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# Thorny issue of revoking MPs' membership still unresolved

Amnesty sought for Tabtabaei, Harbash • Subaei preparing to grill Roudhan

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: It appears the next National Assembly term promises to witness a number of political crises between the opposition and the government that are likely to strain relations between the two authorities. One of the main problems is the issue of revoking the membership of two leading opposition lawmakers - Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Jamaan Al-Harbash - who were handed jail terms for storming the Assembly building.

The jail terms against the two lawmakers, along with several ex-MPs and opposition activists, were confirmed by the court of cassation, whose rulings are final and cannot be challenged. Constitutional experts differ on what should be done against the two lawmakers - some have said their membership should be revoked after they were convicted with a final jail term, while others say that they should continue to enjoy their parliamentary seats.

Opposition MPs have stressed that the membership of the two MPs should not be revoked and have already submitted a draft law for an amnesty to pardon them and others. The Assembly's legislative committee will

meet on Oct 28, just two days before the Assembly reconvenes, to study the bill and submit its report to the Assembly for voting. The issue will be discussed in what is expected to be a heated debate.

Pro-government MP Ahmad Al-Fadhl said yesterday that he intends to vote against the two lawmakers, who he said should lose their seats in the Assembly because they had been convicted of a criminal offense. He said that the law is very clear on this issue and called for revoking their membership in the Assembly.

Meanwhile, opposition MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei has completed preparations of a grilling he plans to file against Commerce and Industry Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan over a series of alleged violations. According to parliamentary sources, Subaei is coordinating with MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf, who has announced that he will file to grill Roudhan over other violations. The two are expected to grill the minister together.

But the grilling will be filed only after the planned grilling against the prime minister, which is expected to be debated in the first session of the next term on Oct 30. Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani has already filed a grilling against Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi over alleged administrative violations.



KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti army yesterday signed a 2019 defense cooperation plan with the Turkish army to strengthen bilateral ties. The administration of moral guidance at the Kuwaiti army said in a press release that the blueprint was inked with the aim of pursuing joint coordination "for accomplishing harmony, sharing experience and unifying efforts". — KUNA

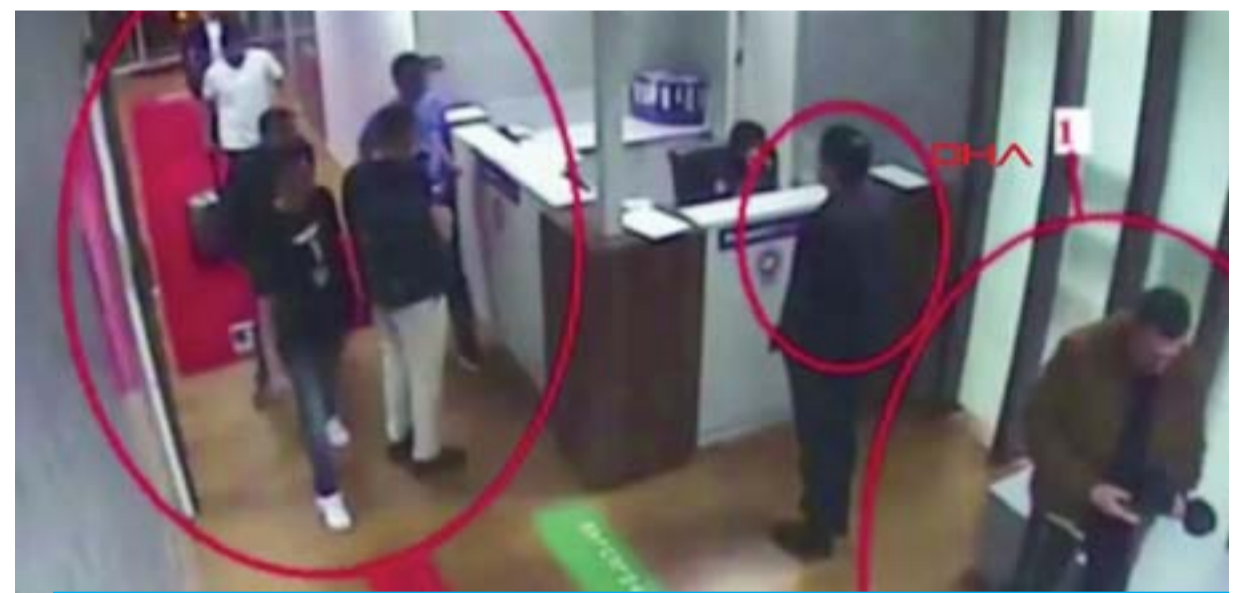
## Trump demands answers; Turkish paper identifies Saudi intel team

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said yesterday he has talked to Saudi authorities "at the highest level" to demand answers over what happened to vanished journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Trump told reporters at the White House that he has talked to the Saudi leadership "more than once" since Khashoggi, a US resident and Washington Post contributor, vanished on Oct 2 after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. "We're demanding everything. We want to see what's going on there," he said. "It's a very serious situation for us and this White House ... I think we'll get to the bottom of it. We cannot let this happen, to reporters, to anybody," Trump said.

These were the toughest comments coming out of the Trump administration since the mysterious disappearance of the journalist, who Turkish authorities suspect was abducted and murdered. Turkish investigators are examining CCTV footage showing the moment he entered the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul to obtain documents ahead of his marriage to his Turkish fiancée Hatice Cengiz. Cengiz appealed to Trump in an opinion piece for the Washington Post on Tuesday, calling on him to "help shed light on Jamal's disappearance". Trump said that he and First Lady Melania Trump were in contact with her and were looking to "bring her to the White House".

Turkish government sources said at the weekend that police believed Khashoggi was killed by a team specially sent to Istanbul and thought to consist of 15 Saudis. Security camera footage released yesterday by Turkish television showed a man believed to be Khashoggi enter the consulate. Investigators are also zooming in on a vehicle seen entering and leaving the building after Khashoggi went inside. But Riyadh insisted the 59-year-old journalist had left the building and that murder claims are "baseless".

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ISTANBUL: This video grab made yesterday from CCTV footage obtained from Turkish news agency DHA shows a Saudi team at the airport on Oct 2, 2018. — AFP

## Five men and the sea: Marlin sinks Filipino fishing boat

MANILA: It reads like a modern day take on 'The Old Man and the Sea' - five Filipino fishermen cast adrift for days on a makeshift raft after a huge marlin sinks their boat. The men were fishing in the South China Sea last week when a six-foot marlin punctured their boat's wooden hull with its giant bill, vessel master Jimmy Batiller told AFP yesterday. Their 12-m boat quickly dipped beneath the waves in the early evening of Oct 3, leaving the crew with little drinking water or

food until their eventual rescue by the US Navy on Monday.

"It (the fish) hit the bottom of our boat, leaving two big holes. We suspect it was chasing a smaller fish. It swam around the sinking boat for a while, apparently disorientated," Batiller said. The fishermen salvaged what they could, removing the outriggers, planks and barrels to create a makeshift raft. "Our water ran out after two days. We waved at passing commercial vessels but no one came to rescue us. But we did not lose hope," the 42-year-old father of one said, adding the crew also ate raw rice and drank some seawater. "When we were rescued, that was when our tears fell," said Batiller, who has since been reunited with his family in Subic, a port about 80 km northwest of Manila.

The US Navy said the men were lucky to survive, especially given the

Continued on Page 24



This handout photo taken on Oct 8, 2018 shows a makeshift bamboo raft lashed together by five Philippine fishermen, whose boat was sunk by a marlin, during their rescue by the US Navy ship USS Wally Schirra in the South China Sea. — AFP

## Humans can recognize 5,000 faces

PARIS: From family and friends to strangers on the subway and public figures on 24-hour news cycles, humans recognize an astonishing 5,000 faces, scientists said yesterday in the first study of its kind. Through most of history humans lived in small groups of a hundred or so individuals, a pattern that has changed drastically in recent centuries. A study by scientists at Britain's University

of York found that our facial recognition abilities allow us to process the thousands of faces we encounter in busy social environments, on our smartphones and our television screens every day.

"In everyday life, we are used to identifying friends, colleagues, and celebrities, and many other people by their faces," Rob Jenkins, from York's Department of Psychology, told AFP. "But no one has established how many faces people actually know." For the study, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Jenkins and his team asked participants to write down as many faces they could remember from their personal lives. The volunteers were then asked to do the

same with people they recognized but did not know personally.

They were also shown thousands of images of famous people - two photos of each to ensure consistency - and asked which ones they recognized. The team found an enormous range of the number of faces each participant could recall, from roughly 1,000-10,000. "We found that people know around 5,000 faces on average," Jenkins said. "It seems that whatever mental apparatus allows us to differentiate dozens of people also allows us to differentiate thousands of people."

The team said it believes this figure - the first ever baseline of human "facial vocabulary", could aid the development

of facial recognition software increasingly used at airports and criminal investigations. It may also help scientists better understand cases of mistaken identity. "Psychological research in humans has revealed important differences between unfamiliar and familiar face recognition," said Jenkins. "Unfamiliar faces are often misidentified. Familiar faces are identified very reliably, but we don't know exactly how."

While the team said it was focused on how many faces humans actually know, they said it might be possible for some people to continue learning to recognize an unlimited number of faces, given enough practice.

Continued on Page 24

## China launches anti-halal drive, regulates Uighur reeducation camps

BEIJING: Chinese authorities have launched a campaign against halal products in the name of fighting extremism in the capital of Xinjiang, the fractious northwest region where Muslims are facing a raft of religious restrictions. Beijing has in recent years launched a security crackdown in Xinjiang against what it calls separatist elements, and a UN report has cited estimates that up to one million ethnic Uighurs and other Muslim minorities are held in extrajudicial, political reeducation camps.

Halal - Arabic for "permissible" - refers to a set of rules guiding Muslims on what is allowed according to the religion. It is frequently applied to food and drinks but also includes other personal hygiene products like toothpaste and cosmetics. Authorities in Xinjiang have long seen the expansion of the term to include non-food items as a sign of religious extremism. Communist Party leaders in Urumqi, the regional capital, on Monday led cadres in swearing an oath to fight the "pan-halal trend to the end".

In an article posted on the city's official WeChat social media account, party cadres were told to post the same oath on their social media accounts, which included disowning religion. "My belief is Marxism-Leninism... I must fly the flag high and battle (the) 'pan-halal trend' to the end, resolute in my beliefs, even to death!" the oath reads. Government officials should also not have dietary restrictions, the statement said, adding work canteens would be changed so officials can try "cuisines of various nationalities".

Continued on Page 24

## Local



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

## Speaker meets with International lawmakers at Eurasian meeting

ANKARA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met with Jordan's Senate President Faisal Al-Fayez, his Turkish counterpart Binali Yildirim and Iraqi Council of Representatives chief Muhammad Al-Halbusi on the fringes of the Eurasian Parliament Speaker talks in Turkey's southern city of Antalya on Tuesday. The chief lawmakers discussed matters of mutual significance, the latest regional and global developments, coordinating political stances at regional and global parliamentary gatherings and the means to boost currently existing cooperation between Kuwait and their respective nations in regards to parliamentary aspects.



ANTALYA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets Jordan's Senate President Faisal Al-Fayez. —KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets Iraqi Council of Representatives chief Muhammad Al-Halbusi.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets his Turkish counterpart Binali Yildirim.

## Kuwait committed to UN's sustainable development agenda

NEW YORK: Kuwait yesterday said that it fully backs the UN's sustainable development goals and will do its part to see those plans come to fruition. The remarks were made by Kuwaiti secretary Abdullah Al-Sharrah, who is currently a part of the Gulf state's delegation to the second UN General Assembly. He said that the UN's secretary general has introduced various measures to support his vision of a sustainable future, which includes efforts to eradicate poverty and boost global development.

"We remain steadfast in our pledge to achieve all of the UN's sustainable development goals by the year 2030," the Kuwaiti official said. He emphasized that Kuwait has held up its end of the bargain with its contributions towards sustainable development, which is a testament to the country's desire to remain on the path towards



Kuwait secretary Abdullah Al-Sharrah

prosperity. Through its vision for a "new Kuwait", the Gulf state has shouldered its global responsibilities and remains committed to its sustainable development goals, he added. —KUNA

## Bahrain Shura Council appreciates Kuwait's support

MANAMA: A Bahraini official yesterday commended the efforts of Kuwait and its leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to support development in the Gulf island nation. As he met with Kuwait's Ambassador to Manama Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah, the Chairman of Bahrain's Shura Council Ali Al-Saleh spoke highly of the amity shared between the two Gulf neighbors read a statement by the Kuwaiti embassy. Kuwait has long enjoyed a tightly knit and multi-dimensional relationship with Bahrain that continues to grow closer, the statement highlighted. The Kuwaiti diplomat echoed the Bahraini official's sentiments, describing bilateral ties as historic and enduring. —KUNA



MANAMA: The Chairman of Bahrain's Shura Council Ali Al-Saleh with Kuwait's Ambassador to Manama Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah.



Under the auspices of the National Guard undersecretary, Lt General Hashem Al-Refa'oe, the National Guard moral guidance department yesterday launched a partnership between its awareness project "Wa'ee" and Ministry of Interior's narcotics department drug awareness project "Weyyakom". Speaking on the occasion, NG's assistant operations and training manager, Major General Faleh Shoja stressed that NG, chief, High Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali and his Deputy Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmed remains focused on fighting drugs and ordered the utilization of all possible means to aid the awareness campaigns activities all year long.

## Egypt thanks Kuwait for reclaiming artifact

CAIRO: Egyptian Foreign Ministry expressed gratitude to Kuwait yesterday for cooperating to bring back the lid of a rare antique coffin that had been smuggled into the Gulf state last March. A ministry statement said the ancient piece was brought back following relentless follow-up and continuous coordination between the Egyptian embassy in Kuwait and the local authorities. The vintage casket lid was given to the Egyptian embassy on Monday after Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters completed a probe into how the relic was smuggled into the country. —KUNA

## Relations with Kuwait are distinct, historic: Romanian official

KUWAIT: The Secretary for Global Affairs at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monica Gheorghita yesterday stressed on the strength of the 55-year-old relationship between Romania and Kuwait. This came in a statement to KUNA on the sidelines of a preparatory meeting of the two countries' foreign ministries' senior officials.

Gheorghita's visit to Kuwait was in preparation for Romania's Prime Minister's visit to Kuwait and for fruitful results on both commercial and economic levels and to discuss joint relations between the two countries. On latest developments in the case of the disappearance of Kuwaiti citizen Mohammad Al-Baghli, she confirmed that Romanian authorities have been following the case continuously and seriously since his disappearance. The Ministry is aware of the sensitivity of the loss of the

Kuwaiti citizen in Romania, confirming the ministry's direct contact with his relatives through the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bucharest for any developments, she said.

For his part, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister on European Affairs Waleed Al-Khubaizi said in a similar statement, that the first round of the talks dealt with ways of developing bilateral relations and continuing coordination in international forums, in addition to preparing for high-level bilateral visits, including the visit of the Romanian Prime Minister to Kuwait at the end of this month. The two sides have discussed bilateral cooperation and the steps taken for closer ties, especially in economic, defense, cultural, academic and health sectors, and to develop a business plan for 2019, Al-Khubaizi said.

The two sides stressed the need to work to activate the agreements signed between the two countries, as Al-Khubaizi expressed Kuwait's deep gratitude for the great cooperation of the Romanian authorities in the case of the missing Kuwaiti citizen Mohammad Al-Baghli, stressing the importance of continuing efforts to reveal his fate and return safely to his family. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister on European Affairs Waleed Al-Khubaizi with the Secretary for Global Affairs at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monica Gheorghita. —KUNA

Local

# Kuwait, Morocco sign deal to promote audit relations

## Two sides agreed on backing bilateral cooperation

**RABAT:** Kuwait's State Audit Bureau (SAB) signed on Tuesday an agreement with its Moroccan counterpart that reflects a common desire to upgrade and promote relations between the two countries' audit bodies. The two sides agreed on backing bilateral cooperation through sharing expertise and experiments in the control action field.

Head of Morocco's Court of Auditors Idriss Gatto lauded the important interaction of Kuwait's institutions to recommendations and observations made by the audit bureau, mainly legislations issued by the parliament that included recommendations of control bodies. There are similarities between the Kuwaiti and Moroccan audit works, Gatto told KUNA in a statement, stressing the need of sharing expertise and benefiting from the two different tests.

He added that independence and interaction are common elements for action environment in both Kuwait and Morocco. He noted that his visit to SAB in 2017 showed to him how to make mutual benefits from the action mechanism in both countries. Asked about the Kuwaiti delegation's visit to Morocco's Court of Auditors, Gatto said a meeting was held between the two sides which discussed the means of supporting bilateral relations between the two bodies in several fields.



RABAT: Kuwait's State Audit Bureau (SAB) signing the agreement with its Moroccan counterpart. — KUNA photos



### Common challenges

Meanwhile, Acting Chairman of SAB Adel Al-Sarawi said that the Moroccan control apparatus supervises the assessment of government's public policies, referring to a Kuwaiti ambitious project to be carried out soon regarding setting up measurement criteria in collaboration and coordination with UN Development

Program. He underlined the possibility of benefiting from Morocco's rich experiment in environmental audit, pointing to a developed Moroccan experiment in this regard in which Kuwait has cut a long path.

Al-Sarawi touched on common challenges in sustainable development, and governance and risks, affirming that there is a common desire to exchange expertise. On

the cooperation agreement, he stressed that Kuwait is keen on cooperation with Arab control institutions, saying that the deal signed includes a timetable for the next two years with two programs for every year.

He referred to common coordination with brothers in Morocco as partners in the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI), in addition to

cooperation and coordination in activities of International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). Gatto's visit to Kuwait last year formed the first launch of a new phase of cooperation between the Kuwaiti and Moroccan audit institutions. Al-Saraawi pointed out. The Kuwaiti delegation includes a number of senior officials in audit and control fields. — KUNA

## Kuwaiti medical team treats Syrian refugees in Jordan

**AMMAN:** Kuwait's voluntary team "Shefaa" yesterday provided medical care to more than 200 Syrian patients, conducting difficult and delicate surgical procedures during a humanitarian trip to refugee camps in Jordan. Media coordinator for the 12-member medical team Tareq Al-Mulla told KUNA that the trip lasted for 10 days, during which the medical team conducted necessary tests and operations for refugees in agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), charities and Jordanian hospitals. He pointed out that the surgical intervention included removal of benign and malignant tumors from brains of a number of patients, with the help of Jordanian doctors. The surgeons



have also treated hydrocephalus, suffered by an eight-month-old child, in addition to treating a number of refugees with sickness in their eyes. He mentioned that the volun-

tary team had offered financial support for patients to cover the costs of transportation, necessary analysis and diagnostic examination. — KUNA

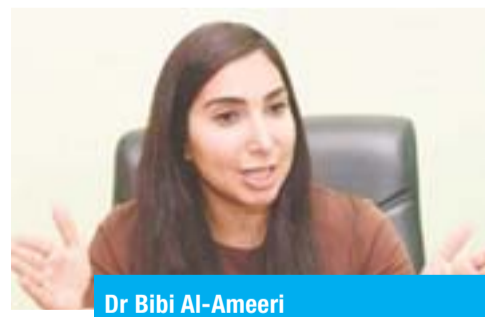


AMMAN: Kuwait's voluntary team "Shefaa" provide medical care to Syrian refugees.— KUNA photos

## First Kuwaiti institution for child psychiatry

**KUWAIT:** Al-Manara center is the first Kuwaiti institution to provide child and adolescent psychiatry help, said head of Kuwait

Center for Mental Health, Dr Bibi Al-Ameeri yesterday. On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, coinciding today, Dr Al-Ameeri told KUNA the Al-Manara deals with anxiety and behavioral disorders, in addition to autism cases for children and teenagers. Established in 1955, the center went through many changes and developments, leading it to win the 'safety star' by the health ministry in 2016. Al-Ameeri noted that the center receives thousands of cases each year and will continue to do so. —KUNA



Dr Bibi Al-Ameeri

## Strict bourse rules causes less delisted companies

**KUWAIT:** A number of Kuwaiti economists have concurred that stricter rules over primary and secondary listings on Kuwait's stock exchange has caused less withdrawals on the part of companies, with only three pullouts this year. "The new measures require all listed companies to provide their financial statements no more than 90 days before the end of the fiscal year," the economists told KUNA in separate interviews yesterday.

They revealed that the number of companies to have withdrawn from the national stock exchange, known as Boursa Kuwait, "skyrocketed" in 2017, with 20 pullouts occurring that year. The Chairman of Kuwait Industries Company Holding Mohammad Al-Naqi attributed the withdrawals to the companies' "failure to meet stock exchange listing requirements," in addition to diminished profits and a poor solvency ratio. Salah Al-Sultan, an advisor at Arzaq Capital Holding, cited certain provisos levied by Kuwait's Capital Market Authority (CMA) as among the "chief reasons" for the company pullouts, besides geopolitical tension that has affected the stock market.

According to statistics posted on Kuwait stock exchange's official website, some 40 listed companies, running the gamut from real estate to oil, pulled out during the period between 2012 to



2018. The new conditions set forth by CMA stipulate that the fair value of a Kuwait Bourse listed company's share has to be a minimum of KD 45 million (USD 148.5 million).

Other terms require companies to have no less than 450 stockholders, provided that each of them owns shares of no less than KD 10,000 (USD 33,000). Kuwait has taken measures in recent years to privatize its stock exchange, which was officially established in 1983 and is one of the oldest markets in the Middle East. As per a law passed in 2010, the CMA is supposed to offer 50 percent of the shares to Kuwaiti citizens and 50 percent to ten companies already listed on the stock exchange. — KUNA

## Kuwait inks open skies treaty with Cyprus

**KUWAIT:** Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) inked an open skies' agreement with Cyprus yesterday. A DGCA press release said the accord stipulates free passenger and cargo flights, where airline companies are entitled to organize an unlimited number of flights between the two countries. The accord covers various other issues related to security and navigation. Abdullah Al-Rajehi, the DGCA air transport monitor, said the agreement is part of the approach



KUWAIT: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) inks an open skies' agreement with Cyprus.

to broaden cooperation between Kuwait International Airport and other nations' air facilities. Moreover, it is part of the tendency to establish greater cooperation with European countries, in general, in the foreseeable future. — KUNA

## KPA recommends teams to boost GCC maritime ties

**KUWAIT:** The 26th meeting of the Gulf ports and maritime authorities' officials recommended yesterday forming four private teams to strengthen GCC maritime transportation ties. In a statement to KUNA after the meeting that was held in Kuwait, KPA General Manager Sheikh Yousef Abdullah Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah said the first team would be assigned to safety and security of the ships and port facilities.

Sheikh Yousef said the second team would be specialized in revision of rules and regulations of the academies that provide

training for issuing naval authorizations. The third team would be assigned to check marine safety and harbors. As for the fourth team, Sheikh Yousef said it would be assigned to set the rules and regulations of the ports. "This meeting witnessed exceptional attendance by officials of all sectors working in the maritime transportation and port authorities in the GCC, and we came out with great results and we decided to hold such a meeting every six months instead of once a year," Sheikh Yousef said. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The Gulf ports and maritime authorities' officials on the sidelines of their 26th meeting of the Gulf ports and maritime authorities.

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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The sunset at the Souq Sharq pier. — KUNA

# Boubyan Bank, Kuwait Obesity Association launching campaign for free medical tests

## On the occasion of the World Obesity Day

**KUWAIT:** In cooperation with Kuwait Obesity Association and Novo Nordisk, Boubyan Bank will be launching a campaign for performing free medical tests and providing free medical advice for everybody, customers and non-customers alike, on the occasion of the World Obesity Day on Friday and Saturday, October 12th-13th in the Avenues. Qutayba Al-Bassam, Executive Manager at the Corporate Communications Division of Boubyan Bank, stated that this campaign is aligned with Kuwait's marking of the World Obesity Day on October 11th, and to use this day to spread awareness about obesity.

"The campaign will be held over two days and will be open for every one so that they may get medical tests such as BP, Blood Glucose, HbA1c, BMI, Cholesterol and many other tests in addition to getting free medical advice by specialists," Al-Bassam added. Al-Bassam also thanked the members of Kuwait Obesity Association and Novo Nordisk, the renowned global company for their part in organizing this campaign and the exerted efforts to spread awareness about the risks of obesity.

### High and terrifying percentage

Asrar Sayed Hashim, Deputy Head of Kuwait Obesity Association, said that obesity had reached unprecedented levels in Kuwait for adults and children alike as per the statistics, and this constituted a real threat to the health of individuals and, thus, leading to chronic diseases which and ultimately to death.

"The statistics of international organizations, led by the World Health Organization, show that obesity rate in the Middle East has witnessed a notable increase as it stands now at 37%. Today, 1 of each 5 adults is morbidly obese while Kuwait records the highest rates of obesity in the GCC region," she stated. She went on to add: "The statistics show that 1 of each 5 children and teens in Kuwait, aged 5 to 19, is obese. The "Overweight" rate for this age group is about 50%, which is an alarming rate. The obesity rate is also high for adults in Kuwait as it stands at 33% for males and 42% for females and such are very dangerous and alarming rates."

### Novo Nordisk

On the other hand, Dr Akin Aksekili, General



Dr Asrar Hashim



Dr Akin Aksekili

awareness about obesity, its reasons and its dangerous complications. I would like to thank our partners in Kuwait Obesity Association and Boubyan Bank for this awareness event, and we hope that such events may highlight the burden that obesity lays on the shoulders of the society."

### Organizational frameworks

Amina Al Qabandi, Treasurer of Kuwait Obesity Association, also stressed the importance of spreading awareness and communication in dealing with this health issue by setting legal and organizational frameworks related to marketing of foodstuff with high saturated fats, sodium and sugars. She called upon mothers, schools and decision-makers to promote healthy food by fostering a healthy diet at early childhood in addition to encouraging physical activity. She added: "Awareness should start from home and at a very early age so as to contain obesity risks. School should play a role in this issue in addition to the necessity of changing a lot of bad food habits and change our life styles which promote laziness and inactivity."

## Citations against airport employees for smoking

**KUWAIT:** Environment police issued citations to several employees at Kuwait International Airport for smoking. These citations were given to the department director and supervisors because they did not comply with the environment law and for allowing ash trays in no smoking zones. Environment police made a surprise visit to the Airport following complaints about people smoking and found the employees smoking outside the designated areas.

### Waiter assaulted

A waiter lodged a complaint against a citizen who had physically assaulted him for taking a long time to serve him. The citizen had lost his patience while waiting and attacked the waiter. Police were called in and they had taken the angry citizen to the police station where the complaint was lodged.

### Fake video

The Health Ministry sent a bedoon to prosecution services for making a video containing false claims about their employees stealing medicine from Mubarak Hospital. The suspect carried an ID card from the disabled authority that stated he is a Kuwaiti but was later found out to be a bedoon. — Al Rai

## Late Al-Muhailan to be honored at Kuwait Cinema Festival

**KUWAIT:** The late Kuwaiti media personnel Abdullah Al-Muhailan is chosen as the Personality of the Second Kuwait Cinema Festival due on October 15-19. His honoring depicts the faithfulness to a generation of Kuwaiti media and artistic figures who have given a lot towards the country's culture, arts and letters, said Issa Al-Ansari, the assistant secretary general for culture at the National Council for Culture, Arts and

Letters (NCCAL), speaking at a news conference, yesterday.

Fatma Al-Husainan, the festival technical manager, indicated that the festival would focus on national production, noting that the competition would involve 20 short feature films and five long movies. Tawfic Al-Amir, who shot the iconic Kuwaiti movie, "bas ya bahar," will be honored at the inaugural session.

And, the director Hafez Abdulrazzak will be honored for his remarkable works during the 60s, 70s and 80s. Turning to Al-Muhailan's legacy, she noted his cinematic endeavors in Eritrea, where he shot the film, "Eritrea my homeland," in 1979 and Al-Muhailan's record cinematic works for the movie, "Al-Ghawas (the diver)" in 1976 which narrated Kuwaitis' long diving history. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Assistant secretary general for culture at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Issa Al-Ansari and the festival technical manager Fatma Al-Husainan during the press conference.



Dr Sultan Al-Duwailsh (second left), Manager of Kuwait National Museum with the Polish delegation.



Dr Sultan Al-Duwailsh inspects archeological ruins in Subiya, Kuwait.

Local

# KAC launches new sales office in Phase 3 of the Avenues mall

Event coincides with the launch of new KAC flights



By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) launched its new sales office in Phase 3 of The Avenues mall yesterday. The ceremony was attended by KAC Chairman Yousef Al-Jassim, CEO Abdullah Al-Sharhan, Deputy General Manager of Civil Aviation Ahmad Al-Quoud and other dignitaries.

The new office is spread over 260 m in a special location on the first floor of Grand Avenues. It is equipped with the latest technology, providing services through 16 counters, out of which eight are for economy class, four for royal, first and business classes, two for Oasis Club members and two for client enquiries, with giving priority to the disabled. It's open Sunday to Thursday from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, and on Saturday from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm. It is closed on Fridays.

