurkStream gas pipeline. — AFP

growing competition such projects cannot be without this," he said. Both leaders also reaffirmed their goal to lift annual bilateral trade volumes to \$100 billion, which Putin

said was the same as between Russia and China. "Why should it be less with Turkey? We will achieve this result. I don't even doubt this," said Putin. — AFP







Technology

# Kaspersky launches new generation of beyond-AV consumer solutions

## Protect your connected lifestyle with adaptive security

**KUWAIT:** In the modern world, people are making an everyday compromise between the opportunity to constantly stay connected, or preserve their privacy. The more people use different internet services, the more difficult it is for them to keep their personal information confidential. Moreover, maintaining a mobile lifestyle requires users to be available whenever and wherever they are, because their social connections, earnings, well-being and even emotional balance depend on this.

Kaspersky Lab's solutions allow people to not only stay connected whatever the circumstances, but also ensure their privacy online. Thus, Kaspersky Lab has updated its key range of solutions for home users, designed to safeguard everything that is valuable to them—privacy, money, memories, piece of mind for their loved ones and much more, in addition to protecting against cyberattacks. In the company's essential products - Kaspersky Free and Kaspersky Anti-Virus - functions have been added to protect users against the newest and most advanced cyberthreats.

Improvements have also been made to the performance, ease of configuration and detection efficiency of the product line's premium solutions- Kaspersky Internet Security and Kaspersky Total Security. But most importantly, the company's portfolio has been replenished with a completely new product -an adaptive service called Kaspersky Security Cloud, which goes even further to protect users from any problems they may encounter in the digital world.

Every person is unique - this is beyond doubt. The same is true for people's online behavior, which forms their individual digital world. That is why Kaspersky Lab experts have invented and patented the adaptive protec-

tion technology. Kaspersky Security Cloud combines all the best elements of the flagship solutions, including the market leading protection against cyber threats, and adaptive "scenarios". Adaptivity means that the service offers protection exactly when it is needed, depending on the individual's behavior and the device they use.

Kaspersky Security Cloud operates according to the unique security-as-a-service scheme. It is "attached" not to the device, but to its owner via their account on the My Kaspersky portal. In addition, the service is available on both an annual and monthly subscription basis. However, the uniqueness of the solution lies in the fact that, with the appropriate settings, the product behaves like an "adviser" that promptly tells you what to do in order to maintain a connection when it is most needed, or to avoid jeopardizing your personal data when such a risk occurs. For example:

Imagine that you need to urgently send a confidential document, so you stop for a coffee in the nearest cafe and connect to the free Wi-Fi. However, this Wi-Fi turns out to be dangerous. Specifically, cybercriminals can intercept all the data transmitted over it! This is not uncommon. Kaspersky Security Cloud reports this risk and, depending on the settings, automatically turns on the VPN, which securely encrypts all transmitted data. Let the hackers try to decrypt that!

Or, what if someone gets into your home Wi-Fi network and is secretly watching all your online activities - the websites you visit, the messages you send to your friends and family? Or is just using your internet for free? With the new solution from Kaspersky Lab, this is not possible, because it knows all the devices that connect to your network and keeps you informed about



Dmitry Aleshin

them. Or, imagine that you are hurriedly entering a new password for your account on a social network, but this password is too simple and easy to hack.

Kaspersky Security Cloud will protect and offer to create a more reliable password, tell you how to do it, and even help to generate one that hackers will not be able to hack for centuries. Thus, your confidential correspondence with friends will remain untouched. Of course, a strong password is incredibly important, but what if the service itself has been hacked and all the passwords stolen? Again, this is not an uncommon occurrence. In this case, Kaspersky Security Cloud will learn about the leak and warn the owner, prompting him or her to change the password before it is too late, that is, before their personal data becomes available for sale on the Darknet.

And what if you are late for an important meeting (a job interview or a date, for example), and your smartphone battery suddenly dies so you cannot warn the person waiting for you? With the Kaspersky Lab solution, this situation is highly unlikely. Not only does it constantly report unsafe device settings and unnecessary applications, it also prompts in advance how much time is left until your Android's battery is completely dis-

charged. Or yet another nervous situation: the hard drive in your laptop is dead with all your valuable files -the pet photos, the wedding video, the coursework that needs to be handed in tomorrow...not with Kaspersky Security Cloud! The solution does not only allow you to make regular backups, but also warns in advance if it suspects that the hard disk is close to failing. These and other "scenarios" are embedded in Kaspersky Security Cloud, and they are being constantly replenished. Thus, the new adaptive service allows people to always stay connected and protect their data.

"While developing Kaspersky Security Cloud, we were guided by the desire to create a service that could provide right protection at the right time. People's digital lives of today are much more than just a device connected to the Internet, they are a whole world that is no less important than the physical one. And each person has their own domain, which means each person needs special protection that suits their unique digital lifestyle. We believe that the future lies with security solutions that will adapt to the individual, to each member of their family, to their environment and behavior.

Kaspersky Security Cloud is our first step towards this future", says Dmitry Aleshin, VP for Product Marketing, Kaspersky Lab. Kaspersky Security Cloud is available in three versions starting from November 8. The Free version has a limited number of scenarios, it only applies to one account and three devices at a time. The Personal version provides full service functionality for one account and five devices. The Family version covers up to 20 accounts and up to 20 devices. Monthly payments for Kaspersky Security Cloud are currently only possible via a mobile subscription.

## Sophos launches its threat report

**KUWAIT:** Sophos (LSE: SOPH) yesterday launched its 2019 Threat Report providing insights into emerging and evolving cybersecurity trends. The report, produced by SophosLabs researchers, explores changes in the threat landscape over the past 12 months, uncovering trends and how they are expected to impact cybersecurity in 2019.

"The threat landscape is undoubtedly evolving; less skilled cyber criminals are being forced out of business, the fittest among them step up their game to survive and we'll eventually be left with fewer, but smarter and stronger, adversaries. These new cybercriminals are effectively a cross-breed of the once esoteric, targeted attacker, and the pedestrian purveyor of off-the-shelf malware, using manual hacking techniques, not for espionage or sabotage, but to maintain their dishonorable income streams." - Joe Levy, CTO, Sophos, as referenced in the SophosLabs 2019 Threat Report.

The SophosLabs 2019 Threat Report focuses on these key cybercriminal behaviors and attacks: Capitalist cybercriminals are turning to targeted ransomware attacks that are premeditated and reaping millions of dollars in ransom - 2018 saw the advancement of hand-delivered, targeted ransomware attacks that are earning cybercriminals millions of dollars. These attacks are different than 'spray and pray' style attacks that are automatically distributed through millions of emails.

Targeted ransomware is more damaging than if delivered from a bot, as human attackers can find and stake out victims, think laterally, trouble shoot to overcome roadblocks, and wipe out back-ups so the ransom must be paid. This "interactive attack style," where adversaries manually maneuver through a network step-by-step, is now increasing in popularity. Sophos experts believe the financial success of SamSam, BitPaymer and Dharma to inspire copycat attacks and expect more happen in 2019.

Cybercriminals are using readily available Windows systems administration tools- This year's report uncovers a shift in threat execution, as more mainstream attackers now employ Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) techniques to use readily available IT tools as their route to advance through a system and complete their mission - whether it's to steal sensitive information off the server or drop ransomware:



Joe Levy, CTO, Sophos

### Cyberattack tools

In an ironic twist, or Cyber Catch-22, cybercriminals are utilizing essential or built-in Windows IT admin tools, including Powershell files and Windows Scripting executables, to deploy malware attacks on users.

### Playing digital dominos

By chaining together a sequence of different script types that execute an attack at the end of the event series, hackers can instigate a chain reaction before IT managers detect a threat is operational on the network, and once they break in it's difficult to stop the payload from executing. Cybercriminals have adopted newer Office exploits to lure in victims. Office exploits have long been an attack vector, but recently cybercriminals have cut loose old Office document exploits in favor of newer ones.

### Cryptojacking attacks

Patching updates appeared for this Windows threat more than a year ago, yet the EternalBlue exploit is still a favorite of cybercriminals: the coupling of EternalBlue to cryptominer software turned the activity from a nuisance hobby into a potentially lucrative criminal career. Lateral distribution on the corporate networks allowed the cryptojacker to quickly infect multiple machines, increasing payouts to the hacker and heavy costs to the user. The continued threat of mobile and IoT malware - Malware's impact extends beyond the organization's infrastructure as we see the threat from mobile malware grow apace. With illegal Android apps on the increase, 2018 has seen an increased focus in malware being pushed to phones, tablets and other IoT devices.

As homes and businesses adopt more internet-connected devices, criminals have been devising new ways to hijack those devices to use as nodes in huge botnet attacks. In 2018, VpnFilter demonstrated the destructive power of weaponized malware that affects embedded systems and networked devices that have no obvious user interface. Elsewhere, Mirai Aindra, Wifatch, and Gafgyt delivered a range of automated attacks that hijacked networked devices to use as nodes in botnets to engage in distributed denial-of-service attacks, mine cryptocurrency and infiltrate networks.

## Thai proposal for cyber agency sparks alarms

**BANGKOK:** A proposed cybersecurity law in Thailand would give a new government agency sweeping powers to spy on internet traffic, order the removal of content, or even seize computers without judicial oversight, alarming businesses and activists. Civil liberties advocates, internet companies and business groups are protesting the planned legislation, saying it sacrifices privacy and the rule of law, according to interviews and documents reviewed by Reuters.

The legislation, likely to gain approval by year-end, is the latest in a wave of new laws in major Asian countries that aim to assert government control over the internet, further undermining the Western ideal of a global network that transcends national borders. It would grant a newly created National Cybersecurity Committee (NCSC) the authority to access the computers of individuals or private companies, make copies of information, and enter private property without court orders. Criminal penalties would be imposed for those who do not comply. The NCSC could also summon businesses or individuals for interrogation and force them to hand over information belonging to other parties.

"Cybersecurity policy should be respectful of privacy and rule of law," the US-ASEAN Business Council said in letter to the Thai government that was not released publicly but was obtained by Reuters. "Enforcing cyberspace cannot come at the cost of sacrificing privacy, civil liberties, and rule of law." The letter also warned requirements such as forcing compa-

nies to alert the agency of cyber threats or even anticipated ones would impose "a very heavy burden" on businesses and should be removed. Tech giants Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon are all members of the council. The Singapore-based industry group Asia Internet Coalition (AIC), which represents the four US giants and seven other major internet companies, also warned the law might drive businesses out of Thailand.

The AIC, in a public statement, cited concerns about government surveillance and criminal liability for defying NCSC orders, among other issues. Somsak Khaosuan, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Economy, which is in charge of the law, told Reuters the government is now discussing revisions of the draft and would take the concerns into account. "The law will conform to international standards... The team working on the law will certainly listen to the issues that have been raised," Somsak said. "There is nothing scary about it," he added, declining to elaborate on possible revisions.

