

# Friday Times

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## Local

## TIME Person of the Year: #Metoo



IN MY VIEW

By Priyanka Saligram

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The #Metoo Movement kicked off in the US and has now empowered women all across the world to step up and shame their harassers. Thanks to a certain Mr Weinstein (who even my grandmother knows now and wishes dead), the skeletons are tumbling out of the closet and it's high time actually. In India, it was flagged off by a Bollywood starlet who accused an actor of sexually harassing her on sets and funnily, he got ample support from online trolls who pledged their loyalty to him since he has apparently helped farmers and given much to charity. I personally found this hilarious but not in a funny way.

More and more women are coming forward to speak of their experiences, which is a first in a traditional society that lays unbelievable emphasis on family dignity and expects victims to just "forget that it happened and move on".

Rape is the most heinous crime and I place it higher than even murder. At least the dead rest in peace whereas a rape victim languishes and faces living hell every day on every level: physical, mental, emotional, psychological and even societal. It's a fate I don't wish upon my worst enemy and I truly believe that death for the perp is the only satisfactory punishment, if not doing away with their offending organ.

There seems to be a sickening trend of infants being raped and casually murdered like it's the most normal thing and anyone with a daughter will understand what a peace-of-mind-

killer it is. Reading each woman's personal account makes me feel nauseous-especially when I know that the survivor is losing sleep and battling intense PTSD while their attacker is blissfully roaming free and in likelihood, eyeing his next potential victim.

People who blame women for "asking for it" through their clothes crack me up the most. It's very easy to blame necklines and hemlines because it almost justifies the crime and absolves the audience of any moral responsibility or standing. But how would you explain why a 10-month-old infant got brutally raped? Perhaps she was "asking for it" by crawling around in seductive Pampers? Or what about someone covered from head to toe in an abaya? Maybe they "asked for it" since black is such a sexy colour? What about the case of the pregnant goat that was gang-raped by eight men and left to die in some remote corner of India? Guess it was certainly "asking for it" since it wasn't wearing any clothes at all.

The fact that there are truly deranged men in urgent need of a taser between their legs, running free in the guise of normal, civil beings is scary enough without women sometimes unknowingly courting trouble. Every time I read a #Metoo story which included the narrative of "I was at a party and after one too many drinks, everything was blurry...", I wanted to facepalm. When women who are perfectly in their senses and firing on all cylinders are harassed in the most obscene ways without a second thought, I can't even begin to imagine the fate of an inebriated woman. It's almost like we're setting up our own crime scene. What can you expect when you slash your own wrists and go swimming in shark-infested waters? Partying is cool and



everyone does it but downing liquor and losing a sense of surroundings and total control is not. It's the perfect recipe for disaster and one which would strip you off any sympathy and empathy from even family and friends - not to mention the ones sitting in judgement on their moral high horses and the ubiquitous slut-shamers.

I'm a new mom myself and have a precious 18-month-old baby girl who keeps me up most nights - not on diaper duty - but with worry as I watch the world helplessly, going from bad to worse. On most days, I change the channel on TV when there's a fresh story of assault and turn the newspaper pages quickly from the Front Page to the comic section because it just sets me up for another long night of worrying and praying. Apart from enrolling her in self-defence classes when the time is right, I also think hard and deep about what I want her to learn when she steps outside into the jungle we're living in. First things first: Don't invite trouble by doing something stupid where you're not in perfect control of your senses and muscles at all times - which simply translates to no alcohol or falling asleep carelessly in public transportation. Second: If someone acts fresh or tries to overpower you, feel free - rather consider it mandatory - to make a noise, kick hard where it hurts and escape to safety. You owe it to yourself and no court in the world will convict you for an act of self-defense.

It's indeed unfortunate and almost tragic that we live in times where serial sexual predators are voted into the highest possible office. This only teaches boys that they can get away with any form of gross misbehaviour and still be lauded and achieve whatever it takes to be a success. So the onus is on us to teach our daughters to be solely responsible for their safety and security and not expect the laws of the land to really be their knight in shining armour when things go wrong.

If only Hammurabi's Code of 'An eye for an eye' was an incorporated law. Then justice would have truly been blind.

## No pay, no hello!



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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I read an interesting report last week that brought back a lot of memories from the past. The ministry of communications called on all users of landlines to pay their bills, otherwise an automated system will start disconnections. The ministry will send a warning message on Sunday, Oct 14 to subscribers, followed by a second warning message on the 20th.


The ministry said after the second warning message, it will start to cut the service of those who fail to pay from Oct 28. The ministry noted that the maximum limit is KD 50 for residential lines and KD 100 for commercial phones. Those who are paying their bills in monthly installments will also face disconnections in the event of a delay in payment. Service will also be cut of postpaid subscribers for a period of six months or more for non-Kuwaitis and for Kuwaitis in the commercial category.