Opening this office aims to strengthen the relations of KAC with its clients and provide them with easy communications. The office offers various services

including issuing tickets, reservations from inside and outside Kuwait, receiving complaints and inquiries and other services. KAC is keen to get close to its clients by launching new offices in different locations to meet their needs and provide best services by its professional staff.

This office is part of KAC's expansion plans and to increase its market share of passenger numbers locally and regionally. The Avenues office will not deal with reservations for medical treatment abroad, providing medical beds or oxygen machines onboard, and refunding tickets. These services are available at the KAC office at Rakan Tower on Fahd Al-Salem Street.

KAC Chairman Jassim said this office was the idea of the previous administration of KAC and it was finally realized. "We should respect passengers' needs and new trends, especially since today shopping is connected to malls. We are now present in the iconic Avenues mall to provide our services to our clients. We hope to increase our revenues as well," he said during the opening ceremony.



— photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

This event coincides with the launch of new KAC flights to Arab countries from the T4 terminal. "We started operations from T4 with Dubai flights, then other GCC destinations 10 days ago, and today Arab destinations. We hope that our flights to Europe will also be added within 10 days, but this depends on the Civil Aviation. We have more plans that will be realized soon and will improve our services," added Jassim.

He revealed there will be some changes in the number of aircraft in KAC's fleet, but refused to provide more information about the models and number of aircraft before signing the deals. "KAC will issue a statement on October 15 regarding the final size of the fleet after the final signings with Airbus. There is a change in the number of aircraft in the deal signed in 2014. This change was decided after a detailed study to align with operations till 2026," he explained.

According to Jassim, the delivery dates haven't changed. "According to the contract, the first aircraft will be delivered in March 2019. Then other deliveries will continue till 2026. After receiving the new aircraft,

we will launch new destinations in the East and the West that will be soon announced," he stressed. KAC may sign more contracts in the future. "It's possible to sign contracts with Boeing according to the needs of our fleet depending on the operations. There is no fixed number or models of aircrafts. So whenever new models with new sizes are manufactured, KAC reacts depending on its needs," he concluded.

CEO Sharhan noted that the new office at the Avenues will boost sales by attracting more clients who come to The Avenues for shopping. "KAC started operating from the T4 terminal on September 30, and currently there are over 40 flights daily to 11 destinations. The passengers gave positive feedback regarding flights at T4. Now we are building the Bayan Lounge on the upper level of T4," added Sharhan. Today there are seven KAC offices apart from its headquarters. "Sales are increasing by 25-30 percent annually through online and applications. We expect a hike in sales after launching this new office at the Avenues," Sharhan said.

## 'Sun, Sand, Sea and Sewage' seminar

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The Department of Marine Science hosted a seminar titled "Sun, Sand, Sea and Sewage - Developing a Marine Environment Report for Kuwait" on Tuesday at the Marine Science Center in Fintas. It was presented by Dr Brett Lyons, senior environmental scientist at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

Lyons told Kuwait Times that the seminar discussed developing a marine environment report for Kuwait. "The report and the study can be used to reveal the status of the marine environment of Kuwait; whether it is healthy or are there pollution events and what is causing them, and what is the impact of industry on marine ecosystems. These reports tell if they have to implement new laws or enforce regulations to protect the environment, which provides Kuwait with drinking



water and fish for eating," he said.

Lyons added that the seminar was hosted by Kuwait University to engage with the public. "The youth should change their behavior and recycle more. Scientists must find a better and easy way to communicate - for example, climate change stirs controversy and some people still do not understand what is going on. Some cannot explain why it is happening. These kinds of topics are very complicated if not introduced in an easy way," he said.

## Online hackings, thefts rapidly on the rise

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Acting Relations and Security Information Director General Brig Tawheed Al-Kandari said he has received many complaints about thefts of personal bank accounts through the internet and social media. He asked the public to take care when dealing with messages and links, especially those that appear to be from unregistered phone numbers.

He advised not to enter suspicious websites or exchange personal data with strangers as they can hack into your system to obtain bank account numbers and PINs. He added that passwords should be changed regularly to avoid these risks. He said one should inform the electronic crimes department (phone number 25660142) immediately if you fall victim to online theft or blackmail as they have acquired state of the art technical systems that can identify these online culprits. He also said it is necessary to call the person if they start asking for money on Whatsapp or any other social media platform to avoid being conned.

### Parrot ring

Firemen removed a ring that was placed on a bird's leg ever since it was a chick. The bird's owner, an expat, went to the Salmiya fire center and asked them to rescue his Casco bird (grey parrot). Firemen also fought a minor blaze at a power transformer next to Oxford school in Salwa. Firemen had asked electricians to cut the current in order for them to put out the fire.

### Traffic campaign

Traffic department carried out a campaign north and south of the country resulting in impounding 23 vehicles and detaining 15 persons.





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# International

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018



Flash floods hits Majorca; Britons among 9 killed

## Bangladesh sentences 19 to death over 2004 attack

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KERICHO, Kenya: Photo shows the wreckage of a bus at the site of an accident in Kericho, western Kenya yesterday. At least 50 people were killed when the bus they were travelling in overturned and its entire roof was ripped off, police said. — AFP

# Kenya bus crash kills at least 50

## Bus overturns; its entire roof ripped off

**NAIROBI:** At least 50 people were killed when the bus they were travelling in overturned and its entire roof was ripped off in an accident in western Kenya yesterday, police said. The bus was travelling from Nairobi to the western town of Kakamega, police said, and footage from the scene showed the vehicle lying on its side with the seats and mangled bits of metal exposed to the air. The faded red bus, emblazoned with the name "Home Boyz", was later righted. The torn-off roof could be seen lying at a distance. "It is unfortunate that we have lost 51 people," Kenya's police chief Joseph Boimnet told Capital FM radio. However James Mugeru, the Kericho County Police



**Around 3,000 die annually in road accidents**

Commander, said there were 50 fatalities: "Those who perished include 31 male passengers, 12 women and seven children. There are about 10 others who have been rushed to various hospitals with serious injuries." Officers said the bus had a capacity of 52 passengers. The bus was reportedly descending a steep hill when it hit a guard rail before plunging down a few meters. Dozens of people milled around the accident site and goods were strewn over a large area, footage showed.

President Uhuru Kenyatta called for an investigation into the tragedy. "My heartfelt condolences to the families of fellow Kenyans who lost their lives in a tragic road acci-

dent at Fort Ternan in Kericho County this morning and wish those in hospital quick recovery," he wrote on Twitter. "I would like to remind drivers to always exercise caution to avoid such catastrophic incidents." Official statistics show that around 3,000 people die annually in road accidents in Kenya, but the World Health Organization estimates the figure could be as high as 12,000. In December 2017, 36 people died in a head-on collision between a bus and a lorry.

In 2016 more than 40 people died when an out-of-control fuel tanker ploughed into vehicles and then exploded on a busy highway. — AFP

## 75 bodies found in mass grave in Libya

**TRIPOLI:** A mass grave containing 75 bodies has been found near the former jihadist bastion of Sirte in western Libya, an official said yesterday. Mohamad Al-Amial, the coastal city's municipal council spokesman said the mass grave was uncovered in an agricultural area of Al-Daheir, west of Sirte. "Seventy-five decomposed bodies were recovered" in the presence of the public prosecutor, Sirte's security force and the Red Crescent, he said.

Amial said the find was made "a few days ago" and that the bodies were believed to be of Islamic State (IS) group members, although there was no confirmation. IS jihadists overran Sirte, 600 kilometers (375 miles) east of Tripoli, in June 2015. Forces of Libya's UN-backed unity government expelled IS from the coastal city in December 2016 after eight months of deadly combat. The group has since pulled back to desert outposts.

It claimed responsibility for a suicide attack last month on the Tripoli headquarters of Libya's National Oil Corporation that killed two staffers as well as an assault in May on the country's electoral commission in which 14 people died. IS took advantage of the anarchy in Libya after the NATO-backed overthrow and killing of longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 to establish footholds in several parts of the country. Since their defeat in Sirte, the jihadists have kept up the fight from rural areas of western Libya. In April, the Tripoli-based unity government launched a campaign to flush them out. — AFP

## Journalist's disappearance forces Trump hand on Saudi

**WASHINGTON:** Allegations that Saudi Arabia killed a journalist inside its Istanbul consulate have forced Donald Trump into a position he never expected—raising human rights with the kingdom he has steadfastly supported. Saudi Arabia was the first foreign destination as president for Trump, who has lavished praise on its ambitious crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, and closely allied himself with the kingdom in a push to isolate the Sunni state's regional rival Iran.

Trump had stayed silent on human rights as the United States backs the Saudi-led air campaign against rebels in Yemen, which a UN report said has killed thousands of civilians, and when Prince Mohammed, often referred to by his initials MBS, detained dozens of people last year in a controversial crackdown. But Vice President Mike Pence on Monday declared himself "deeply troubled" by allegations that Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent opinion writer living in the United States and contributor to The Washington Post, was killed after he entered the Saudi consulate—saying it would be "tragic" if true.

Trump himself said he was "concerned," while Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged a "thorough" investigation with "transparent" findings about the fate of Khashoggi, whom Saudi officials insist left the consulate in Istanbul. The US president

told reporters Tuesday he knew nothing about Khashoggi's fate.

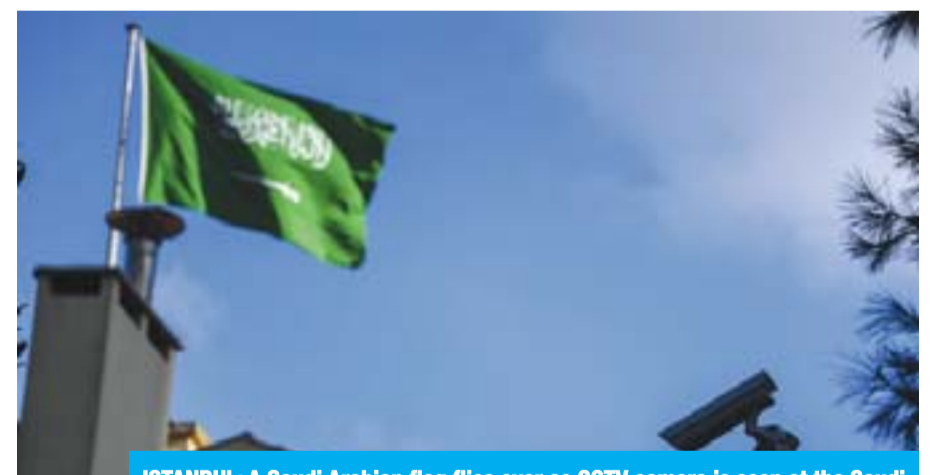
### Bad atmosphere on rights?

Critics say Trump contributed to an atmosphere that may have empowered Saudi Arabia to silence a critic abroad. Trump has repeatedly lashed out at the media, calling it the "enemy of the people," and has raised human rights prominently only when pressuring US antagonists such as Iran and China. The administration has essentially told "violators of human rights and oppressive leaders, 'Go ahead, do what you need to do, we'll turn the other way, consequences won't be forthcoming,'" said Sarah Margon, Washington director of Human Rights Watch.

The Khashoggi case puts the Trump administration unexpectedly on the side of Turkey, where two top government officials have been slapped with US sanctions over the detention of an American pastor. Calling the initial response on Khashoggi late and tepid, Margon said the Turkish example showed the Trump administration does "have the tools and the ability to respond quickly, so it's a question of willingness." Longtime US Middle East negotiator Aaron David Miller tweeted that "by failing to call MBS out on anything, particularly repression at home, the Trump administration has emboldened him and given him a sense he can do anything."

### Bristling at criticism

Under MBS, Saudi Arabia has increasingly shown it will not tolerate any foreign criticism. In August, the kingdom expelled the Canadian ambassador and froze all trade and investment after Ottawa voiced concern for jailed rights activists in the kingdom. The United States, with its decades-old military and energy partner-



ISTANBUL: A Saudi Arabian flag flies over as CCTV camera is seen at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul yesterday. — AFP

ship with Saudi Arabia, however enjoys far more clout than Canada.

But a more prickly relationship could complicate other US goals such as arranging a summit of Gulf Arab allies to advance reconciliation with Qatar, which has been under an embargo by its neighbors for more than a year over disputes that include relations with Tehran. Analysts said the Trump administration felt obliged to speak out on Khashoggi after rising attention from the media and especially on Capitol Hill, where prominent lawmakers on both sides have voiced outrage over the journalist's detention or possible killing.

"This story is not going to play well here. It is going to put further stress on the relationship, particularly in terms of congressional views on Saudi Arabia," said Gerald Feierstein, a veteran US diplomat in the Middle East who served as ambassador to Yemen. "I think a lot of people will look at this and conclude that the Saudi government has simply gone rogue, so it's going

to be a complication for the administration," said Feierstein, now at the Washington-based Middle East Institute. In March, the Senate narrowly failed in a bid to restrict US support for Saudi Arabia's campaign in Yemen over rights concerns.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis—while saying the Pentagon was "monitoring" the situation in Turkey—also underscored the necessity of US military support for "the protection of the Saudi people." "You know they have been under fire from the Iranian-aligned Houthis.

We are trying to make certain that no innocent people die down there right now," he said. But Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who has cast himself as one of Trump's closest allies, said that if the allegations of wrongdoing by Riyadh are true, "it would be devastating to the US-Saudi relationship and there will be a heavy price to be paid—economically and otherwise." — AFP

## International

# Hunting a shadowy armed militia in DR Congo's 'triangle of death'

## ADF a shadowy armed group rooted in Ugandan Islamism

**BENI, DR Congo:** "I am always anticipating an attack," says South African soldier Maijeke of how it feels to be in DR Congo's "triangle of death", where he is part of a UN peacekeeping force helping the Congolese army hunt down a militia group that is slaughtering civilians. There has been a recent spike in violence in this volatile eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a shadowy armed group rooted in Ugandan Islamism.

Just last week, six civilians were killed during a night attack in the city of Beni by the ADF, which has no known leader and whose ideology and motives remain unclear. AFP photojournalist John Wessels travelled for three days with 30 soldiers from the UN mission MONUSCO and the Congolese army to the troubled North Kivu province, where the ADF has killed hundreds of civilians since 2014. On Friday, after reports of heavy mortar and machine gun fire, the troops headed to the town of Oicha, north of Beni and near the border with Uganda.

The town's residents greeted them by throwing stones. "The civilians get frustrated with us and MONUSCO, sometimes we arrive late, we have to fight harder to help the community change its mind about us," one of the Congolese soldiers said on the condition of anonymity. Several homes in Oicha had been looted by ADF members, who melt back into the jungle after raids and attacks. While the troops inspected the looted homes, deafening machine gunfire rang out from the jungle.

It seemed to be coming from near the town of Mbau, where 20 civilians were shot dead by the ADF in May. The troops are based outside Oicha, where the blue helmets sleep uneasily—the ADF killed 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers in December in the deadliest attack on UN forces in 24 years. And the ADF, which is thought to have killed a total of more than 700 civilians over the last four years, regularly attacks Congolese army bases for weapons, ammunition and medical supplies.

### 'Heartbreaking'

"This is my fourth deployment in the DRC, my first was in 2006," said UN peacekeeper Maijeke. "This is the most intense deployment for me. I am always anticipating an attack," he added. "The biggest difference this time is the escalation in the killings of civilians, this is heartbreaking for me, a serious concern." When the ADF killed 20 civilians in Beni in September, the locals condemned the failures of the Congolese army and the UN mission. However MONUSCO maintains its intervention has prevented even greater carnage. In the area known as the "triangle of death" between Beni, Mbau and Kamango, the troops face

an enemy that knows every secret of the dense jungle and likely has informants in many communities. On Saturday, the troops headed to the scene of a particularly violent ADF onslaught a few days earlier. Members of the militia were said to have used two women as human shields dur-



### Death toll mounts as violence rages

ing a shootout with Congolese troops that lasted four hours. Both women were killed. Everything seemed quiet when the troops arrived, except for the sporadic sound of gunfire. The next day, Sunday, gunshots rang out again—this time close to their base. The soldiers scrambled to put on their gear, but the jungle quietened down once their attention was turned to it.

### What do they want?

Over three days hunting the ADF, some of the mystery surrounding them dissipated. It was clear they are well-equipped with heavy weapons and well organised. Their guerrilla tactics of sudden, brutal assaults are usually to gain strategic positions, or needed supplies. But much remains unknown. How many are they? Who is in charge? Who is arming them? And most of all, what is their goal? Both Uganda and the DRC insist they have a jihadist motive, but many observers say this is too simplistic and there has been no proven link with the global jihadist underground.

The ADF started out in 1989 with the aim of overthrowing Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, who was seen as hostile to Muslims. But it went on to absorb other rebel factions into its ranks and started carrying out attacks in 1995. Forced westwards by the Ugandan army, the group relocated most of its activities to DRC, finding a lucrative niche in the vast central African country's lawless, resource-rich east. For Maijeke, the most important thing is ending the violence. "There has to be a dialogue between the FARDC (Congolese army) and the ADF," he says. "The fighting is at the expense of innocent civilians—mouths must finish this conflict, not bullets." — AFP

another 290 petrol stations as well, said Zahid Aziz, the agency's managing director who is supervising the campaign. Under the new policy, car washes should take no more than 100 liters of water per car. Currently, a typical car wash might use twice that much, Muhammad Aslam, a car wash worker, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Aziz said the changes were aimed at encouraging water conservation in a city where waste is common. A petition filed by a lawyer and being heard before the Lahore High Court, for instance, seeks to stop the city using 30,500 litres of water each day to wash its streets. "Fresh underground water is a precious resource, which we can't allow anyone to misuse," Aziz told reporters. "The agency is working on various projects to conserve water as well as to replace underground water with surface water" that will be run through a filtering plant, he said.

### Reasonable' action

Ahmad Rafay Alam, a Pakistani environmental lawyer and activist, described the city's groundwater as "thoroughly exploited, extracted and poisoned" by pollution. He said the new water agency rules are a reasonable move, aimed at shoring up Lahore's water security. "Everywhere in the world, sensible city managers have imposed sensible rules and regulations on the use and disposal of water," he said. "What the WASA is asking service stations to do is correct, as it owns the groundwater," Alam told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Among new conservation measures being put in place, the agency has asked the city's parks authority to recycle used ablution water from the city's mosques to water parks and green strips along city roads.

Currently the parks authority "needlessly uses drinking water for horticulture when it could be responsible and use recycled water from mosques," Alam said. He said the new water restrictions and changes were causing an outcry among some car wash owners but were necessary "as they're shaking up the status quo and challenging our wasteful habits". Some water users - such as Azeem - said they can see the days of water waste need to end. "When you get something uninterrupted, you are not cautious about its worth," she said - just as water began flowing through her dry tap again. — Reuters



**BENI:** A health worker tries to clean and dress the bodies of a young boy and man, who were allegedly killed the night before by rebels from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Beni. — AFP

## Historians accuse far right chief of echoing Hitler

**BERLIN:** German historians yesterday accused far-right leader Alexander Gauland of paraphrasing Adolf Hitler in a newspaper column taking aim at a "globalised class" that he claimed threatens all that is good in his "homeland". The co-leader of the far-right AfD rejected allegations of parallels with a 1933 speech by

Hitler, but the latest episode is yet another controversy raising questions over his anti-migrant party's views on the Nazi-era. In a guest commentary for Saturday's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), Gauland wrote that the "globalised class" occupies positions in mainstream organisations from international corporations to the media to universities, and are also in key political parties.

"Their members live almost exclusively in big cities, speak fluent English, and when they move from Berlin to London or Singapore for jobs, they find similar apartments, houses, restaurants, shops and private schools everywhere. "This group socializes among itself but is culturally 'diverse'," he wrote, adding that they have no attachments to their homeland. — AFP

## As groundwater levels plunge, Lahore begins turning off taps

**LAHORE:** Five mornings a week, Saima Azeem helps her children wash and prepare for school. But this week has been different: She has had to use her few bottles of drinking water to get them ready. "It's been a difficult morning. I'll have to schedule my chores according to the new water supply timing," the mother of four said. Faced with fast-depleting groundwater supplies, Lahore - Pakistan's second biggest city - this week began rationing water and instituting a range of new conservation measures. Lahore relies on groundwater to fill its taps but groundwater levels are now falling at a rate of about 2.5 to 3 feet a year, according to WWF-Pakistan.

The water table in the centre of the city is now 130 feet down and is expected to fall below 230 feet by 2025, WWF researchers noted in 2017. "If the trend continues the situation will become even worse by 2040," they predicted. To try to avoid a crisis, Lahore's Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) on Tuesday began turning off the city's 700,000 water connections 12 out of each 24 hours. Users will now get water only from approximately 4 am to 9 am, noon to 2 pm and 5 pm to 10 pm, officials said. The water agency also increased water tariffs by about 20 percent for households and about 400 percent for commercial users. Previously, water prices had been frozen since 2004.

### Car wash crackdown

The water agency also has disconnected the water supply to more than 280 petrol station car washes across Lahore, ordering them to install, within two months, more efficient mechanized washing facilities with water recycling systems. Disconnection notices have been sent to



**LAHORE:** A gardener washes a walkway in front of a house in Lahore's Johar Town neighborhood. — Reuters

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## International

# Florida girds for an 'extremely dangerous' category 4 storm

## 'Do not risk your life, leave NOW'

**PANAMA CITY:** Hurricane Michael closed in on Florida's Gulf Coast yesterday as an "extremely dangerous" category four storm packing powerful winds and a huge sea surge, US forecasters said. The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said the storm, which local forecasters are calling an "unprecedented" weather event for the area, is expected to slam ashore later in the day with "life-threatening" storm surges.

Top winds were swirling at 145 miles per hour, with the NHC warning the storm could grow stronger still, as outer rain bands from the storm lashed the coast. A storm surge of up to 14 feet and up to a foot of rain was expected in some areas. "Water is going to come up, it's going to cover your roof. You do not have a chance to survive that, so I'm very concerned," Governor Rick Scott told Fox News.

"It's too late to evacuate now on the coast... Hunker down, and be careful, listen to locals. Don't go out in the middle of this. You are not going to survive it. It's deadly." An estimated 375,000 people in more than 20 counties were ordered or advised to evacuate. The National Weather Service office in the state capital Tallahassee issued a dramatic appeal for people to comply with evacuation orders. "Hurricane Michael is an unprecedented event and cannot be compared to any of our previous events. Do not risk your life, leave NOW if you were told to do so," it said.



**Top winds swirling at 145 miles per hour**

### Flood, tornado warnings

The heavy rains could cause flash floods, the NHC said, and spawn tornados in northwestern Florida. About 120,000 residents were under mandatory evacuation orders in Bay County in the Panhandle, a low-lying area of beachfront resorts and retirement communities. In other areas, residents of mobile homes were urged to leave. Michael was forecast to have the power to uproot trees, block roads and knock out power for days when it hits Florida.

It is expected to weaken as it moves up into the southeastern United States. Drivers waited in long lines at gas stations and residents hurried to fill sandbags. Tolls were suspended on some roads to aid movement ahead of the storm's landfall. "Since 6:00 am it's been

er day or so as it heads toward the Atlantic. The NWS office in Tallahassee said it had found no record of any previous category four hurricanes that made landfall in the panhandle or the "Big Bend" coastal region. "This situation has NEVER happened before," it said on Twitter. Category four is the second highest level on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale.

Scott, who has activated 2,500 members of the National Guard, warned Michael could be the most destructive storm to hit the Florida Panhandle in decades. President Donald Trump issued an emergency declaration for the state, freeing up federal funds for relief operations and providing the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. State officials issued disaster declarations in Alabama and Georgia, both of which are also expected to feel the impact from the storm. As of 1200 GMT, Michael was about 90 miles southwest of Panama City and moving north at 13 miles per hour.



**FLORIDA:** The storm surge and waves from Hurricane Michael batter the beachfront homes yesterday in the Florida Panhandle community of Shell Point Beach. —AFP

backed up. We're just now running out of regular (gasoline)," Danny Hess, an employee at a gas station in Panama City, told local WJHG television.

The Carolinas are still recovering from Hurricane Florence, which left dozens dead and is estimated to have caused billions of dollars in damage last month. It made landfall on the coast as a Category 1 hurricane on September 14 and drenched some parts of the state

with 40 inches of rain. Last year saw a string of catastrophic storms batter the western Atlantic - including Irma, Maria and Harvey, which caused a record-equaling \$125 billion in damage when it flooded the Houston metropolitan area. Scientists have long warned that global warming will make storms more destructive, and some say the evidence for this may already be visible. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Migrant boat capsizes

**ANKARA:** Four people died after a boat carrying illegal migrants capsized off Turkey's western coast, the Turkish coastguard said yesterday, while search efforts continued to find 30 other people on board. The discovery came after an Iraqi woman in wet clothes and wearing a life jacket sought help from the coastguard in Karaburun district in Izmir province. She told the coastguard that the boat carrying her and 34 others began to sink shortly after beginning its journey and she managed to arrive on solid ground. After launching a rescue operation, the coastguard found the bodies of four migrants, including two ashore and two in the water. The other migrants' nationalities were not given but Turkey hosts over three million Syrian refugees and up to 300,000 Iraqis. —AFP

#### Bosnia refinery blast

**SARAJEVO:** An explosion at a Russian-owned oil refinery in Bosnia killed one worker and injured nine more, police said yesterday. The cause of the blast at Bosnia's sole oil refinery in the northern town of Brod late Tuesday, which sparked a fire, was still not known, a police spokeswoman said. "One person was killed and nine were injured," spokeswoman Dragana Kekez said. "Six injured were hospitalized but their lives are not endangered," she added. Head of the local health centre Zoran Predojevic said overnight that eight workers sustained minor injuries. The fire was contained around midnight. The Russian state-controlled Zarubezneft oil company holds a majority stake in the Brod refinery which employs around 900 people. It can handle up to 1.2 million tons of crude oil per year. —AFP

#### Hiring a 'contract killer'

**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis yesterday compared having an abortion to hiring a "contract killer". "Interrupting a pregnancy is like eliminating someone," Francis said in an address to worshippers in the Vatican. "Getting rid of a human being is like resorting to a contract killer to solve a problem," he added. "Is it just to resort to a contract killer to solve a problem?" His comments departed from the prepared text for his homily delivered during his weekly audience on Saint Peter's Square. In his address, the Argentine pontiff complained of a "depreciation of human life". He cited wars, exploitation and what he called a culture of wastefulness, as well as abortion. "How can an act that suppresses innocent life be therapeutic, civil or even human?" he asked. Francis this year opposed a bill that would have legalized abortion in Argentina. —AFP

#### French 'OxyMonster' jailed

**MIAMI:** A French man who US prosecutors said brokered illegal drug deals and helped launder money on the dark web under the name "OxyMonster" was sentenced to 20 years in jail Tuesday. Gal Vallerius, 36, was sentenced in Miami federal court after pleading guilty in late August to charges of conspiracy to traffic drugs and launder money. In a plea deal, he also forfeited more than \$700,000 worth of virtual currency. Prosecutors said he was originally a vendor of controlled drugs Oxycodone and Ritalin on Dream Market, an online underground market where buyers and sellers of controlled goods could trade anonymously, settling their deals with bitcoin and other virtual currencies. He then became an administrator of the market, which became a hub for trade in drugs such as LSD, heroin, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine and other illegal drugs. —AFP

## French health watchdog calls for ban on sunbeds

**PARIS:** The French health watchdog yesterday urged the government to outlaw sunlamps and sunbeds because of the "proven" risk of skin cancer, in line with similar bans already in place in Australia and Brazil. "We recommend banning all activities linked to artificial tanning, along with ultraviolet sunlamps sold for esthetic purposes, especially those sold on the private market," Olivier Merckel, an expert at the Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) said. Of 10,722 cases of malignant melanoma—the deadliest form of skin cancer—reported in French adults over age 30 in 2015, 382 could be directly linked to the use of sunbeds and sunlamps, ANSES estimated recently.

## Man arrested over killing of Bulgarian journalist

**SOFIA:** German police have arrested a man suspected of the rape and murder of Bulgarian television journalist Viktoria Marinova, Bulgarian officials said yesterday. But Bulgarian prosecutors said that, at least for now, the killing does not appear linked to her work as a journalist. The body of 30-year-old Marinova—who presented a current affairs talk program called "Detector" for the small TVN television channel—was discovered on a riverside path in the northern Bulgarian town of Ruse on Saturday. Authorities said she died from blows to the head and suffocation. She was also raped.

The Bulgarian suspect was picked up late Tuesday at the request of Bulgarian authorities, Interior Minister Mladen Marinov told a news conference. "We have enough proof linking this person to the scene of the crime," he said. German police confirmed a 20-year-old man was arrested in the town of Stade near Hamburg on suspicion of raping, robbing and killing Marinova. A German police statement said that the process of extraditing the man to

Skin specialists, the French academy of medicine, and some politicians have already spoken out in favor of a ban, but the French government has so far opted to merely tighten regulations. In 2013, it banned people under age 18 from using commercial tanning parlors, and outlawed advertising for them. A total ban is now needed, according to Merckel. "Scientific data is growing, there isn't any doubt any more, we have solid proof, the risk of cancer is proven, we have figures on the risk to young people, to everyone, so now we're calling for action from the authorities," he said.