The draft law does not contain specific provisions on hot-button issues such as "fake news" or requirements that international tech and social media firms store data locally. Internet companies are currently battling governments over such issues in countries including India, Vietnam and Indonesia. But the Thai law would grant the new NCSC "sweeping powers, holding a monopoly on all things cyber in the country... without being subject to check and balance, control, or regulation," said Sutee Tuvirat, a cybersecurity expert with Thailand's Information Security Association. "If anyone is more powerful than the Prime Minister, this is it." Civil rights advocates worry Thailand's military junta, which actively censors the internet and often casts criticism of the government as a threat to national security, will use the new law to further codify its censorship regime. — Reuters

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- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
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- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
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- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
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General Surgery Consultant  
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- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
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- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

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

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Surgery Department  
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

**مستشفى دار الشفاء Dar Al Shifa Hospital**  
Tele:1802 555 @daralshifa  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

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

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

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

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

**Academic Certificates - Training**

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

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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What's On

# Lulu Hypermarket launches 'Best of USA 2018' promotion



Lulu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, launched the 'Best of USA 2018' promotion on 18 November at the hypermarket's Egaila outlet. The United States Ambassador to Kuwait HE Lawrence R Silverman inaugurated the event in the presence of top management of Lulu Hypermarket, officials and well-wishers.

The promotion, which is slated to end on 24 November, is being held across all Lulu Hypermarkets in the country and provides great discounts and value offerings on branded products from the United States. A wide range of popular US brands, including Bolthouse, Califia Farms, Eggo, General Mills, Gerber, Kraft, Lite House, McCormick,

Powerful Yogurt, Ragu and Silk among others are on offer at special discounts. An added allure during the week-long 'Best of USA 2018' promotion are the large cutouts of well-known attractions from around the US that are prominently displayed in all branches of Lulu Hypermarket.

Close interaction with customers through promo-

tions has always been a priority for Lulu Hypermarket. The 'Best of USA 2018' promotion once again reinforces this customer-centric approach, and reiterates the hypermarket's continued commitment to creating an engaging experience for shoppers, while simultaneously providing them with the widest range of high-quality products at the most competitive prices.



The Syrian Embassy to Kuwait recently held a special reception at the embassy headquarters on the occasion of celebrating the Glorious October festivities anniversary. The event was lead by the Charge d'affaires Ghassan Anjarani who also made a speech. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

## VIVA organizes blood donation day for staff

In partnership with Kuwait Central Blood Bank, VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, organized Blood Donation Day at its Headquarters in Olympia Tower. This initiative is part of VIVA's CSR program and corporate commitment to support community initiatives to help save lives and endorse good health practices among its staff. VIVA's

employees gathered to donate blood and help save the lives of others. Blood donations during the day were added to the blood bank's reserves to support its blood drive initiatives. The medical team also communicated important messages to donors about the importance of regular blood donation and its safe process. VIVA is keen to continue its ongoing socially responsible role in the community by spreading the spirit of goodness amongst Kuwaiti society. We believe at VIVA in taking a holistic approach to our CSR activities, one that engages our employees, and creates goodwill in our communities with a focus on helping to grow and develop the State of Kuwait.



The Ambassador of Belgium Piet Heirbaut hosted a reception on the occasion of King's day at his residence over the weekend. Higher officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Mohammed Dhahi and his distinguished English teacher, Medhat Kolaib posing for a picture showing Mohammed's latest quiz and the full marks he got. Big thanks to an excellent teacher and further good luck to you Mohammed.

## CROSSWORD 2064



## ACROSS

1. Fraught with extreme danger.  
5. Miscellaneous curios.  
12. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.  
15. An area within a building enclosed by walls and floor and ceiling.  
16. Unrighteousness by virtue of lacking respect for a god.  
17. Time for Earth to make a complete rotation on its axis.  
18. An affix that is added at the end of the word.  
20. (Greek mythology) The rarified fluid said to flow in the veins of the Gods.  
21. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).  
22. The action of an armed force that surrounds a fortified place and isolates it while continuing to attack.  
25. A large zodiacal constellation between Libra and Sagittarius.  
27. An Anatolian language.  
29. Earn on some commercial or business transaction.  
32. French romantic writer (1766-1817).  
35. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.  
39. Contemptuous name for a Black man who is abjectly servile and deferential to Whites.  
40. Being nine more than eighty.  
43. In or relating to or obtained from urine.  
45. French biochemist who (with Francois Jacob) explained how genes are activated and suggested the existence of messenger RNA (1910-1976).  
46. Being six more than fifty.  
47. The capital of Bahrain.  
49. Incapacitated by injury or illness.  
52. Type genus of the family Pholadidae.  
54. A radioactive element of the actinide series.  
55. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.  
56. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.  
60. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.  
67. A large fleet.  
69. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.  
70. A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc. except for certain white blood cells.  
71. A person who descends down a nearly vertical face by using a doubled rope that is wrapped around the body and attached to some high point.  
73. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.  
74. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.  
75. Sauce for pasta.  
76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

## DOWN

1. Suitable for formal occasions.  
2. Containing or involving or occurring in the form of ions.  
3. An exhibition of cowboy skills.  
4. Someone who leaves one country to settle in another.  
5. Hairpiece covering the head and made of human or synthetic hair.  
6. A metric unit of length equal to 100 meters.  
7. The capital of Western Samoa.  
8. The basic unit of money in Thailand.  
9. Indian statesman and leader with Gandhi in the struggle for home rule.  
10. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.  
11. (Norse mythology) God of war and strife and son of Odin.  
12. Someone whose business is advertising.  
13. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.  
14. Tropical Asian starlings.  
19. Of or pertaining to or characteristic of Nepal or its people or language or culture.  
23. A constitutional monarchy in a tiny enclave on the French Riviera.  
24. A landlocked mountainous republic in southeast central Asia north of Afghanistan.  
26. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.  
28. Sound of something in rapid motion.  
30. Form by carving.  
31. Tropical New World lizard with a long tail and large rectangular scales on the belly and a long tail.  
33. The first of three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures comprising the first five books of the Old Testament considered as a unit.  
34. Pertaining to or containing any of a group of organic compounds of nitrogen derived from ammonia.  
36. Genus of sticky herbs with yellow flowers open in morning or evening but closed in bright light.  
37. A woman of refinement.  
38. Aromatic Old World herb having aromatic threadlike foliage and seeds used as seasoning.  
41. A Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Christ.  
42. A blind god.  
44. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.  
48. Covered with paving material.  
50. A structure that provides privacy and protection from danger.  
51. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.  
53. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.  
57. Any property detected by the olfactory system.  
58. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.  
59. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.  
61. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).  
62. A city in the Asian part of Russia.  
63. A small cake leavened with yeast.  
64. Characteristic of false pride.  
65. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.  
66. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).  
68. Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow fruits.  
72. A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic

## STAR TRACK



## Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find this to be one of those days you are in true admiration of the beauty that surrounds you. You may see beauty in everything and everyone you encounter today. This brings a sense of peace and harmony into your world and you may find this to be a delightful day. Be careful not to overspend today because this mood tends to make you want to bring home every beautiful treasure you find. Not the best day for a trip to the mall. You will want everything you see! Take a stroll in the park and enjoy the beauty of the nature that surrounds you. This will keep your money in your wallet and a sense of peace in your heart.



## Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find that anything unusual and different catches your eye today. Your wild side is rearing its head. A new outfit, a new hairstyle, or an outing to somewhere you have never been will help satisfy what you are craving. Live a little. Others may be caught off guard by your high energy and the way you seem to express yourself today. You be you! This day will be spent with a smile on your face and an usually high amount of confidence. Live out loud.



## Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are so independent you tend to forget this sometimes everyone needs a friend to lean all or shoulder to cry on. You seem to try to take on the world all alone. This is a time you may find yourself needing support and the security of knowing someone is there for you. This causes your relationships to take on a deeper meaning for you. Today finds you serious with an awareness of time. You are very ambitious and have zero tolerance for anything that does not contribute to your success. You find yourself with a no-nonsense attitude and very dedicated and devoted to the task at hand. You have great appreciation for those who are supporting you at this time.



## Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Dreams illusions and all that is mysterious draws you in today. You are curious about other lifestyles and other cultures. You long for new experiences. The desires of your heart are great and you are ready to step out of your comfort zone and experience all this life has to offer. Take a leap. Cancer. Live out loud. New experiences may bring a new outlook and a new attitude about life your way.



## Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a great time for a bit of soul-searching. Analyzing what brought you to this point in life and how you feel about where you are. You may have find that not only are you very in touch with your own emotions but also with the emotions of those close to you. Today finds you very empathic and understanding to all who cross your path. You may tend to become too emotionally invested in the lives of those around you. Sometimes you need to sit back and keep your focus on you and yours. Taking on the weight of the world may be too much for you to handle and keep your focus far from where it needs to be. You may discover this causes tension in your home life.



## Virgo (August 23-September 22)

When it comes to speaking your mind, today seems to find you an expert at that. You are opinionated and your thoughts and words are forceful. While this is a great quality, you may find others are easily offended if you are not careful with your approach. You are high energy and you will have the strength and determination to accomplish every goal you set your mind to. You crave organization in your world. Not only do things have a place but you also have a talent when it comes to putting people in the place they belong. This is very beneficial in the workplace as you are able to manage people efficiently.



## Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today may bring an opportunity to have a special time with a love one. This may lead to emotion on a deeper level with this person. Feelings and emotions, you have been craving will be met and satisfied by this interaction. You have been feeling a need for an emotional connection and strong support from someone near to you. As independent as you are there has been a desire to know someone has your back and will be there to support you for the long haul. Your timing is perfect, and others are drawn to your mood as today you are spontaneous and full of life.



## Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are clever and creative. This is a combination that will leave you as the center of attention in your world. You may find the best way of self expression for you is through your art. Not only expressing yourself, but expressing yourself with flair seems to excite you. Your creations may lead to a profitable business venture. This is a win-win situation in your world. You may find someone close to you, perhaps a lover or a child, play a big role in this venture.



## Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This day may find you longing for change. A new style, new friends, new experiences may be calling out to you. You want to break out and break away from the mundane life you have been leading. A major change is on the horizon. You may be led to really change things up in your life. Don't run out and get a tattoo or make any changes that can be reversed because this phase could fade as fast as it appeared. This change is in attitude is very evident to those around you and you may find you are being met with much opposition.



## Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You don't care how... you want it now! This pretty much sums up the attitude of the day. You have your eye on a prize and are more determined than ever to obtain your goal. You will do whatever it takes today to make sure that happens. You may be guilty of being called hard headed in the past. Today will be no exception. You are admired for your strong will and dedication to making things happen. Your best quality is the ability to stop and make sure you do not step on any toes along the way.



## Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Things may seem too good to be true. In an almost magical sense it seems that all of your dreams are coming true. Goals seem attainable now. Everything seems to be falling in your lap. You are being smiled upon and you have a new love for life. This is the result of your hard work and dedication. You may find that karma has a way of repaying your good deeds and there seems to be no other explanation for this vast array of good fortune. This is a great time to get all of your affairs in order and continue to dream big.



## Pisces (February 19-March 20)

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.

## Wordsearch Puzzle

## Livewire Puzzles

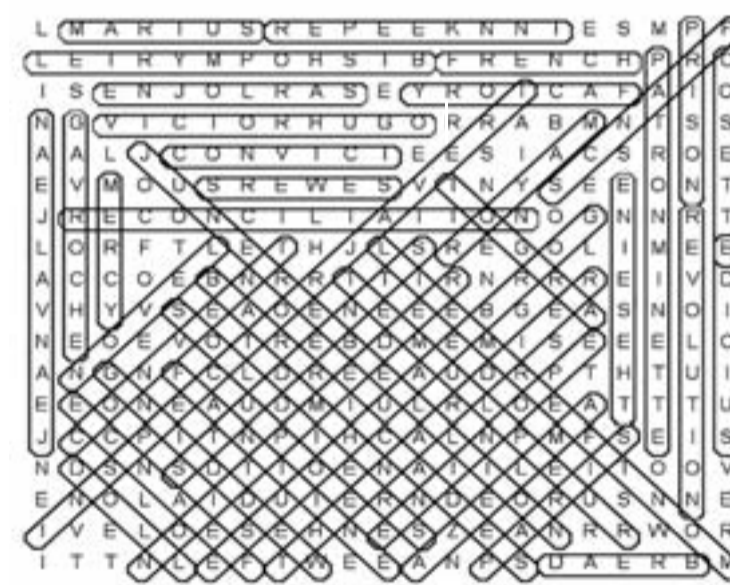
Find these words. They are some of the puzzles made by Livewire Puzzles since 1979. The remaining letters spell a Dutch Proverb.