I guess the warning is crystal clear. Yet I honestly feel that landlines have been abandoned in most homes these days. I think 10 years ago, it was the favorite of everyone, but with the proliferation of mobile phones everywhere, it has been forgotten, making it a device that complains of isolation and no one sees it as a quick means of communication. Perhaps most landlines are now used by the elderly because of the difficulty of dealing with modern technology. But it still exists strongly in government departments.

I also think that revenues from landlines may be an important source of income for the state, especially since government agencies cannot do without it. We all know that the landline went through a difficult period with the spread of the mobile phone, but when the ministry announced years ago that all calls from landlines to mobile will be free of charge, it regained its position.

I prefer the mobile phone for many reasons. It provides details that everyone needs in record time, as I do not remember the majority of the numbers of my colleagues and family members. Also, it has all social media links and there is no doubt that these modern technologies are helping people stay in touch with their relatives and loved ones, regardless of the distances, and help in communicating easily. For mothers, mobile phones are important to stay connected with children and teenagers wherever they go. If you have poor memory, you can save the contact details of everyone, unlike the old phone which required a phonebook.

I know that there are many things that have been marginalized by technology. These are not limited to the home phone, but include cameras and radios, for example. I believe technology today has made communication easier and faster, and everything is available without effort. I think the ministry has become fully aware of this, because it added that it is possible for the public to pay their bills via the ministry's website. So whoever hasn't paid their bills, if you don't want to lose the sound of "hello", proceed to pay your dues.



### Press release announcing Chaillot Prize 2018

The European Union Delegation in Riyadh announces the launch of the tenth Edition of the Chaillot Prize for the Promotion of Human Rights in the GCC Region. The Prize is awarded in close cooperation with Embassies of European Union Member States, it honours local civil society organisations, public or private institutions as well as individuals for their efforts in promoting general awareness of human rights and the rights of vulnerable groups in the GCC region

In 2018, the Chaillot Prize will be awarded to applicants from the Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Qatar, State of Kuwait, Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates for actions, campaigns/projects launched (or in progress) after the 1st of January 2018, as well as lifetime achievements

In 2017, the Chaillot Prize went to Glowork in Saudi Arabia in recognition of its important and constructive ground breaking work to increase female employment. The deadline for submitting applications for this year's edition is **8 November, 2018**. The Prize Winner will be determined by the European Union Delegation in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi in close co-operation with the Embassies of European Union Member States accredited to the GCC countries. An awarding ceremony will to mark the adoption be organised in December 2018 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly, on the 10th of December 1948, at the Palais de Chaillot, in Paris

Interested candidates are invited to refer to the Award Rules and Procedures and the Application Form published on

[/https://ec.europa.eu/delegations/saudi-arabia](https://ec.europa.eu/delegations/saudi-arabia)

For questions and clarifications, applicants may call on + 966 11 4827057 or write to DELEGATION-SAUDI-ARABIA-HUMAN-RIGHTS@ec.europa.eu

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# 1st



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# Icons of the Khaleeji past

Darb Al-Zalag commemorated by Saudi artist

By Jeri Al-Jeri

**A** Saudi artist has turned the walls of his motel into a canvas for his brush and black paint. Believing that art should be both beautiful and meaningful, he took it upon himself to paint scenes of a very popular classic Kuwaiti TV show “Darb Al-Zalag”, which is the Khaleeji equivalent of “Seinfeld” in the US. He is a determined artist “addicted” - as he described it - to the cozy and comedic world of Darb Al-Zalag, and believes it to be more than just a regular TV hit.

## Local

The show aired its first episode in 1977, and its depiction of the Arabian Gulf's transformation from mud houses and wooden ships to air-conditioned offices and modern vehicles won viewers' love and appreciation. The superb writing by its director Hamdi Farid only mirrored what was happening exactly in Kuwaiti households during the surge of wealth that started to overwhelm their traditions and psyches. Illiterate parents with educated sons jumping into philanthropy, trying different occupations and messing it all up because of their frustration of how overly complicated the government made everything - it was hilarious!

The show's main protagonist was played by Abdulhussain Abdulredha, who was a superstar in the entire Arab peninsula. The series is still an Internet hit today, because we miss the days that were "Darb Al-Zalag". (Darb Al-Zalag can be loosely translated to mean "the slippery road or path").

The awe and wonder of luxury we had; the simplicity of how people once lived! People from various GCC countries who were born in

the 1980s and 1990s, prior to this rush of Internet and "smart" everything technologies, still to this day feel the same kind of funny awkwardness between our humble way of life and this forced modernity.