There is a "proven" link between artificial sunlight and human cancer, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a body of the World Health Organization, warned as early as 2009. People under 35 who resort at least once to artificial tanning increase the likelihood of developing skin melanoma by 59 percent, according to ANSES. Brazil banned sunbeds in 2009 and Australia outlawed them in 2015.

Bulgaria had begun and that a request had been filed with the relevant regional court.

Such procedures under the European arrest warrant can take anything from a few days up to several weeks to complete. Bulgaria's chief prosecutor Sotir Tsatsarov named the suspect as Severin Krasimirov, born in 1997, and said he was already sought in connection with another rape and murder. "At this stage, we do not believe that the murder is linked" to Marinova's work, Tsatsarov said. "But we are continuing to look at all hypotheses." "The evidence that we have at this stage leads us to believe it was a spontaneous attack to sexually abuse the victim."

### Politically motivated?

The attack has shocked the country and drawn international condemnation amid speculation the murder could be linked to Marinova's work as a journalist. An episode of her program aired on September 30 featured interviews with two investigative journalists from Bulgaria and Romania who had been working on corruption allegations. She is the third journalist to be murdered in Europe in the past 12 months after Jan Kuciak in Slovakia in February and Daphne Caruana Galizia in Malta in October 2017. However, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov lashed out at international bodies and rights groups which had been quick to assume a political motive behind the murder.

"In just three days, I've read monstrous things about Bulgaria. None of them true,"

## French MPs adopt 'fake news' bill

**PARIS:** French lawmakers yesterday adopted two bills to prevent the spread of false information during election campaigns following allegations of Russian meddling in the 2017 presidential vote. The "fake news" bills enable a candidate or political party to seek a court injunction preventing the publication of "false information" during the three months leading up to a national

election. They also give France's broadcast authority the power to take any network that is "controlled by, or under the influence of a foreign power" off the air if it "deliberately spreads false information that could alter the integrity of the election."

The measure is seen as aimed at Russia's state-backed RT network which began broadcasting in France late last year. Macron has had Russian media in his sights since his 2017 campaign when a state-backed Russian site ran allegations that he was gay and had a secret bank account in the Bahamas. France's opposition has criticized the bills as an attempt to create a "thought police", noting that a law

dating to 1881 already protects politicians and other citizens against defamation.

Ahead of the late-night vote, Culture Minister Francoise Nyssen defended the draft laws saying they "in no way" violated the right to free speech. The main target of the legislation is stories spread by fake-news bots that are "manifestly false and shared in a deliberate, mass and artificial way," she said. The bill also requires that Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms reveal the names of companies behind sponsored content and establishes a press ethics council, headed by the former head of AFP news agency Emmanuel Hoog. —AFP



**PARIS:** Photo shows a sunbed or tanning bed. —AFP

Commercial tanning activity in France has already been halved since 2009, according to the National union of tan-

ning professionals which represents some 4,500 tanning parlors in the country. —AFP



**ROUSSE:** Flowers are placed near a portrait of slain Bulgarian television journalist Viktoria Marinova in the city of Rousse. —AFP

he told the news conference. "We, as a country, did not deserve to be smeared like this... while everyone has been working (to solve the crime) not 100, but 1,000 percent." European Commission vice president Frans Timmermans had been among the first to suspect a political motive. "Shocked by the horrendous murder of Viktoria Marinova. Again a courageous journalist falls in the fight for truth and against corruption," he tweeted Sunday, not long after the news of the murder broke.

And the UN's cultural agency, UNESCO,

similarly said that "attacks on journalists erode the fundamental human right to freedom of expression and its corollaries, press freedom and free access to information." Bulgaria is regarded as a laggard in the EU in terms of press freedom, ranking 111th out of 180 countries, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Widespread corruption, shady media ownership and suspected collusion between journalists, politicians and oligarchs have made objective reporting a constant obstacle course, according to RSF. —AFP



International

# Flash floods hit Majorca; Britons among ten killed; Six missing

## Cars swept away by raging, muddy waters

**MADRID:** At least 10 people died, including two British nationals, and six others were missing yesterday in devastating flash floods on the Spanish holiday island of Majorca, authorities said. Footage broadcast on Spanish television showed cars being swept away by raging, muddy waters, houses flooded and vehicles piled one on top of the other after the Mediterranean island was pounded with heavy rain in just a few hours.

One witness told a local newspaper he had to swim out of his car through a window to safety. "I swam 500 meters through the torrent until I got to a house," Manuel Torrecusa told the *Diario de Mallorca*. "I hardly had any clothes on me as they all got caught on a metal fence when I was swimming." A spokesman for the Spanish central government's office in the Balearic Islands told AFP nine people had died while six others had been formally identified as missing. He warned there could be more people missing.

Antonia Bauza, deputy mayor of Sant Llorenç des Cardassar, told Spanish radio that two British nationals were among the dead. She added there were also Britons among the missing. Neither the emergency services, police nor the British foreign office were able to confirm this when contacted by AFP.

"The priority is to identify survivors and rescue people stuck at home," Bauza said. "We have lots of vacation homes." Emergency services in the archipelago

go updated information regularly on Twitter, sending out tweets in Spanish, Catalan, English and German in an indication of the prevalence of tourists and foreign residents on the island.

### Ibiza, Formentera on alert

Spain's meteorological office said the neighboring islands of Ibiza and Formentera were now on high alert as the rain and storms moved there. In Majorca, the worst affected area lay 60 kilometers (37 miles) east of the capital Palma de Majorca.

Javier Martinez, another witness, told the *Diario de Mallorca* he had to leave his flooded home. "I don't have anything with me, just the pyjama," he was quoted as saying.

"My house filled up completely and when it (the water level) dropped we left and went through the mud that the flood left." Rescue workers searched overnight for missing people. Around 100 extra emergency workers were dispatched from

the Spanish mainland, along with two helicopters, eight vehicles and search dogs, the country's emergency military unit said. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez tweeted his "solidarity and support for the relatives and friends of the victims, and for all those affected by this tragic flooding."

He was due to fly to the disaster zone later. Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal, who is from the affected area in Majorca, said on Instagram he was offering to open up



**SANT LLORENÇ DES CARDASSAR:** Photo shows wreckages of cars and debris laying on a flooded street in Sant Llorenç des Cardassar, on the Spanish Balearic island of Majorca yesterday. — AFP

his sports centre and tennis academy to people displaced by the floods. "Our most sincere condolences to the loved ones of the victims of the serious floods in San Llorenç," he wrote. Many locals hit by the flooding spent the night in sports centers. Maria Magdalena Ferrer,

spokeswoman for the Manacor Hospital in the affected area, told AFP people "who were in the hospital yesterday and weren't able to go home" stayed the night. She added five people had been admitted with injuries, none of them serious. —AFP



### Vehicles piled one on top of the other

## Bangladesh sentences 19 to death

**DHAKA:** A Bangladesh court yesterday sentenced 19 people to death over a 2004 grenade attack on the current prime minister, although a top opposition leader escaped with a life sentence. The attack in Dhaka on a rally by Sheikh Hasina, at the time in the opposition and now prime minister, left her injured and killed 20 people. Tarique Rahman, son of then-premier and Hasina's ally-turned-archrival Khaleda Zia, was among 49 people on trial, with Rahman charged with criminal conspiracy and multiple counts of murder. Rahman, 50, was tried in absentia after he fled the country for London in 2008.

He now leads the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) from exile after Zia was jailed in February for five years for corruption. "We thank God for the verdict," prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain told reporters amid tight security. "We hoped that Tarique Rahman would get the death sentence," he said, adding the court observed that Rahman played a key role in the attack. Hossain said two former ministers including a powerful ex-home minister and two former heads of the country's powerful intelligence agencies were among others handed the death sentence.

A total of 15 Islamist extremists from the banned Harkat-ul Jihad al Islami (HuJI), whose



**DHAKA:** Grenade attack convicts look out from a special court windows in Dhaka yesterday. —AFP

leader was executed in April last year, were also sentenced to death for planning and carrying out the attack. Prosecutors said former BNP minister Abdus Salam Pintu colluded with HuJI and handed over grenades for the attack. Hasina was addressing the rally when the grenades exploded and suffered severe injuries in one ear. Among the dead was the wife of a former president. Four years later, Hasina stormed back to power after leading a secular coalition to a landslide victory in elections in December 2008. Three Islamist extremists were also charged over the attack and later executed in a separate trial.

### Death row

Death sentences are common in Bangladesh, with hundreds of people on death row. All executions are by hanging, a legacy of the British colonial era. At least nine top Islamist extremists, five leaders of the country's largest Islamist party and a senior opposition leader have been hanged since 2007. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said he was satisfied with the verdict, saying they got justice. Rahman's lawyer Sanaullah Mia said the charges against his client were politically motivated. —AFP

## Cost of climate-linked disasters soaring: UN

**GENEVA:** The economic cost of climate-related disasters hit \$2.25 trillion over the last two decades, an increase of more than 250 percent compared to the previous 20 years, the UN said yesterday. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) noted that "climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events" such as floods and storms.

Between 1978-1997, total losses for climate-related disasters was \$895 billion (780 billion euros), UNISDR said in a report by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) at the Universite Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. But between 1998-2017 that figure hit \$2.25 trillion, the report said, listing the United States, China, Japan and India as the countries where the financial toll has been highest. The findings were released as Michael, a Category Four hurricane, rumbled towards the Gulf Coast of Florida, in the latest storm to threaten vast destruction across the eastern US.

"The report's analysis makes it clear that economic losses from extreme weather events are unsustainable and a major brake on eradicating poverty in hazard exposed parts of the world," the UN secretary general's special representative for disaster reduction, Mami Mizutori, said in a statement. UNISDR counted the number of climate-related disasters between 1998-2017 at more than 6,600, with storms and floods the most common events. The report notes gaps in data collection, but says the findings clearly show investing in disaster risk reduction must become a central part of policy making in response to climate change. —AFP

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## Analysis

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## Idyllic German village home to 1,000 Chinese

Chinese entrepreneur Zhang Jianxin's first thought was that he had fallen victim to a fraud scheme when he arrived at the location of his investment in a small German village. For just over a million yuan each (\$143,000), he and 11 other Chinese businessmen were promised apartments in the village and help with navigating Germany's bureaucracy, including obtaining residency permits and registering a business. "But when I first got here, the grass was taller than people... I told the ICCN CEO I have the impression that it's all a scam," Zhang told AFP, referring to the company in charge.

As it turned out, it was all above board. Six years on, Zhang is one of 1,000 Chinese who have moved to Hoppstaedten-Weiersbach, total population 3,500, where they have also set up shop. All of them had been won over by Chinese businesswoman Jane Hou and her German partner Andreas Scholz, who conceived the idea of building the biggest Chinese trading center in Europe. Three hundred small and medium-sized Chinese firms now have registered German businesses in the village, tucked within a ring of forests in western Germany's Rhineland-Palatinate state. Another 12 buildings are being built over the next five to seven years to accommodate another 500 investors.

Hard to imagine that it all started with a conversation between Hou and Scholz at Frankfurt airport. Scholz, who was then managing a shop in the airport, said they "chatted and exchanged business cards". Two weeks later, Hou told him she was looking to hire a German sales representative who also handles contact with the embassy. Hou "is a very persuasive person", said Scholz. "Three weeks later, I packed two bags, gave notice on my job, my apartment, gave away my stuff or sold it and went to China."

### 'No legal norms'

From a little office in Shenzhen, the two embarked on their bid to convince Chinese businessmen to move to Germany. Their pitch was that a registered German company would be viewed as more trustworthy to do business in the country. "It is always a bit risky for German companies to do business with a Chinese limited company somewhere in Shenzhen or in Shanghai as there are simply no legal norms," Scholz said. "There are unfortunately enough examples where money had gone missing or didn't arrive and the Chinese partner has disappeared, no one is there to answer the phone."

Hou, through a German contact, learnt of housing blocks left empty in Hoppstaedten-Weiersbach after the US military moved out. Located around 90 minutes by road from Frankfurt airport, the village had been losing its younger population to big cities. It was therefore to local politicians' joy when ICCN approached them with a plan to spruce up the blocks and sell them to the Chinese. Although the tranquil setting feels a world away from China's booming cities, it turned out to be another selling point.

### 'Clean air, clean water'

"Here, there's much fewer people. My heart is calm," said Zhang. A potential investor, Yang Hai, was impressed by the "clean air and water" that's drinkable from the tap. Yang was in town for a German-China economic forum organized by ICCN, an opportunity to check out the site. If it works out, the pharmaceutical investment would be the first time the center moves from trading to manufacturing. Already, some of the companies based there are involved in exporting German goods to China, not just bringing in Chinese products.

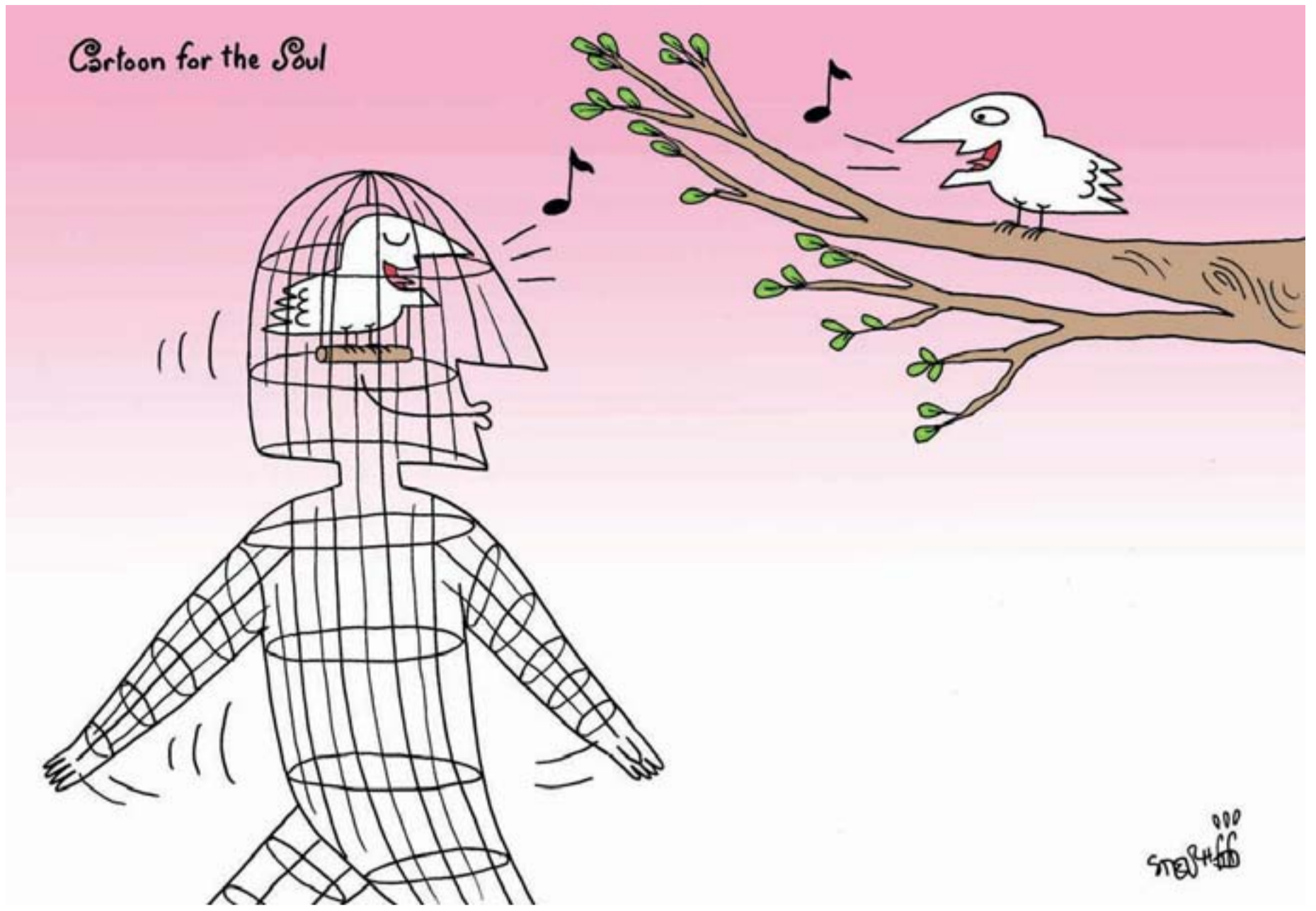
"Forty-two percent of the place is covered with greenery and the air is very clean. Such a place for a pharmaceutical company... is particularly suitable. Our requirements are that air and water quality must be good," said Yang. "We also looked at Canada and America but Germany may be better because it's cold in Canada and there are too many unpredictable developments in the US," he said.

While Chemnitz, an eastern city on the other side of Germany, has been rocked by anti-foreigner protests, newcomers to Hoppstaedten-Weiersbach said they have encountered only friendliness from locals. "Before coming here, there were some concerns that the locals may not be accepting. But in fact, they are very friendly," said Cui Jin, who runs a medical device trading business. Retiree Becker Ottmar said the newcomers "are very nice and forthcoming... we live well together." "Today, when a house is empty, it would likely be sold to the Chinese," said Ottmar, who lives across the street from a restaurant now run by a Chinese family.

### 'A bridge'

Scholz admitted that "such a project would not work everywhere in Germany", but added that villagers had been long used to having foreigners living among them given the US army bases dotted across the region. They had also felt the impact on jobs and economic opportunities when the US base in Hoppstaedten-Weiersbach closed in the mid-1990s. When the Chinese moved in, "they bought cars, furniture, daily necessities. That's quite a bit of opportunity for a small locality," said Scholz.

The German businessman said the company has made an effort to create opportunities for the locals and newcomers to meet, including organising Chinese-German festivals and football tournaments. Stressing the importance to bridge the cultural divide, Scholz said: "We are this bridge." He and Hou have since married and have a daughter. They live next to the Zhang family. — AFP



## The search for a missing journalist

Jamal Khashoggi believed he was safe in Turkey. Khashoggi, a veteran Saudi journalist and newspaper editor, had lived in exile in Washington for more than a year, writing a column for the Washington Post in which he regularly criticized his country's crackdown on dissent, its war in Yemen and sanctions imposed on Qatar. He said he could write freely in the United States in a way that was impossible at home, according to friends and colleagues, but he was increasingly worried that Riyadh could hurt him or his family.

In Turkey, though, Khashoggi had friends in high places, including some of President Tayyip Erdogan's advisers. So when he walked into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul at 1 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 2, he hoped the appointment would be brief, a simple bureaucratic task that would allow him to marry his Turkish fiancée, whom he had met four months earlier. "He said the safest country in the world for Saudi Arabians was Turkey," said Yasin Aktay, an Erdogan aide and close friend of Khashoggi. Friends and family have not seen him since. Turkish officials have said they believe Khashoggi, 59, was killed inside the consulate.

Saudi Arabia has strongly rejected the accusation. The kingdom's ambassador to the United States, Prince Khalid bin Salman, said reports suggesting Khashoggi went missing in the Istanbul consulate or that Saudi Arabia had killed him "are absolutely false and baseless" and a product of "malicious leaks and grim rumors". "Jamal is a Saudi citizen who went missing after leaving the consulate," the ambassador said in a statement. Saudi Arabia has sent a team of investigators to work with Turkish authorities and "chase every lead to uncover the truth behind his disappearance".

In interviews, Turkish officials provided new details of their investigation into the missing journalist. Two senior Turkish officials revealed the existence of an object that may provide important clues to Khashoggi's fate: The black Apple watch he was wearing when he entered the consulate. The watch was connected to a mobile phone he left outside, they said. Investigators are also focusing on 15 Saudi men who entered the consulate around the same time as Khashoggi and left a short time later. These men had arrived hours earlier from Riyadh, most of them by private plane, the officials said. By the end of the day, they were on their way back to the kingdom.

Turkish newspaper Sabah said yesterday it had identified the 15 as members of a Saudi intelligence team. They included a forensic expert. A Turkish official did not dispute the report. And investigators are trying to trace a vehicle that left the Saudi consulate at the same time as two cars destined for the airport, one of the officials said. This vehicle didn't turn towards the airport, but set off in the opposite direction. This story is based on interviews with Turkish officials, Khashoggi's fiancée and more than a dozen of his friends, who gave insight into the columnist's state of mind in the days leading up to his disappearance, and explained why he went to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, not the embassy in his adopted home of Washington.

The case threatens to drive wedges between Saudi Arabia and Turkey and between Riyadh and its western allies. US President Donald Trump said on Oct 9 he plans to speak with Saudi officials about Khashoggi's disappearance. The mystery also threatens to undermine Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's drive to attract foreign investors and new high-tech business to a country that is too dependent on oil revenues.

### A new life

Khashoggi met his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, who is 23 years his junior, in May at a conference in Istanbul, according to Cengiz and a close friend of the Saudi journalist. Their relationship quickly evolved, and Khashoggi spoke about wanting to start a new life with her. By August, the couple had decided to marry in Turkey, where Cengiz lived, and spend much of their time there. "Jamal bought an apartment in Istanbul and we were furnishing our new home," Cengiz told Reuters on Oct 9. "We were planning to marry this week before Jamal flew back to Washington."

The decision to marry in Istanbul, whose mosques reminded Khashoggi of his hometown Madinah, set off a paper chase that ultimately ended in Khashoggi's disappearance. Turkish law required that Khashoggi, who was divorced, provide proof that he did not have a wife. He asked if he could get the document from the Saudi embassy in Washington, according to a friend in Europe, but was told the consulate in Turkey was better placed to help. Cengiz said Khashoggi wouldn't have applied for the

document in Istanbul if he could have avoided it. Asked to comment, a Saudi official said it was "not accurate" that Khashoggi was told to go to Istanbul.

The friend recounted how he warned Khashoggi against getting the paper in Istanbul for fear the Saudis might arrest him if he set foot in the consulate. "He told me there is no solution except to arrange for this paper with the consulate in Turkey," said the friend, who was in frequent contact with Khashoggi in the days before he disappeared. Khashoggi reassured him, he said, that his good connections in Turkey meant "no one can do anything to harm me in Istanbul".

Khashoggi visited the consulate without an appointment on Friday, Sept 28. Cengiz waited outside. That first meeting went smoothly. Khashoggi told Cengiz and several friends that officials in the consulate had treated him politely. They explained the paperwork would take time to prepare. Khashoggi exchanged phone numbers with a consulate official named Sultan so he could call and check on progress, according to three friends. Sultan said the document would be ready early the following week. Reuters has not been able to locate Sultan or confirm his role at the consulate. The consul declined to comment on who Khashoggi spoke to.

"He came out smiling. He told me 'inshallah (God willing) I will receive this paper after I come back from London,'" Cengiz said. Confident he would soon have the paperwork he needed, Khashoggi flew to London later the same day to attend a conference. He was asked there by colleagues about the threat he faced from the Saudi authorities for his work, according to some of those present. "One of my colleagues at dinner asked if he saw a possibility that his citizenship would be withdrawn," said Daud Abdullah, director of Middle East Monitor which organized the conference. "He discounted that - he didn't think the authorities would go that far."

An exiled Saudi dissident who spoke to Khashoggi in the days before his disappearance, said his friend was worried that he might face interrogation by the Saudis, but nothing more. Another friend, British-Palestinian activist Azzam Tamimi, who saw Khashoggi during that trip to London, said he "didn't seem scared at all. The opposite. He was relaxed and calm." Tamimi saw Khashoggi off at the airport in London.

### Mystery men

Khashoggi flew back to Istanbul from London on Monday evening, Oct 1. The following morning, he spoke again with consul worker Sultan, who told him to collect the document at 1 pm the same day. Outside the consulate, a low rise building at the edge of one of Istanbul's business districts, Khashoggi handed Cengiz his two mobile phones, the fiancée told Reuters. He left instructions that she should call Aktay, the Erdogan aide, if he didn't reappear. Khashoggi was wearing his black Apple Watch, connected to one of the phones, when he entered the building.

A senior Turkish government official and a senior security official said the two inter-connected devices are at the heart of the investigation into Khashoggi's disappearance. "We have determined that it was on him when he walked into the consulate," the security official said. Investigators are trying to determine what information the watch transmitted. "Intelligence services, the prosecutor's office and a technology team are working on this. Turkey does not have the watch so we are trying to do it through connected devices," he said.

Tech experts say an Apple Watch can provide data such as location and heart rate. But what investigators can find out depends on the model of watch, whether it was connected to the internet, and whether it is near enough an iPhone to synchronize. When Khashoggi did not emerge quickly, Cengiz said she at first hoped he had got the document and was talking with consul staff. "But when time passed and employees started leaving the building and he still wasn't out, I panicked," she said.

She called Aktay, the Erdogan aide, around 4.30 pm and told him her fiancée was missing. As soon as he received the call, Aktay told Reuters, he contacted Turkish security forces and intelligence officials. "Of course I also called the office of the president, who was in a senior party committee meeting at that point," Aktay said. "After about half an hour, everybody was informed and ready to take the measures needed in this case. And of course then, a long period of tension and expectation started."

Local and international media reported Khashoggi's disappearance the next day, Wednesday, Oct 3. Turkish authorities said there was no evidence to suggest Khashoggi had left the building, and they believed he was

still inside. Saudi authorities countered that their citizen had left the consulate and that they were investigating. Two Turkish security sources told Reuters that security camera recordings showed Khashoggi had not left the consulate by either of its two exits.

They said that 15 Saudi men had entered the building at around the time Khashoggi went in, having flown into Istanbul earlier in the day, most of them on a private aircraft from Riyadh and some on commercial flights. The men left after "some time" in two cars and returned to the airport, the sources said. They said a third vehicle left at the same time but turned in the opposite direction. Investigators are trying to trace its route by analyzing surveillance cameras. The Istanbul consulate referred questions about the 15 men and the vehicles to Saudi authorities, who did not respond to a request for comment.

"It is a very mysterious situation. Diplomats that came in private jets, stay in Turkey for a few hours, and leave. It is also very easy for them to pass through security due to their diplomatic immunity," one of the security sources said. According to Flight Tracker, an online flight tracking system, a private plane that brought nine of the men in the early hours of Oct 2 was registered to a company called Sky Prime Aviation Services. A company official confirmed that Sky Prime Aviation owned the plane and that it was in use on Oct 2, but gave no further details. He said the firm was owned by a private company registered in Saudi Arabia. Two industry sources said the firm belongs to the Saudi government. The Saudi government did not respond to a request for comment.

The other six men arrived on commercial flights, the security source said. The 15 men checked in, briefly, to two hotels, the Movenpick and Wyndham, which are close to the Saudi consulate. The hotels declined to comment. As pressure built on Saudi Arabia to locate their missing citizen, Saudi officials in Istanbul showed a Reuters reporter around the consulate on Saturday, Oct 6, opening cupboards and inviting him to inspect the ladies' bathroom. A few hours later, Turkish authorities said they believed Khashoggi had been killed.

A Saudi source told Reuters that British intelligence believed there had been an attempt to drug Khashoggi inside the consulate that culminated in an overdose. He said the information came from a British intelligence source. Contacted by Reuters, British intelligence did not comment. Asked about this account, a Saudi official said: "This death is not true."

### Reform not revolution

Khashoggi's message in his columns for the Washington Post was one of reform, not revolution. He often championed political change but did not question the Saudi monarchy as an institution. His bumpy relations with the Saudi authorities and the clerical establishment predated the rise of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In 2003 he was fired as editor-in-chief of reform newspaper Al-Watan, less than two months into his tenure, after publishing columns critical of the growing influence of the religious establishment in Saudi Arabia.

In 2007, he was named editor-in-chief of Al-Watan for a second time but was forced to resign three years later after publishing an article that challenged some elements of Salafism, a branch of Sunni Islam. Khashoggi was also the consummate insider, as an adviser to former intelligence chief Prince Turki Al-Faisal and a confidant of billionaire investor Prince Alwaleed bin Talal. Yet by early 2017, he was feeling the heat again. The authorities ordered him to stop writing and tweeting, then he watched as other writers, including several friends, were detained in a crackdown on dissent in September, 2017. "He was outside (the country), so he didn't return," said his friend, Tamimi.

In the United States, he felt he could speak freely. Karen Attiah, his editor at the Washington Post, said it was as if he had rediscovered journalism. "When he was in the newsroom, when I brought him the first time, he became energized. He took a selfie and said, 'I miss this. I miss being in a newsroom.' We spoke about editing and what it was like to talk to writers. He just lit up," she said. An acquaintance said Khashoggi was considering launching new projects from Washington. One idea focused on bringing attention to political prisoners in Saudi Arabia and promoting democracy in the Arab world, said the acquaintance. Attiah, the global opinions editor of the Washington Post, said Khashoggi rarely expressed fears for himself but he was "really torn up" about the pressures on his family. "I did worry about Jamal," she said. "I just thought, 'Who would be so brazen to go after him?'" — Reuters

# Business

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

**12** Boubyan Bank records net profits of KD 25.7 million during H1 2018

**13** Leaders need to fix broken economic models: IMF chief

**14** NBK Capital participates in Arab Net Kuwait conference



## NBK reports KD 272.4m net profit for 9M

**Al-Sayer: NBK continues delivering exceptionally strong results • 14.3% profit growth y-o-y**

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) reported net profits of KD 272.4 million (\$898.7 million) for the first nine months of 2018 compared with KD 238.4 million (\$786.4 million) for the same period in 2017, growing 14.3 percent year-on-year. NBK's 3Q 2018 net profits reached KD 86.5 million (\$285.5 million), compared to KD 73.7 million (\$243.1 million) for the same period in 2017 recording a YoY increase of 17.5 percent.