ABRACADABRA	EQUALIZER	PENTANGLE	THE RACK
ARROW	EUREKA	PINETREE	TOUCH WOOD
ASTROKNOT	FIRECRACKER	PRETZEL LOGIC	TRAPEZE
BALL AND RING	FLIGHT TEST	SHOCKWAVE	TRIPLE CROWN
BEADBUG	GRAND PRIX	SHORT CIRCUIT	TRIPLE PLAY
BRIDGE THE GAP	HANDOFFS	SILENT PARTNER	TRIPWIRE
CENTPEDE	HAVE A HEART	SLEIGHT OF HAND	TROUBLE CLEF
CHINESE RINGS	KING TUT	SLINGSHOT	VIRUS
CORKSCREW	MELEDA	SOMETHING FISHY	WEATHERVAIN
CRYSTAL CLEAR	MOYBALLS	SPUTNIK	WEDGE
DEAD END	HOUSETRAP	SQUARING OFF	WOODEN OPEN
DOUBLE VISION	NUT HOUSE		

## Yesterday's Solution

## Les Misérables



ARGOT	FACTORY	MARBUS	REVOLUTION
AZELMA	FANTINE	MAYOR	RUE PLUMET
BARICADES	FEARCE	MERCY	SEWERS
BISHOP MYRIEL	FRANCIS	MONTFERMEIL	SOLDIERS
BREAD	FRENCH	NOVEL	STUDENTS
CONVENT	GAVRACHE	PARIS	SUICIDE
CONVICT	GORBEAU HOUSE	PATRON-MINETTE	THE SEINE
COSETTE	INNKEEPER	PRISON	THEARDSER
DOLL	INSPECTOR JAVERT	RECONCILIATION	VICTOR HUGO
ENGLAS	JEAN VALJEAN	REDEMPTION	WEDDING
EPONINE	JUNE REBELLION		

The hidden message is:  
LES MISÉRABLES IS ONE OF THE LONGEST NOVELS EVER WRITTEN

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

## Yesterday's Solution

## Daily Sudoku

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

## Yesterday's Solution

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

# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018



View of hot-air balloons during the XVIII International Balloon Festival in Leon, Guanajuato State. About 200 balloons from more than 23 countries fly over the Palote dam in the Metropolitan Park. — AFP

## China's youth embrace street dance amid hip-hop crackdown

In China, where children are often saddled with a packed schedule of extracurricular activities before they even enter grade school, some parents are making room for a surprising pursuit: hip-hop dance classes.

Inside a dance studio in central Beijing, a group of kids bopped up and down to an American hip-hop beat as they mimicked their teacher, a young woman in a dark blue beret and loose clothing. Some practiced in earnest-bending their arms just so-while others giggled, treating the class more like play.

"I want my son to be more extroverted. Kids these days lack spunk," explained Liu Li, whose son, a shy four-year-old with a large dimpled smile, just started taking dance classes at the studio, FunkAsista, this year. It is not uncommon for children as young as three to take English lessons, piano classes and other more traditional after-school activities in China, where the pressure to compete with other students can be all-consuming. But Liu wanted something different for her son, who often struggles to feel comfortable in group settings. "I want to encourage him to be more lively and carefree," the 36-year-old told AFP.

Though China's nascent street dance scene took root as early as the 2000s—thanks in part to Korean boy band H.O.T.—it wasn't until recently that the style exploded into

mainstream culture. Underground street dancers were thrust into the limelight after a few TV competitions featuring celebrity judges, such as "Street Dance of China", blew up. Young parents like Liu view the contemporary dance style as a cure for introversion while others see it as a hip form of exercise or even an alternative way of living that embraces self-expression at the expense of traditional social norms.

"All parents want their daughters to be well-behaved and find a stable job, then find a good husband, get married, and have kids," said Ya Xin, a 25-year-old dancer. Ya moved to Beijing in May to pursue dance full-time, renouncing her 9-to-5 gig at a government bureau in Hebei province. Her parents were not pleased. "They didn't agree, but I am willing to push back," she said. "They are not paying for my living expenses, so doing what I want isn't their burden."

### Street culture

The buzz has not, however, resulted in a movement towards actual dancing in the street, with most aspiring dancers practicing within the confines of a studio instead. There are over 5,000 street dance studios in China, according to local media reports citing figures

from the national dance association. The association has also developed a level-based certification test for street dance—though many dancers feel the system is antithetical to street culture. "I personally feel that certification tests are not useful because street dance comes from the street," said Zhao Lun, who started street dancing in 2001 and co-founded FunkAsista in 2016. "There's no concept of 'levels'."

While street culture elsewhere—which includes rap and graffiti art—is often used to expose social ills or dissatisfaction with the status quo, in China, where tattoos and even makeup can be considered politically sensitive or inappropriate, there seems little chance of that happening. Earlier this year, high-profile rap musicians from "Rap of China" faced censure over explicit song lyrics and tattoos. In mid-January a leaked government directive banned airtime for "artists with tattoos, hip-hop music" and other content that "conflicts" with party morals.

Zhang Jianpeng, a well-known street dancer in China, said he was forced to remove his makeup before going onstage during a televised dance competition. "On TV shows, you can't show tattoos" and "men cannot dress like women," said Zhang whose dance workshop, T.I. Studio, hangs a large rainbow-coloured flag in its lobby, and prides itself on being a LGBT-friendly space. Everyday folks are "very accepting" of street culture, even if China's media regulators are not, he said, adding that he thought it best to avoid high-profile competitions, since "you can't be yourself anyway."

Others in China's street dance community agree. "As long as you are not on stage, you have freedom of speech," said Lian Jiulong, a "bboy" who has been dancing in China for over 15 years. In 2017, Lian helped organise and judge a TV show called "Dance Awakening". All music used in the show had to be approved before launch. "These are the circumstances in China," he said. — AFP



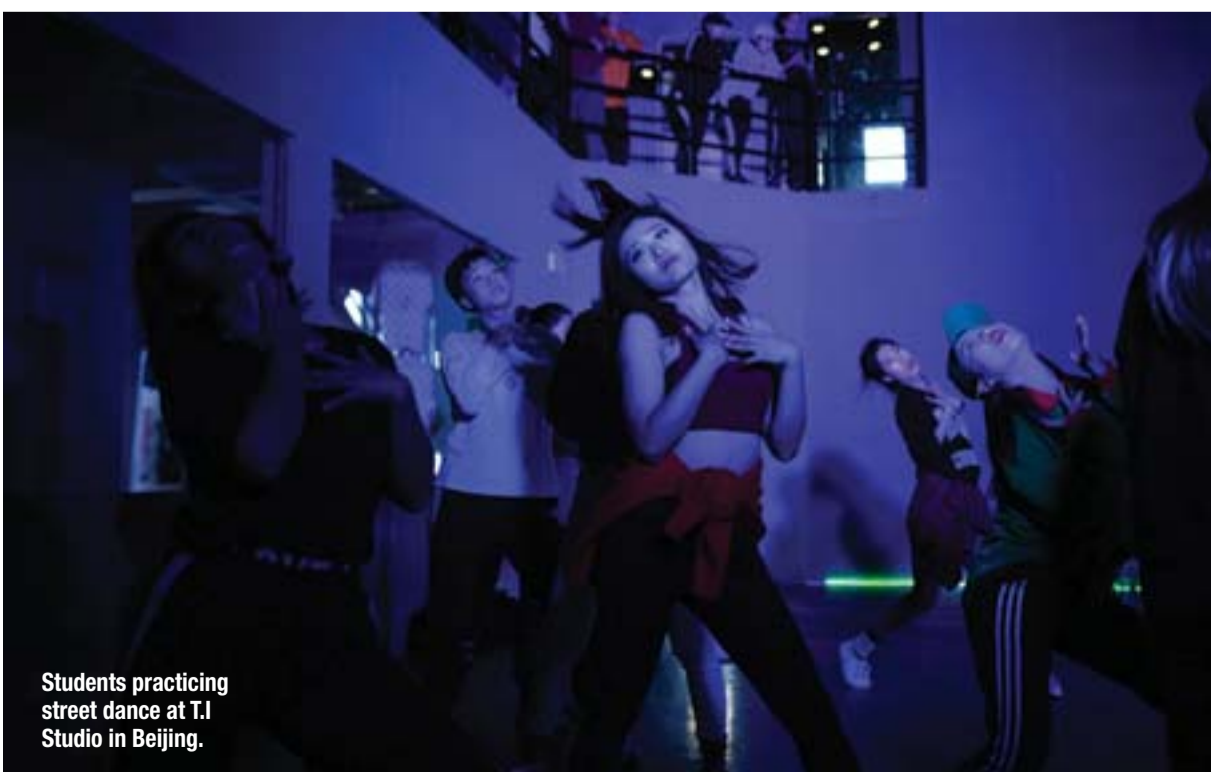
This picture shows students practicing street dance at T.I. Studio in Beijing. — AFP photos



This picture shows Chong Yang (front), a coach of T.I. Studio, leading a hip-hop dance class at the studio in Beijing.



Students practicing street dance at T.I. Studio in Beijing.



Students practicing street dance at T.I. Studio in Beijing.



Students practicing street dance at T.I. Studio in Beijing.



Children practicing at a street dance studio in Beijing.



US actress Cicely Tyson accepts an honorary Oscar.



Argentinian composer Lalo Schifrin accepts an honorary Oscar at the 10th Annual Governors Awards.



US actress Cicely Tyson accepts an honorary Oscar at the 10th Annual Governors Awards gala hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the Dolby Theater at Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood, California.— AFP photos

# Fire victims in Hollywood thoughts as Schifrin, Tyson honored



Kathleen Kennedy (right) and Frank Marshall accept the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award from Steven Spielberg onstage.

Hollywood turned its thoughts Sunday to victims of deadly wildfires at a ceremony that awarded honorary Oscars to composer Lalo Schifrin and actress Cicely Tyson. Schifrin, of Argentina, is best known for his "Mission: Impossible" theme song, while Tyson has been an icon for two generations of African American actresses. As a sign of respect for the fire victims — 77 north of Sacramento and three in the Malibu area bordering Hollywood—organizers asked photographers not to film stars arriving at the Dolby Theater for the 10th annual Governors Awards ceremony. Instead, pictures were restricted to the edge of the red carpet.

In his opening remarks, the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, John Bailey, paid homage to the victims of California's worst-ever wildfire. "Many thousands of our fellow Americans are homeless," Bailey said, also referring to those still unaccounted for, a figure which on Sunday numbered almost 1,000. "Some of our own history was lost in the same fire, at Paramount Ranch, home to the Academy's summer screenings of silent films," Bailey said. Schifrin, 86, has written scores for more than 100 films, including "Bullitt" and "Dirty Harry", as well as his theme for the television series "Mission: Impossible", a hallmark of the films that followed.