Arif Al-Bahrani, the Saudi artist, wanted to capture just this! He knew that the best show that expressed such a concept was Darb Al-Zalag. This is who we really are without our sudden, temporary wealth.

**Kuwait Times: Do you think you will preserve this nostalgia with your artistic project?**

**Arif Al-Bahrani:** This is exactly why I chose the series' scenes to be all over my motel's walls - I thought about it being such an old series for youngsters to relate to, but I don't care. I want its message to stick in everyone's head!

**Kuwait Times: For how long is this show going to continue to be an icon of Khaleeji entertainment?**

**Arif:** As long as nobody is able to top its sin-

cerity in projecting to the people their raw everyday issues. All of the show's characters had honest attitudes that they never held back, and they spoke in the most authentic dialect possible!

**Kuwait Times: Isn't it a show that was exclusively Kuwaiti?**

**Arif:** Never - all of us [GCC people] have been in the same exact predicaments and circumstances, and dealt with this strange phase between wealth and poverty in the same funny way the show presented.



Arif Al-Bahrani



# Kuwait Times

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# Americans in Kuwait vote for midterms at embassy

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman yesterday led US citizens in Kuwait in casting ballots for the US midterm election. The election is slated for Nov 6, but overseas Americans can cast their votes until mid-October to allow for the delivery of the ballots to their respective states, cities and counties. The 'open house vote' lasted for four hours. US citizens who were unable to cast their ballots during the open house may still vote, provided they register and visit the FVAP.gov website. US citizens can also drop off their voter registrations and ballots at the embassy if they cannot send them by courier.

"We are here today to welcome US citizens - American voters - to cast their ballots for the midterm election. Americans all over the world, wherever they are, can vote for the person they trust to lead and be their senators, members of Congress, etc. The right to vote is similar to the right of every citizen to be heard, and we want to ensure that no American misses this opportunity to vote," Silverman told local reporters covering the event yesterday at the embassy.

There are around 45,000 US citizens in Kuwait, a majority of them US military personnel. "A majority of US citizens here are from the US military services, and the defense department has its ways to accommodate voting. But if they want to vote here, we welcome them," he said. Voting began at noon and ended at 4 pm.



**KUWAIT:** US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman casts his vote at the US Embassy yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Zayyat

## No laws in Kuwait prohibit anyone from marrying

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** No laws in Kuwait prohibit anyone from contracting a marriage, especially if a couple faces no legal obstacles. According to attorney Ahmed Al-Mutairi, a family lawyer and a former judge at the Palace of Justice, there is no distinction in Kuwaiti law whether you are an expat on an article 18 or 20 visa, or a Kuwaiti.

"There is no need for the sponsor's consent if you decide to get married. Kuwait has the same law for everyone," he said. "If you would like to solemnize your marriage, go directly to the Ahmadi or Riggae sharia/civil court with your documents. These two courts accept applications for civil marriage from people of any nationality," he added.

This applies to Muslims and non-Muslims - the latter though are subject to some additional legal requirements. Both the husband and wife should be present during the ceremony at the civil court in the presence of two witnesses. They must submit copies of the following documents - civil ID, passport and the copy of residency stamped in the

passport (for expats).

"The burden of application is usually in the hands of the men. They are legally allowed to apply for a marriage certificate if they are of legal age, without the need for the consent of the parents. However, he is required to bring two male witnesses, or two females and one male," Mutairi said.

Holders of article 20 visas don't need consent from their sponsors. "There is no need for consent - the law is clear. If you love each other and there is no legal obstacle to contract a marriage, you can marry. Males under sharia law can take four wives, so there should not be any hindrances for marrying. Of course, if you are a male and would like to contract another marriage, the first wife should agree to the marriage. If the first wife doesn't agree, it's grounds for divorce. The man can apply for a divorce, and after examining the circumstances, the court will grant him a divorce," he said.

Despite the law, many expats who marry are hounded by their sponsors. "There are cases filed by employers, but most of them are dismissed because the ruling is normally based on the laws of the land. If cases are filed, proper procedures are followed and eventually they are dismissed because there is no basis to hinder anyone from marrying if they are both of legal age," Mutairi said.

"The man will only face a problem if the other party (female) is forced to

marry him. If the woman accepts, then is no longer a legal impediment to the marriage. If the woman claims to have been raped, then a case will be lodged at the police station and the man will be punished. Appropriate penalties will be imposed and probably immediate deportation will follow," he said.

If the wife agrees to continue working as a housemaid, she should complete the remaining period of her work contract, but is allowed to go to her husband's place for marital duties. "She is allowed to work for eight hours in the house of her sponsor, and is free after that to go back to her husband. The law says she can work in the house from 7 am to 10 pm," Mutairi explained.