Total assets as of end of September 2018 reached KD 27.1 billion (\$89.5 billion) up 5.7 percent compared to end of September 2017, while total shareholders' equity increased by 5.2 percent to KD 3.1 billion (\$10.2 billion). Customer loans and advances reached KD 15.4 billion (\$50.8 billion) as of end of September 2018, up 6.5 percent from last year's levels. Customer deposits grew by 5.4 percent year-on-year to reach KD 14.1 billion (\$46.4 billion) as of end of September 2018.

Asset quality remained strong with NPL/Gross Loans ratio at 1.37 percent as of end of September 2018, and NPL coverage ratio at 237 percent. The Group maintained best in

class capitalization ratios. As of end-September 2018, NBK's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) reached 17.2 percent, comfortably exceeding regulatory requirements.

Nasser Al-Sayer, NBK Group Chairman said "our profitability continues strengthening each quarter reflecting the solid foundation of the Group's operations and the strong internal earning generation capacity. NBK is on track to record another year of record profits as demonstrated by the growth in 9M 2018 results. Our profits continue to be quite diversified and are mainly driven by core banking income." "The Group's net operating income grew by 8.5 percent year-on-year to KD 661.8 million (\$2,183.4 million), driven by healthy lending volumes, improving margins in addition to strong fee business growth," Al-Sayer highlighted.

**Healthy trends**

Al-Sayer also added "economic activity in Kuwait continues to improve. We witness healthy trends in the implementation of the government's development plan; capital spending and execution rate in recent years have



Nasser Musaed Al-Sayer



Isam Al-Sager

been on the rise indicating sustainable future growth trends."

"Opportunities are promising in Kuwait on the back of improved business environment which in turn paved the way for the private sector to be an active player," Al-Sayer highlighted. "NBK is positioned for this lucrative operating cycle given the Bank's capabilities, unique offerings, size and ratings."

Isam Al-Sager, NBK's Group Chief Executive Officer said: "The Group's diversification strategy is an important

factor in our strong and consistent financial performance. We continue to see similar trends for the rest of 2018 and beyond. Our 9M 2018 profits were driven by core banking activities and strong volumes across most business segments and geographies supporting our targets of diversified assets and income streams. Given the Bank's adequate capitalization, stable funding and ample liquidity conditions; NBK continues to benefit from emerging opportunities locally and regionally."

"Islamic banking is an area of focus

for NBK. Boubyan Bank is key to the Group's aspiration to implement the diversification strategy within Kuwait as well. Our Sharia compliant subsidiary is outperforming the market trends, acquiring market share and expanding its customer base.

"The geographic exposure helped NBK bring its diversification strategy into practice as we drive a meaningful contribution from our operations outside Kuwait. Profits from international operations reached 30 percent of the Group's total profits in 9M 2018. This confirm the Bank's key competitive advantage relative to peers."

**Expansion strategy**

"The Group's strategy continues to focus on expansion of presence in our MENA markets through organic growth, most importantly in the GCC and Egypt. In 2018, we are expanding in KSA by opening 2 new branches (Riyadh and Eastern province) to complement our offering in Jeddah. Moreover, we will also be offering global wealth management in the Kingdom through our CMA-licensed entity. On the other hand in Egypt, we

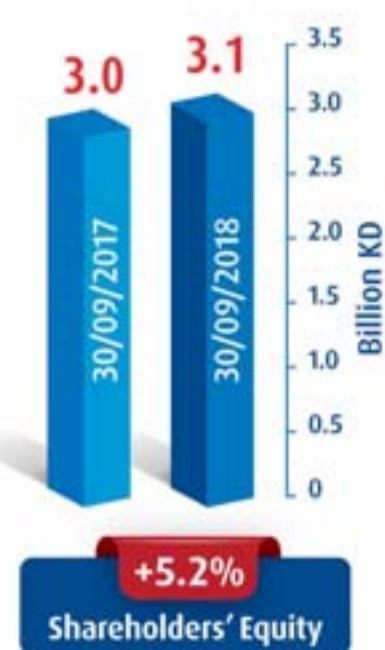
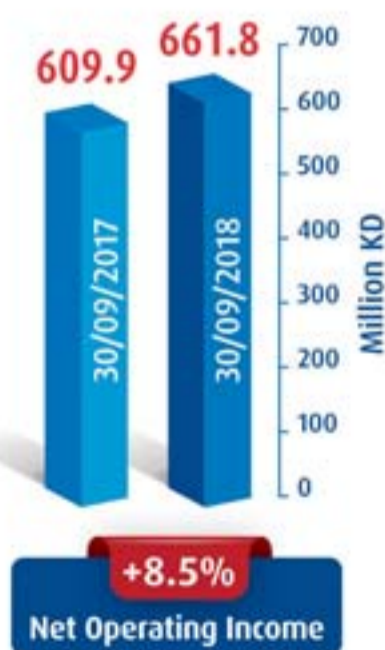
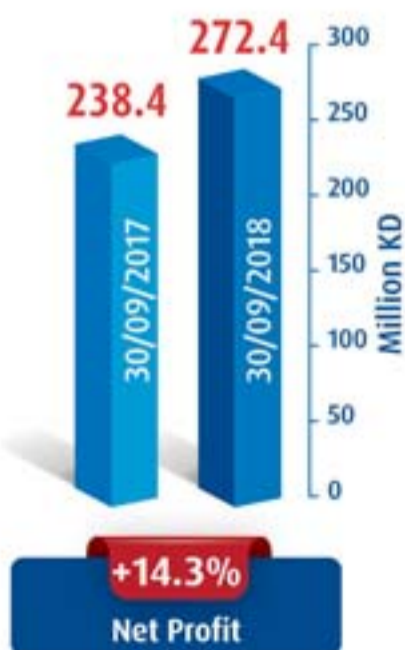
have been positioning for growth as the reforms continue to deliver economic stability and thus serve the largest populated Arab market that is significantly underbanked."

NBK continues to enjoy collectively one of the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for thirteen consecutive times and was awarded as the Best Bank in Kuwait in 2017 by the Banker, Euromoney and Global Finance.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, Singapore and China; in addition to its presence in MENA.

# 272.4

## Million KD Net Profit for the 9 Months, 2018



Moody's Aa3 | FitchRatings AA- | Standard & Poor's A+



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nbk.com

Business

# ZINC to partner with Erada Business Incubator to host GVA workshop

## Aspiring Kuwaiti entrepreneurs encouraged to attend workshop on Oct 14

KUWAIT: The Zain Innovation Centre, ZINC is partnering with Growth Velocity Academy (GVA) in conjunction with Erada Business Incubator to deliver a 2-hour workshop titled "How to get your first 5,000 customers". The workshop, hosted at ZINC, located at Zain Kuwait Head offices on Sunday 14th October, will give attendees a glimpse into how some of Silicon-Valley's top startups use Growth Hacking to scale rapidly.

The workshop is aimed at aspiring Kuwaiti digital marketers and growth hackers, entrepreneurs, corporates and "career transitioners" looking to leverage the digital space to grow their businesses and careers. The workshop will be followed by GVA's

flagship One-Week Intensive Digital Marketing Bootcamp - taking place in early December. Both the workshop and the bootcamp will be run by GVA's lead instructor and London based co-founder Howard Kingston.

Established just under a year ago, GVA has already run a number of workshops & bootcamps in Lebanon and South Africa which have sold out in a matter of days, with many of their alumni going on to secure job promotions and new roles. GVA's mission is to positively impact the lives of 1m people across the MENA region by 2030 by bringing Europe's leading tech entrepreneurs to run various tech boot-

camp that span digital marketing, user experience and data science.

Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer said, "As the first of its kind in Kuwait co-working hub provided by a corporate entity, ZINC aims to bolster youth entrepreneurship and the country's startup ecosystem. We are partnering with Growth Velocity Academy and Erada Business Incubators to bring new expertise and information to the youth of Kuwait. We believe that greater access to world-class teaching and new insights will help to develop the digital leaders of tomorrow."

Developing skills such as Web Development,

User Experience Design, Data Science or Digital Marketing are a requirement in today's fast-paced world of digital innovation. Talal Al-Ajeel, Founding Director at Erada Business Incubator commented "Erada is leading the way in developing entrepreneurship in Kuwait and this latest partnership is just one of many in our journey of digital excellence."

Omar Lababedi and Howard Kingston, the founders of GVA and successful serial entrepreneurs, jointly said, "We want Growth Velocity Academy to go beyond simply providing people in the region with the latest tech skills, we want to bridge the huge skill gap that exists between employers and employees."

ZINC

مركز زيادة الأعمال  
ERADA BUSINESS INCUBATOR

GROWTH VELOCITY ACADEMY

## Leaders need to fix broken economic models: IMF chief

NUSA DUA: World leaders need to fix global trading systems instead of trying to tear them down, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said yesterday, in a rebuke to nationalist politicians pushing tariffs and protectionism. Her comments come as a trade spat between China and the United States threatens economic growth around the world, with IMF experts warning of "new vulnerabilities" in the global system.

"We need to work together to de-escalate and resolve the current trade disputes," Lagarde said at an IMF and World Bank gathering in Bali. "We need to join hands to fix the current trade system, not destroy it," she added.

Around 32,000 members of the global financial elite are on the Indonesian holiday island for a week of discussions that have been clouded by US President Donald Trump's America First trade policy.

Trump has levied or threatened tariffs on goods from economies around the world, notably China, but also on traditional allies such as the European Union. The head of the World Trade Organization warned that a "full-blown commercial war" could shrink global trade by nearly 18 percent and also knock worldwide GDP. "The US and China would suffer considerably," added Roberto Azevedo, director general of the global trade body.

Higher US interest rates has also helped send emerging market currencies into a tail spin, as countries that borrowed heavily in dollars race to pay back their debt.

The IMF's latest report on world financial stability, released Wednesday, said global growth could be at risk if emerging markets deteriorate further or trade tensions escalate.

"New vulnerabilities have emerged and the resilience of the global financial system has yet to be tested," it said in the twice-yearly Global Financial Stability Report. Market participants "appear complacent" about the potential risks from a "sudden, sharp tightening of conditions"-like rising interest rates or declining access to capital.

More tariffs and their countermeasures "could lead to a broader tightening of financial conditions, with negative implications for the global economy and financial stability," the fund warned.



NUSA DUA: (L to R) Managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Christine Lagarde, World Bank president Jim Yong Kim, director general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Roberto Azevedo and secretary general of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Angel Gurría, attend a trade conference introduction at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meetings in Nusa Dua yesterday. —AFP

### 'Bit depressed'

Lagarde told her audience yesterday that she did not feel overly gloomy about global conditions.

"It's tempting to be a bit depressed about this perspective but I'm actually hopeful because there is a clear appetite to improve and expand trade," she said. Prominent US academic Jeffrey Sachs was less diplomatic in his assessment of Trump's shepherding of American trade relationships, slamming the president's repeated claims that deficits with China and other nations meant Americans were being taken advantage of. "Trade deficits don't (necessarily) mean cheating by the other side... This is the United States trying stop China's growth-it's a terrible idea," Sachs, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, told a seminar.

"All the accusations against China are completely trumped up... Grossly exaggerated."

### Fund exodus

As interest rates rise in advanced economies, prompting investors to take their money in search of higher returns, the IMF said emerging economies should take steps to insulate themselves from an exodus of funds. That would include boosting foreign currency

reserves that could be used in a crisis, as well as working with local bond markets to build a local investor base, rather than relying on financing from abroad.

The fund also pointed to risks from high corporate debt and too much government borrowing, a hangover from fiscal stimulus measures and government rescue spending in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis. Since the last stability report in April, global economic conditions have become less balanced, with a more pronounced divergence between advanced and emerging economies.

Despite the Federal Reserve's interest rate increases, financial conditions "have eased further" in the US as equity valuations have stayed lofty.

Conditions in Europe and other major advanced economies have also remained "relatively easy," although investors have pushed back their expectations for the European Central Bank to lift interest rates, the report said. In China, the situation remains "broadly stable," although corporate debt is above historical levels and household borrowing is at the high end among emerging countries.

"China is well aware and is taking steps to slow down the debt buildup," said Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department. —AFP

## Imran Khan vows to steady Pakistan as new bailout looms

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday vowed to steer the country out of a looming balance-of-payments crisis, days after his young government announced it would seek a fresh IMF bailout deal. The cricket-turned-premier said Pakistan needs \$10-12 billion, which he dismissed as "not a major issue" in televised comments.

"We will get out of this. I will take (the country) out of this," he added. "We have two options: one, we can go to friendly countries and ask them to bridge this gap; and second, that we go to the IMF," he said, adding that the government has decided to do "both".

Khan's new administration took office in August vowing to weigh up whether to

seek an IMF bailout to stabilize the shaky economy as it sought other avenues of financing. He has sought loans from friendly countries, promised to recover funds stolen by corrupt officials, and embarked on a series of populist austerity measures such as auctioning buffalo and luxury cars owned by the prime minister's house, and crowdfunding to build a dam in the country's north. But help has been in short supply and economists' warnings have grown increasingly urgent. Finance minister Asad Umar, who is attending the fund's annual meeting in Bali this week, announced late Monday that the government had decided to begin talks with the IMF for a "stabilization recovery program".

Pakistan has gone to the IMF multiple times since the late 1980s. The last time was in 2013, when Islamabad got a \$6.6 billion loan to tackle a similar crisis.

Khan, who came to power on an anti-corruption agenda and promises of building an Islamic welfare state, encouraged citizens not to get frustrated. "This is a very small period (of crisis). Our



KARACHI: Pakistani vendors wait for customers at a market in Karachi on Tuesday. —AFP

country is a rich country, it is blessed by Allah. This country will come out of crisis," he said.

Khan also announced that his government will begin a massive low-cost

housing scheme with the aim of building five million homes in five years. He did not announce a price tag for the scheme, but promised it would "bring prosperity". —AFP

## Mexico seeks name for new NAFTA

MEXICO CITY: What's in a name? Quite a lot, would likely be the answer of US President Donald Trump, whose insistence on renaming the trade agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico has now sent the latter scrambling for a Spanish-language equivalent.

Mexican President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an online poll Tuesday to choose a

name in Spanish for the three countries' new trade deal. The new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was named in a nod to Trump, who bashed what he called the "bad connotations" of its nearly 25-year-old predecessor, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Mexican officials had been calling it the AEUMC-short for Acuerdo Estados Unidos-Mexico-Canada, a direct translation-or simply the USMCA, following the English.

But Lopez Obrador, the anti-establishment leftist who will become Mexico's president on December 1, announced on Twitter that he, too, wants a new name.

"What name seems best to you, of the following proposals?" he asked his 4.5 million followers, launching a Twitter poll.

"A.) TEUMECA: T.ratado / E.stados U.nidos/ M.E.xico / CA.nada

"B.) T-MEC: T.ratado / M.exico / E.stados Unidos / C.anada

"C.) None of the above."

He said the idea for the poll came from his chief negotiator on the deal, Jesus Seade, who participated in the talks as an observer alongside the outgoing Mexican government's delegation after Lopez Obrador won a landslide election victory on July 1. —AFP

## World's top traders divided on oil outlook as Iran sanctions loom

LONDON: The world's biggest trading houses said yesterday they saw oil prices not falling below \$65 per barrel and possibly breaking above \$100 next year as US sanctions on Iran reduce crude exports from the Islamic republic.

The range of views illustrates deep uncertainty among top industry players over the outlook, given the reimposition of sanctions on Iran and forecasts of slowing economies and energy demand in 2019, potentially leading to choppy trading. Oil has rallied this year on expectations the sanctions, coming into force on Nov. 4, will strain supplies by lowering shipments from Iran, OPEC's third-largest oil producer. Brent crude last week reached \$86.74, the highest since 2014.

Jeremy Weir, chief executive of Trafifigura, said at the Oil & Money conference in London that he would not be surprised to see oil trade at more than \$100 per barrel next year. Among others with a relatively bullish view was Alex Beard, chief executive for oil and gas at Glencore, who forecast at the same event a mid-term oil price of \$85-90. "I think the sanctions will be very tough," Beard said. "Waivers will be extremely limited if any, and I don't see an end to it as the objective is regime change in 2019. I can't see anything that will affect oil prices dramatically to the downside."

A release of US strategic oil stocks to ease the loss of Iranian supplies looked remote and would have limited impact anyway, and a plan by European nations aimed at maintaining trade with Iran was unlikely to help, he added. "The European payment mechanism doesn't shield you if you use the US financial system ... you can pay but don't expect to be on their Christmas card list," he said.

Beard said that US infrastructure limitations would limit US crude exports that could otherwise compensate and new refining capacity coming online in 2019 would add further tightness.

### Weaker demand

Some of the traders said, however, they expected some demand destruction in emerging economies to help cap prices. In 2019, forecasters such as the International Energy Agency say emerging-market crises and trade disputes could dent global demand while rising production from outside the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries adds to supply. The chief executive of Gunvor, Torbjorn Tornqvist, said he saw lower prices next year at \$70-\$75, citing a slowdown in demand growth and a well-supplied market.

"There will be some Iranian exports but the amount will depend on the price. If oil goes up to \$100 a barrel then waivers, if it stays around \$80 a barrel then no waivers," Tornqvist said.

Vitol presented the most bearish views, with its chairman, Ian Taylor, forecasting a price of \$65 a barrel. "We've knocked down our demand growth forecast this year and for next year ... I think the only issue is: will the US pipelines in the Permian (basin) manage to deliver a huge increase in the second half of 2019?" Taylor said. —Reuters

## FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT IN DIFFERENT AREAS IN KUWAIT

BNEID AL GHAR - DASMAN - HAWALLY - SALMIYA

### APARTMENTS CONSIST OF:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 BEDROOMS<br>+<br>LIVING ROOM<br>+<br>2 BATHROOMS<br>+<br>KITCHEN | BEDROOM<br>+<br>LIVING ROOM<br>+<br>BATHROOM<br>+<br>KITCHEN |
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## Business

# NBK Capital participates in Arab Net Kuwait conference

## NBK Capital SmartWealth is eager to continue the financial innovation: Razzoqi

**KUWAIT:** NBK Capital, the region's leading investment company, participated in the third edition of Arab Net Kuwait, which was held from 7 to 9 October under the patronage of Minister of Trade and Industry Khalid Al-Roudan. Leaders of government, digital workers and entrepreneurs in the region.

The participation of NBK Capital came out of its eagerness to play an active role at conferences and forums that support and enhance the investment sector, improve business environment while exchange experiences that will elevate industry client servicing.

During NBK Capital's participation in the seminar entitled "Artificial Intelligence and Robo Advisors in

Financial Services" Abdullah Razzoqi, a member of the SmartWealth team, stated that NBK Capital "is always keen to adopt the latest technological developments in financial services, particularly within investments and financial advice. Our ability to adhere to high security standards and regulatory controls, both hurdles to any technology platform, enable us to maintain the lead in financial innovation. That said, digital solutions will not displace the role that human advisors have today, but rather complement them and enable a wider market reach and more robust client offering."

Razzoqi highlighted the success of NBK Capital in launching NBK Capital SmartWealth, a digital investment service that enabled all seg-

ments of society to access and invest in foreign markets as a means to achieve their various investment goals and savings needs in a manner that was unavailable previously.

Razzoqi affirmed that the service launched by NBK Capital has introduced innovative solutions towards investment savings for clients to achieve their various goals of: buying a house, saving for an education fund and post-retirement planning, amongst others. This advice is delivered instantly and digitally to investors.

The launch of NBK Capital SmartWealth is a testament of NBK Capital's interest in innovative technology solutions with a credible action plan to deploy them. NBK Capital is amongst the pioneer

financial institutions regionally that are focusing on enhancing client servicing through technology.

"We are now living in a digital age where clients are fulfilling the majority of their daily requirements digitally; and there is a strong demand for investment services to converge into that direction. We will continue to leverage our areas of expertise while enhancing the client journey and delivery through innovative technological solutions," he added.

Razzoqi continued by stressing that NBK Capital will continue to enhance its digital services by developing value-added solutions across the wider spectrum. He concluded that, in order to keep pace with the latest developments in the industry, NBK Capital will continue to innovate from within.



Abdullah Razzoqi

## MoI praises KFH's security & camera surveillance systems

**KUWAIT:** A delegation from the Ministry of Interior praised the security and the video surveillance systems at Kuwait Finance House (KFH). The systems are advanced and fully complied with the requirements and mechanism of the Ministry of Interior to regulate the process of linking the facilities subject to the provisions of Law No 61 of 2015 and the Central Operations Room of the Ministry.

This is also in accordance with the law and the instructions of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in this regard, and in line with the great and constant keenness of KFH to achieve the highest levels of security and safety for establishments, individuals and KFH's customers in all branches, showrooms and sales centers.

Director General of Security Systems Administration at the Ministry of Interior, Brigadier General Ismail Rashid Al-Yasin, said during a visit to KFH, that the visit comes within the framework of the Administration's keenness to communicate, coordinate and cooperate with all parties concerned with Law No. 61 for the year 2015 in the control and installation of cameras and security surveillance devices. Al-Yasin praised the advanced technicality of the camera surveillance system in KFH in terms of distribution, technical specifications, control room, programs and operating systems, not to mention the effectiveness of the system round the clock throughout the year.

Meanwhile, Manager- Security and Safety at KFH, retired Major General Bader Al-Kandari welcomed the visit of the MoI officials, stressing that KFH is keen to



Visit of MoI delegation to KFH

strengthen cooperation with the Ministry for protection the life of people and property, indicating security is a priority.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and

services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and customer service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's customers in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, and the UAE.

## China's ultra wealthy buffeted as trade war bites

**BEIJING:** China's ultrawealthy saw their ranks thinned this year as the trade war with the US pummelled stocks and shredded billions of dollars of paper wealth, a survey showed yesterday.

The number of Chinese, or China-based magnates, with a net worth over 2 billion yuan (\$290 million) fell by 237 to 1,893 individuals this year, according to the annual ranking compiled by Shanghai-based luxury magazine publisher Hurun Report. More than half of the richest Chinese saw their wealth shrink or remain unchanged during the year, the survey showed, while a record number of individuals were knocked from the rankings.

A 20 percent drop in the stock exchange, "on the back of a slowing economy and the US-China trade war, resulted in 456 drop-offs this year, the highest since records began twenty years ago," said Hurun Report Chairman Rupert Hoogewerf. Gone from the list are chemical industry magnate Zhu Shuangquan, lighting titan Zhang Yutao and electric components makers Zhong Xiaoping and wife Liu Qiuxiang, all of whom have seen their companies' share prices sink this year.

The manufacturing sector has been hit particularly hard by US President Donald Trump's tariffs on roughly half of China's imports—and the proportion of those with fortunes made in the sector fell to 26.1 percent from 27.9 percent last year. While the world's second largest economy still boasts the most dollar billionaires of any country in the world, their ranks were thinned to 620 people, according to Hurun.

### Ma back on top

Alibaba's Jack Ma, on the other hand, saw his fortunes improve, retaking the mantle of China's richest from real estate mogul Xu Jiayin, who dropped to number two. Ma's wealth shot up to \$39 billion as his large stake in Ant Financial, operator of the world's largest money market fund and a mobile payment goliath, saw its valuation rise.

His endeavors also boosted the fortunes of 13 others who made the rich list on his coattails. But Ma lags far behind American titans like Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffet and Bill Gates, with Forbes recently valuing Bezos' wealth at \$112 billion. Ma recently announced his planned retirement from the e-commerce giant he founded with plans to follow Gates down the path of philanthropy.

Chinese women saw their share of wealth shoot up, making up 28.7 percent of the list this year, a 20-year high, according to Hurun. The richest woman was Yang Huiyan, heir to a property fortune, with a net worth of \$22 billion.

Making it to the top in China is by no means a get out of jail free card — 12 individuals faced problems with the authorities, including nine under investigation, according to Hurun. —AFP

## Impasse on WTO dispute judges risks 'fundamental blow': Azevedo

**NUSA DUA:** A bitter impasse over appointing new judges to the World Trade Organization's appeals court threatens to deliver a "fundamental blow" to its key role in arbitrating trade disputes, the global body's chief said yesterday. The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body is battling with the effects of Washington's refusal to sign off on the appointment of new judges to its appellate chamber.

In August, the crisis worsened when the US for the first time balked at even renewing the mandate of an existing judge, meaning it could soon be reduced to just two members — less than the bare minimum three required to hear international trade disputes.

"It essentially paralyzes (the court)," WTO director general Roberto Azevedo told a panel at the International Monetary Fund's annual meetings on the

Indonesian holiday island Bali. "Some members would say 'What's the point in negotiating trade rules if there is nobody to say whether somebody is violating the rules or not?'"

The impasse comes as Washington's heated protectionist rhetoric has seen it slap heavy tariffs on Chinese products with Beijing responding in kind, escalating a trade spat that is taking center-stage at the IMF meetings this week. The head of the 164-member WTO said delays were already happening due to the under-resourced court's caseload and "there are some significant delays coming up".

A complete paralysis of the appellate court would be a "fundamental blow" to the WTO, he said.

"There are still many steps to get there," Azevedo added. "But at this point in time, I have to say I cannot see a light at the end of the tunnel. I just don't." The appellate body, which offers a last resort to settle international trade disputes and avoid escalation between countries, normally counts seven judges.

But the number has gradually dwindled amid Washington's refusal to agree to fresh appointees.

The US has complained that the 90-day limit for the judges to reach a verdict is consistently overstepped, while the appellate body allows judges to complete work on a case even after their mandate has lapsed, contrary to the US interpretation of WTO rules.

## US Treasury chief warns China against currency devaluations

**WASHINGTON:** US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned China yesterday against engaging in competitive currency devaluations as the two countries wage a trade war, in comments published in the Financial Times. There are several factors behind the recent fall in the Chinese yuan, or renminbi (RMB), including economic issues in China. Mnuchin told the newspaper ahead of meetings in Bali, Indonesia of the IMF, World Bank and G20.

"As we look at trade issues there is no question that we want to make sure China is not doing competitive devaluations," Mnuchin told the FT.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly accused China of manipulating its currency by allowing it to weaken to gain the upper hand the trade dispute with

Washington. The yuan has fallen for weeks against the US dollar, dropping nine percent in the past six months, which makes Chinese goods cheaper to import even with punitive US tariffs. But the US dollar has strengthened four percent this year as interest rates have risen.

Mnuchin said he wanted to discuss the currency as part of trade talks with Beijing. "We are going to absolutely want to make sure that as part of any trade understanding we come to, that currency has to be part of that," Mnuchin was quoted as saying by the FT.

Mnuchin has no meetings scheduled with Chinese officials while in Bali, a US Treasury official said Monday. Chinese officials were due to hold talks late last month in Washington to try to resolve the bitter trade dispute between the nations, but Beijing cancelled the meeting after Trump imposed punishing tariffs on another \$200 billion in Chinese goods.

But US officials say they are open to talk. "We've made our view clear to the Chinese. If they are ready to have meaningful discussions about correcting the trade imbalances and the structural issues that we have

## Burgan Bank announces winner of Al-Thuraya salary account draw

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday Mustafa Shaikh Ali Husain as the lucky winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw.

The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. With every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.



GENEVA: World Trade Organization (WTO) director-general Roberto Azevedo delivers a speech during the opening debate of the 2018 edition of the World Trade Organization (WTO) public forum on sustainable trade, at the WTO headquarters in Geneva. —AFP

Azevedo said the WTO was considering other options should the appeals court come to a grinding halt. "It's not like WTO members are crossing their arms and waiting to see what happens," he added. "They are actively thinking about option and different scenarios, even the worst case scenario." —AFP



WASHINGTON: In this file photo taken on July 22, 2018 US Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, gestures during a press conference in Buenos Aires, at the end of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting. —AFP

in the relationship, we're willing to talk with them," another official told reporters in Washington this week ahead of Mnuchin's trip. —AFP

## US producer prices rebound in September

**WASHINGTON:** US producer prices increased 0.2 percent in September, reversing an unexpected decline in August and in line with expectations. A rise in services prices offset a slight drop in prices for goods, including a 3.5 percent drop in gasoline

prices. Final demand prices had fallen 0.1 percent in August. In the 12 months through September, the producer price index rose 2.6 percent, slightly less than expected.

Yields on Treasury bonds rose and inflation adjusted securities were little changed after the report.