He received his statuette from "Dirty Harry" star Clint Eastwood at the end of a somewhat surrealistic dialogue between the two octogenarians. "You can say it in Spanish. We'll put subtitles," Eastwood said. "Music is a universal language that does not need subtitles," Schifrin replied. Asked about the immediate success of the "Mission Impossible" theme which he composed in a few minutes, the musician explained simply: "Music for movies is like writing a letter. Music for television is like a telegram..."



US filmmaker Steven Spielberg (center) embraces US producer Kathleen Kennedy (right) and US producer Frank Marshall as they accept the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award.



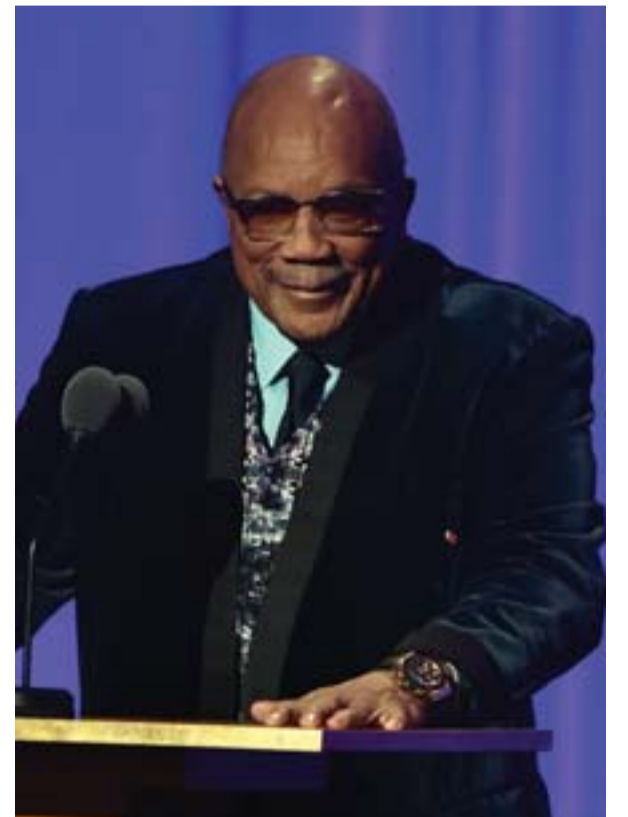
Marvin Levy accepts his award onstage.



Tyler Perry speaks onstage.



US screenwriter Ava DuVernay speaks onstage.



US composer and musician Quincy Jones speaks onstage.



Laura Dern speaks onstage.



US producer Frank Marshall accepts the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award.



US actor Clint Eastwood introduces Argentinian composer Lalo Schifrin (out of frame) an honorary Oscar.



Kathy Bates speaks onstage.



Tom Hanks speaks onstage.



US filmmaker Steven Spielberg (right) along with actor/director Clint Eastwood (center) and actor Matt Damon (left) enjoy the evening.



Lady Gaga attends the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 10th annual Governors Awards.



(From left) US actor Jamie Dornan, British actress Rosamund Pike and US director Matthew Heineman.

**Honoring a 'queen'**

Tyson, 93, who began her career as a model before turning to acting, was nominated for her performance in the 1972 film "Sounder". Her other film credits include "Fried Green Tomatoes", and "The Help". "She's a queen to us, Afro-Americans," the actor and producer Tyler Perry said. "She had to work ten times harder to be paid a hundred times less" because she was a black woman, Perry said. The composer Quincy Jones, in an emotional tribute, said Tyson "opened the door" for generations of actresses from Angela Bassett to Lupita Nyong'o.

Hollywood also awarded the publicist Marvin Levy—the first in that field to receive an honorary Oscar. Levy has long worked with Steven Spielberg and spearheaded the advertising campaigns for such films as "Kramer vs. Kramer", "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Schindler's List". Producers Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, who are married, received the Irving G. Thalberg Award, named after the legendary studio executive.

Spielberg called the couple "my forever friends, the inseparable". Kennedy, in charge of the latest "Star Wars" movies at Disney, is the first woman to receive the Thalberg, which was last handed out by the Academy in 2009 to Francis Ford Coppola. She and her husband have produced a number of movies together including "The Sixth Sense", and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button".

The honorary Oscars are handed out every year "to honor extraordinary distinction in lifetime achievement, exceptional contributions to the state of motion picture arts and sciences, or for outstanding service to the Academy." The Governors Awards were created as a separate event in 2009 to allow more space for the honorees to accept their prizes and to declutter the main show's packed schedule. — AFP



Australian actress Nicole Kidman



Kenyan-Mexican actress Lupita Nyong'o.



Hugh Australian actor Hugh Jackman and Deborah-lee Furness.



US actress Kiki Layne.



Emma Stone



(From left) US writer Marielle Heller, US actress Melissa McCarthy and Swazi-English actor Richard E. Grant.



Matt Damon speaks onstage.



US actor Michael B. Jordan.



US actor Tyler Perry.



US actor Mahershala Ali.



Emily Blunt and John Krasinski.



Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart.



British actress Rachel Weisz.



Amy Adams



Lily Collins



This picture shows a view of a freestyle wrestling show with a live audience schoolyard in the Egyptian village of Abu Sultan, south of the Suez canal city of Ismailia.



Egyptian freestyle wrestler 'King of the Night' reacts while performing during a show at a schoolyard in the village of Abu Sultan, south of the Suez canal city of Ismailia.



Egyptian freestyle wrestler "King of the Night" reacts while performing during a show at a schoolyard in the village of Abu Sultan.



Members of the self-declared Egyptian Wrestling Federation (EWR) train in a ring.



Ashraf Mahrous, also known as "Captain Ashraf Kabonga" poses with the championship belt that he designed.

# Egyptian enthusiasts get American wrestling off the ground

In an Egyptian schoolyard, hundreds of fans watched as amateur fighters with painted faces and dramatic costumes recreated an American-style wrestling show. With eyes blackened by make-up, "The King of the Night" readied to take on "Tiger", clad in a leopard skin cape. Under bright lights and blaring rock music, the duo took to the ring and the fight played out with a mix of athletic moves and careful choreography. The rare spectacle at a village school near the city of Ismailia, on the banks of the Suez Canal, attracted a crowd of nearly 1,000 men, women and children. The show was the brainchild of Ashraf Mahrous, who founded the self-declared Egyptian Federation of Professional Wrestling in 2012 and has since organized 22 events.

The group started with just eight fighters, including two women, but now boasts 50 amateurs from across Egypt—although it is still not an official body. "The idea of wrestling started with performing fighting moves on the bed with my brother," said 37-year-old Mahrous. Three beds were broken in the process, forcing the boys to sleep on the floor. Years later the strikingly-tall Mahrous now uses the wrestling name "Kabonga". He dressed in a suit and tie for the school show, which he had spent months preparing.



Ashraf Mahrous, also known as "Captain Ashraf Kabonga", founder of the self-declared Egyptian Wrestling Federation (EWR), poses with the championship belt that he designed during a federation training session.

But the playground lacked space and, after just 10 minutes, the event was shut down due to overcrowding. "We were not up to it," co-organizer Ahmed Abdullah told the crowd through a microphone. "We had hoped to present something new to the village of Abu Sultan," he added. Mahrous broke down in tears as people left and the lights went off one by one. "If there was money, we could offer seats to everyone and hire an event organizer," he said. The wrestling federation lacks sponsors and its members spend their own money on organizing events. Most take place in clubs, but one is hosted by a Cairo children's hospital. "No-one succeeds here" in Egypt, one of the wrestlers whispered.

### Professional ambitions

But despite the challenges, the wrestlers remain hopeful of one day achieving the fame enjoyed by professionals in the United States. Momen Mohamed—who fights as "Commando"—said he has been passionate about American wrestling since he was a child. "My favorite is



Members of the self-declared Egyptian Wrestling Federation (EWR) train in a ring.

Rey Mysterio, because of his light movements on the ropes and his fighting style in the ring," he said. US wrestling is aired in cafes in working-class Egyptian neighborhoods, allowing enthusiasts to watch icons, including John Cena, Triple H and The Undertaker.

Global wrestling stars make a fortune from their performances, while they also cash in on spin-off films and adverts. Their Egyptian counterparts are just starting to get noticed, helped by a Facebook page which has 40,000 fans.

Samir Ibrahim, a 22-year-old student who goes by "Ninja" in the ring, was thrilled when he was recognized after appearing on local television. "I ran into people who told me: 'You were on TV, we know you, you're Ninja who wrestles,'" he said, wearing a mask and dressed head-to-foot in black. The struggle to find suitable facilities has not put Mahrous off. He built a makeshift ring by his family home in a nearby village, where he trains amateur wrestlers surrounded by fields and part-complete red-brick houses.

The wrestlers' enthusiasm was clear at the school event, where 27-year-old Mohamed was steadfast in his ambitions. "I always hope that Egypt will have a professional wrestling federation," he said, after entering the arena as "The Lumberjack" and wielding an axe. "I won't abandon my dream." — AFP



Egyptian freestyle wrestlers "Ninja" (center, top) and "Tiger" (right) perform during a show at a schoolyard.



Children watch as members of the self-declared Egyptian Wrestling Federation (EWR) train in a ring during a session outside the federation founder's home in the village of Serapeum.



Members of the self-declared Egyptian Wrestling Federation (EWR) train in a ring.

# Classifieds

Tuesday, November 20, 2018



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



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Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h with a slight chance for rain that might be thundery later on.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 38 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 19/11/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	24 °C	18 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	23 °C	15 °C			
ABDALY	24 °C	13 °C			
BUBYAN	00 °C	00 °C			
JAHRA	25 °C	15 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	24 °C	16 °C			
SALMIYAH	23 °C	18 °C			
AHMADI	24 °C	17 °C			
NUWAISIB	26 °C	16 °C			
WAFRA	24 °C	14 °C			
SALMY	21 °C	12 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/20	Clouds will decrease gradually with a chance for scattered light rain	23 °C	17 °C	NW	12 - 32 km/h
Wednesday	11/21	Mostly Sunny	24 °C	14 °C	NW	08 - 32 km/h
Thursday	11/22	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on	23 °C	14 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 26 km/h
Friday	11/23	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for thunder rain	22 °C	18 °C	S-SE	25 - 60 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:53
Sunrise	06:15
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:52
Isha	18:12

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	24 °C
MIN. Temp.	15 °C
MAX. RH	97 %
MIN. RH	45 %
MAX. Wind	NW 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

**NOTICE**  
November 11, 2018

Mr. Arijit Dutta son of Mr. Aurebinda Dutta, resident of 2nd floor, Webel IT Park, paribahan Nagar, Ujanu, Darjeeling, Pin: 734010, West Bengal, India and Ms. Jana Das daughter of Mr. Sunil Das, resident of Viii - Masly, P.O - Bhanga Bazar, Karimganj, Pin: 788701, Assam, India both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (welfare2@indembkt.gov.in, welfaresection@indembkt.gov.org)/ letters / telephonic calls (00965-22550171, 00965-22533125).