He reiterated respecting Kuwaiti laws is the key to staying in Kuwait free from all legal issues.

"Wherever you are in the world, you are subject to the governing rules and regulations of that particular country. Laws are implemented to maintain peace and harmony for everyone. If you disrespect the laws, a subsequent punishment is guaranteed. Do not challenge our laws and people in authority - they are required by law to protect the land and secure its safety and security. If you are a foreigner in Kuwait, follow the law of Kuwait, as we all desire to host you here safely and because we want you to return to your country happy. We want to preserve the morals and norms of Kuwait," Mutairi concluded.



Ahmed Al-Mutairi

## Local

## News in brief

## EPA: No oil spill in Kuwait Bay

**KUWAIT:** The Environment Public Authority (EPA) underlined no oil spills were detected in Kuwait Bay along beaches and coastlines near the Doha beach resort. After the circulation of social media reports about an oil spill, the EPA dispatched teams to survey the area. The endeavor, which involved satellite imaging and the surveying of the area, was carried out with the help of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. The surveys did not spot any oil spills in the area, it affirmed. Additionally, a separate survey conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Electricity and Water found no traces of oil at water station entrances and exits in the area. — KUNA

## Caution urged over cyclone

**MUSCAT:** Kuwaiti citizens in Oman have been advised against the impact of the incoming cyclone Luban. Kuwait's embassy in the sultanate, particularly in Dhofar, Al-Wasta and Salalah, to take precautions due to the cyclone. Cyclone Luban is expected to hit southern parts of Oman and Yemeni islands. The embassy is reachable on the phone numbers: 0096824699626, 0096824696095, 0096824696097 and 0096892870055. In May, Cyclone Mekunu killed at least 30 people in southern Oman and the Yemeni island of Socotra. — KUNA

## Leiden opens Babtain Centre

**BRUSSELS:** Kuwait's Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation, opened a center specialized in Arab culture at Leiden University of the Netherlands. This came during a ceremony held at the university on Wednesday, attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to the Netherlands Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi and a number of senior academics at the university and cultural and social figures. The center is a sign of cultural communication, as it eliminates the geopolitical boundaries and it is a move towards wider horizons of culture, General Secretary of the Foundation Abdulahman Al-Babtain said in a speech. Leiden University was founded in 1575 and is the oldest university in the Netherlands, and today it is one of the leading research universities in Europe. — KUNA

## Kuwait supports UN peacekeeping

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait reiterated support of the role of the United Nations in peacekeeping and maintaining international security and stability, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. Kuwait has seen positive developments within the peacekeeping domain, especially with the UN providing clear goals to ensure peace and stability in regions suffering from conflicts, member of the Kuwaiti permanent delegation to the UN headquarters in New York Ali Al-Yahya said during a UN session on peacekeeping. He added that the UN General Assembly resolutions on financing peacekeeping operations were a shared responsibility of all member states of the UN. This mutual act ensures the continuation of peacekeeping missions and enables personnel to carry on their missions to bring peace globally, affirmed the Kuwaiti diplomat. — KUNA

## Kuwait aspires to develop AIIB

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuwait, as a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), aspires to contribute to broadening its operations in the development sector, said the visiting Kuwaiti minister of finance. Nayef Al-Hajraf made the assertion during a meeting with the AIIB chairmanship delegation, as part of his activities during and on the margins of annual meetings by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), held on the Indonesian island of Bali. "We aspire to contribute to overhauling and expanding the bank in development spheres," the minister said during the meeting. Kuwait is willing to help with expertise of the Public Investment Authority (PIA) and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), he indicated. The Beijing-headquartered AIIB is the third largest investment bank in the world. — KUNA

# Kuwaitis working to minimize climate impact on agriculture

**VIENNA:** Kuwaiti researchers have taken part in scientific projects in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Austria, focusing on methods to develop agriculture in Kuwait despite climatic challenges. Dr Habiba Al-Mnai from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) indicated in an interview with KUNA that she and other Kuwaiti scientists had been involved in applying techniques to enhance the quality of fertilizer and using atomic processes for management of irrigation systems.

Kuwait largely depends on agricultural imports due to domestic climatic difficulties, namely high heat, scarcity of rain and infertile soil. These projects, she explains, aim to enhance agricultural production and minimize adverse impact of factors such as the harsh weather and high salinity in the sand on plant growth. Seeds have been brought from Kuwait and exposed to gamma radiation, she says, indicating that the work aims at extracting DNA from some shrubs as part of a bid to make plants withstand the harsh climate in Kuwait.