Data on producer prices feed into inflation indicators watched by the Federal Reserve, which has been raising rates in hopes of keeping a price index based on personal consumption expenditures near the cen-

tral bank's 2 percent target. The Fed raised rates last month for the third time this year and is expected to do so again in December.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the PPI increasing 0.2 percent in September and advancing 2.8 percent year-on-year. A key gauge of underlying producer price pressures that excludes food, energy and trade services rose 0.4 percent last month, the largest increase since January. The so-called core PPI had risen 0.1 percent in August. —Reuters

## Technology

# Google Pixel 3, 3 XL launch event overshadowed by privacy firestorm

## Latest breach reveals FTC's failure in protecting user data

WASHINGTON: Google faced a fresh privacy backlash Tuesday over a glitch that may have exposed data from half a million users, overshadowing the Silicon Valley's launch of a new smartphone and other devices. The Silicon Valley giant said Monday it shut down its Google+ social network for consumers after it found and fixed a bug exposing private data in as many as 500,000 accounts, but drew fire for initially failing to disclose the incident.

The revelation heightened concerns in Washington over privacy practices by Silicon Valley giants after a series of missteps by Facebook that may have leaked data on millions. "In the last year, we've seen Google try to evade scrutiny—both for its business practices and its treatment of user data," Senator Mark Warner said in a statement. Warner said that despite "consent" agreements with the US Federal Trade Commission with Google and Facebook, "neither company appears to have been particularly chastened in their privacy practices." "It's clear that Congress needs to step in" for privacy protections, he added.

Marc Rotenberg, president of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said the latest breach suggests the FTC has failed to do its job in protecting user data. "The Congress needs to establish a data protection agency in the United States," Rotenberg said. "Data breaches are increasing but the FTC lacks the political will to enforce its own legal judgments." Senator Richard Blumenthal said the news shows that "to truly end this cycle of broken promises, we need a national privacy framework that protects consumers."

Security researcher Graham Cluley said in a blog that "the big story is that Google knew months ago that user data had been exposed and chose to keep the fact quiet." "Did no one tell them that cover-ups are always worse than coming clean?" he added. Princeton University researcher Arvind Narayanan noted in a tweet that Google revealed a "vulnerability" rather than a data breach but he noted that "Google has no way to know if the vulnerability was exploited in the past—precisely because of (its) privacy by design." Bloomberg News reported meanwhile that Germany's data protection commissioner had begun a probe potential privacy protection violations.

### Rising tensions

The internet search leader had already faced tensions with lawmakers after it decided against sending its top executive to testify at a hearing on privacy and data pro-

“Cover-ups are always worse”

tection, prompting the committee to leave an empty seat for the company. Last month, Google indicated it would send chief executive Sundar Pichai to testify before Congress. Google has also been in the crosshairs of President Donald Trump, who alleged that its search results were biased against conservatives, although there was little evidence to support the claim.

The rising tensions come with Google holding an event in New York widely expected to release its Pixel 3, the upgraded premium smartphone that aims to compete with high-end devices from Apple and Samsung. The Pixel phone is part of a suite of hardware products Google is releasing as part of an effort to keep consumers in its mobile ecosystem and challenge rivals like Apple and Amazon. Google also launched a new version of its connected speaker, with a touchscreen display designed to be a hub for smart home devices, but left out a camera for privacy reasons.

On Monday, Google said it was unable to confirm which accounts were affected by the bug, but an analysis indicat-

feeds or profiles was extended to comments on live videos, according to Mosseri.

In the spirit of inspiring people to be nice to one another, Instagram also added a camera effect which can be used to adorn images with hearts or the word "kindness" in a variety of languages. "Online bullying is complex, and we know we have more work to do to further limit bullying and spread kindness on Instagram," Mosseri said. Last week Facebook said its users will be able to hide or delete groups of comments, including responses, instead of having to remove them one at a time.

The network also began letting people report bullying or harassment on behalf of friends reluctant to complain to the social network themselves. A majority of US teenagers say they have been victims of online harassment or bullying, most commonly name-calling, a Pew Research Center survey found in September. It said that 59 percent of US teens reported online abuse, and 63 percent said it was a major problem for people their age.

The survey found that most young harassment victims feel that teachers, social media firms and politicians are doing a poor or fair job in addressing the problem of cyber bullying—an issue which has drawn the atten-

## Instagram battles cyber bullying

SAN FRANCISCO: Instagram on Tuesday added more weapons to battle cyber bullying, using artificial intelligence to scan photos for abusive content at the Facebook-owned service. The move comes after Facebook also increased anti-harassment measures, following a survey which said young victims of online abuse feel social media firms aren't doing enough to fight the problem. Instagram chief Adam Mosseri said artificial intelligence is being used to detect signs of bullying and then automatically flag content for review by staff from the image-oriented social network.

"This change will help us identify and remove significantly more bullying," Mosseri said in a blog post. "It's a crucial next step since many people who experience or observe bullying don't report it." Rolling the technology out across the entire social network is expected to take a few weeks. In another move, a filter that enables Instagram users to detect and hide bullying remarks from Instagram

## Minicars attract elderly drivers in Japan

TOKYO: When Honda Motor Co launched the latest version of its N-Box a year ago, it promoted features on the pint-sized minicar such as error-detecting pedals, automatic emergency braking and moveable seats, part of a push to market the vehicle to young families. But a drastically different demographic has made the N-Box the country's best-selling passenger vehicle: roughly half the owners of the most recent model are 50 or older.

Automakers had hoped high-tech options would attract younger buyers to minicars, or kei-cars, even as the number of Japanese drivers under 30 has slid nearly 40 percent since 2001. Instead, with a price tag starting around \$7,500 and low ownership taxes, minicars have gained a more loyal following among the rapidly growing population of Japanese elderly, many of whom are on fixed incomes.

"After their children are grown and leave home, more people are looking to downsize from larger family cars to more compact ones," said Kiminori Murano, managing director at Tortoise, a dealership specializing in minicars in Yamato, Kanagawa prefecture, just south of Tokyo. At Tortoise, seniors have overtaken young families as the biggest customer group in the past decade, making up more than 70 percent of its clientele.

Kei-cars represent nearly a third of all Japanese passenger car sales, and about one of every 20 cars sold this year has been an N-Box. All of Japan's major automakers sell the no-frills, fuel-sipping vehicles, almost exclusively for the domestic market. With their 660cc engines - a size more common in motorcycles than cars - minicars are considered too small for most overseas markets. Many in the industry predict that eventually, automated cars, taxis and buses will keep the elderly mobile for longer.

Until that future arrives, demand for cheap, safe and easy-to-drive vehicles such as the N-Box is growing sharply among older Japanese in a country that is home to one of the world's most rapidly ageing populations. The success of these cars could also provide a blueprint for marketing such vehicles to older drivers overseas.

When Yoshiyuki Imada's car insurance expires early next year, the 68-year-old retired truck operator from Kagoshima Prefecture is planning to trade in the Toyota Mark II sedan he has been driving for nearly 20 years for a minicar.

"Smaller cars are easier to drive as you get older," he said. Honda said the safety features in the N-Box were not designed just with the elderly in mind. But the company said they could help older drivers stay on the road. "We wouldn't want elderly people to become holed up in their homes because they can't get around. We want to do what we can to enable them to stay mobile for as long as possible," Hideaki Takaishi, senior safety engineer at Honda, told Reuters in an interview.



YAMATO: Horie Miho takes a look at minicars at a minicar dealership in Yamato, Japan. — Reuters

### Senior-friendly message

For years, TV commercials for kei-cars have been a montage of energetic twenty somethings, often popular boy band members, camping or frolicking at the beach. More recently, ads have featured sentimental snapshots of families with young children.

But minicar marketing is slowly starting to reflect the segment's biggest buyers. This year, Daihatsu Motor, a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp, released a TV spot featuring an elderly cabbage farmer who berates his son for suggesting that he switch to a minitruck with automated emergency braking, misreading it as a slight to his driving skills. "It's true that our biggest markets are drivers in rural areas, women and elderly people," Daihatsu spokesman Kazuki Inoue said. "Our minitrucks are widely used on farms, and farming communities are graying rapidly at the moment, so we wanted to market advanced safety systems on this model."

Honda's Takaishi said that using sensors to track a vehicle's surroundings and assess whether drivers have depressed the wrong pedal is among the features that can offset common challenges for older drivers, including reduced alertness and reaction time.

The automaker is also trying to develop artificial intelligence-driven systems for "coaching." Cars could theoretically advise drivers via flashing dashboard icons, sounds and steering wheel vibrations if they are about to drift out of their lane or make a potentially risky maneuver. "Elderly drivers in particular, they really want to maintain their independence while they're driving, as it's a skill they've honed over many years," said Takaishi at Honda. In Japan, the number of driving license holders aged 60 and older is growing faster than in other developed countries, and in the past five years has grown to double that of those under 30. Particularly in rural areas, people are driving well into their 80s and 90s as train and bus services pull out of depopulating towns. That has led to an increase in traffic accidents involving drivers older than 65, even as the overall number of accidents has decreased. Last year, older drivers were involved in 55 percent of the country's accidents, up from about 47 percent 10 years ago. — Reuters



NEW YORK: The new Google Pixel 3 and Pixel 3 XL smartphones are displayed during a Google product release event, in New York City. — AFP

ed it could have been as many as 500,000 Google+ accounts. Google did not specify how long the software flaw existed, or why it waited to disclose it. The Wall Street Journal reported that Google executives opted against notifying users earlier because of concerns it would catch the attention of regulators and draw comparisons to a data privacy scandal at Facebook.

Earlier this year, Facebook acknowledged that tens of millions of users had personal data hijacked by

Cambridge Analytica, a political firm working for Donald Trump in 2016. Google has also faced increasing tensions over a reported search engine which would be acceptable to Chinese censors, and over its work for the US military. On Tuesday,

Google confirmed it is dropping out of the bidding for a huge Pentagon cloud computing contract that could be worth up to \$10 billion, saying the deal would be inconsistent with its principles. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, an employee holds a cup with the Instagram logo at Facebook's corporate headquarters during a media event in Menlo Park, California. — AFP

tion of US First Lady Melania Trump and Britain's Prince William. — AFP

## Amazon uncovers bias recruiting tool

SAN FRANCISCO: Amazon.com Inc's machine-learning specialists uncovered a big problem: their new recruiting engine did not like women. The team had been building computer programs since 2014 to review job applicants' resumes with the aim of mechanizing the search for top talent, five people familiar with the effort told Reuters. Automation has been key to Amazon's e-commerce dominance, be it inside warehouses or driving pricing decisions.

The company's experimental hiring tool used artificial intelligence to give job candidates scores ranging from one to five stars - much like shoppers rate products on Amazon, some of the people said. "Everyone wanted this holy grail," one of the people said. "They literally wanted it to be an engine where I'm going to give you 100 resumes, it will spit out the top five, and we'll hire those." But by 2015, the company realized its new system was not rating candidates for software developer jobs and other technical posts in a gender-neutral way.

That is because Amazon's computer models were trained to vet applicants by observing patterns in resumes submitted to the company over a 10-year period. Most came from men, a reflection of male dominance across the tech industry. In effect, Amazon's system taught itself that male candidates were preferable. It penalized resumes that included the word "women's," as in "women's chess club captain." And it downgraded graduates of two all-women's colleges, according to people familiar with the matter. They did not specify the names of the schools.

Amazon edited the programs to make them neutral to these particular terms. But that was no guarantee that the machines would not devise other ways of sorting candidates that could prove discriminatory, the people said. The Seattle company ultimately disbanded the team by the start of last year because executives lost hope for the project, according to the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Amazon's recruiters looked at the recommendations generated by the tool when searching for new hires, but never relied solely on those rankings, they said.

Amazon declined to comment on the recruiting engine or its challenges, but the company says it is committed to workplace diversity and equality. The company's experiment, which Reuters is first to report, offers a case study in the limitations of machine learning. It also serves as a lesson to the growing list of large companies including Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc and Goldman Sachs Group Inc that are looking to automate portions of the hiring process.

Some 55 percent of US human resources managers said artificial intelligence, or AI, would be a regular part of their work within the next five years, according to a 2017 survey by talent software firm CareerBuilder. Employers have long dreamed of harnessing technology to widen the hiring net and reduce reliance on subjective opinions of human recruiters. But computer scientists such as Nihar Shah, who teaches machine learning at Carnegie Mellon University, say there is still much work to do. "How to ensure that the algorithm is fair, how to make sure the algorithm is really interpretable and explainable - that's still quite far off," he said.

Amazon's experiment began at a pivotal moment for the world's largest online retailer. Machine learning was gaining traction in the technology world, thanks to a surge in low-cost computing power. And Amazon's Human Resources department was about to embark on a hiring spree: Since June 2015, the company's global headcount has more than tripled to 575,700 workers, regulatory filings show. So it set up a team in Amazon's Edinburgh engineering hub that grew to around a dozen people.

Their goal was to develop AI that could rapidly crawl the web and spot candidates worth recruiting, the people familiar with the matter said. — Reuters

## How green is my forest? There's an app to tell you

BANGKOK: A web-based application that monitors the impact of successful forest-rights claims can help rural communities manage resources better and improve their livelihoods, according to analysts. The app was developed by the Indian School of Business (ISB) to track community rights in India, where the 2006 Forest Rights Act aimed to improve the lives of rural people by recognizing their entitlement to inhabit and live off forests. With a smartphone or tablet, the app can be used to track the status of a community rights claim.

After the claim is approved, community members can use it to collect data on tree cover, burned areas and other changes in the forest and analyze it, said Arvind Khare at Washington D.C.-based advocacy Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). "Even in areas that have made great progress in awarding rights, it is very hard to track the socio-ecological impact of the rights on the community," said Khare, a senior director at RRI, which is testing the app in India.

"Recording the data and analyzing it can tell you which resources need better management, so that these are not used haphazardly, but in a manner that benefits them most," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. For example, community members can record data on forest products they use such as leaves, flowers, wood and sap, making it easier to ensure that they are not over-exploited, he said. While indigenous and local communities own more than half the world's land under customary rights, they have secure legal rights to only 10 percent, according to RRI.

Governments maintain legal and administrative authority over more than two-thirds of global forest area, giving limited access for local communities. In India, under the 2006 law, at least 150 million people could have their rights recognized to about 40 million hectares (154,400 sq miles) of forest land. But rights to only 3 percent of land have been granted, with states largely rejecting community claims, campaigners say. While the app is being tested in India, Khare said it can also be used in countries including Peru, Mali, Liberia and Indonesia, where RRI supports rural communities in scaling up forest rights claims. Data can be entered offline on the app, and then uploaded to the server when the device is connected to the internet. Data is stored in the cloud and accessible to anyone, said Ashwini Chhatre, an associate professor at ISB. — Reuters

# CLINIC PAGE



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What's On

# Farwaniya governorate to hold workshop



The Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah received Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Roumi at his office in Farwaniya. The governor was presented with a doctoral thesis on the role of organizational transparency in reducing administrative and financial corruption in Co-ops in Kuwait. They further discussed about the thesis, during which the governor highly valued the discussion and expressed his happiness while emphasizing on the importance of scientific research in developing the Co-ops in Kuwait, especially the role they play in developing the society.

The governor also welcomed Dr. Lulua Safar who presented him with a doctoral thesis on the TV programs on Kuwaiti TV channels and the impact of political issues on the youth in Kuwait. During the meeting, he highlighted on the importance of such researches of all matters related to the State of Kuwait and praised the valuable information while wishing her all the success. He also received Dr. Ahmad Esmat, Director of training and development of the international organization for promotion of justice and peace who was accompanied by a student from American

University in Kuwait (AUK) Abdullah Al-Dayeen.

The meeting dealt with the work of the organization and its activities and coordination for the establishment of a workshop which is to be held next week at the governorate headquarters on facilitating, learning and training in psychological and professional skills to achieve higher efficiency and productivity in order to improve the level of work performance. Sheikh Faisal also received a number of citizens in the framework of friendly and brotherly visits.

## Pearl Initiative signs MoE with ASDA' A BCW

The Pearl Initiative, an independent non-profit organization promoting a corporate culture of accountability and transparency in the Gulf Region, has signed a Memorandum of Engagement (MoE) with ASDA' A BCW highlighting their commitment to enhancing corporate accountability and transparency in the region. The agreement was signed by Carla Koffel, Executive Director of the Pearl Initiative, and Sunil John, Founder and President, Middle East, ASDA' A BCW.

Commenting on the MoE, Carla Koffel said: "We are grateful to be working side by side with one of the leading PR consultancies in the Middle East to promote the adoption of strong corporate governance practices by businesses operating in the Gulf Region. Their commitment to supporting our vision will contribute to the expansion of our reach and highlight the significance of a corporate culture of accountability and transparency as a key driver of business sustainability."

"Corporate governance, accountability and transparency are the pillars of successful businesses. We are happy to engage in the Pearl Initiative's activities to raise awareness on the value of ethical business and to promote the highest principles of corporate accountability and transparency in the Gulf region," Sunil John said. Founded in 2010, Pearl Initiative is a Gulf business-led organization promoting a corporate culture of accountability and transparency as a driver of competitiveness and sustainable economic growth across the Gulf region of the Middle East.



The organization develops programs and publishes regional research reports and case studies, with aims to influence the regional business and student community towards implementing higher standards of corporate governance within the Gulf region. Founded in 2000, ASDA' A BCW is the leading PR consultancy in the Middle East, employing nearly 200 professionals across 10 wholly-owned offices and seven affiliates in 15 countries throughout the Middle East & North Africa.

## Marriott International reveals expansion plans across Africa

From the Africa Hotel Investment Forum (AHIF) in Nairobi, Kenya, Marriott International (NASDAQ: MAR) yesterday announced rapid expansion plans across Africa. Strong demand for select-service brands and conversion opportunities are driving the momentum of growth for the company, amplified by five new hotel signings. The new signings will further consolidate Marriott International's presence in Ghana, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa and mark the company's entry into Mozambique.

The signings put Marriott International on track to increase its portfolio by 50 percent with over 200 hotels and 38,000 rooms by 2023 estimated to generate 12,000 new job opportunities. Marriott International's planned growth reinforces its commitment to Africa and underscores the substantial emphasis that countries across Africa are placing on the travel and tourism sector. The company estimates that the five new projects signed will drive investment of over \$250 million by the property owners and will generate substantial economic activity.

"Marriott International's acquisition of Protea Hotels followed by the acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has given an impetus to our organic growth on the continent. Today we are seeing strong owner interest in our brands, backed by our combined loyalty program, the collective strength of our global platform and our highly-experienced, local teams," said Alex Kyriakidis, President and Managing Director, Middle East and Africa, Marriott International.

"African economies have sustained unprecedented rates of growth, which have mainly been driven by a strong domestic demand, improved macro-economic management and increased political stability. The continent is still under capacity as far as branded hotel

supply is concerned, presenting us with a fantastic opportunity to grow our brands and enhance our footprint," he added.

Today, Marriott International is present in 21 countries on the African continent: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. The company is set to expand into new markets including Benin, Botswana, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Mozambique and Senegal.

### Conversion strategy spurs growth

Marriott International continues to see increased interest from owners looking to maximize the value of their assets quickly, with many conversion opportunities across Africa. "The increasing demand for conversion deals from new and existing partners is a strong reflection of Marriott International's powerful network, loyal customer base and commitment to deliver value for owners," said Kyriakidis. "We've developed a conversion-friendly strategy, which allows us to deliver value to our partners through a flexible, cost-efficient process that yields almost immediate results. That strategy gives our partners access to world-class reservation systems and our loyalty program."

Recent conversions to the company's brands include Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi, Hurlingham, Four Points by Sheraton Arusha, The Arusha Hotel, Tanzania and the iconic Mena House, Cairo which joined the Marriott Hotels and Resorts global brand portfolio earlier this year. Amongst new conversion deals, Marriott International has signed the Marriott Marrakech Hotel in Morocco. With over 360 rooms, the hotel is slated to be rebranded in 2020.

## X-cite launches its second branch at the Avenues



As part of its ongoing expansion plans to boost its position in the local market, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, the largest electronics retailer in Kuwait, announced yesterday the official opening of its new branch at the Avenues mall. The event took place in the presence of X-cite Vice President Fernando Lopez, Senior Retail Manager, Assem Al Raii, Showroom Manager, Peter Nader, as well as a number of employees.

In addition to its main branch located in the first avenue of the mall, X-cite revealed that it has decided to expand by adding a new branch in a step to further accommodate customers' needs. X-cite added that the new branch is located in the recent phase of the Avenues, specifically in the "Electra" area, which includes a number of stores specialized in electronics. More to add, the new branch has attracted a great number of visitors in light of the exclusive offers that had been launched on a number of products and electronic devices on the sidelines of the

opening ceremony.

X-cite is working on a clear-cut strategy, where the distinctive shopping experience is the ultimate goal for Alghanim Electronics. This makes a visit to X-cite a pleasant, exciting and enjoyable experience for people. In addition to a wide range of products ranging from personal care products, fitness, office electronics and others, one of the most important advantages of X-cite exhibitions is the ability to interact with customers in regard to offered products, allowing them to test the product and experience it to explore its advantages in a practical way.

X-cite has not stopped the expansion process, which is considered the most important service provided to its customers, to provide them with the time and effort to meet their needs in the most convenient way. Through its customer-centric concept, X-cite offers customers competitive quality and prices to serve every segment of its customer-base, providing them with the highest level of service, engaging with them, and earning their

trust through supporting services and offerings. X-cite also enables customers to shop from the comfort of their homes through its free mobile app and shopping website.

Continuously seeking to satisfy the needs of its customers, X-cite provides them with diverse services that enable them to experience and interact with products, whether in its 26 showrooms or from the comfort of their homes through its free mobile app and shopping website. X-cite offers customers an unrivaled shopping experience thanks to its wide range of products available at the best prices.

X-cite offers premium maintenance and purchase services as well as most of its major showrooms throughout Kuwait and other services such as payment with installments, free delivery, installation and X-care warranty services Stay updated on the latest events, monthly promotions and offers, by subscribing to the daily newsletter, follow X-cite's social media channels on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat and win prizes with their contests.



## NOTICE

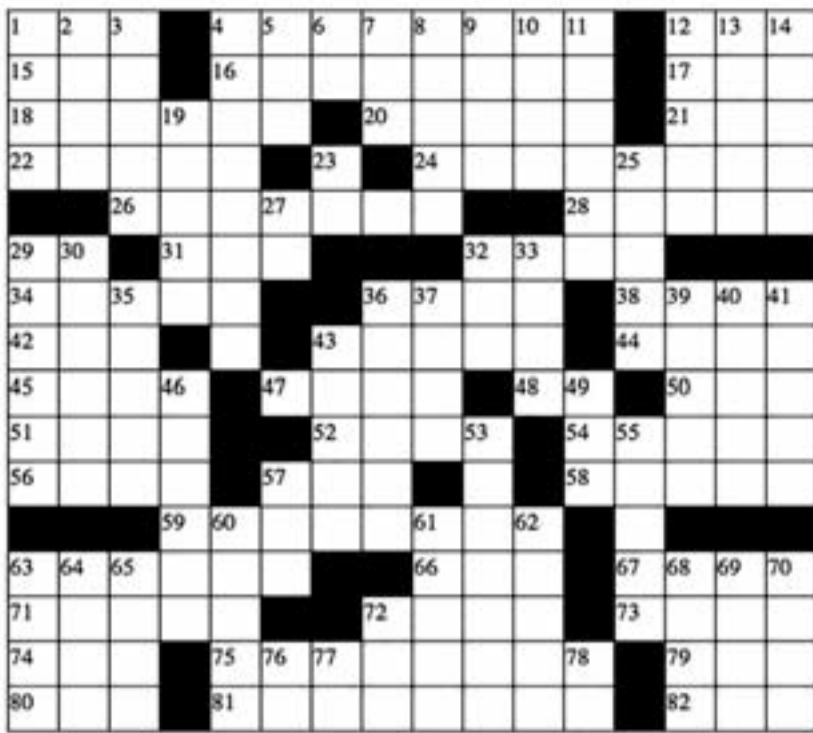
Organized by the Embassy of Canada, the 13th annual Education Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Tour will be visiting Kuwait from October 24-25, 2018. Representatives of around 19

leading Canadian institutions will be available to meet students, parents, teachers and guidance counsellors to present the advantages of studying in Canada. On October 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm a Study in Canada exhibition will be held at Marina Hotel, Salmiya for potential students and their parents to attend.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2031



ACROSS

1. A United Nations agency to promote trade by increasing the exchange stability of the major currencies.
4. A small sailing vessel.
12. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
15. (used as a combining form) Recent or new.
16. The visual percept of a region.
17. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
18. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
20. Small genus of plants constituting the family Batidaceae.
21. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
22. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
24. Clearly superior or having the attributes of a winner.
26. A Bantu language sometimes considered a dialect of Zulu.
28. Yellow-fever mosquito.
29. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
31. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
34. A republic in the West Indies on the western part of the island of Hispaniola.
38. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
42. A human limb.
44. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
45. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
47. Immense East Indian fruit resembling breadfruit of.
48. A Russian river.
50. A light touch or stroke.
51. German naturalist whose speculations that plants and animals are made up of tiny living 'infusoria' led to the cell theory (1779-1851).
52. Pertaining to animals or animal life or action.
54. Property that is leased or rented out or let.
56. A quantity of no importance.
58. A worker who lays tile.
59. Relating to or located near the organ that produces tears.
63. Remote city of Kazakhstan that (ostensibly for security reasons) was made the capital in 1998.
66. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
67. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
71. God of wealth and love.
73. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
74. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
75. A member of a people of India living in Maharashtra.
79. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
80. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
81. The act of contributing to the funds of a church or charity.
82. Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.