(Yashwant Chakraborty)  
\* Second Secretary (PIC/Cons/CA) and Marriage Officer.  
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American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
	22924455
Jet Airways	22414400
FlyDubai	22423888
Qatar Airways	22425747
KLM	22418064/5/6
Royal Jordanian	22425635
British Airways	22430224
Air France	22921555
Emirates	22438184
Air India	22424444
Sri Lanka Airlines	22421578
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112

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 20/11/2018					Departure Flights on Tuesday 20/11/2018						
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	12:30	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	13:30		
JZR	254	Amman	00:05	KAC	672	Dubai	14:20	MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
JZR	406	Kochi	00:10	KAC	286	Dubai	14:25	JZR	113	Doha	13:30
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	KAC	618	Dhaka	14:30	KAC	545	Cairo	13:30
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	GFA	221	Doha	14:40	JZR	123	Dubai	13:40
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	SVA	500	Bahrain	14:45	MSR	611	Cairo	14:10
JZR	722	Alexandria	00:55	KAC	692	Jeddah	14:45	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	529	Muscat	14:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:15
KAC	102	London	01:20	KNE	788	Jeddah	15:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:00
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	KAC	441	Jeddah	15:10	FDB	060	Dubai	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	QTR	8512	Doha	15:25
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC	562	Asyut	15:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	OMA	645	Amman	15:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:40
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	KAC	304	Muscat	15:35	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	857	Mumbai	15:40	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	732	Cairo	15:50	KAC	743	Dammam	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	SYR	341	Damascus	16:00	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:05
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	JZR	152	Mashhad	16:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	118	New York	16:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	516	Tehran	16:20	FEG	342	Sohag	16:25
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:00	JZR	212	Jeddah	16:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	16:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:40
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	502	Beirut	16:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:45
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:35	JZR	105	Bahrain	16:55
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40	SYR	342	Damascus	17:00
DHX	1790	Bahrain	04:35	JZR	114	Doha	17:10	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
QTR	8193	MST	05:00	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:45
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:45	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	QTR	1073	Doha	18:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	FDB	063	Dubai	18:15	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	JZR	124	Dubai	18:20	JZR	733	Cairo	18:10
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	JZR	612	Tbilisi	18:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	QTR	1080	Doha	18:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR	2620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	127	Dubai	18:35
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	KAC	744	Dammam	19:00	JZR	501	Lahore	18:40
KAC	362	Colombo	06:10	KAC	744	Alexandria	19:05	KAC	381	Delhi	18:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	JZR	254	Amman	19:15
BAW	157	London	07:05	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30	JZR	721	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
JZR	708	Luxor	07:15	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:30	MSR	2621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
FEG	241	Alexandria	07:40	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	106	Bahrain	20:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:10	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:05
JZR	102	Bahrain	08:25	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	546	Cairo	20:30	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:55
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KAC	674	Dubai	20:35	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:55
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	624	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DLH	624	Luxembourg	21:15	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	ICV	675	Frankfurt	21:15	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:15	DLH	624	Dammam	21:30
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	624	Doha	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	122	Dubai	11:20	KAC	168	Paris	21:30	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:15
JZR	216	Jeddah	11:45	THY	6476	Istanbul	21:40	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:25	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	KAC	564	Amman	21:55	KAC	383	Delhi	22:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	AZQ	565	Baku	22:00	THY	6476	PNH	22:40
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	JAI	574	Mumbai	22:00	ICV	675	Hong Kong	22:45
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	Jeddah	783	Jeddah	22:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:10	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	RBG	213	Sohag	22:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	23:00
QTR	1078	Doha	13:35	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:45	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
QTR	8511	Doha	13:55	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	774	Riyadh	14:00	JZR	128	Dubai					



A view of the Fuego volcano erupting is seen from Escuintla, Guatemala yesterday. Guatemalan authorities yesterday declared a red alert after the volcano erupted again, forcing almost 3,000 residents to flee. —AFP

## In Dubai, US sanctions pressure historic business ties with Iran

**DUBAI:** With its Persian restaurants and shop signs in Farsi, Murshid Bazaar, a dense maze of alleys in Dubai's old quarter, has for decades been a center for small-scale trade with Iran. That is changing. One in every dozen or so shops in the once-bustling area is shuttered or carries a "for rent" sign. Indian and Pakistani merchants now far outnumber the Iranians who used to dominate the area. The Iranians who stayed say the fallout from US sanctions has made their jobs harder. Dubai has long been one of Iran's main links to the outside world, but trade between the two has slowed as sanctions approached.

Imposed in early November and August, the sanctions target Iran's rial currency, autos, metals, oil and banking. The saffron, clothing and processed foods that the Iranians sell in the bazaar are not directly targeted but the merchants say business conditions have got worse. Banks in the United Arab Emirates, including in Dubai, have become more reluctant to work with Iranians for fear of exposing themselves to US legal action. And the rial's nearly 70 percent fall against the US dollar this year has made business with Iran risky.

Landlords in the bazaar are offering to waive two months of rent for prospective tenants, said businessman Aftab Hasan, a member of the city's Iranian Business Council. "A lot of Iranians have shut down their stores," finding it harder to

do business in Dubai, he said. Some are considering whether to leave the city in search of other bases for their operations, he added. The deteriorating bank ties also threaten a larger re-export trade of other countries' goods to Iran through Dubai's ports and airports. In the past, these have included cars and auto parts, consumer electronics, machinery, glass and plastics.

Last year, 29 percent of Iran's \$71.5 billion imports passed through the UAE, according to International Monetary Fund data. The vast majority moved via Dubai, which does not disclose timely data on its trade with Iran. Two-way trade between Iran and the UAE shrank to \$1.75 billion in July from \$2.49 billion last December. In 2014, at the height of the previous sanctions period, monthly trade averaged \$1.92 billion.

Mehrdad Emadi, an Iranian economist who heads energy risk analysis at London's Betamatrix consultancy, said rial weakness triggered by the approach of the sanctions had hurt trade because Iran reduced imports as they became more expensive. "When you have a massive currency devaluation, import prices rise, and wages did not rise as fast in Iran so people were forced to cut back," he said.

Visits to the Gulf this year by US Treasury officials to discuss the legal enforcement of sanctions, made the region's banks nervous of links with Iran, Emadi said. This made it

harder to arrange payments for trade, he added. Banks in Dubai no longer open accounts for Iranians without obtaining the co-signature of a UAE national and demanding a series of documents, said the Iranian manager of a herbs and spices shop at Murshid Bazaar. International money transfers through banks have largely become impossible, he said.

UAE central bank governor Mubarak Rashed Al-Mansoori said this month that UAE banks were cautious about Iran business because of their need to keep relations with clearing banks in the United States. He said two Iranian banks, Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, which largely serve Iranians, would continue operating in the UAE. The Dubai government referred questions on sanctions to the UAE economy ministry. A ministry official said the UAE was fully complying with US sanctions. Iran's central bank said last month UAE banks were no longer facilitating transactions for Iranian merchants. It said Tehran was seeking regional alternatives to replace the UAE as a centre for its banking business, the Iranian IRNA news agency reported.

### Seeking alternatives

US President Donald Trump reimposed the sanctions in an effort to curb Tehran's missile and nuclear programs and diminish the Islamic Republic's influence in the Middle East,

notably its support for proxies in Syria, Yemen and Lebanon. They are largely a repeat of measures imposed by President Barack Obama between 2012 and 2015 although US officials say they plan further action. With business ties to Iran stretching back over a century and an Iranian population estimated at 200,000 or more, well over 5 percent of the total, Dubai has ridden out sanctions before.

Businessmen have found ways to continue operating. Some Iranian traders used people of other nationalities to transfer money abroad or struck barter deals, involving an exchange of goods with no payments of hard currency. But the Obama administration did not rigidly enforce sanctions, leaving a small number of banking and trading channels open. The Trump administration appears to be taking a tougher line.

At the Iranian Business Council, membership has fallen to about 50 from 500 in 2011. This is partly because businesses are reluctant to be associated with the group during sanctions, said Hossein Asrar Haghighi, an Iranian businessman and member who has lived in Dubai for 37 years. Some are moving to other places such as Turkey or Europe, he added. "Investors look for the best terms possible to do their business and make their living, and when they are facing these kinds of difficulties...they look for alternatives," he said. — Reuters

## UNRWA says budget deficit slashed after Gulf, EU input

**SWEIMEH, Jordan:** The UN agency for Palestinian refugees said yesterday that UNRWA has dramatically reduced its budget shortfall despite US funding cuts after Gulf and EU contributions. "You are all aware how difficult this year has been for UNRWA in particular following the unexpected decision by the US to cut \$300 million this year of UNRWA's income," commissioner general Pierre Krahenbuhl told a news conference in Jordan. At the start of 2018, the UN agency faced a \$446-million budget deficit, he said.

But after mobilizing to tackle the unprecedented finan-

cial crisis caused by the US cuts, we have now reduced the shortfall... to \$21 million, he added. "This is a very encouraging result at the end of a lot of work," he told reporters after meeting with the agency's advisory commission in Sweimeh on the Jordanian shore of the Dead Sea. Krahenbuhl thanked in particular Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar, saying they had helped plug the deficit by contributing \$50 million each.

Their combined contribution of \$200 million is almost half of the total amount that we mobilized this year, said Krahenbuhl, adding that aid also poured in from the European Union. The United States, which was by far the biggest contributor to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), announced in August that it would no longer fund the agency.

The administration of President Donald Trump has backed Israel in accusing UNRWA of perpetuating the Middle East conflict by perpetuating the idea that millions of Palestinians are refugees with a right to return to homes in what is now Israel. Aside from cutting funds to UNRWA, the Trump administration has also cut \$200 million in bilateral aid to the Palestinians for projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. — AFP

## Saudi king urges action on Iran...

Continued from Page 1

The Houthis said yesterday they were halting drone and missile attacks on Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and their Yemeni allies, and indicated readiness for a broader ceasefire if the Saudi-led coalition "wants peace".

In his speech, King Salman said Saudi Arabia would continue working with OPEC and non-OPEC members to maintain stability in global energy markets. He also reaffirmed Saudi support for a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, a

long-standing position thrown into question last year when Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman appeared to back a nascent US peace plan that aligns with that of Israel on key issues.

Yesterday, the king signaled that the crown prince remains empowered to pursue ambitious economic reforms, praising a "comprehensive developmental transformation" underway. He directed his son, sitting in the hall, to focus on... preparing the new generation for future jobs". King Salman also praised the Saudi judiciary and prosecution service for "performing the duties they were entrusted with", without elaborating. In addition to the Khashoggi case, the public prosecutor has participated in an anti-corruption campaign ordered by Prince Mohammed last year in which scores of princes, ministers and businessmen were arrested and the state said it recovered \$100 billion in stolen assets. — Reuters

appreciation for King Salman's and Sheikh Tamim's wishes, expressing his hopes for good health and prosperity to the Saudi and Qatari leaderships and peoples.

## All Gulf states to attend GCC...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received phone calls from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, congratulating the Amir on the return of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah following his treatment trip. The leaders discussed the latest developments in the region and international arena, including issues of common concern. HH the Amir expressed

## Auto titan Ghosn under arrest, faces...

Continued from Page 1

Saikawa insisted "the partnership among the three entities will not be affected by this event," but he was unable to give details on how Renault and Mitsubishi planned to respond, or who might succeed Ghosn.

French President Emmanuel Macron warned Paris would be "extremely vigilant" about the stability of Renault and the three-firm alliance after Ghosn's arrest. France owns a 15 percent stake in Renault. Ghosn's arrest will "rock the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance as he is the keystone of the alliance," said Satoru Takada, an analyst at TIW, a Tokyo-based research and consulting firm. "He is the man of charisma for the alliance. It is likely to have a negative impact on its brand image," he told AFP. "It's the future of the alliance that seems in play, because the thing holding it together seemed to be Ghosn himself," said Daniel Larrourou, a senior executive at investment firm Diamant Bleu Gestion.