Abdullah Al-Shatti, another Kuwaiti scientist, presented a scientific project using nuclear applications to measure humidity in the soil and proportion of nitrogen to ration fertilizer consumption. Kuwait is partaking with 10 scientific projects with the IAEA for 2018-2019. Some of them are designed to ensure effective usage of water for crops, utilize underground water, monitor spread of toxic mushrooms as well as hazardous radiation. — KUNA



**VIENNA:** Kuwaiti researchers take part in scientific projects in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). — KUNA

## JACC hosts '80s seminar



**KUWAIT:** The Second 80s seminar opened at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center on Wednesday evening to shed light on an array of Kuwait TV productions dating from that golden era. Excerpts from TV dramas, programs, songs and ads screened during the opening session greatly appealed to the audience.

Director of the public relations department of the center Oth-

man Al-Jiran said the rich TV productions of the '80s reflect various aspects of the cultural, entertainment, artistic, religious and sports movements in Kuwait. The event continues for four days and tickets have been sold out, which signals the great appeal of the seminar, based on the success of the first edition of the seminar, Jiran said. — KUNA

## Kuwait affirms stand toward disarmament

**NEW YORK:** In light of the growing use of prohibited weapons in all their forms, Kuwait affirmed its stand towards all international calls related to weapon disarmament. This came during a speech delivered by the First Secretary of Kuwait's permanent delegation to the United Nations Meshari Al-Muzaini, during a session late Wednesday of the Security Council on disarmament and international security.

Muzaini mentioned that Kuwait has

signed and ratified many international agreements and treaties related to disarmament, such as Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons. Kuwait also ratified the Convention on Prohibition and destruction of Biological and Toxin Weapons, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and the additional protocol of the comprehensive safeguards agreements.

Muzaini stressed the importance of these treaties and conventions particularly those related to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The secretary pointed out the right of all States to de-

velop their research and possess nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in line with the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency. "Despite Kuwait commitment to international agreements, we are concerned of the continued failure of implementing terms of some treaties in this framework," he said.

Muzaini called on all member states to work on finding effective ways and means to overcome the growing challenges of international peace and security. "The establishment of a weapon free zone is one of the most important issues of Non-Proliferation Treaty. However, our region is far from achieving this objective with Israel's continued possession of these weapons and its violation of all international resolutions," Muzaini explained. — KUNA



## Local

# PART officials detail road projects on track

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Director General of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation Ahmad Al-Hassan said major road projects are progressing as planned and are on schedule. He added they are part of the development plan that will transform Kuwait into a financial and economic hub in the region. Two intersections on Al-Ghaos Road will be closed temporarily to install pedestrian bridges during the weekend, Hassan added.

The first closure, from 03:00 am until 07:00 am today, will be at the intersection between Al-Ghaos Road and 150 St. The second closure, tomorrow between 03:00 am and 07:00 am, will be at the intersection between Al-Ghaos Road and 208 Road, said Hassan, who indicated that the process is part of the KD 70.9 million Al-Ghaos Road development project. Hassan called on road users to abide by



traffic rules and be careful when traversing near the specified locations during the weekend.

Director of phase one of Salmiyah road development project Hussein Mirza said 12 percent of the project has been completed. Director of the development of the western part of the Fifth Ring Road project Sarah Al-Kandari said the project aims at increasing the road's efficiency and reduce the accident rate. She said the number of lanes will be increased to four in addition to the shoulders. She said the speed limit will be increased from 80 to 120 km/h. Kandari added the total length

of the road is 21.2 km including highways, service roads, four intersections and three flyovers.

Engineer Abdellatif Shamsah said the project has three stages - the first is the creation of two new intersections on the Fifth and Sixth Roads and linking them with Doha Spur, which was handed over in April. The second stage is between Sulaybiyah and Sulaybiyah on Fifth Ring Road with a 350 m flyover that is almost ready and will be handed over within two months. He said the third stage is a bridge over three intersections in Andalus, Ardhiya, Ferdous and Nahda spanning 2.7 km, which will be completed in Jan 2020.

Deputy engineer of the western part of the Fifth Ring Road project Mohammad Murad said a new mix will be used for the first time in Kuwait. He said the project involves many services including water, power and phone lines and other essentials.

## Kuwait has taken tangible steps to diversify income

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti authorities have taken significant and tangible steps for diversifying income resources, through a comprehensive scheme based on increasing participation of the private sector in the domestic economy, the minister of commerce announced. Khaled Al-Roudhan made the announcement during the signing ceremony at the second meeting of the Kuwaiti-Sri Lankan Commission for Commercial and Technical Cooperation.

Roudhan lauded HH the Amir's guidelines to focus on economic development and find alternatives to income resources, as well as create jobs for the youth, according to the New Kuwait Vision 2035. He affirmed keenness on part of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority to develop private-public projects, support small and medium enterprises and improve the business environment to lure foreign entrepreneurs.