DOWN

1. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
2. The flesh of animals (including fishes and birds and snails) used as food.
3. A warm dry wind that blows down the northern slopes of the Alps.
4. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
5. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
6. Not out.
7. An easy return of a tennis ball in a high arc.
8. A support that steadies or strengthens something else.
9. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.
10. Type genus of the Amidae.
11. Dutch navigator who was the first European to discover Tasmania and New Zealand (1603-1659).
12. Strong and sharp.
13. Small and light boat.
14. (prefix) Across or crossing or on the opposite side.
19. Egyptian statesman who (as President of Egypt) negotiated a peace treaty with Menachem Begin of Israel (1918-1981).
23. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
25. Large dark brown North American arboreal carnivorous mammal.
27. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
30. United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
32. An awkward stupid person.
33. A message received and understood that reduces the recipient's uncertainty.
35. To fix or set securely or deeply.
36. German mathematician (1804-1851).
37. (Sumerian) Water god and god of wisdom.
39. Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
40. Lower in esteem.
41. Israeli religious philosopher (born in Austria) (1878-1965).
43. A street of small shops (especially in Orient).
46. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
49. Sandwich filled with slices of bacon and tomato with lettuce.
53. (India) Flat pancake-like bread cooked on a griddle.
55. German chemist who did research on high-speed chemical reactions (born in 1927).
57. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
60. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
61. French revolutionary leader (born in Switzerland) who was a leader in overthrowing the Girondists and was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday (1743-1793).
62. (of tempo) Slow adv.
64. An inn in some Eastern countries with a large courtyard that provides accommodation for caravans.
65. God of death.
68. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
69. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
70. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
72. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
76. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
77. A metric unit of volume or capacity.
78. An associate degree in nursing.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your words have more power than you could ever imagine. Use them wisely. This is a time others will find you very persuasive. You are a natural born leader and may find yourself asked to lead the pack today. You are starting to discover may career opportunities will begin to present themselves to you. Choose your friends wisely and be sure to keep only those who have your best interest at heart in your circle. You may find not everyone is supportive. Jealousy and envy may rear its head in your world today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Looking at life through the eyes of a child seems extremely appealing to you today. To sit and reflect on a time with things were simple is comforting in your world. Take time to escape the hustle and bustle of the real world and the day to day problems and see things today through the innocent eyes of a child. Take the time to enjoy the beauty of the world around you. Breathe deep, take a long walk, or relax in a hot bath this evening. This is a time you can truly find and escape and rejuvenate.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find that you are putting much more focus on family at this time rather than other areas of your life. Keep it there! The seeds you sow today will last a lifetime. It is all about love and support from your love ones for you. You may be feeling a strong need to be needed and appreciated. This need will be satisfied by keeping your focus on your home life and love ones. You have a strong desire for stability in your home life and as long as you continue to feed it, it will grow.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Prepare for a major event. This may put an end to your old way of life. You may find independence is a necessity now rather than a choice. You are on your own and this may mark a time of increased responsibility and accountability. Some soul searching may be in order to face this new life. Take your time and spend sometime meditating or relaxing to access your new situation. Do not ask yourself, Why me? You know why. Because you can handle any obstacle that is put in your path.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Today may find you feeling as you encounter a road block at every turn. Perhaps, today is not the day for big decisions. You may find yourself a bit frustrated and preferring a bit of isolation. You are simply not in the mood for people. You may feel as if you are not able to get your point across to anyone and may feel greatly misunderstood. You could find yourself at odds with those close to you and should remember to try and remain calm as conflict and confrontation seem to be seeking your company today. Today would be a great day for reorganizing and reflection to get yourself back where you want to be.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a time that choices you make concerning your living situation could leave you in a bind. Think long and hard before you act and look for alternate solutions to any problems you are dealing with. You may feel isolated and as if you are not getting the support you need now. A desire for a social life may come over you. Be sure to choose your company wisely. Remember when it comes to friends, quantity is never better than quality. Good times could go south quickly this evening if you make the wrong selection of company. Try to clear your mind and make an attempt to connect with one of your longtime true friends this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You tend to be a procrastinator. Contrary to conventional wisdom, that can be a good thing. Haste not only makes the proverbial waste" it can also make for lack of attention to detail, resulting in sloppy work. Delaying a verbal or written response may mean avoiding hurt feelings that can last a lifetime. To get the results you want, don't avoid action; just proceed carefully.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your way is the only way today. Others may not show great appreciation for this overly independent side of you. You may be dealing with some personal issues today. This may find you at odds with others. This is a very sensitive matter and others can not understand what you refuse to share. Your independence can be a blessing and a curse. You may feel as if no one is there for you when you need them most. This comes from you always putting on a strong front. Everyone needs a shoulder to cry on once in a while. Let your guard down and let others help you for a change.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today may find you feeling as you encounter a road block at every turn. Perhaps, today is not the day for big decisions. You may find yourself a bit frustrated and preferring a bit of isolation. You are simply not in the mood for people. You may feel as if you are not able to get your point across to anyone and may feel greatly misunderstood. You could find yourself at odds with those close to you and should remember to try and remain calm as conflict and confrontation seem to be seeking your company today. Today would be a great day for reorganizing and reflection to get yourself back where you want to be.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Plan a special outing with someone near and dear to your heart. Special time with someone you love will be very emotionally satisfying to you today. You are in a loving mood. You are focused on building a stronger relationship and you will find this very satisfying. This is the ideal time to tap into your creative energy. Look around for a need that is not being met. The answer could be a simple invention with a huge impact. Your mindset is perfect for this. You will be able to not only use your talent to benefit your needs, but also help others. This could be a win-win situation for you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your relationships seem to take on a new importance for you now. You have come to realize you gather strength from the support of those closest to you. You may experience a bit of a wakeup call today. A refreshing reminder that helps you remember it is ok to put yourself first. You are not responsible for anyone's happiness but your own. Always putting others ahead of yourself after time can cause you to be unhappy. Take some time today to spoil yourself. This will be rewarding and satisfying to you.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

People sometimes wonder about the secret to your contentment. It's not something you think about. You just go about each day being helpful and kind. You consider being reliable a part of who you are. You are not working at being happy, but happiness is a by-product of your lifestyle. If you could bottle and sell it, you might become financially rich. But you know that money is not the key to riches. You reap your rewards by continuing to invest in others. You may find yourself the recipient of many compliments today.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Dogs

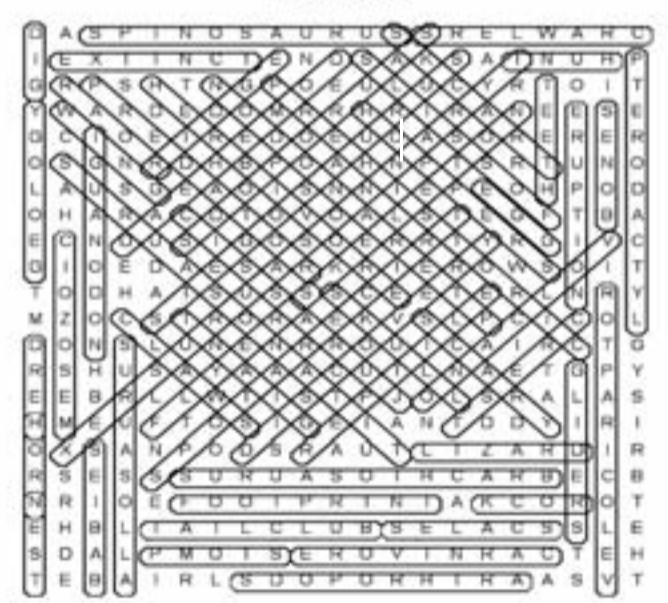
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 44 letters spell an Ogden Nash quotation.



- |                |                 |               |           |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| BASSET HOUND   | DACHSHUND       | MASTIFF       | SAMOYED   |
| BEAGLE         | DALMATIAN       | PEKINGESE     | SCHNAUZER |
| BLOODHOUND     | DEERHOUND       | PINSCHER      | SETTER    |
| BOXER          | DINGO           | POINTER       | SHAR PEI  |
| BULLDOG        | GERMAN SHEPHERD | POMERANIAN    | SHEPPOG   |
| CHIHUAHUA      | GREAT DANE      | POODLE        | SPITZ     |
| CHOW CHOW      | GREYHOUND       | PUG           | TERRIER   |
| COCKER SPANIEL | HUSKY           | RETRIEVER     | WHIPPET   |
| COLLIE         | LHASA APSO      | ROTTWEILER    |           |
| CORGI          | MALAMUTE        | SAINT BERNARD |           |

Yesterday's Solution

Dinosaurs



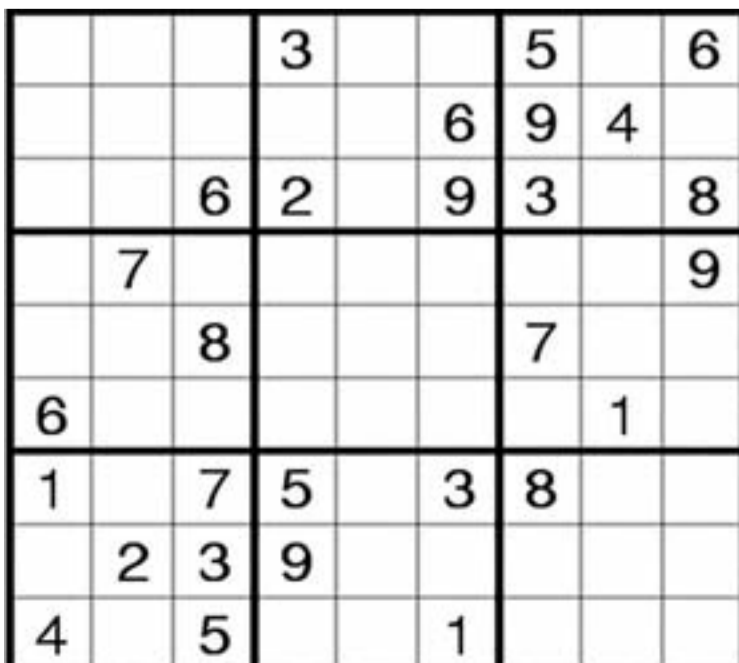
- |               |           |                 |                   |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ALLOSAURUS    | FLYERS    | MEGALOTERAPSIUM | SPINOSAURUS       |
| ARCHOSAURUS   | FOOTPRINT | NEST            | STEGOSAURUS       |
| BABIES        | FOSSILS   | PREDATOR        | TAIL CLUB         |
| BONES         | GEOLOGY   | PREHISTORIC     | TEETH             |
| BRACHIOSAURUS | GIANT     | PTERANODON      | TITANOSAURUS      |
| CARNIVORE     | GLIDERS   | PTERODACTYL     | TRACKS            |
| CLAWS         | HERBIVORE | REPTILE         | TRACERATOPS       |
| CRAWLERS      | HERD      | RIDGE           | TYRANNOSAURUS REX |
| CREST         | HOPPERS   | ROAD            | VELOCIRAPTOR      |
| DIG           | HORN      | ROCK            | VOLCANO           |
| DISCOVERY     | HUNT      | SABERTOOTH      | WING              |
| EGG           | JURASSIC  | SCALES          |                   |
| ERUPTION      | LIZARD    | SCARY           |                   |
| EXTINCT       |           | SKELETON        |                   |
|               |           | SKULL           |                   |

The hidden message is: AN ASTEROID CRASHED WITH A MIGHTY BLAST AND DINOSAURS BREATHED THEIR LAST

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018



This photo shows people taking part in a mass dance event in Datong in China's northern Shanxi province. Some 20,000 dancers took part in the event. — AFP



Pakistani artist Bilal Asif works on his studio in Karachi.



Bilal Asif works on his pencils at his studio.

## Sharpen up: Pakistani artist aims for record with pencil swing



Bilal Asif works on his pencils at his studio.



Pakistani artist Bilal Asif poses for a photograph with his pencils art work at his studio in Karachi. — AFP photos

With a sharp eye for detail, Bilal Asif carefully labors over his quest for a pointedly unusual world record-crafting the largest swing ever made from pencils. Asif combs over his creation inside his studio in the southern megacity of Karachi, fine-tuning details with a razor blade and mulling new decorative additions. "My main objective was not only to make the pencil swing but I aspired to make it with as much creativity as I could," said the artist. By January, Asif plans to register his work for the Guinness Book of World Records. He has used up to 30,000 pencils in total, cut into more than 100,000 pieces.

"This is not only a world record but this is a message of peace from the whole Pakistan to the other countries through this art"

The swing rests on massive posts resembling pencils, while colorful pastel designs give the structure a touch of South Asian flamboyance, drawing striking similarities to the artwork decorating the ubiquitous "jingle trucks" that barrel down roads across Pakistan. Striving to break world records is the norm in neighboring India, which holds a suite of peculiar Guinness plaudits including the largest number of people to sing a national anthem in unison.

But Pakistan, which split from India at independence from Britain in 1947 and has viewed it as an archival ever since, has yet to match its neighbor's enthusiasm for quirky world record glory. The achievement would cement a goal sketched out since Asif's youth, when he began collecting pencils from all over the world. "Some people criticize my work but I don't react to them," he said. He likes to point out that the swing is not just about breaking records, drawing a line between his art and his quest to promote friendship abroad. "This is not only a world record but this is a message of peace from the whole Pakistan to the other countries through this art," Asif adds. "This is my aim." — AFP

## Marie Antoinette's jewelry on display in Dubai before auction

Held in private collections for more than 200 years, jewelry that once belonged to France's ill-fated Queen Marie Antoinette has gone on display in Dubai ahead of its planned auction in Geneva next month. Described by British auction house Sotheby's as "one of the most important royal jewelry collections ever to come to auction," the seven pieces are part of an exhibition entitled "Royal Jewels from the Bourbon Parma family" that also includes other items from the storied dynasty's rich history.

The French queen's jewels on view include a 49-karat natural pearl and diamond pendant, as well as necklaces, brooches, and earrings valued in total at between \$1.5 and 3 million. The collection, which belongs to the Bourbon Parma family, also includes a monogram ring with woven strands of Marie Antoinette's hair enclosed. Edward Gibbs, Sotheby's chairman for the Middle East and India, said the Middle East had become a highly lucrative market, with a 62 percent increase in

buyers over the past five years, particularly younger customers. "It is a two-way street. We are here both to sell art and also to source it," said Gibbs. "It's both a regional hub and an international center."

After Dubai, the jewelry will also be exhibited in several other cities including London, New York and Hong Kong before going under the hammer in Geneva in November. The tour is expected to arouse the interest of potential wealthy buyers in the Gulf and elsewhere ahead of the auction. Marie-Antoinette, an Austrian archduchess by birth, was the wife of King Louis XVI of France, of the Bourbon dynasty. Both were executed by guillotine in 1793 after the French Revolution. The queen's jewelry was wrapped up and smuggled out of France to Vienna for safe-keeping during the Revolution and remained in the Bourbon Parma family. — Reuters



Jewels once belonging to Queen Marie Antoinette of France are seen at Sotheby's in Dubai, UAE. — Reuters photos



A member of Sotheby's staff holds a pearl and diamond pendant once belonging to Queen Marie Antoinette of France on display at Sotheby's in Dubai.



Taylor Swift attends the 2018 American Music Awards at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos



Taylor Swift accepts the Artist of the Year award onstage.



US-Cuban singer Camila Cabello poses with her awards for New Artist of the Year, Favorite Song - Pop/Rock and Collaboration of the Year in the press room.



Taylor Swift performs onstage.

# Taylor Swift sets new American Music Award record, urges people to vote



Camila Cabello accepts the New Artist of the Year presented by Capital One Savor Card award onstage.

Taylor Swift, straight off a controversial dive into US politics, was the big winner at the American Music Awards on Tuesday where she used her platform to again urge her fans to get out and vote. The 28-year-old pop singer won a record fourth artist of the year trophy at the fan-voted American Music Awards, beating rappers Drake and Post Malone, as well as Britain's Ed Sheeran and rock band Imagine Dragons for the top prize. She also picked up three other awards, for best female pop artist, best tour, and best pop album for "reputation," the biggest seller of 2017.

On Sunday, Swift provoked a storm by breaking her silence on politics and announcing she would vote for two Democrats in Tennessee in the US congressional midterm elections in November. Her comments drove a spike in voter registration. On Tuesday, the "Fearless" singer told the American Music Awards audience in Los Angeles and millions watching at home to go and vote. "This award and every single award given out tonight is voted on by the people. And you know what else is voted on by the people? - The midterm elections of Nov 6. Get out and vote," Swift said when accepting her trophy.

Elsewhere on Tuesday, New York rapper Cardi B, brought down the house with an exuberant performance of dance hit "I Like It" with J.Balvin and Bad Bunny. Cardi B, who has had a breakout 12 months, was also named favorite hip-hop/rap artist, but she lost the best new artist category to Cuban-born Camila Cabello. Other winners included Post Malone (male pop/rock artist), Khalid (male soul/R&B artist), and country star Carrie Underwood, who accepted her 13th American Music Award. Boy band BTS became the first Korean group to win an American Music Award, taking the trophy for favorite social artists.

Glady Knight led a tribute to Aretha Franklin, who died of cancer in August at age 76. Other performers included Mariah Carey, Jennifer Lopez and Missy Elliott. Some of music's top stars, including Drake, Ed Sheeran, Beyonce, Ariana Grande, Rihanna and Kanye West, were absent on Tuesday. West was snubbed in the nominations while Beyonce, Rihanna and Grande got just one nomination each. Apart from Swift, the show was largely politics free.



Cardi B performs onstage.



US-Cuban singer Camila Cabello poses in the press room.

Host Tracee Ellis Ross sported a white T-shirt for part of the evening saying "I am a voter," and presenter Billy Eichner, best known for the TV comedy "Parks and Recreation," urged the youth audience to register to vote. "You can go to vote.org, like Taylor Swift told you to," Eichner said. — Reuters



US rapper Post Malone poses with his award for Favorite Male Artist - Pop/Rock in the press room.



Carrie Underwood accepts the Favorite Female Artist - Country award onstage.



Shawn Mendes, winner of the Favorite Artist - Adult Contemporary award.



Carrie Underwood performs onstage.



Post Malone accepts the Favorite Male Artist - Pop/Rock award onstage.



Cardi B accepts the Favorite Artist - Rap/Hip-Hop award onstage.



US singer Khalid poses with his award for Favorite Male Artist - Soul/R&B in the press room.



US singer Kane Brown poses with his award for Favorite Country Male Artist in the press room.

## Winners

ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
**Taylor Swift**

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
**Camila Cabello**

TOUR OF THE YEAR  
**Taylor Swift**

SOCIAL ARTIST  
**BTS**

MALE ARTIST - POP/ROCK  
**Post Malone**

FEMALE ARTIST - POP/ROCK  
**Taylor Swift**

ALBUM - POP/ROCK  
**Taylor Swift "Reputation"**

SONG - POP/ROCK  
**Camila Cabello ft. Young Thug "Havana"**

MALE ARTIST - COUNTRY  
**Kane Brown**

FEMALE ARTIST - COUNTRY  
**Carrie Underwood**

ARTIST - RAP/HIP-HOP  
**Cardi B**

ALBUM - SOUL/R&B  
**XXXTentacion "17"**

MALE ARTIST - SOUL/R&B  
**Khalid**

FEMALE ARTIST - SOUL/R&B  
**Rihanna**

MUSIC VIDEO  
**Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug "Havana"**

ADULT CONTEMPORARY ARTIST  
**Shawn Mendes**

SOUNDTRACK  
**"Black Panther: The Album, Music From And Inspired By"**

— Reuters



Tyra Banks speaks onstage.



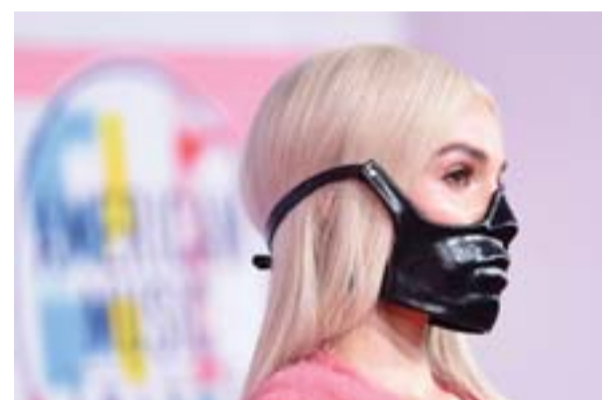
Marsai Martin



Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley of Florida Georgia Line pose in the press room.



Lenny Kravitz speaks onstage.



US singer Poppy arrives at the 2018 American Music Awards.



US rapper Ty Dolla \$ign and Lauren Jauregui.



US singer Jennifer Lopez



Mariah Carey performs onstage.



German model Heidi Klum



US actress Amber Heard



US singer Halsey



Ella Mai performs onstage



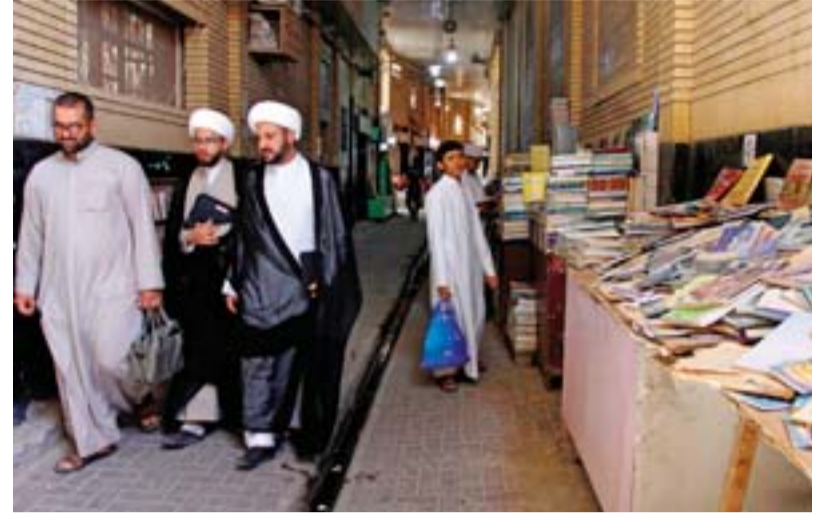
US singer Ciara.



A religious student reads a book at the Howeish book market in the holy city of Najaf, 150 kilometers south of Baghdad. — AFP photos



Iraqi men check a shop at the Howeish book market.



Iraqi Muslim religious men walk at the Howeish book market.



A Muslim religious man walks among book shelves at the Howeish book market.



A Muslim religious man in a shop at the Howeish book market.

## In Iraq's city of bookshops, theology and poetry rub spines

In the covered alleyways of old Najaf in Iraq, poetry and philosophy books compete on laden shelves with economic treatises, the Quran and other theological tomes for students' attention. Since leaving his native Bangladesh for the Shiite holy city three years ago, religious student Mohammed Ali Reda has regularly frequented secondhand bookstores. There are many like him in Najaf.

Some wear turbans-black for descendants of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and white for religious scholars. "I am still at the start of my apprenticeship", said Reda, in one of the dozens of bookshops in the city's Howeish market. Wearing a simple white robe and scarf, he speaks in hesitant Arabic, like his Iranian, Pakistani and Turkish student peers. "For the moment, we have lessons in Arabic, law and Islamic morals", he added. The 19-year-old avidly seeks advice on books on Islamic law, religious principles and other lessons of Shiite Islam. While Iraq is majority Shiite, only a minority follow this strand of Islam in Reda's homeland, like most of the rest of the Muslim world.

### 'A city apart'

Several decades Reda's senior, Mohammad Mustapha Jamal el-Din—a religious student turned teacher—also feels at home among the bookstalls. Najaf's 750-year-old market helps make it a "city apart", he enthused. Located 150 kilometers (95 miles) south of Baghdad, the city welcomes millions of Shiite pilgrims every year.

They come to visit the tomb of Imam Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed

(PBUH) and a founding figure of Shiite Islam. Najaf "is like no other city in Iraq — (it's) steeped in religion and literature", said Jamal el-Din, sporting the black turban. Among the crowds of religious students, there are also poetry lovers.

Some, like Jamal el-Din, have a foot in both camps. "One can be versed in both fields — (knowledge of) one does not preclude the other". Iraqi poet Mohammed Mahdi al-Jawahiri could be found in Najaf's alleyways and bookstores in the 1920s, as he progressed from strict religious instruction to militant journalism in Baghdad.

Twenty-one years after his death, his collections sit on shelves that heave with a splendid array of titles, stretching to the arcane such as "Islamic economy-Marxist or Capitalist?" Other one-time students have found their calling in the maze of Najaf's old city, and become famous in their own right.

### Bell and Sistani

Examples include the Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, the spiritual leader of Iraq's Shiite majority, and Mohammed Bakr Sadr, a great Shiite thinker. Sadr was killed by former dictator Saddam Hussein's regime, and was an uncle of political heavyweight Moqtada Sadr, whose electoral list won the largest number of seats in Iraq's legislative elections in May.

Until the 1950s, secondhand bookstores held weekly meetings for students in Najaf, according to Hassan al-Hakim, an expert in history and Islamic civilization. They "gathered near Imam Ali's tomb and every

Friday they sold works at auction, including many original editions", said the professor of Kufa University, who has set up a heritage association for Najaf.



A Muslim religious man in a shop at the Howeish book market.

Famed British archaeologist Gertrude Bell "visited the Najaf book market" in the early 20th century, Hakim added proudly. The academic contends that the city's special status should not be threatened by the shift of much academic literature online. "We want our students to view books as their primary source, ahead of the internet" for verified information, Hakim said. And "by looking for a book, we can find others that interest us", he noted. — AFP

## Bollywood director denies #MeToo claims, threatens filmmakers

A prominent Bollywood director accused of sexual harassment denied the allegations yesterday as he threatened to sue two fellow filmmakers for defamation over the case which has helped fuel India's #MeToo movement. Vikas Bahl is accused of assaulting an employee of Phantom Films—an edgy production house behind Netflix's first original Indian series, "Sacred Games"—in a hotel in 2015. In accusations published on HuffPost India Saturday, the unnamed woman said Bahl had insisted on escorting her to her room and pretended to pass out drunk on her bed, only to awaken and masturbate on her.

Anurag Kashyap and Vikramaditya Motwane, who along with Bahl and another filmmaker founded Phantom Films, released statements on Twitter later that day backing the woman. The report came after they had announced they were dissolving the production company on Friday. Bahl, director of "Queen", a 2014 hit movie about female empowerment, issued a denial through his lawyer yesterday in his first public statement responding to the allegation. A legal notice released to the media and seen by AFP said Bahl "denies all allegations". "Vikas Bahl issues defamation notice to Anurag Kashyap and Vikramaditya Motwane threatening civil and criminal action," it added.

The notice accused Kashyap and Motwane of "professional rivalry and jealousy" and of trying to jeopardize the release of Bahl's upcoming film "Super 30". It called for them to withdraw the claims and issue an apology or face being sued. The year-old #MeToo movement has finally gathered steam in India in recent days with Bollywood figures, a government minister, several comedians and top journalists among those accused of abusing their positions to behave improperly towards women.

The spark was Hindi film actress Tanushree Dutta, who in a recent interview accused well-known Bollywood actor Nana Patekar of inappropriate behaviour on a film set 10 years ago. He denies the allegations. —AFP



Indian Bollywood writer-producer Vinita Nanda speaks during a press conference in Mumbai. — AFP

## Tissot Seastar 1000 Gent Automatic dive into design

### Everyday sporty style

Seamlessly marrying style and performance, the Tissot Seastar 1000 Gent Automatic is an elegant watch for watersport lovers. Its sporty look is subtle enough to make this the ultimate choice for both day and night, with superb accuracy assured thanks to the Powermatic 80 movement which offers 80 hours of power reserve. In the water, the performance doesn't falter - reassuringly robust, it can handle pressure up to 30 bar (1000ft), a feat reflected in the name of the watch itself.



### Fit for deep water

Underwater explorers take note: the Tissot Seastar 1000 Professional has all the features you may need to discover another world. Easy readability is a must, and luminescent hands, which even have a luminescent dot on the seconds' hand, make telling the time quickly effortless. A scale typical for divers, with every minute until 20 marked, and then every five minutes indicated, is a useful safety feature, while a screwed down case and crown

will prevent the watch itself being damaged.

The water theme continues in the watch's appearance, with one model even showcasing a gradient dark blue dial, seemingly as deep as the ocean itself. Practical sportsmen will appreciate pairing this sea-faring piece with a rubber strap, while those planning on wearing it both in and out the ocean will enjoy a steel bracelet with stylish butterfly clasp.



### Features

- Swiss made
- Powermatic 80 automatic movement
- Screw-down crown and caseback
- Anticlockwise ceramic rotating bezel
- Scratch-resistant sapphire crystal
- 316L stainless steel case with see-through caseback
- Water-resistant to 30 bar (300 m / 1000 ft)
- 316L stainless steel bracelet with folding clasp and safety and diver extension or rubber strap with standard buckle
- Diameter: 43mm



This undated handout photo obtained from the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) shows a scene from Thai film "BNK48: Girls Don't Cry". — AFP

## Thai filmmaker's intimate portrait of girl pop sensation

Thai filmmaker Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit wasn't sure whether to believe it when he was offered unfettered, behind-the-scenes access into the normally closely guarded and secretive world of one of Asia's biggest pop idol bands. Turns out the director got closer than he could have ever dreamed. "There were no restrictions placed on me," said Nawapol, whose quirky art house films chronicling youth in the digital age have made him one of Thailand's most beloved auteurs. "I just sat the band members down in front of the camera and we started to talk. For them it was like confessions, like therapy." The result is the engaging documentary "BNK48: Girls Don't Cry", which frames the rise of a Thai pop sensation from complete unknowns to having hundreds of millions of fans.

Previous documentaries on Asia's pop idols have been carefully controlled by band management. Not so this time, as the film presents the young hopefuls of BNK48 and their real stories, rather than those dreamed up by a press office. One member auditions for the band simply because it was her mother's wish, another because a fortune teller told her she would one day be a star, and a third because she had grown up fearing a life of anonymity. "Always being a no one would be frightening," says 19-year-old Korn. Nawapol picked up on the story of the band last year and sat several of its members down for emotionally charged reflections on their careers and their arduous training regimen, which include nine-hour daily workouts.

A brutal selection process eventually trims a 30-girl squad down to 16 — a concept popularized by Japanese girl group megastars AKB48, from whom the Thai band is franchised. Those who make the cut are featured in the band's singles and video clips,

with more opportunities to face the public. The others—known as "Unders"—must wait in the shadows as the spotlight shines on their friends, a process that seems to have a devastating emotional effect on some, while revealing a steely resolve in others. One of the most poignant scenes features the main band members up on stage, while a single figure dances alone off-stage, pretending she is part of the main event. "You have to face life's reality," says the 14-year-old Jib, who by the film's end has begun speaking more like a 40-year-old. Auditions for the band were opened to girls aged 12-22, and there is a remarkable change of appearance and attitude in them all over the 12 months.

### 'Hardships, pressure'

What surprised Nawapol most once he started filming was how the usually carefully stage-managed entertainers were willing to open up to his cameras, and how quickly they had changed as human beings. "Usually these pop idols are carefully trained and what they say to the media never really means much," said Nawapol. "But they immediately started talking to us about the realities, the hardships, and all the pressure that they are under." Social media appears the chief culprit there, as selection for the shortlist is based largely on how many followers the ladies have, and how many "likes" they can gather. "It's a feeling like you are being chased all the time," 17-year-old Pun explains of the stress of having to constantly improve her numbers. The film made its international premiere at the ongoing 23rd Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) after a successful run in Thai cinemas that saw it collect around \$300,000 at the box office, making the film among the country's most successful ever documentaries.—AFP

# Classifieds

Thursday, October 11, 2018

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### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate southerly wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for light fog forming.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 10/10/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	40 °C	31 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	44 °C	25 °C			
ABDALLY	43 °C	25 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	43 °C	26 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	38 °C	27 °C			
SALMIYAH	34 °C	31 °C			
AHMADI	36 °C	31 °C			
NUWAISIB	40 °C	25 °C			
WAFRA	43 °C	23 °C			
SALMY	42 °C	24 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/11	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	42 °C	24 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Friday	10/12	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	40 °C	24 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Saturday	10/13	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	38 °C	23 °C	S-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Sunday	10/14	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	37 °C	23 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:29
Sunrise	05:47
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:54
Sunset	17:23
Isha	18:39

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp	43 °C
MIN. Temp	24 °C
MAX. RH	89 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	S 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, undersigned Kurapati Jayaram, holding Indian Passport No: M5452359 issued at Kuwait on 10/02/2015. I would like to change my name to Kamineni Jayaram from Kurapati Jayaram, now onwards and further. (C 5427) 11-10-2018

**EMERGENCY**  
**112**

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

**1889988**

Airlines	
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787

### Required

#### Assistant HR Manager

An American school, located in Kuwait, is seeking an Assistant HR Manager, the applicant is to be a native English speaker preferably of either American or British nationality, though other nationalities may be considered with the appropriate experience.