## Khan lashes out at Trump 'tirade'...

Continued from Page 1

Trump, in a pre-recorded interview, said bin Laden had been living in "a nice mansion" in Pakistan next to a military academy and "everybody in Pakistan knew he was there". "And we give Pakistan \$1.3 billion a year... (bin Laden) lived in Pakistan, we're supporting Pakistan, we're giving them \$1.3 billion a year - which we don't give them anymore, by the way. I ended it because they don't do anything for us, they don't do a damn thing for us."

Khan said Pakistan had borne the brunt of the United States' war on terror, which focused on militants that straddle the Afghanistan-Pakistan tribal belt. "No Pakistani was involved in 9/11 but Pak decided to participate in US War on Terror," Khan said. "Pakistan suffered 75,000 casualties in this war & over \$123 bn was lost to economy. US "aid" was a minuscule \$20 bn." Khan also pointed out that Pakistan continued to provide its roads and air space for the resupply for more than 10,000 US troops currently based in Afghanistan. "Can Mr Trump name another ally that gave such sacrifices?"

Meanwhile, Margaret Thatcher was famously not for turning, but Khan has declared U-turns to be a "hallmark of great leadership", in comments provoking criticism from opponents and a slew of jokes from Pakistanis. Khan, the cricketer-turned-premier, has come under fire since he took office for a string of

The arrest is an astonishing reversal of fortune for Ghosn, often feted for his success at turning around failing companies with hard-nosed tactics that earned him the nickname "Le Cost Killer" in France. Renault came to the rescue of the then-ailing Japanese automaker Nissan in 1999 and parachuted in Ghosn, who set about slashing costs and jobs in a huge corporate overhaul. In 2016, Ghosn also took charge at troubled Mitsubishi after Nissan threw it a lifeline, buying a one-third stake for about \$2.2 billion as it wrestled with a mileage-cheating scandal that hampered sales.

Brazilian-born, of Lebanese descent and a French citizen, Ghosn is credited with saving Nissan from bankruptcy through measures including closing plants and restructuring, and he has instant name recognition in Japan, where he is a rare high-profile foreign executive. But he has also faced opposition, including over his pay, with his compensation package at Renault prompting a spat with shareholders and criticism from France's then-economy minister Emmanuel Macron. Saikawa said he was still thinking through whether Ghosn was "a charismatic figure or a tyrant". "But looking at the facts he has done what not many other people could have done," he added, referring to Ghosn's overhauls of companies. — Agencies

apparent about-faces. They include backtracking from his claim that as prime minister he would only fly by commercial airliner, caving to Islamist pressure over his decision to appoint a member of a persecuted religious minority as an economic advisor, and allying himself with politicians he has previously declared corrupt.

With the opposition branding him 'U-turn Khan', he has defended himself to journalists. "Both Hitler and Napoleon faced defeat as they did not change their strategies according to the situation... Leaders should always be ready to take U-turns," he was quoted as saying by the English-language daily Dawn newspaper on Saturday. Some supporters attempted to explain that Khan was misusing the term "U-turn", and simply meant that leaders must be flexible. "While dictators find it difficult to do course correction, leading their countries into disaster, democratic leaders have ability to do timely course correction when needed!" wrote human rights minister Shireen Mazari.

But the comments ignited social media, especially after Khan doubled down on his statement with a fresh tweet on Sunday. "Doing a U-turn to reach one's objective is the hallmark of great leadership just as lying to save ill-gotten wealth is the hallmark of crooks," he wrote. The tweet prompted a wave of jokes on Twitter. "I was going to take a bath. I took U turn when I realised that water is cold," tweeted one user from Peshawar. "This morning I woke up to drink tea, then I took a U turn and slept again. Now, I have become a real leader," tweeted another. Others posted memes including an image of a circular racetrack captioned "Road to Leadership". Khan did not appear to respond, but his party's official Twitter account posted a video clip of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos stating: "People who are right a lot change their minds". — Agencies



## Sports

# Tearful Howell snaps 11-year PGA win drought at RSM Classic

## Rodgers, match his career-best PGA finish as runner-up

WASHINGTON: Charles Howell snapped an 11-year US PGA Tour win drought Sunday in epic fashion, sinking a 20-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole to capture the RSM Classic. The 39-year-old American had not won since Riviera in 2007 — a gap of 4,291 days—and had lost four of five prior playoffs before conquering compatriot Patrick Rodgers to win at Sea Island, Georgia. “I just don’t even know (how I did it). I haven’t been able to pull it off in so long,” Howell said before breaking down in tears.

“It means a lot because I hung in there. It means I can still win out here.” Squandering his lead with a bogey-double bogey start, Howell battled back all day to match Rodgers, whose 61-62 weekend nearly took him to his first PGA title.

“To hang in there and turn it around, I needed some good fortune on my side and fortunately I had it,” Howell said. “I’ve failed a lot of times. It was different today.” Howell also secured a berth in his hometown event—next year’s Masters at Augusta, Georgia—for the first time since 2012 by ending his drought after 333 events and 1,154 rounds.

It was third time charmed for Howell, who had three birdie putts on the 18th hole of the Seaside course to win the title, the first in the last round and the second on the first playoff hole before he sank the last.

“I had messed up the first two,” Howell said. “I was thinking whatever I do, don’t leave it short.”

“I’m still shocked that putt went in.” It was the third career PGA win for Howell, whose first came in 2002 at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Rodgers, 26, matched his career-best PGA finish with the runner-up effort after failing in his first PGA playoff. “It has been such a long building process the past year and a half. All the hard work paid off with how well I played this week,” Rodgers said. “I’m gutted to not get it done but congrats to Charles.”

Rodgers and Howell entered the playoff after each finished 72 holes on 19-under 263 on the Seaside and Plantation courses at Sea Island, Georgia.

Webb Simpson, this year’s Players Championship winner, was third in an all-American top 10 on 264 with Ryan Blaum and Luke List sharing fourth on 265, Cameron Champ sixth on 266 and Chase Wright, Peter Uihlein, Kevin Kisner and two-time major winner Zach Johnson in seventh on 267.

In a bogey-free final round, Rodgers blasted out of a bunker to birdie to par-4 second, sank a four-foot birdie putt at the par-5 seventh and drained a 45-foot birdie putt at the par-4 ninth.

Rodgers followed with a birdie putt of 21 feet and 11 and a stunning 85-foot birdie effort at the par-3 12th, another another pair of back-to-back birdies at 14 and 15 and closed with a seven-foot birdie putt to finish off his 62.

Howell opened bogey-double bogey to squander his early lead, battling back even as Rodgers charged. He made the shots back with birdies at the fifth and sixth, the latter from 21 feet, and another from 24 feet to begin the back nine. He birdied three in a row starting at 15 to match Rodgers for the lead and a closing par set up the playoff. — AFP



ST SIMONS ISLAND: Charles Howell III (R) and Davis Love III (L) of the United States poses with the trophy after winning the RSM Classic at the Sea Island Golf Club Seaside Course on Sunday in St. Simons Island, Georgia. — AFP

## Dutch GP could return as F1 looks to ‘Max factor’

LONDON: Formula One is hoping to bring back the Dutch Grand Prix and build on the wave of popularity surrounding Red Bull’s Max Verstappen. “We are very interested in racing in Holland,” Sean Bratches, the sport’s commercial managing director, told Reuters at the weekend when asked about a possible return to the Zandvoort circuit that hosted 30 races from 1952 to 1985. “We are having productive conversations there and I am cautiously optimistic we can do something to surprise and delight fans in that territory and take advantage of the Max factor,” he added.

Local media reports have suggested a deal for 2020 could be on the table. Verstappen, 21 and seen as a future world champion, has a huge national following as the country’s most successful Formula One driver.

The youngest race winner ever now has five victories to his name, including two this season with Red Bull—with some 20,000 Dutch fans travelling to the

team’s home race in Austria, which he won.

The Jumbo Racing Days event at Zandvoort in May, which featured Verstappen and other Red Bull drivers doing demonstration runs, attracted more than 110,000 people. The circuit, located in sand dunes on the Dutch North Sea coast, first hosted a Formula One championship race in 1952 and has been refurbished since 1985 when Austrian Niki Lauda won the last grand prix there. The return of Zandvoort would alleviate fears about the sport distancing itself from its European past, with other ‘heritage circuits’ facing an uncertain future. Formula One, whose commercial rights are owned by US-based Liberty Media, recently announced Vietnam will host a grand prix in Hanoi for the first time in 2020 and is aiming to expand the calendar beyond the current 21 races.

At the same time, historic but financially-challenged venues like Britain’s Silverstone, Italy’s Monza and Germany’s Hockenheim have contracts expiring next year with concern about their futures.

Those were put into sharper focus when Formula One chairman Chase Carey told a Liberty Media investor meeting last week that “we expect to replace a few existing races where we inherited unattractive agreements, with new events or agreements that are better for racing and provide more value.”

Bratches said discussions were ongoing with a num-

ber of current and potential promoters and saw plenty of interest. “We’re in an extraordinary favourable position I think, in the pole position if you will, in terms of Formula One being an attractive product for countries around the world,” he said, speaking at Formula One’s esports series.

“From a brand standpoint, from a history standpoint our intention is to renew the heritage circuits,” he added. “We think it’s an important part of Formula One. “But at the same time we’re a publicly traded company, we’re a business, we have obligations to our partners and the teams to maximise the investment that they are making into the sport and we’re going to try to balance that with the complexities of some of these negotiations.” Silverstone, which hosted the first championship grand prix in 1950, last year activated a break clause in the circuit’s contract for financial reasons in the hope of negotiating a better deal. Bratches has suggested previously that the British Grand Prix does not have to be at Silverstone, although he said that remained the favoured option.

“We’ve said time and again our intention is to race in Silverstone for the next 68 years,” said Bratches. “But at the same time we are running a business and we are going to make prudent decisions as it relates to running the business and that includes keeping a keen eye on fans’ views and perspectives.” — Reuters

## Ooredoo’s ambassador Rakan Al-Hasawi wins third place in AEF Junior Championship

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait’s brand ambassador Rakan Al-Hasawi, won third place in the 3rd AEF Junior Jumping Championship which took place in Taipei. Al-Hasawi is considered the only participant from the GCC, in addition to being the only GCC athlete to win in this competition.

Al-Hasawi won a number of awards locally and regionally, such as the CHI Al-Shaqab horse hurdles competition in Qatar, in addition to the Kuwait Police Show Jumping Tournament and the Kuwait Riding Center Tournament, in addition to the Hala Febrayer 2017 which was sponsored by Ooredoo Kuwait recently, among other competitions.

In a statement regarding this, Ooredoo Kuwait’s Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub said, “We have great pride in the achievement of our young athletes that we sponsor, such as Kuwaiti champion Abdulaziz Al-Rashed, and Kuwaiti athlete Najlaa Al-Jeraiwi who represented Kuwait in the Asian Games this year.”

Empowering youth is among Ooredoo’s top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company has recently

signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, to support youth projects and initiatives. Ooredoo is continuously working with the Ministry to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields, with a focus on volunteerism.

Supporting youth and empowering women is among Ooredoo’s top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs in 2017 to support youth projects and initiatives. Ooredoo is continuously working with the different entities in both private and public sectors to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields.



Mijbil Alayoub



Rakan Al-Hasawi (third Right)

## Family will decide my future: Schmidt

DUBLIN: Joe Schmidt says whether he stays on as Ireland rugby coach after next year’s World Cup or moves on, with the likely destination New Zealand, will be decided by his family. The 53-year-old New Zealander—whose contract comes to an end after the sport’s quadrennial showpiece in Japan—will announce his decision by the end of November and it would be fair to say Irish fans will pray he opts to stay.