As to the joint commission works, he expressed aspiration to broaden cooperation with Sri Lanka, noting that trade exchanges between the two countries reached \$65 million in 2017. He indicated that talks during the committee meeting addressed obsta-



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Commerce Khaled Al-Rawdhan is seen during the signing ceremony. —KUNA

cles facing efforts to expand the cooperation between the two countries.

Sri Lankan Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdu Rishad Bathiudeen said it was the first commission meeting since 21 years - however, he noted that his country and Kuwait had maintained trade cooperation at other levels. The joint commission, founded in 1997, has contributed to enhancing mutual cooperation and commercial ties between the two sides. The Sri Lankan Minister lauded Kuwait's aid to his country, namely contributions to build 25 bridges. Meanwhile, Mesaab Al-Nisf, board member of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry, affirmed Kuwaiti entrepreneurs' desire to join hands with Sri Lankan counterparts. — KUNA

## 'Disabled' youth sues dad, medics

**KUWAIT:** An 18-year-old citizen filed a complaint against his father and some officials who helped his father get a certificate testifying that he was a mentally disabled child so that the father could collect monthly allowances from the public authority for the disabled. The young man accused his father of destroying his life, as he was branded as 'mentally retarded' and failed to get a job or be accepted for marriage. A case was filed and the father and all members of the medical committee that issued the certificate are being summoned for further investigations.

### Father 'beaten'

A senior citizen recently filed a complaint accusing his son of assaulting him, said security sources, noting that the father sub-

mitted a medical report of his injuries. On summoning the son, he confessed to having an argument with his father but strongly denied assaulting him. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

### Attempted suicide

An Arab woman was rushed to Adan Hospital in critical condition after she overdosed on some pills with the intention of committing suicide, said security sources. Case papers indicate that on returning home in Mahboula, her husband found her sprawled on the floor with a pack of medicine next to her. After being revived, she said she attempted suicide after her husband insisted on locking her up in the house and prevented her from even visiting her neighbors. A case was filed.

### Cig smuggling foiled

Custom inspectors at Nuwaiseeb exit border foiled a motorist's attempt to smuggle 100 cartons of cigarettes out of the country by hiding them in his vehicle's fuel tank and tyres. — Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai

## Girl freed from under car dies

**KUWAIT:** A rescue officer removed a girl who was run over and trapped under a vehicle in Khalidiya. Security sources said the girl was run over while crossing the road, and on arriving at the scene, firemen found the girl was still alive. She was rescued and handed to paramedics, but she died at the hospital.



### Fire meeting

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate acting director Maj Gen Khaled Yousif Al-Terkait opened an EU and GCC regional meeting held at the KFSD headquarters in Kuwait. The opening ceremony was attended by EU's head of the international cooperation department Oliver Louis, minister of state Olaf Olum, KFSD's deputy director for firefighting Maj Gen Jamal Al-Bulaihees and GCC Regional Secretariat chief Brig Hussein Al-Harhi.



### Kuwait-Turkey defense ties

As part of ongoing efforts to cement cooperation between security forces in Kuwait and Turkey, the interior ministry's assistant undersecretary for border security Maj Gen Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited Turkish security commander Maj Gen Abdullah Cojem in Ankara, where both sides discussed means of exchanging expertise and training.



### Blaze guts flat

A fire broke out yesterday in a Hawally building, said security sources, noting that firemen from Salmiya and Hawally rushed to the scene, where they found the fire in a third floor apartment. They immediately evacuated the entire building and dealt with the fire. No casualties were reported amongst the tenants, but three firemen were injured and treated onsite.



Malaysia to abolish the death penalty

## Fate of Saudi journalist tests US-Saudi ties



COLUMBIA: A fallen tree rests on a house after remnants of Hurricane Michael passed through Columbia, South Carolina. The accident sent at least one person to the hospital. — AFP

# Michael wreaks havoc in Florida

## Two killed; Homes and streets flooded

**PANAMA CITY:** Michael weakened to a tropical storm yesterday after wreaking havoc along Florida's Gulf Coast, flooding homes and streets, ripping away roofs and snapping trees and power lines as it roared ashore as a raging Category 4 hurricane. Two deaths were blamed on the hurricane—one in Florida and one in Georgia as the storm raced across the neighboring state, heading northeast. Florida officials said Michael, packing winds of 155 miles per hour, was the most powerful storm to hit the state's Panhandle area since record-keeping began more than a century ago. It was also one of the most powerful hurricanes ever to hit the United States.

Michael remained dangerous even though it weakened over the course of Wednesday afternoon and evening. Around midnight it was downgraded to a tropical storm as it barreled across central Georgia, still dumping torrential rain and packing 60 mph winds. These eased steadily overnight, to 50 mph just before dawn. On its current track the storm is headed for the Carolinas, where cities and towns are still recovering from Hurricane Florence last month.