- Along with a minimum of 3 years HR management experience they must hold a MBA.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills are a must along with excellent computer skills.
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### DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 11/10/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 11/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC	600	Asyut	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSC	406	Sohag	01:05
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
QT	R1086	Doha	02:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
JZR5	53D	Alexandria	02:50	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	RBG	216	Sohag	03:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	JZR	356	Mashhad	07:15
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	167	Paris	07:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	173	Munich	07:35
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	238	Amman	07:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	KAC	201	Beirut	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	QTR	8512	Beirut/Doha	08:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	BAW	156	London	08:20
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	117	Shannon/New York	09:05
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	UAE	482	Istanbul	09:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	101	London	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KAC	797	Taif	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:20
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC	056	Dubai	10:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	SYR	342	Damascus	11:00
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
JZR	357	Mashhad	13:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	ABY	122	Sharjah	13:35
KAC	792	Madinah	13:40	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45				
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55				

# Moroccan teen in gang-rape case urges girls to be brave

## US student held at Israeli airport fights entry ban

**JERUSALEM:** A US student refused entry for alleged support of a pro-Palestinian boycott of goods from Israeli has chosen to stay and fight the ban in court, an Israel official said Tuesday. Immigration authority spokeswoman Sabine Haddad told AFP late Tuesday that Lara Alqasem was being held at an immigration facility but was not under arrest. "She can fly back to the United States whenever she likes," Haddad said. "She decided to appeal and is being held in the facility for those refused entry," the spokeswoman said in Hebrew. "She is not under arrest, she is refused entry."

Haddad said that the appeal would be heard in the Tel Aviv district court but gave no date for the hearing. She added that judge Kobi Vardi issued a ruling on Tuesday saying that Alqasem was not obliged to remain in the airport holding facility and was free to return home and have the Tel Aviv hearing held in her absence.

In March 2017, Israel's parliament passed a law banning the entry of supporters of the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS), a movement inspired by measures against South Africa before the fall of apartheid. Alqasem, report-

edly of Palestinian descent, was stopped at Israel's main international Ben Gurion airport last Tuesday and denied entry under that act. The Jerusalem Post has reported that during her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida "she was president of a chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, which often leads boycott campaigns against Israel".

It quoted her mother, Karen Alqasem, as saying that she had enrolled for a one-year master's course in human rights at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for which she had an Israeli visa. The university has applied to the Tel Aviv court for leave to join her appeal against deportation. "This student wants to come here and study at the Hebrew University for one year," its president, professor Asher Cohen, told Israeli army radio Tuesday. He argued that her treatment was actually strengthening the BDS campaign to boycott goods from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. "There is a difference of opinion with the state on the interpretation of the law. In our opinion in this instance the law does not apply to this student," he said. "It is for the court to decide."

Earlier, Israeli internal security minister Gilad Erdan said that he would consider allowing Alqasem to take up her university place if she publicly denounces BDS. "If Lara Alqasem states in her own voice, not by all kinds of evasions by lawyers, that she doesn't think now that support for BDS is something legitimate and she regrets what she has done on this subject, we shall certainly reevaluate our petition," he told army radio. — AFP

But while the sums being waved about by investors should make governments vigilant about corruption, "that doesn't appear to be the case," the report noted.

Transparency and Global Witness singled out Malta, Cyprus and Portugal for particular criticism. In Malta, where journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was murdered last year while investigating corruption, including the awarding of golden visas, officials enjoy "wide discretion" in deciding who is eligible, the report said.

### Oligarch riches

Among the beneficiaries are several Russians with "questionable backgrounds or finances", some of them close to President Vladimir Putin, the authors said. Cyprus and Portugal also give scant attention to the source of applicants' wealth when deciding on their applications, the report said. It noted that Cyprus had given passports to two Ukrainian oligarchs - Gennadiy Bogolyubov and Igor Kolomoisky - who are accused of defrauding a Ukrainian bank of billions of euros.

Transparency International and Global Witness called on Brussels to set up EU-wide standards of due diligence "to prevent the abuse of these schemes by the corrupt and the criminal". Reacting to the report, the EU's Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, said: "We are following this issue very, very closely." "We have committed to producing a report on national schemes granting EU citizenship to investors... including guidance for member states on necessary background checks for applicants," he said. He added that the guidelines were due to be published by the end of 2018. — AFP

images of what it called the "assassination team" including a man called Salah Muhammed Al-Tubaigy whose name it said matched that of a lieutenant-colonel who has worked at the Saudi interior ministry for 20 years, according to a LinkedIn profile and Saudi media, and serves on the board of the Saudi Society of Forensic Medicine. Other names and photos of the 15, who Sabah said travelled on diplomatic passports, match officers in the Saudi army and air force, as identified by previous Saudi media reports and in one case a Facebook profile. Sabah added that no "body parts" appeared on scans of the belongings of seven passengers of relevance to the case at Istanbul airport. Turkey has said Saudi authorities gave officials the green light to search the consulate but it has not yet taken place.

In his last interview three days before his disappearance, Khashoggi said that he did not think he would return to Saudi Arabia. "When I hear of the arrest of a friend who did nothing that (deserved being) arrested, it makes me feel I shouldn't go," he told the BBC. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in a statement that between 25 and 30 professional and non-professional journalists are currently detained in Saudi Arabia. RSF said at least 15 Saudi journalists and bloggers have been arrested since September 2017.

Cases included that of Saleh Al-Shihi, a journalist whose arrest was only confirmed in February when his family learned he had been sentenced to five years in prison, RSF said. He disappeared in Dec 2017, but his detention was not revealed until his conviction and sentence were announced in the kingdom, the organization added. Economist and citizen-journalist Essam Al-Zamel was put on trial this month for criticizing the government's economic strategy in a series of tweets and reports. It was only then officially confirmed he has been in jail for the past year.

Another journalist and commentator, Turad al-Amri, has been missing since Nov 2016 after protesting in a tweet to a clampdown on Saudi media, including the blocking of an online newspaper for which he had written. Fayed bin Damakh, another reporter and poet, has also been reported missing since Sept 2017 when he was about to launch a TV news channel in neighboring Kuwait. Local press reports suggested he was abducted and taken to Saudi Arabia, though this has never been confirmed. — Agencies



**BENI MELLAL, Morocco:** Moroccan teenager Khadija sits with her father at a park near the tribunal after her court hearing yesterday. — AFP

**BENI MELLAL:** A Moroccan teenager allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped by men from her village called yesterday on other girls "to be brave" after meeting with the judge investigating her case, which has shaken the nation. In a video posted online in August, 17-year-old Khadija said members of a "dangerous gang" in her town had abducted and held her prisoner for two months, raping and torturing her. "I call on all girls to be brave. We girls are strong and we must stay strong," she told AFP after attending a hearing at a court in the central city of Beni Mellal. "I'm still traumatized. What happened to me is not easy to bear," she said, nervously attempting to cover up rudimentary tattoos on her hands allegedly carved by her abductors.

Khadija's viral video - in which she shows horrific scars purportedly from cigarette burns - sparked a wave of solidarity on social media for the teenager. Many of her supporters have used the hashtag #masaktach, or "I won't be silenced". In front of the judge yesterday, Khadija "confirmed all the charges, fully and in detail", her father Mohamed told AFP. "She is courageous despite her psychological fragility," he said.

A dozen suspects - aged 17 to 28, whom she named as her attackers - were remanded in custody at the end of August on charges including human trafficking of a

minor, rape and torture, according to a judicial source. Several of her alleged attackers have confessed to the charges, according to sources familiar with the case. But their admissions have failed to convince the teenager's critics, in a society divided between conservative and progressive strands.

Khadija "has still not recovered from what happened", her father said, adding that she now barely leaves the home in Oulad Ayad - a rural village in one of the kingdom's poorest regions. "We receive threats and insults by telephone, but I don't tell her anything," he said. "I took away her smartphone to keep her away from anything that will remind her of what she's suffered."

The case's first hearing in mid-September was marred by insults hurled by the family members of the accused, but Wednesday's meeting was quieter as authorities kept relatives outside the building. Khadija's choice to speak up and publicly accuse her attackers is rare in the conservative country, where rape victims often remain silent to preserve family reputations. "I knew it was going to be very difficult when I decided to make a complaint, but I'm ready to bear it. I will move beyond this phase," she said. "I think about the future and I have confidence in justice." — AFP

## EU 'golden visas' are recipe for corruption: NGOs

**PARIS:** EU member states risk helping wealthy foreigners launder billions of euros in dirty money by offering "golden visas" in exchange for investment, two NGOs warned Wednesday, urging officials to impose tougher checks on potential beneficiaries. In their report, Berlin-based Transparency International and London-based Global Witness describe EU citizenship and residency as "just like a luxury good" which "can be bought". "By their very nature, golden visa schemes are an attractive prospect for the criminal and the corrupt," they wrote in the report entitled "European Getaway: Inside the Murky World of Golden Visas".

Several EU members have used such schemes to give passports to around 6,000 people and residency rights to around 100,000 people in the past decade, securing about 25 billion euros (\$29 billion) of foreign direct investment in return, the report said. Four EU members (Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Malta) "sell" passports to wealthy investors while 12 offer them residency rights.

Spain, Cyprus, Portugal and Britain are the countries that have received the most investment in return for visas, the report found. Spain received 976 million euros annually compared to 498 million euros in Britain.

## Trump demands answers; Turkish...

Continued from Page 1

Khashoggi, a former Saudi government adviser, had been living in the United States since last year fearing arrest. He has been critical of some policies of the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Riyadh's intervention in the war in Yemen. Turkish police were looking into two private aircraft that landed at Istanbul's Ataturk airport on Oct 2 at different times carrying the individuals of interest in the case. A source told the Washington Post that US intelligence "intercepted communications of Saudi officials discussing a plan to capture him". The same source said the Saudis hoped to "lure" Khashoggi to Saudi Arabia "and lay hands on him there".

One of the first images from the CCTV footage shared by 24 TV broadcaster showed Khashoggi enter the consulate at 1:14 pm (1014 GMT). Footage also showed some of the Saudis arriving in Istanbul after the first plane landed before 0030 GMT on Oct 2 and the men later checking into a hotel near the consulate. Aksam daily said some of the men went into the Saudi consulate before Khashoggi. According to the images, a vehicle that went inside the consulate was then driven to the consul-general's residence nearby after 1200 GMT, two hours after Khashoggi had entered the mission. Aksam newspaper's editor-in-chief Murat Kelkitlioglu speculated on 24 TV that it was "almost certain" that Khashoggi had been taken in the vehicle.

Local media on Tuesday reported on the possibility that Khashoggi was kidnapped and taken aboard one of the private planes. Both planes later returned to Riyadh with one stopping in Dubai and the other in Egypt, pro-government Sabah daily said. According to Hurriyet daily, nine Saudis who arrived in Istanbul on the same day that the journalist vanished, had bought luggage at the Grand Bazaar. However, a police search revealed that they did not take the luggage on their return.

Sabah daily yesterday published the names and

## Five men and the sea...

Continued from Page 1

crew said they had drunk seawater. "On average, death results two to three days after a diet of drinking undiluted sea water or urine in survival-at-sea events as it takes more water than is consumed for the body to process the waste and salt out of the kidneys," Leon Hadley, the civilian chief mate from the ship which conducted the rescue, the USNS Wally Schirra, said.

"Luckily, we were going at a slow enough speed to have spotted the fishermen," the Wally Schirra's master Keith Sauls added. "The individuals were waving their arms and a flag in the air. They were also flashing a

white light that was previously thought to be fishing buoy," Sauls added in an account carried by the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service.

The blue marlin is one of the open ocean's fastest, strongest predators and is also one of the largest species of bony fishes. It can grow up to five metres in length and weight as much as 820 kg. It is known for its long bill that grows from the front of its head which it uses to stun prey and was famously a leading character in Ernest Hemingway's short novel "The Old Man and the Sea".

Erman Besana, a coast guard operations officer for Subic, said they had not encountered a marlin sinking a ship before. "This is the first such incident we have encountered here. Most of the time it's bad weather sinking fishermen's boats in the open seas," he told AFP. Despite the near-death experience, Batiller said he and his crew plan to go back to sea after a few days' rest, provided they can find a new boat. "This is our job," he added. — AFP

## Humans can recognize...

Continued from Page 1

They pointed out that the brain has an almost limitless capacity to memorize words and languages - the

## China launches anti-halal drive...

Continued from Page 1

As part of the campaign, Urumqi's ethnically Uighur head prosecutor Ilshat Osman also wrote an essay titled: "Friend, you do not have to find a halal restaurant specially for me". The state-run Global Times tabloid yesterday cited "experts" as saying that the "pan-halal" tendency blurs the boundary between religion and secular life, making it easy to "fall into the mire of religious extremism". China launched its "Strike Hard" campaign targeting separatism in Xinjiang in 2014 following deadly violence in the region.

Uighurs and other Muslim minorities are subject to strict regulations banning beards and burqas, and many have been detained in reeducation camps for offences as minor as making contact with family members outside the country or sharing Islamic holiday greetings on social media, a UN report said in August.

Meanwhile, anti-terror efforts in controversial "reeducation centers" in the Xinjiang region will be governed by new standardized rules, as international criticism mounts over the detention of as many one million in the restive far west. The revised rules, passed Tuesday, call on local governments to tackle terrorism by establishing "vocational education centers" that will carry out the "educational transformation of people who have

limits on these instead come from study time and motivation. The range of faces recognized by participants went far beyond what may have been evolutionarily useful: For thousands of years humans would likely only have met a few dozen people throughout their lives.

Jenkins said it was not clear why we developed the ability to distinguish between thousands of faces in the crowd. "This could be another case of 'overkill' that is sometimes seen in nature," he said. "The venom of some spiders can kill a horse, even though the spider has no need to eat a horse." — AFP

been influenced by extremism".

The centers should teach Mandarin Chinese, legal concepts and vocational training, and carry out "thought education", according to a copy of the rules posted on the regional government's website. A previous version of the rules issued in March 2017 included a long list of prohibitions on religious behavior including wearing long beards and veils. It also encouraged local governments to engage in "educational transformation", a term critics have described as a euphemism for brainwashing.

The detentions have mostly focused on the region's Muslim minorities, especially the Uighurs, a Turkic ethnic group that make up around half of Xinjiang's population of 22 million. The new regulations seem aimed at standardizing the centers' management, which was initially carried out piecemeal. Beijing has denied reports of the mass detention of its citizens in camps but evidence is mounting in the form of government documents and testimonies from former detainees.

Chinese authorities have, however, said that they give vocational and language training to people guilty of minor crimes. Testimony from people who have escaped the centers provides a much darker picture, however. In July, a former teacher at one of the centers told a court in Kazakhstan that "in China they call it a political camp but really it was a prison in the mountains". "Xinjiang's political education centers remain arbitrary and abusive, and no tweaks in national or regional rules can change that," said Maya Wang, senior China researcher at Human Rights Watch. — Agencies

Sports

# 'Get your own towels': Tennis rallies round ball kids after Verdasco spat

**'I don't care how good a tennis player you are but this type of behaviour needs to STOP'**

SHANGHAI: Fernando Verdasco's treatment of a ball boy who failed to bring him his sweaty towel fast enough has thrust tennis players' attitudes towards the child volunteers into the spotlight, and could prompt changes. The 34-year-old Spaniard has not commented on the incident, when he aggressively gesticulated at a ball boy to hurry up during last month's Shenzhen Open in China.

The footage went viral on social media and saw Verdasco heavily criticised. Judy Murray, the former British Fed Cup captain and mother of three-time Grand Slam winner Andy, tweeted: "What about a rule that makes players get their own towels?"

Others, while condemning Verdasco's behaviour, pointed out that he is by no means the first tennis player to treat a ball kid harshly. Last week at the China Open, the Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka was caught in footage shaking an empty bottle in the apparent direction of a ball boy, before tossing it on the floor.

"I don't care how good a tennis player you are but this type of behaviour needs to STOP," tweeted Anne Keothavong, Britain's Fed Cup captain.

At this week's Shanghai Masters, Roger Federer said tennis sets the standard for many sports when it comes to respectful behaviour—and that must extend to the treatment of ball boys and girls.

"The ball kids are really important to us because they are also maybe the future of our game, like I was," said the Swiss, a ball boy before going on to become a 20-time Grand Slam champion. "You don't want to have them leaving with feeling, oh my God, I was not

appreciated or I was not liked or it was a horrible thing."

But Federer, 37, the defending champion in Shanghai, pointed out that emotions run high in the heat of a match and that tennis is more intense now than in the past. In 2015 Novak Djokovic, now a 14-time Grand Slam winner, apologised to a Wimbledon ball girl after he screamed in her direction, leaving her looking shaken.

## TOWEL RACK

The Verdasco incident in particular highlighted the issue of ball kids being asked to handle sweaty and snotty towels for players, many of whom like to wipe their faces after each point. Federer said that players are under pressure not to hold games, up so it is quicker for the ball boy to hand them the towel rather than fetch it themselves.

"The show's got to (keep) moving on. So all this stuff, it's quite hectic to be quite honest, even though it seems like we have a lot of time," he said on Tuesday. One solution is a towel rack at the back of the court.

That will be tested out at next month's Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan, which brings together the best players aged 21 and under. World number one Rafael Nadal has spoken out, saying that he is not a fan because it will slow matches down.

Kei Nishikori, Japan's world number 12, agrees. "Maybe I don't prefer that one. Maybe that may take some time," he said. Federer, who said players often use their towel wipe-down to gather their thoughts



BEIJING: File photo shows Fernando Verdasco of Spain hits a return during his men's singles second round match against Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on October 4, 2018. — AFP

between points, is happy to see the racks given a go, but has his reservations.

"If now you've got a hook or a rail in the back, I don't know, it's like are you wasting extra three seconds of time each and every point? "Which doesn't

sound like a lot, but you add that over a five-hour match, next thing you know, you saw much less tennis."

This year's US Open introduced a 25-second serve clock for all matches, an innovation which will also be used at the Australian Open in January. —AFP

## Federer makes shaky start to Shanghai defence

SHANGHAI: Roger Federer was given a huge scare before finally seeing off Russia's Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to open his Shanghai Masters defence in unconvincing fashion yesterday. The 37-year-old Swiss top seed faces Spain's unseeded Roberto Bautista Agut today in the last 16.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion initially wasted little time stamping his mark on the tournament, breaking the 22nd-ranked Medvedev in the first game. But Medvedev, fresh from winning the Japan Open, broke back and enjoyed even more luck on Federer's service in the second set.

Federer's large cheering squad-decked out in matching red T-shirts—looked on in disbelief as Medvedev grabbed the second set. The 22-year-old then put the Swiss under immediate pressure on his serve in the deciding set, only for an uncharacteristically flustered Federer to hold.

In what was the first meeting between the pair, Federer broke in the ninth game to finally destroy Medvedev's resolve in just under two hours. With the exception of injured world number one Rafael Nadal, Federer's chief rivals are all still in the mix.

Juan Martin del Potro and Alexander Zverev both defied illness to join Federer and Novak Djokovic in the next round. Del Potro, the third seed, said that he is suffering from a virus and reviewing his health "hour by hour", after laboursing past France's Richard Gasquet.

The Argentine lost Sunday's final of the China Open in Beijing to unseeded Nikoloz Basilashvili and afterwards revealed that he



SHANGHAI: Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return against Daniil Medvedev of Russia during their men's singles second round match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament yesterday. — AFP

had been unwell. Three days on and the 30-year-old continues to be under the weather, but just about did enough to see off Gasquet 7-5, 7-6 (9/7).

Between coughs at his post-match press conference, Del Potro said: "It wasn't easy to play for me today, I did what I can. I didn't run too much. "But I'm going like hour by hour and see how I'm feeling," added Del Potro, who plays 13th seed Borna Coric of Croatia next in Shanghai.

"I got lucky that I won, but tomorrow will be a different day. "If I have a good night today and I have a good recovery tomorrow morning, maybe I will feel a little bit better for tomorrow night and play better than today." The 21-year-old Zverev fought off a cold-he

has had a sore throat and blocked nose for a few days—and the raw power of Basilashvili, winning 7-5, 6-4.

The fourth seed will play Australia's world-ranked 33 Alex de Minaur. Zverev said that Basilashvili, who is up to a career-high ranking of 23, "knows how to play, definitely". "Probably the hardest-hitting player I have ever played against," said Zverev.

Number two seed Djokovic nailed his place in the last 16 on Tuesday with a convincing victory over Jeremy Chardy. The Serb, who is in sparkling form having won Wimbledon and the US Open this summer, plays the 16th seed Marco Cecchinato of Italy today. —AFP

## Li Na generation making its mark, say Chinese players

HONG KONG: Li Na's shining example and the explosion of tournaments in China after her Grand Slam wins has triggered the emergence of a new generation of Chinese players, the country's top two women have said.

Wang Qiang, 26, and Zhang Shuai, 29, said confidence was now growing among Chinese players after a quiet spell since trailblazer Li, a two-time major-winner, retired in 2014. Wang Qiang, ranked 24th, and 40th-placed Zhang head a list of four Chinese players in the current top 100, and there are 11 in the top 200 including 17-year-old US Open junior champion Wang Xiyu.

"Li Na has given us all a lot of hope," Zhang said at the Hong Kong Open. "When she won the Grand Slams I think more people decided to try tennis and try to believe in themselves." She added: "Now we have so many tournaments in China I think a lot of young players have more opportunities to make a higher ranking."

Zhang, who turned professional in 2006, said the game was now a big hit among Chinese fans. China has seven

WTA Tour-level tournaments this year. "For sure it's more popular than it was five years ago because unlike with other sports, almost every week there is a big tournament," she said.

Wang Qiang, seeded sixth in Hong Kong, said Li's achievements stood as a "goal" for her career, and had kick-started the development of tennis in China. "Other players are now doing really well so I think China has a good future," she said.

Torrential downpours delayed play at the Hong Kong Open Thursday by more than four hours, but after second-round matches eventually got underway eighth seed Alize Cornet went down to Thailand's Luksika Kumkhum after a drama-filled clash which saw both players struggle to hold their serve.

The France world number 44 — who lost in a third set tiebreak after almost three hours—appeared frustrated on court, repeatedly throwing her racket to the floor, shouting to herself and clashing with the chair umpire over disputed line calls. Fans were sympathetic over the effect the rain delay had on players. —AFP

## Sponsored by KIB, national champs Al-Fadhil, Al-Omar nab top honors at Int'l Jet Ski Championship

KUWAIT: In a continuation of its ongoing support of sports-related activities and talented local youth, KIB sponsored two world champions, Abdullah Al-Fadhil and Abdulrahman Al-Omar at the International Jet Ski Championship. The championship was recently held at Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

KIB expressed its honor in sponsoring these accomplished, young champions who continue to raise Kuwait's standing internationally. The Bank also lauded their outstanding performance throughout their athletic career, as Kuwaiti Jet-Skier Abdullah Al-Fadhil ranked third in the Senior Pro Ski category at the end of the championship; thereby promoting Kuwait across some of the strongest categories in the tournament. Moreover, Al-Fadhil, the only Arab participant in this category, competed alongside 16 of the most accomplished athletes across the globe. National champion, Abdulrahman Al-Omar, was also awarded a gold medal in the Stock Asp Nat Runabout Pro-am event, as well as a silver medal in the Expert Runabout Stock category.

KIB also pointed out that this sponsorship came as part of its impactful social responsibility program that aims at supporting sports activities and helping talented local youth excel across various local, regional and international tournaments. Additionally, the Bank supports these initiatives in order to improve the abilities of youth and support their aspirations to become capable leaders that build a better future for the nation.

It is worth noting that sports initiatives and activities continue to be a cornerstone of KIB's leading social responsibility program, as the Bank always strives to promote sports culture across the local community.



Abdullah Al-Fadhil



Abdulrahman Al-Omar

## New all-female series aims to get women to Formula One

LONDON: A new all-female racing series was launched yesterday, supported by former grand prix driver David Coulthard and top designer Adrian Newey, with the aim of helping women racers get to Formula One.

No woman has competed in Formula One since 1976 but organisers of the 'W Series' hope to provide a platform for them to develop skills before taking on the men further up the motorsport ladder.

With a planned start in May 2019, the series said it will offer a prize fund of \$1.5 million and free entry for 18-20 competitors who will be selected purely on merit after tests and appraisals. The overall winner will collect \$500,000, with prize money down to 18th place.

Organisers said they aimed to stage six 30 minute races at top circuits in Europe, most of which were past Formula One venues, with identical 1.8 litre Formula Three cars. Future seasons would see the series expand to America, Asia and Australia.

"At the heart of W Series' DNA is the firm belief that women can compete equally with men in motorsport. However, an all-female series is essential in order to force greater female participation," organisers said in a statement.

Coulthard, winner of 13 grands prix between 1995 and 2003, is on the advisory board along with Red Bull's technical head Newey and both will be involved in the driver training programme. Former McLaren team manager Dave Ryan has been appointed racing director, while the chief executive is lawyer and corporate finance banker Catherine Bond Muir.

The idea of an all-female series is not new but has been controversial in the past, with top women racers adamant they want to compete against the men rather than be separated. Spaniard Carmen Jorda caused a storm last year when she advocated such a series on the grounds that women had a physical disadvantage and could not compete equally with men at top level.

Claire Williams, deputy principal of the Williams Formula One team, said this year that an all-female championship would be a "regressive step". British racer Pippa Mann, a winner in the US Indy Lights series and who has competed six times in the Indianapolis 500, declared the latest move "a sad day for motorsport".

"Those with funding to help female racers are choosing to segregate them as opposed to supporting them," she said on Twitter yesterday. "I am deeply disappointed to see such a historic step backwards take place in my lifetime."

Coulthard said, however, that women tended to reach a 'glass ceiling' at Formula Three level, often due to a lack of funding, and needed help. Newey hoped W Series would create "a platform on which women drivers can improve by racing one another and from which they may then springboard their careers forward and ... ultimately race successfully in F1." —Reuters



## Sports

# Abbas's triple bring Pakistan closer to win over Australia

## Australia require another 326 runs for an improbable victory

DUBAI: Hard-working fast bowler Mohammad Abbas took three wickets in seven balls to bring Pakistan closer to victory in the first Test against Australia in Dubai yesterday. The right-arm medium pacer dismissed Aaron Finch (49) and the Marsh brothers-Shaun and Mitchell - for ducks as Australia slumped from 87 without loss to finish the fourth day at 136-3.

At stumps opener Usman Khawaja was batting on a fighting 50 and Travis Head on 34 as the pair had added an invaluable 49 for the unbroken fourth wicket stand to prolong Australia's resistance on a weary and spinning Dubai stadium pitch.

Pakistan will need seven more wickets while Australia require another 326 runs for an improbable victory to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series, with the second Test starting in Abu Dhabi from October 16.

Abbas said he was "happy to be among the wickets". "I used the crease to bring the ball in and got wickets

from those deliveries," he said. "We need seven more wickets so, God willing, we will get them and get this win for which we have worked very hard and it will be good to take a lead in the series."

### Australian replay

It was an action replay of the first innings as Australian openers put on 87 — they made 142 in their total of 202 on Tuesday-as Finch was trapped before soon after tea with a sharp incoming delivery from Abbas.

Finch, who took an unsuccessful review, hit five boundaries in his knock. Two balls later Abbas had the elder Marsh caught behind and in his next over trapped Mitchell right in front of the stumps only to get the decision on review. But it was Finch and Khawaja in the afternoon session who batted with resolve. Pakistan-born Khawaja, who top scored for Australia with 85 in



DUBAI: Pakistani cricketer Muhammad Abbas (L) celebrates after taking the wicket of Australian batsman Shaun Marsh during the third day of play of the first Test cricket match in the series between Australia and Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium in Dubai yesterday. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the first Test between Pakistan and Australia played at Dubai stadium yesterday:

Pakistan 1st innings 482 (Mohammad Hafeez 126, Haris Sohail 110, Asad Shafiq 80, Imam-ul-Haq 76; P. Siddle 3-58)  
Australia 1st innings 202 (Usman Khawaja 85, A. Finch 62; Bilal Asif 6-36, Mohammad Abbas 4-29)

Pakistan 2nd innings	Holland 20-3-83-3, Head 1-0-6-0, Labuschagne 3-0-9-1.	Australia 2nd innings	
Imam-ul-Haq c & b Holland	48	A. Finch lbw b Mohammad Abbas	49
Mohammad Hafeez c Labuschagne b Holland	17	Usman Khawaja not out	50
Bilal Asif c Head b Lyon	0	S. Marsh c Sarfraz b Abbas	0
Azhar Ali lbw b Holland	4	M. Marsh lbw b Abbas	0
Haris Sohail lbw b Labuschagne	39	T. Head not out	34
Asad Shafiq c M. Marsh b Lyon	41	Extras: (lb 3)	3
Babar Azam not out	28	Total: (for three wickets; 50 overs)	136
Extras: (b 2, lb 2)	4	Still to bat: M. Labuschagne, T. Paine, M. Starc, P. Siddle, N. Lyon, J. Holland	
Total: (for six wickets; 57.5 overs)	181	Fall of wickets: 1-87 (Finch), 2-87 (S. Marsh), 3-87 (M. Marsh)	
Did not bat: Sarfraz Ahmed, Yasir Shah, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Abbas		Bowling: Abbas 11-2-26-3, Hafeez 2-0-10-0, Yasir 15-1-42-0, Riaz 7-2-13-0, Asif 13-3-40-0, Sohail 2-1-2-0.	
Fall of wickets: 1-37 (Hafeez), 2-38 (Asif), 3-45 (Azhar), 4-110 (Imam), 5-110 (Sohail), 6-181 (Shafiq)			
Bowling: Starc 6-1-18-0, Lyon 25.5-6-58-2, Siddle 2-1-3-0,			

the first innings, held one end intact with resolute batting, having so far hit six boundaries.