The former school teacher has overseen the most successful era in the national side’s history delivering three Six Nations titles—including the Grand Slam this year—and two historic wins over New Zealand since taking over a demoralised outfit in 2013.

The first ever win over the All Blacks came in Chicago in 2016 and was followed by a first victory on home soil on Saturday—which has led to many believing Schmidt could achieve the greatest goal of all New Zealand rugby coaches, the All Blacks post.

However, Schmidt said after the epic 16-9 victory over the All Blacks in Dublin that he will focus on the United States Test next Saturday before a final discussion with his wife and four children. “I’m not that good at many things but I compartmentalise really well,” he said.

“So I’m happy to just park that. “To be honest, I’d like to think about it but it’s very much a family decision and I haven’t really seen my family since I went to Chicago (for the 5-4-7 thrashing of Italy in early November).

“We had a pretty good chat about it over the summer and then we’ll just confirm things, one way or the other.” Schmidt said he gets “reflected pride” out of the success of the team and there are many backroom staff who don’t get the recognition they deserve. He said Ireland’s players will be able to handle the expectations victories like Saturday’s over the All Blacks will provoke among fans.

“We want to be as good as we can be, so we try to create our own expectation,” he said. “We’ll benchmark Saturday and say: ‘Can we reach that again? Can we make sure that we deliver at that level’.

“Now, you might deliver that again and an All Black team might beat you. “But you know you’re in the ball-park, you know you can foot it with the big boys when you can eke your way through an arm-wrestle like that.”

Schmidt’s All Blacks counterpart Steve Hansen has said it will be interesting to see how the Irish cope with being the world’s best team, a tag he said they deserved for coming out on top in a battle of the two top-ranked sides.

Schmidt has dismissed that label—New Zealand remain top of the rankings—but admits there will be pressure come the Six Nations and they need to keep getting better as other sides are improving.

“Yes, there’ll be some expectation because we’re the current champions and have been three out of the last five years,” he said. “So therefore, we expect that there should be some pressure on us to produce performances in the Six Nations. “But at the same time we’re realistic, because we know how good those other teams are and we know how good we’re going to have to be.” — AFP

## Sports

# Patel spins NZ to thrilling win in first Test over Pakistan

## New Zealand bowlers pull off a gripping four-run win

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the first Test between Pakistan and New Zealand at Sheikh Zayed Stadium yesterday:

**New Zealand first innings** 153 (K. Williamson 63, H. Nicholls 28; Yasir Shah 3-54)

**Pakistan first innings** 227 (Babar Azam 62, Asad Shafiq 43; T. Boult 4-54)

**New Zealand 2nd innings** 249 (BJ Watling 59, H. Nicholls 55, Hasan Ali 5-45, Yasir Shah 5-110)

#### Pakistan 2nd innings (overnight 37-0)

Imam-ul-Haq lbw b Patel	27
Mohammad Hafeez c de Grandhomme b Sodhi	10
Azhar Ali lbw b Patel	65
Haris Sohail c & b Sodhi	4
Asad Shafiq c Watling b Wagner	45
Babar Azam run out	13
Sarfraz Ahmed c Watling b Patel	3
Bilal Asif b Patel	0
Yasir Shah c Taylor b Wagner	0
Hasan Ali c sub (Southee) b Patel	0
Mohammad Abbas not out	0
Extras: (b 4)	4
Total (all out: 58.4 overs)	171
Fall of wickets: 1-40 (Imam), 2-44 (Hafeez), 3-48 (Sohail), 4-130 (Shafiq), 5-147 (Azam), 6-154 (Sarfraz), 7-154 (Asif), 8-155 (Yasir), 9-164 (Hasan)	
Bowling: Boult 7-0-29-0, de Grandhomme 3-0-15-0, Patel 23.4-4-59-5, Sodhi 12-0-37-2, Wagner 13-4-27-2	
Result: New Zealand won by four runs.	

**ABU DHABI:** Debutant spinner Ajaz Patel took five wickets to lead a never-say-die approach from New Zealand bowlers as they pulled off a thrilling four-run win over an indisciplined Pakistan in the first Test in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Defending a modest 176-run target, New Zealand bowlers led by Patel (5-59), fast bowler Neil Wagner (2-27) and Ish Sodhi (2-37) bowled out Pakistan for 171 on a drama-packed fourth day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

It is the fifth smallest win in terms of runs in Test cricket history and gives New Zealand a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. "The attitude, certainly today and throughout the game, was brilliant," said New Zealand captain Kane Williamson who now has nine wins in his 18 Tests in charge.

"How those two bowlers Ajaz and Wagner bowled, for almost 20 overs, was brilliant. We knew the surface was not an easy one. There was considerable turn from day one and all the spinners bowled well."

Azhar Ali fought a lone battle for Pakistan with 65 and was the last man out when he was trapped leg-before wicket by Patel. He reviewed Bruce Oxenford's decision but the television replays upheld the decision.

Resuming on 37 without loss, Pakistan began the day as favourites to chase down the 176 they needed for victory although New Zealand will have taken some hope from Pakistan's failure at the same ground last year to chase 136 against Sri Lanka.

Kiwi spinners Patel and Ish Sodhi opened the bowling and immediately caused problems as Pakistan lost three wickets in the first six overs.

Imam-ul-Haq was trapped leg-before for 27 to a full length ball by left-arm spinner Patel in the fifth over. In the sixth, Sodhi had Mohammad Hafeez caught in the covers and then three balls later held on to a return catch low to his left as Haris Sohail drove a full toss back at him. Pakistani nerves were eased by the sight of Azhar and Asad Shafiq carefully rebuilding the innings with a fourth wicket partnership of 82. Shafiq made a cultured 45, becoming the 11th Pakistani to reach 4,000 runs in Test cricket, but his dismissal in the last over



**ABU DHABI:** New Zealand cricketers celebrate after beating Pakistan in the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

before lunch, edging Neil Wagner to wicketkeeper BJ Watling, changed the game as Pakistan lost their final seven wickets for just 41.

After lunch, Babar Azam ran himself out for 13, the guilty party in a mix-up with Azhar and skipper Sarfraz Ahmed fell for a second time sweeping Patel, this time gloving the ball to Watling.

Bilal Asif tried to slog a straight ball from Patel and was bowled leaving Pakistan 154 for seven, still 22 runs short of victory. The earlier measure at the crease had been replaced by chaos. In the next over Wagner had Yasir Shah caught in the slips and then Hasan Ali

attempted a slog-sweep off Patel, picking out substitute fielder Tim Southee on the midwicket boundary.

Azhar then tried to inch Pakistan across the line, farming the strike from Mohammad Abbas. But with five runs still needed to win Patel found the delivery to win the match for New Zealand.

"We didn't get a good start to the day," said Pakistan captain Sarfraz. "Azhar and Shafiq put in a good stand but then the collapse was really disappointing. You have to give credit to Ajaz as well." The second Test starts in Dubai from Saturday while the third and final, again in Abu Dhabi from December 3. — AFP

## Dottin leads West Indies to tense victory over England

**GROS ISLET:** Deandra Dottin produced a brilliant all-round display as the West Indies clinched a nervy four-wicket victory over England in St Lucia on Sunday to finish top of Group A at the Women's World Twenty20.

The hosts and reigning champions will face Group B runners-up Australia in the first semi-final on Thursday, with England to play India on Friday looking to repeat their World Cup final triumph over Harmanpreet Kaur's side from last year.

England slipped to 50-6 after 10.5 overs batting first, before a 58-run partnership for the seventh wicket between Sophia Dunkley and Anya Shrubsole helped them towards a decent total. But Dottin, who finished with figures of 2-21, dismissed Dunkley before snaring Shrubsole with an excellent catch off the bowling of captain Stafanie Taylor. Two early wickets put the pressure on the Windies in their chase, but Dottin's 46 steadied the ship and Shemaine Campbelle struck 45.

"The bowling has given me the most pleasure, but I'm enjoying the batting as well," said the 27-year-old Dottin. "Having lost two quick wickets, I had to bring it home for the team and stay positive." England were woeful in the field, with Dunkley, wicketkeeper Amy Jones and substitute fielder Fran Wilson all dropping simple catches in the closing overs. But Kycia Knight strode out to the crease and struck her first ball for four to seal the win with three deliveries to spare, to the delight of a large and partisan crowd. — AFP

## India prepared for extra pace, bounce in Australia: Rohit

**BRISBANE:** India have the quality and confidence in their batting ranks to master the extra pace and bounce on Australian wickets and excel across formats, batsman Rohit Sharma said yesterday. India have never won a Test series Down Under but fancy their chances against an Australian team yet to recover from a ball-tampering scandal that led to bans for former captain Steve Smith, opener David Warner and batsman Cameron Bancroft.

"This is one place we want to leave our mark on and do well as an unit," Rohit told reporters in Brisbane where the three-match Twenty20 series kicks off tomorrow. "The last time we came here there were a few close games. We want to make it count this time around. There is real good feeling in the group across all three formats. The motive of the team is to try and seize all the moments and try and win."

"When you do well in places like Australia you feel good as a team. Thinking about the World Cup ahead it can only give you confidence winning in places like Australia." The Twenty20 Internationals will be followed by a four-test series beginning in Adelaide on Dec. 6.

Gabba, which Rohit considers to be Australia's fastest surface, does not host any test but Perth, known for assisting the quicks, is the venue for the second match while Melbourne and Sydney host the last two tests.

"India have always played either at Perth or Brisbane," Rohit said. "This time around we are playing at Perth and not Brisbane. Last time we played at



**CHENNAI:** File photo shows Indian T20 cricket captain Rohit Sharma (R) and teammate Yuzvendra Chahal (L) celebrate after taking the wicket of West Indies cricketer Shimron Hetmyer during the third T20 cricket match between India and West Indies. —AFP

Brisbane but not Perth.

"Those two conditions are obviously very challenging and Australia specially have tall bowlers who extract bounce and use it to their advantage. Indian batsmen generally are not that tall. It's not that easy for us."

"But all the guys are determined to change things around this time. It will be a challenge but we are ready to accept the challenge." Rohit has scored heavily in the limited-overs matches in Australia and his strong backfoot play earned him a place in India's test squad

after being dropped following modest returns in South Africa earlier this year.

The elegant right-hander said the extra bounce would suit his batting as he seeks to cement his place in the test squad. "The good bounce allows me to play my game because I have grown up playing on cement pitches back home," Rohit added.

"I have done well in limited overs, but the challenge obviously is red ball cricket, which right now I am not thinking of, just want to do well in the T20 format and take it from there." —Reuters

## Bulgarian boxing coach kicked out of Delhi event

**NEW DELHI:** Bulgarian coach Petar Yosifov Lesov was kicked out of the ongoing women's world boxing championships in New Delhi after he threw a bottle in the ring to protest the loss of Olympic champion Stanimira Petrova.

Petrova accused the judges of "corruption" and her coach threw a tantrum after a 2-3 split decision verdict in favour of India's Sonia Chahal in the 57 kg category. Petrova, who won gold in the 54 kg category in the 2014 edition, said it was not a "fair result". "It is corruption by the judges," the 27-year-old told reporters after the pre-quarterfinals bout.

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) soon revoked the credentials of Lesov who won the flyweight gold in the 1980 Olympics and has been a coach for nearly three decades.