In Florida, pictures and video from Mexico Beach—a community of about 1,000 people where Michael made landfall around midday

Wednesday—showed scenes of devastation, with houses floating in flooded streets, some ripped from their foundations and missing roofs. Roads were filled with piles of floating debris. After being battered for nearly three hours by strong winds and heavy rains, roads in Panama City were virtually impassable and trees, satellite dishes and traffic lights lay in the streets.

Nearly 370,000 people were left without power, mostly in Florida, but also Alabama and Georgia, news reports said. Briefing President Donald Trump at the White House, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) chief Brock Long said Michael was the most intense hurricane to strike the Florida Panhandle since record keeping began in 1851. "Along our coast, communities are going to see unimaginable devastation," Scott said, with storm surge posing the greatest danger. "Water will come miles in shore and could easily rise over the roofs of houses," he said.



### Hurricane weakens to a tropical storm

At a midterm election rally in Pennsylvania on Wednesday night, Trump offered his "thoughts and prayers" to those in the path of the storm and said he would be visiting Florida soon. "I'll be traveling to Florida very, very shortly and I just want to wish them all the best. Godspeed," Trump said. Hundreds of thousands of people were ordered to evacuate their homes and the governor told residents who had not done so to "hunker down and be careful." Ken Graham, director of the Miami-based National Hurricane Center, said Michael was "unfortunately, a historical and incredibly dangerous and life-threatening situation."

#### Just shy of Category 5

Olivia Smith, public information officer for the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, said there was one hurricane-related fatality, adding that the incident was "debris-related. There was a tree involved." Smith could not provide details on the victim. In Georgia, an 11-year-old girl died when a car port flipped

into the air by a gust of wind landed on her home, Travis Brooks, head of the emergency relief agency in Seminole County, told AFP. General Terrence O'Shaughnessy, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, said some Florida residents may have been surprised by the rapid growth of the storm.

"It really started as a tropical storm, and then it went to Category 1, then it was Category 2 and before you know it, it was Category 4," O'Shaughnessy said.

The NHC said tropical storm Michael will continue to move northeast toward the Carolinas—as of 0900 GMT the eye was in eastern Georgia—until it moves off the mid-Atlantic coast by early Friday. The agency warned of possible flash flooding yesterday in parts of Georgia, the Carolinas and southeastern Virginia because of heavy rains from Michael. Long, the head of FEMA, said many Florida buildings were not built to withstand a storm above the strength of a Category 3 hurricane on the five-level Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. As it came ashore, Michael was just shy of a Category 5 - defined as a storm packing top sustained wind speeds of 157 mph or above. —AFP

## International

# US and Turkey step up pressure over missing Saudi journalist

## Saudi Arabia urged to release footage of Khashoggi

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged Saudi Arabia to release footage of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and President Donald Trump demanded answers over his fate, as the kingdom faced growing pressure yesterday to provide a convincing explanation for his disappearance. The Washington Post, the daily to which Khashoggi was a contributor, added to the mystery by reporting Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had ordered an operation to “lure” the critical journalist back home. Khashoggi has not been seen since October 2 when he went to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to obtain official documents for his upcoming marriage. Turkish officials quoted in media have said he was killed but Riyadh denies that. The mystery has captivated the world but also threatens to harm brittle Turkish-Saudi relations and hurt efforts by the crown prince to improve the image of his country with a reform drive. Erdogan challenged Saudi Arabia to provide CCTV images to back up its version that Khashoggi had left the consulate safely, indicating he did not find the current Saudi explanations sufficient.

“Is it possible there were no camera systems in a consulate, in an embassy? Is it possible that there was no Saudi camera system where this incident took place?” Erdogan told Turkish reporters in comments published in newspapers. “If a bird flew, or a fly or a



### Trump demands answers

mosquito appeared, the systems would capture this; they (Saudi Arabia) have the most cutting-edge systems,” he was quoted as saying. The consulate said CCTV cameras were not working that day and dismissed the murder claims as “baseless”.

#### ‘Demanding everything’

The case is also threatening the strong relationship the Trump administration has built with Prince Mohammed, who wants to turn the oil-rich conservative kingdom into a hub for innovation and reform. The two sides have worked together on challenging

Iran despite growing concern over the prince’s campaign against dissidents, which critics say has shown up the true face of his rule. In a reversal from Washington’s initial low-key response, Trump demanded answers after he spoke to Saudi authorities “at the highest level”.