Abbas has figures of 3-26 to add to his four wickets in the first innings, but leg-spinner Yasir Shah was still wicketless in the match. If Australia still wish to win this match they will have to rewrite the history books as the highest chase in all Test cricket is West Indies' 418-7, made against Australia at Antigua in 2003.

Pakistan, who were 45 for three overnight, declared 7.5 overs after lunch on 181-6 at the fall of Asad

Shafiq's wicket for 41. Pakistan made 482 in their first innings while in reply Australia were dismissed for 202.

Jon Holland, who took the key wicket of Azhar Ali for four on Tuesday, dismissed opener Imam-ul-Haq for 48, caught and bowled off a flighted delivery. Debutant Marnus Labuschagne then had Haris Sohail caught close to the slips for 39, leaving Pakistan at 110-4. Sohail and Imam had added 65 runs for the fourth wicket. Holland had figures of 3-83 from 20 overs while off-spinner Nathan Lyon took 2-58. —AFP

## Nurmagomedov won't be stripped of MMA title: UTC boss

LOS ANGELES: Unbeaten Khabib Nurmagomedov will not be stripped of his UFC lightweight title despite his role in a post-match brawl Saturday, UFC president Dana White said in a website posting Tuesday.

The 30-year-old Russian kept his crown with a fourth-round submission victory over Ireland's Conor McGregor in Las Vegas, improving to 27-0 in his professional career and 11-0 in UFC bouts.

McGregor was issued a 30-day competition suspension by the Nevada Athletic Commission (NAC) after the bout, among several short-term bans for fighters on the card in what is a common move after MMA bouts, with no contact allowed until October 28 before McGregor's ban expires November 6.

Nurmagomedov had barely released his hold after McGregor tapped out when he launched himself over the Octagon fence, apparently targeting McGregor's training partner, Dillon Danis, as security tried to quell the chaos in the crowd.

Nurmagomedov was hustled out surrounded by security officers as a pro-McGregor crowd jeered and threw drinks at him.

While UFC president Dana White did not present Nurmagomedov the title belt, fearing arousing the crowd's ire, he told TMZ in video posted on the UFC website that the Russian would not be stripped of the title and any punishment for the melee after UFC 229 would likely come from the NAC not the UFC.

"He absolutely keeps his title," White said. "And he's going to get suspended (by the NAC), so maybe you



ULYANOVSK: Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) speaks with UFC lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov (R) and his father Abdulmanap (C) during their meeting at the Russia is a Sport State forum in Ulyanovsk. Unbeaten Khabib Nurmagomedov will not be stripped of his UFC lightweight title despite his role in a post-match brawl Saturday. — AFP

give him a four-to-six month suspension."

White said the NAC has not given Nurmagomedov his prize money pending an investigation of the situation and could impose a fine for his actions.

"(The NAC) took his whole purse right now and they are talking about keeping his purse. I do not think that that should happen," White said. "You should not be able to keep his whole purse."

White said he thought the NAC should take a \$250,000 fine.

White told TMZ pay-per-view record MMA sales numbers above two million buys for the show made him "a little giddy" but he added that Nurmagomedov made the wrong decision to enter the crowd after a heckler

from McGregor's camp.

"I don't think there's too many people who don't understand why he did it, but he shouldn't have done it," White said. "He's the world champion. He just beat Conor in front of the entire world. Stand up, get that belt wrapped around you. You won. The guy who's yelling at you means nothing."

White wasn't sure what the future held for Nurmagomedov as far as opponents. McGregor says he wants a rematch but the NAC must rule first on just when the undefeated champion can return to the Octagon. "We have to see how this stuff plays out with Khabib," White said. —AFP

## Cricket: ICC to tighten sanctions on leagues

DUBAI: World cricket's governing body will discuss ways to tighten up how various Twenty20 and T10 leagues are sanctioned in the future when it meets next week, a top official said yesterday. Since the inception of a lucrative Indian Premier League, many ICC member countries have launched their own leagues in what is seen by some as a threat to five-day Test cricket and international cricket fixtures.

The latest format showcased in the game is the ICC-sanctioned T10 (10-over-a-side) league held in Sharjah last year. Geoff Allardice, general manager of cricket for the International Cricket Council (ICC), said the matter would be discussed at the body's board meeting in Singapore on October 20.

"One of the things we will be talking about in our meeting next week is around regulations and sanctioning of events and also the release of players (for leagues)," Allardice told media. "So you look at all of the documentation and the ownership structures and how the league is going to be funded and all these types of things and then you provide approval."

"It's not just going to be an open door for any promoter to come in. I think it will be a bit harder to get sanctions in the future and any tournament would need both the support of the home country and the ICC."

The Masters Cricket League (involving retired and semi-retired players) held in United Arab Emirates (UAE) hit a snag after its first and only edition in 2016, with non payments to players. The Pakistan Cricket Board also raised reservations over the T10 league, the second edition of which will start next month in Sharjah, after the Indian sponsors of the event were investigated back home over wrongdoing. — AFP

## Disheartened Rehman retires from cricket

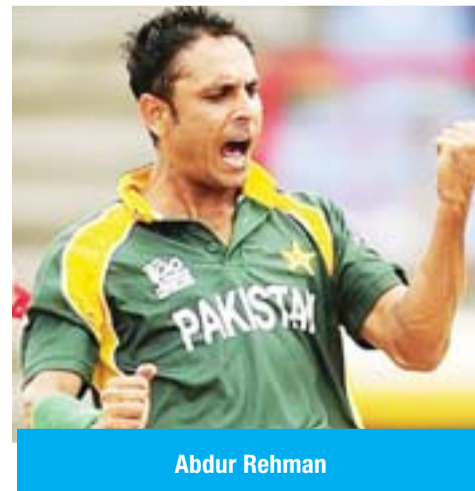
LAHORE: Former Pakistan left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman, who along with teammate Saeed Ajmal famously stunned England during a 3-0 defeat in 2012, announced his retirement from international cricket yesterday.

The 38-year-old took 19 wickets and Ajmal finished with 24 when Pakistan whitewashed the then-world number one Test team in United Arab Emirates six years ago in one of the finest performances of his career.

However Rehman said he was disheartened as of late after being ignored by national selectors. "I am announcing retirement from international cricket with a heavy heart," Rehman told media in Lahore. "It was a tough decision but I have decided to call it a day."

A wily spinner Rehman finished his 22 Test career just one short of a deserved hundred wicket mark, while he took 30 in 31 one-days and eight wickets in 11 Twenty20 internationals. His last Test was in Sri Lanka in 2014 before the selectors began picking younger players in his place to form a new team.

Rehman said dismantling the English



Abdur Rehman

batsmen in 2012 was his most memorable moment as a professional. "The partnership with Saeed was really great and I can't ever forget that England series when we clean swept them," said Rehman.

"I played in World Cups, in T20s so am very grateful I managed all that," said Rehman, who will continue playing first-class cricket in Pakistan. "I'm sad I couldn't get that 100th wicket, that would've really been something, but I'm still grateful for 99 wickets in 22 Tests. Very few left-arm spinners have that," he added. Rehman's reputation was also briefly hit by a 12-week ban after failing a drugs test during a stint with Somerset just a few months after his brilliant bowling against England in 2012. — AFP

## Streaking Hurricanes trip Canucks 5-3

RALEIGH: The Carolina Hurricanes were fast starters and had five different players score in a 5-3 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday night in Raleigh, NC Jordan Staal, Brett Pesce, Sebastian Aho, Andrei Svechnikov and Warren Foegele scored for the Hurricanes, who have won three in a row. Teuvo Teravainen and Jaccob Slavin each logged two assists for Carolina, which recorded three first-period goals.

Vancouver's Sven Baertschi scored twice and recorded an assist, and Bo Horvat also scored. Alexander Edler had two assists.

### MAPLE LEAFS 7, STARS 4

Auston Matthews and John Tavares scored two goals each, and Mitchell Marner had a goal and three assists as visiting Toronto outlasted Dallas.

Toronto has now scored 20 goals over its first four contests and has three wins despite surrendering an average of more than four goals per game. Dallas suffered its first loss of the season. Tyler Seguin had a goal and three assists to lead the Stars. Alexander Radulov also scored and had two assists.

### JETS 2, KINGS 1

Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor each scored goals, and goalie Connor Hellebuyck made 16 saves as Winnipeg won its home opener against Los Angeles. The Jets, who were the NHL's best home team last season, finishing with a 32-7-2 record at Bell MTS Place, held the Kings to just 17 shots on goal. Ilya Kovalchuk scored a first-period goal for the Kings, his first NHL tally since April 25, 2013, after returning to the league following a stint in Russia.

### FLAMES 3, PREDATORS 0

Sean Monahan scored two goals, Johnny Gaudreau had three assists and Mike Smith posted his 37th career shutout as Calgary spoiled Nashville's home opener. Elias Lindholm also scored for the Flames, who have amassed 10 goals while winning their last two games after a season-opening loss. Monahan has four goals this season, Lindholm has three and Gaudreau has six assists. Smith made 43 saves, including 21 in the second period when the Flames killed off two power plays, one when the Predators had a 5-on-3 advantage for the full two minutes.

### SHARKS 8, FLYERS 2

Joe Pavelski and Evander Kane scored two goals apiece, and San Jose easily rolled to ruin Philadelphia's home opener.

The Sharks also got tallies from Logan Couture, Tomas Hertl, Timo Meier and Barclay Goodrow. Kevin Labanc contributed a career-high four assists for the Sharks, who looked sharp without Joe Thornton. The veteran center is on injured reserve for at least a week due to swelling in his right knee. —Reuters

## Sports

# Giants, Eagles aim to get back on winning track

## Defending champion Eagles have lost three of four since winning the opener

**NEW YORK:** Through five weeks, the season hasn't gone as planned for the Philadelphia Eagles and New York Giants, who are each riding two-game losing streaks. At 2-3, the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles have lost three of four since winning the opener, and their offense has yet to click despite the return of starting quarterback Carson Wentz.

The Giants (1-4) have had their own issues on offense (just ask Odell Beckham Jr.), though they topped 30 points on Sunday for the first time since the end of 2015. Despite the poor starts, both teams remain in workable position in the struggling NFC East entering their tonight meeting at East Rutherford, N.J. All four teams in the division, including the 2-2 Washington Redskins and the 2-3 Dallas Cowboys, lost in Week 5.

"None of it matters if we don't go out and win," Giants nose tackle Damon Harrison said Tuesday. "No matter what the other teams in the division are doing, we still have to handle our business." New York nearly did so last week, but Carolina Panthers kicker Graham Gano snuck a 63-yard field goal through the uprights as time expired. The crushing 33-31 loss left the Giants more excited than normal to play on a short week, embracing the opportunity to wash the bad taste out of their mouths.

"This probably would be the first time where I would ever not be upset about the turnaround," Beckham said of playing Thursday night. "Coming off a tough loss like that, you just want to get back out there."

On the other side, coach Doug Pederson sees an opportunity for the Eagles to stem the tide and regain

the attitude they had during their magical 2017 season. Like his approach as a play-caller, Pederson wants his team to remain aggressive amid the setbacks.

"When you lose a couple of games, you tend to sort of crawl back into a shell just a little bit," he said. "That's the wrong mentality. Our mentality is that we're going to continue to grow, full steam ahead, continue to grow as a team, collectively as a group and try to get that swagger back."

That will be easier said than done today. While traveling on a short week, Philadelphia will be without one of its top playmakers. Running back Jay Ajayi was lost for the season after sustaining a torn ACL in the Eagles' 23-21 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

Soothing matters somewhat is the expected return of Corey Clement, who has battled a quad injury, but Darren Sproles remains out with a hamstring issue that has sidelined him since Week 1. "I feel terrible for him," Wentz said of Ajayi. "I know what it's like, obviously he's been there, too. ... I feel like we've still got a stable of workhorses there (at running back), but yeah, it's tough losing Jay."

Defensive Derek Barnett (shoulder) should join Clement in returning after he was a full participant in practice Tuesday. Defensive tackle Haloti Ngata (calf) and safety Corey Graham (hamstring) missed Tuesday's session.

Meanwhile, the Giants could be getting reinforcements on both sides of the ball. Coach Pat Shurmur said he hopes tight end Evan Engram (knee) and defensive end Olivier Vernon (ankle) can play after practicing on



**CHARLOTTE:** File photo shows Saquon Barkley #26 of the New York Giants scores a touchdown late in the fourth quarter against the Carolina Panthers during their game at Bank of America Stadium on October 7, 2018 in Charlotte, North Carolina. — AFP

a limited basis this week. Engram missed the past two games, while Vernon has yet to play this year.

New York waived 2015 first-round pick Erick Flowers and promoted Brian Mihalik from the practice

squad on Tuesday to serve as the swing tackle. Kicker Aldrick Rosas is battling a right (kicking) quad issue, so Marshall Koehn was signed to the practice squad as insurance. — Reuters

## Belgium raids soccer clubs over fraud, match-fixing

**BRUSSELS:** Belgian police raided soccer clubs across the country yesterday and detained the coach of champions Club Brugge, two top agents and others for questioning about financial fraud and possible match-fixing.

Police carried out a total of 44 searches at leading Belgian clubs and residences, federal prosecutors said in a statement. A further 13 raids also took place in France, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia.

Belgium's "Big Three" clubs—Anderlecht of Brussels, Standard Liege and Brugge—all confirmed their premises had been searched. Brugge said their Croatian coach Ivan Leko was also taken in for questioning. The club are competing in the Champions League against Atletico Madrid, Monaco and Borussia Dortmund.

The raids and arrests, which top-selling Belgian newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws said had shaken Belgian football to its core, come just three months after the country reached the World Cup semi-finals.

That success was achieved with a squad largely nurtured as teenagers in the local Jupiler Pro League

before their Belgian clubs transferred them for substantial profits to bigger name outfits in England, France, Italy and Germany.

Investigators were also questioning leading soccer agents Mogi Bayat and Dejan Veljkovic, as well as a former general manager of Anderlecht, Herman Van Holsbeeck, and two referees, judicial sources said. Other clubs raided included current league leaders Racing Genk and 2014-2015 champions KAA Gent. "A large number of people have been deprived of their liberty and taken in for a thorough interrogation," the prosecutors said, adding that a judge would later decide who should be held in custody or formally arrested.

Prosecutors said the searches were related to an investigation launched at the end of 2017 into suspect financial transactions in the top Belgian league, with possible charges of criminal organisation, money laundering and corruption.

Some agents were suspected of hiding commissions on transfers, players' pay and other payments from the Belgian authorities, the prosecutors said. "During the investigation there were indications of possible influencing of matches in the 2017-2018 season," the prosecutors said.

Some of the house searches were carried out at the homes of club directors, soccer agents, referees, a former lawyer, a trainer, journalists and at an accountancy office. The searches abroad were chiefly at offices and residences of people used to set up the suspect transactions, the prosecutors said. — Reuters



File photo shows Usain Bolt playing in a charity soccer match in June.

## Bolt looking to his first football start in Sydney

**SYDNEY:** Sprint superstar Usain Bolt looks set to make his first start as a professional footballer tomorrow, a challenge he said could determine if he has a future in the sport of his boyhood dreams. Bolt said the coach of his Central Coast Mariners, Mike Mulvey, had indicated he would be in the starting line-up in a friendly against Macarthur South West United in Sydney. "For me, that's always a good step, when the coach is satisfied with your fitness to put you in the starting line-up—that's always a big step," Bolt told Mariners' club media yesterday. "I am just happy to get the chance and go out there and start, and do my best because that is the key thing."

The eight-time Olympic champion made his footballing debut in late August in a 20-minute cameo as a substitute on

the left wing, nearly scoring but tiring quickly. Bolt said he had improved his fitness since, and expected to spend more time up front.

"My movement and my touch is much better now," he said. "I've learnt how to set my body and where to place the ball." The A-League has been struggling in recent years with fewer fans and dwindling TV ratings, with football chiefs hoping the arrival of big names like Bolt will boost local interest.

The 100m world record holder said he expected some nerves when out on the pitch, but was excited by the opportunity to prove his worth as a footballer. "This will be a big game. I think it will determine if the club makes up its mind on what to do with my career. So for me it's a very important game," he said. "I'm looking forward to prove myself." — AFP

## Africa Cup offers Salah chance to regain scoring touch

**JOHANNESBURG:** Liverpool star Mohamed Salah gets a chance to rediscover his scoring touch when he plays for Egypt against eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) in the Africa Cup of Nations this week. After notching 44 goals for the English Premier League club in all competitions last season, the 26-year-old has managed only three this season, and just one in eight games since August.

When Salah last played for his country, he scored twice and missed two penalties as the record seven-time African champions romped to a 6-0 win over Niger during September. Niger are ranked 105 in the world — 31 places above eSwatini—so Egypt can realistically hope to score goals this Friday at the Al Salam Stadium in Cairo.

Salah is the pride of Egypt having won the best goal and finished third in the best player category behind Luka Modric and Cristiano Ronaldo at the recent FIFA awards. He is also among 30 contenders for the Ballon d'Or prize bestowed annually by France Football magazine.

His recent scarcity of goals for Liverpool, and being substituted in a match at Chelsea, has drawn sympathy from Egyptian pundits. "Salah must not look back at last season, whether it was his goal scoring or his exceptional form," said Islam el-Shater in Al-Masry Al-Youm.

"He must do what his manager (Jurgen Klopp) asks of him so that he does not lose his starting place." Another columnist in that newspaper, Mohammed el-Bourmy, wrote: "Salah is being compared to Ronaldo and Messi and some possibly believed he could score 40 to 50 goals every season."

"He is not required to do that, but rather to have a good season with 20 goals to his name and enjoy himself." Leading football commentator Hassan el-Mistekawi noted that "the Salah smile is missing since the start of the season because of the pressure he is under to score".

While Egypt can boast of Salah, eSwatini have a caretaker coach and no stars with the squad comprised of locals and a sprinkling of players with South African second-tier clubs.

The countries will meet twice during the Cup of Nations window with the return match next Tuesday in Manzini, where the southern African nation lost 2-0 to Tunisia last month. Tunisia tackle Niger, whose squad have been complaining of a "beans-and-water" diet and unpaid bonuses, and must believe they can collect maximum points to stay top of Group J. Struggling Gabon must have been encouraged by the two goals Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored for Arsenal against Fulham as they begin life under new coach Daniel Cousin. The Panthers have failed to spark in Group C—losing away to Mali and being held at home by Burundi—and need two wins over point-less South Sudan to get back into contention.

Other Premier League stars set to feature include two team-mates of Salah at Liverpool—Sadio Mane of Senegal and Naby Keita of Guinea. Senegal tackle Group A strugglers Sudan and will expect three points in Dakar and at least one from the return match in Khartoum, where sauna-like conditions present a challenge.

Guinea share with Mali, Mauritania and Tunisia the distinction of having perfect records after two match-days and should remain Group H leaders by beating Rwanda in Conakry. Ivory Coast are playing catch-up in the same section after a shock home loss to the Guineans and hope several Premier League players can help them overcome the Central African Republic.

Eric Bailly of Manchester United will anchor the defence, Jean Michael Seri of Fulham is a midfield option, and Wilfried Zaha of Crystal Palace offers pace in attack. There are 48 fixtures spread over seven days, although doubts surround those between Ghana and Sierra Leone in Kumasi this Thursday and in Freetown next Monday. — AFP

## Wales ready to test Spain despite missing Bale

**CARDIFF:** Spain will not have to face Gareth Bale in today's glamour friendly, but Wales striker Sam Vokes insists the Real Madrid star's absence will not mean an easy ride for the visitors in Cardiff.

Bale has been struggling with a groin injury and aggravated the problem during Real's defeat at Alaves on Saturday. The 29-year-old also missed Real's Champions League defeat at CSKA Moscow last week and sat out Wales' training session when he arrived for international duty on Monday.

Given his links with both countries, Bale should have relished playing against Spain, who feature several of his Real teammates, in the first meeting between the teams since 1985. But manager Ryan Giggs is hoping the country's record goalscorer will be fit for the more significant Nations League tie against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on October 16.

Gareth has got a little bit of muscle fatigue and he won't be involved against Spain," said Giggs. "We don't want to take any risks and we are monitoring it every day. I would say he is 50-50 at the minute for the Ireland game."

Even with Bale on the sidelines, Burnley's Vokes is certain Wales will show they are more than a one-man band. "Gareth is massive for us, but we've got a lot of players playing at top level now," Vokes said.

"They are playing regularly as well and that can only help us. If there are players missing there are others

ready to step in." Vokes' confidence is built on the foundations laid by Giggs since he succeeded Chris Coleman as Wales manager in January.

Wales produced one of their best performances in recent years when they thrashed the Republic of Ireland 4-1 in their Nations League opener last month. Their second taste of the competition, a 2-0 defeat in Denmark three days later, was not so productive for former Manchester United winger Giggs, who has won two and drawn one of his five matches.

But Giggs' tenure, notable for his use of emerging young talent, has already sparked enough enthusiasm to convince Welsh FA chiefs to schedule the Spain fixture for the 74,500-capacity Principality Stadium—their first appearance there since 2011.

"It helps that I inherited a great squad spirit-wise and regarding how the lads get on," Giggs said. "Obviously, I'm different from the previous manager, I've got my own ways and my own thoughts about how I want to play and work."

"But the players have been really good and are taking all the information on board." Since their shock World Cup exit against Russia, Spain have got back on track in the Nations League with a 2-1 win against England and a 6-0 rout of World Cup finalists Croatia.

Spain's World Cup woes were triggered by Julen Lopetegui's sacking on the eve of the competition after revealing he would be taking over as Real boss. But new Spain manager Luis Enrique has steadied the ship, appearing unafraid to make big selection calls as he showed by once again leaving out Barcelona left-back Jordi Alba.

Spanish champions Barca are represented by only one player, Sergio Busquets, as Enrique preferred uncapped Wolves defender Jonny Otto to Alba. "Azpilicueta plays right-back, and Jonny can do it. That's why I've chosen these players," Enrique said.



Gareth Bale

"I'm not talking about those who are not here. It's not a taboo subject but I'm not going to talk about them." After facing Wales, Spain host England in Nations League action on October 15. "A friendly gives me the options to try things that I want. But the vital one is England," Enrique said. — AFP

**25** 'Get your own towels': Tennis rallies round ball kids after Verdasco spat



**26** Abbas's triple bring Pakistan closer to win over Australia



**27** Bolt looking to his first football start in Sydney



## Yankees eliminated by Red Sox in ALDS

Boston will host Houston in Game 1 on ALCS on Saturday



BOSTON: The Boston Red Sox celebrate after beating the New York Yankees by a score of 4-3 to win Game Four American League Division Series at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday in the Bronx borough of New York City. — AFP

**BOSTON:** Craig Kimbrel escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning, and the Boston Red Sox held on for a 4-3 victory over the host New York Yankees on Tuesday night to win an American League Division Series in four games.

The Red Sox advance to the AL Championship Series, where they will host Houston Astros in Game 1 on Saturday. Kimbrel created his mess with no outs by loading the bases on four-pitch walks to Aaron Judge and Luke Voit sandwiched around a single by Didi Gregorius. He allowed two runs by hitting Neil Walker in the foot with a pitch and allowing a sacrifice fly to Gary Sanchez to deep left.

Gleyber Torres' grounder to third ended the game. Torres hit a slow ground ball, and Eduardo Nunez fielded it. Nunez threw across the diamond to first baseman Steve Pearce, who stretched to make the catch.

The Red Sox began celebrating, but the Yankees challenged the initial call. After 63 seconds, the original

ruling was upheld, and Boston formally began celebrating to advance to its 11th ALCS and first since beating the Detroit Tigers in 2013.

"Super weird," Red Sox right fielder Mookie Betts said of the delayed ending. "I think we all kind of knew he was out. Once it was official, a sigh of relief, we finally made it."

The Red Sox carried a 4-1 lead into the ninth thanks to J.D. Martinez's sacrifice fly, run-scoring hits by Ian Kinsler and Nunez and a solo home run by Christian Vazquez. Rick Porcello (1-0) and three relievers preceded Kimbrel's high-wire act.

Moved back a day after throwing 15 pitches in the eighth inning of Game 1, Porcello displayed command of the strike zone most of the night. He held the Yankees to one run on four hits in five innings.

Boston scored three in the third off CC Sabathia (0-1), and it started with a sacrifice fly by Martinez. Kinsler made it 2-0 with a double over Brett Gardner's head in

left, and Nunez boosted the lead to 3-0 with a single to left. Those hits came a night after Brock Holt and Rafael Devers helped the Red Sox roll to a 16-1 rout in Game 3. Holt and Devers returned to the bench as Kinsler and Nunez re-entered the starting lineup.

The Red Sox made it 4-0 in the fourth when Vazquez lined a 2-1 fastball into the right field seats off Zach Britton. Matt Barnes got two groundouts in a scoreless sixth, Ryan Brasier pitched a perfect seventh, and Chris Sale ended a scoreless eighth by striking out Aaron Hicks.

In possibly his final start of a 10-year run with the Yankees, Sabathia allowed three runs on five hits in three innings. Sabathia had issues with the strike zone of plate umpire issues Angel Hernandez.

"He shouldn't be doing these playoff games," the veteran lefty said. "He's bad. I don't know why he's doing these games."

Boston recorded its fourth straight postseason win

in New York. Since losing Game 2 of the 2004 ALCS, the Red Sox have outscored the Yankees 34-9 in postseason games in the Bronx.

"We're a complete team, and we count on everybody to win games," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "The last two games, if you think about it, it was fun to watch." Before the media entered the celebrating visitors' clubhouse, the Red Sox tweaked their rivals by blaring "New York, New York."

The Yankees won 100 regular-season games this year for the first time since 2009, but they failed to match their postseason result of a year ago, when they lost the ALCS in seven games to the Astros.

"Anytime you win 100 games in a year, you got to feel pretty proud about that," New York infielder Neil Walker said. "In the end, the other team, especially a team in your own division, played really well for 162 games and took care of business from day one to today." — Reuters

## 2026 World Cup could lead to combined north American league

**LONDON:** A combined north American soccer league between Canada, Mexico and the United States could be the main legacy of the 2026 World Cup hosted by those nations, the president of the Mexican top-flight division Enrique Bonilla said yesterday.

The 'United 2026' bid beat Morocco in the vote at FIFA's Congress in June to host the first 48-team World Cup. Although the majority of venues are proposed to be in the US, it is Mexican teams who have dominated on the continent, winning all 10 editions of the CONCACAF Champions League.

Liga MX also remains the most watched soccer league in the US and attracts average crowds of more than 26,500. However, revenues for global TV rights and sponsorship across north America pale in comparison to the top leagues of Europe. Bonilla believes that is something that could be changed with a new combined continental top-flight division.

"It's a possibility, a North American league. We have to determine how and see the pros and cons but I think that's a way to grow and to compete again," Bonilla told reporters at the Leaders summit at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium.

"If we can make a World Cup then we can make a north American league or a north American cup. The main idea is that we have to grow together to compete. If not, there is only going to be the rich guys in Europe and the rest of the world."

"We think this opportunity with the World Cup in 2026 opens the door for us to make a lot of things different and better," he added.

### CAMPEONES CUP

Earlier this year, the MLS in the US and Liga MX launched a partnership which included the introduction of the Campeones Cup, a match between the winners of each respective leagues. The inaugural edition was played at the end of last month at Toronto FC who lost 3-1 to Mexico's Tigres UANL.

Plans have also been discussed to play an All-Star game between the two leagues. Despite plenty of leading

clubs from Europe boosting their profile with transatlantic pre-season tours, Bonilla said that distances and a lack of resources made trips in the other direction more challenging for Mexican clubs.

"We need to get out of our region... We have to go out more. The problem that we have is distance. Coming to Europe is quite difficult for our teams in getting there, and going down to South America is a long way also," he said.

"So, it's quite difficult and what we have to do is we have to join forces with the MLS to get stronger together and then we can think of competing with Europe. "Then we can have a strong market that can give us the resources to compete with the big financial market that is Europe."

The 2018-19 Liga MX regular season, the Apertura, is about to enter its closing stages. Defending champions Santos Laguna are third behind Club America on goal difference, with both teams trailing leaders Cruz Azul by two points. — Reuters