"The AIBA has decided to remove the accreditation, and therefore the right to be in the corner, from the coach of the Bulgarian delegation Petar Yosifov Lesov due to his unacceptable behaviour," the world body said in a

statement. "The International Boxing Association does not tolerate, in any circumstances, such behaviour against the AIBA values and AIBA Code of Conduct, especially being a coach."

"The incident will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Commission for further review," it added. It is not the first time that judging at an international boxing event has been dogged by controversy. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has threatened to keep boxing out of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and beyond with issues around judging being one of the major factors.

IOC has been losing patience with boxing since a judging scandal at the 2016 Rio Games when all 36 officials and referees were suspended while allegations of bout-fixing were investigated. Newly-elected amateur boxing chief Gafur Rakhimov has pledged to improve refereeing in the blue riband Olympic sport. With 72 nations in attendance, the world championships is moving towards the business end and will conclude on November 24. —AFP

## Smith, Warner bans to be reviewed this week: Reports

**SYDNEY:** Steve Smith and David Warner could have their one-year bans from international and state cricket reduced or adjusted after a review by the board of Cricket Australia (CA) this week, local media reports said yesterday.

Former test captain Smith and vice-captain Warner were handed the bans by CA after the ball-tampering scandal earlier this year and are not scheduled to resume playing at the top level until the end of March 2019.

Batsman Cameron Bancroft was handed a nine-month ban for his part in the affair and is scheduled to return to action at the end of December.

The Australian Cricketers' Association have always contested the bans were overly-harsh and have continued to push for all three to be able to return to representative cricket immediately. Those calls intensified after a cultural review into Cricket Australia last month that suggested that the culture fostered in the game by the governing body had contributed to the incident in a test against South Africa.

That review led to the resignation of chair-



**Steve Smith (right) and David Warner.**

man David Pever, who had forcefully maintained that the players should see out the full terms of their suspensions. Sydney's Daily Telegraph yesterday reported that "serious discussions" had taken place among senior officials over allowing the players to return to state cricket, adding that the board would consider lifting the suspensions this week.

Smith and Warner are two of the best batsmen in world cricket and the debate over their bans is being played out against the backdrop of Australia's continued struggles in all formats of the men's game.

With Australia's defence of the 50-overs World Cup starting in England at the end of May and the defence of the Ashes following in August and September, there is clearly a desire among some Down Under to get the duo back as soon as possible. Both have been keeping their hand in by playing Sydney club cricket and have received praise in local media for the way they have conducted themselves. Smith and Warner have both been retained by their franchises in the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) for the next version of the competition, which starts on March 29. — Reuters



**25** Tearful Howell snaps 11-year PGA win drought at RSM Classic



**26** Patel spins NZ to thrilling win in first Test over Pakistan



**27** Seferovic hat-trick helps Swiss stun Belgium to reach Nations League finals



## Saints pummel Eagles 48-7

Lions edge Panthers after failed 2-point conversion



NEW ORLEANS: Mark Ingram II #22 of the New Orleans Saints flexes runs the ball in the second half of a game against the Philadelphia Eagles at Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Sunday in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Saints defeated the Eagles 48-7. — AFP

**NEW ORLEANS:** Drew Brees threw for 363 yards and four touchdowns as the New Orleans Saints rolled up 546 yards in total offense and 28 first downs to rout the visiting Philadelphia Eagles 48-7 Sunday. The Saints (9-1) took a three-game lead in the NFC South over the second-place Carolina Panthers while handing the Eagles the largest margin of defeat ever sustained by a defending Super Bowl champion. The Saints have scored 144 points in their past three games—the most in franchise history for three consecutive games, a 48-point average—and least 30 points in seven of their last eight games. The injury-ravaged Eagles (4-6) have lost five of their past seven. New Orleans picked off Philadelphia quarterback Carson Wentz three times while limiting him to 19-of-33 passing for 156 yards.

**STEELERS 20, JAGUARS 16**  
Ben Roethlisberger stretched to score on a keeper from about a foot out with eight seconds left as Pittsburgh came back to beat host Jacksonville, extending the Steelers' winning streak to six games and the Jaguars' losing streak to six games. Roethlisberger passed for 314 yards with three interceptions and touchdowns to Antonio Brown and Vance McDonald for the Steelers (7-2-1). An 11-yard strike to McDonald closing Pittsburgh within 16-13 with 2:28 left. Cornerback Jalen Ramsey—who in an offseason interview with GQ called Roethlisberger “decent at best”—had two interceptions for Jacksonville (3-7), which led 16-0 in the third quarter and 16-6 entering the fourth. Josh Lambo kicked three field goals, Leonard Fournette rushed for 95 yards and touchdown, and Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles passed for 104 yards.

**LIONS 20, PANTHERS 19**  
Matthew Stafford connected with Kenny Golladay on a go-ahead, 19-yard touchdown pass, and host Detroit hung on for a victory over Carolina. The Panthers (6-4) pulled within one on Cam Newton's 8-yard touchdown pass to DJ Moore with 1:07 remaining. Carolina coach Ron Rivera decided to go for a two-point conversion, but Newton's pass fell incomplete. Newton completed 25 of 37 passes for 357 yards and three touchdowns while getting intercepted once. Stafford completed 23 of 37 passes for 220 yards. Golladay made eight catches for 113 yards, and recently

signed Bruce Ellington made six receptions for 52 yards for the Lions (4-6). Detroit rookie Kerryon Johnson rushed for 87 yards on 15 carries and a touchdown but was forced out of the game due to a knee injury.

**BRONCOS 23, CHARGERS 22**  
Brandon McManus kicked a 34-yard field goal as time expired, and Denver ended host Los Angeles' six-game winning streak. The Broncos handed the Chargers (7-3) their first loss since Sept. 23. Case Keenum completed all five of his passes for 86 yards on the Broncos' game-winning drive. Keenum finished with 205 yards and no touchdowns or interceptions. Denver running back Phillip Lindsay, who entered leading all NFL rookies in rushing, gained 79 yards on 11 carries with two touchdowns. The Broncos (4-6) were able to overcome a 401-yard passing day from Chargers quarterback Phillip Rivers, who threw two touchdown passes.

**TEXANS 23, REDSKINS 21**  
Ka'imi Fairbairn's 54-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter lifted Houston over host Washington for its seventh straight victory. The Redskins (6-4) took over on their 35 with 52 seconds left after a Fairbairn miss from 45 yards out and drove to the Houston 45, but kicker Dustin Hopkins came up short on a 63-yard attempt with three seconds left. The Texans (7-3) tied an NFL record (1925 Giants) for the longest winning streak after losing the first three games. Redskins quarterback Alex Smith left the game in the third quarter with what coach Jay Gruden said after the game was a broken tibia and fibula on his right leg. Gruden said Smith would need surgery.

**COWBOYS 22, FALCONS 19**  
Brett Maher, who had missed an extra point, kicked a 42-yard field goal as time expired to give Dallas the win over host Atlanta and keep the Cowboys' playoff hopes alive. Dallas (5-5) took a 10-point lead early in the fourth quarter, but the Falcons (4-6) tied the game on a 34-yard touchdown pass from Matt Ryan to Julio Jones with 1:52 remaining. Ezekiel Elliott scored on a 23-yard run and accounted for 201 yards from scrimmage, rushing 23 times for 122 and catching seven passes for 79 more. Ryan completed 24 of 34 passes for 291 yards,

but he threw a costly interception in the fourth quarter as the Falcons' playoff hopes all but vanished.

**BEARS 25, VIKINGS 20**  
Mitchell Trubisky completed 20 of 31 passes for 165 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions, and Chicago held on to beat visiting Minnesota. Anthony Miller hauled in a touchdown for Chicago (7-3), which won its fourth consecutive game to remain atop the NFC North. The Bears forced three turnovers, including an interception return for a touchdown by Eddie Jackson in the fourth quarter, increasing their league-high total to 27 takeaways. Minnesota's Kirk Cousins completed 30 of 46 passes for 262 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. Diggs caught 13 passes for 126 yards. The Vikings (5-4-1) also forced three turnovers.

**Colts 38, Titans 10**  
Andrew Luck threw for 297 yards and three touchdowns to lead host Indianapolis to an easy win over Tennessee in a battle for second place in the AFC South. T.Y. Hilton caught two of Luck's touchdown passes and totaled 155 receiving yards to tie Marvin Harrison for the most 150-yard games (11) in Colts history. Indianapolis (5-5) scored on four of five first-half drives and dominated the first 30 minutes, scoring 24 points, the most points the Titans (5-5) had allowed in an entire game this season.

**LIONS 20, PANTHERS 19**  
Matthew Stafford connected with Kenny Golladay on a go-ahead, 19-yard touchdown pass, and host Detroit hung on for a victory over Carolina. The Panthers (6-4) pulled within one on Cam Newton's 8-yard touchdown pass to DJ Moore with 1:07 remaining. Carolina coach Ron Rivera decided to go for a two-point conversion, but Newton's pass fell incomplete. Newton completed 25 of 37 passes for 357 yards and three touchdowns while getting intercepted once. Stafford completed 23 of 37 passes for 220 yards. Golladay made eight catches for 113 yards, and recently signed Bruce Ellington made six receptions for 52 yards for the Lions (4-6). Detroit rookie Kerryon Johnson rushed for 87 yards on 15 carries and a touchdown but was forced out of the game due to a knee injury.

**RAVENS 24, BENGALS 21**  
Host Baltimore overcame the absence of injured quarterback Joe Flacco by rushing for 265 yards against Cincinnati. Justin Tucker kicked three field goals, and Flacco's replacement-rookie first-rounder Lamar Jackson—and Gus Williams each topped 100 yards rushing as the Ravens improved to 5-5. The Bengals, who had just 48 rushing yards, fell to 5-5. Cincinnati coach Marvin Lewis took over as defensive coordinator after firing Teryl Austin earlier this week in the wake of the Bengals allowing 500 yards in three consecutive games, an NFL worst in the Super Bowl era. The Bengals showed marginal improvement, allowing 403 yards, but they couldn't slow down the Ravens' running game.

**GIANTS 38, BUCCANEERS 35**  
Eli Manning recorded a near-perfect passer rating while Saquon Barkley rushed for 142 yards and scored three touchdowns as New York outlasted Tampa Bay in East Rutherford, N.J. Manning completed 17 of 18 passes against the helpless Tampa Bay secondary for 231 yards and a pair of touchdowns, finishing with a 155.8 passer rating, only 2.5 points off a perfect score. Barkley ran for two scores and caught a touchdown pass as New York (3-7) won its second straight game. Jameis Winston relieved an ineffective Ryan Fitzpatrick and completed 12 of 16 passes for 199 yards and two touchdowns in about a quarter and a half for Tampa Bay (3-7). However, Winston also threw the game-clinching interception with 23 seconds left, the Buccaneers' fourth of the day.

**RAIDERS 23, CARDINALS 21**  
Daniel Carlson kicked a 35-yard field goal, his third of the day, on the final play of the game, rallying Oakland (2-8) past Arizona (2-8) in Glendale, Ariz. Derek Carr drove the Raiders 63 yards to the Arizona 17, featuring a 32-yard hook-up with Marcell Ateman and a 20-yarder with Seth Roberts to set up a spike to stop the clock with two seconds left. Josh Rosen threw a season-best three touchdown passes, two to Larry Fitzgerald, to give the Cardinals a late lead. Arizona's David Johnson was the game's leading rusher with 25 carries for 137 yards, his first 100-yard effort of the season. — Reuters