“We’re demanding everything. We want to see what’s going on there,” he said. Trump later told “Fox News at Night” that “it would not be a good thing at all” if Saudi involvement was proven. Khashoggi is a former government adviser who fled Saudi Arabia in September 2017 and lived in the US fearing arrest back home. In his columns for the Washington Post and comments elsewhere, Khashoggi was critical of some policies of Mohammed bin Salman as well as Riyadh’s role in the war in Yemen.

spokesman Ibrahim Kalin tells a news conference: “According to information we have this individual... is still at the consulate as of now”. The US State Department says it is investigating.

#### Saudi denial

On October 4, after an initial period of silence, Saudi Arabia says Khashoggi had disappeared “after he left the consulate building”. The Saudi ambassador is summoned to the Turkish foreign ministry. On October 5 Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman tells Bloomberg that Khashoggi is not inside the consulate and “we are ready to welcome the Turkish government to go and search our premises,” which is Saudi sovereign territory. Supporters rally outside the consulate holding up images of the journalist with the words “Free Jamal Khashoggi”.

#### Murdered in consulate?

On October 6 a government source says Turkish police believe Khashoggi, 59, was murdered inside the consulate. “Based on their initial findings, the police believe that the journalist was killed by a team especially sent to Istanbul and who left the same day,” the source tells AFP. Riyadh calls the claim as “baseless”.

#### Erdogan waits

On October 7 Turkey seeks permission to search Saudi Arabia’s consulate. Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, commenting for the first time, says he will wait for the outcome of the investigation before taking a decision. —AFP



ISTANBUL: This picture shows a Saudi Arabia flag behind a video surveillance camera at the backyard of the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul. —AFP

#### ‘Cannot remain silent’

While unnamed Turkish officials quoted in the media have been giving sometimes macabre details of the alleged murder, Erdogan has so far been more circumspect. He has said Saudi Arabia must prove its version of events but so far has stopped short of directly accusing the kingdom or laying the blame on the powerful crown prince. “It’s not possible for us to stay silent regarding an incident like this,” Erdogan said. He added that it would “not be right” to comment yet but said he had “concerns”. Ankara and Riyadh have worked over recent years to maintain

cordial relations despite disputes on key issues, such as the ousting of the Islamist Egyptian government and the blockade on Turkey’s key regional ally Qatar. Friends of Khashoggi told the Washington Post that for several months, senior Saudi officials were offering him protection, “even a high-level job working for the government” if the critic returned to the kingdom. Khashoggi was sceptical of such offers. Following the Washington Post report, State Department deputy spokesman Robert Palladino said the US “had no advanced knowledge of Jamal Khashoggi’s disappearance”. —AFP

## Saudi journalist’s disappearance

**ISTANBUL:** Veteran Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who has been critical of the government, went missing on October 2 after visiting the kingdom’s consulate in Istanbul. Turkish officials believe he was murdered inside the consulate. Riyadh vehemently denies the claim, saying he left the compound on his own. As pressure mounts on Riyadh, here is a timeline of what happened:

#### Enters Saudi consulate

At 1:14 pm on October 2, Khashoggi, a US resident, is recorded entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul by a surveillance camera picture published by the Washington Post. He was there to receive an official document for his upcoming marriage. His fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, accompanies him but waits outside.

#### Alarm raised

On October 3 the Washington Post, for whom Khashoggi writes opinion pieces, raises the alarm, saying Khashoggi has not been seen since he entered the consulate. “We have been unable to reach Jamal today and are very concerned about where he may be,” the Post’s international opinions editor Eli Lopez says in a statement. His fiancée camps out near barricades outside the Saudi consulate hoping for news. Turkish presidential

## Fate of Saudi journalist tests US-Saudi ties

**WASHINGTON:** Under pressure from Congress, the Trump administration faces a dilemma: how to respond to the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi while ensuring that any punitive action does not alienate Riyadh, a key ally against Iran. Leading senators have already made their displeasure clear with Saudi Arabia, with Senator Bob Corker telling Reuters, “You can’t go around killing journalists.” Saudi Arabia’s denials that it had any role in Khashoggi’s disappearance have fallen on deaf ears in Congress, with nearly a quarter of the Senate triggering a US investigation into the case.

US President Donald Trump, who forged close ties with Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman upon taking office, has also increasingly expressed frustration with the case. Harsh actions against one of Trump’s stalwart allies would be a sharp contrast with the administration’s relatively muted tone over the kingdom’s role in the war in Yemen and a crackdown on internal dissent.

Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, acknowledged the case - if Saudi responsibility is confirmed - could complicate the US strategy to contain Iran, in its bid to gain influence throughout the Middle East.

“It could affect multiple things that we’re working with them on that are very important,” Corker said on Wednesday, adding that the Senate’s relationship with Saudi Arabia was at a “very, very low point.” Riyadh already is facing a backlash in Congress where anger has been mounting over civilian casualties in the Saudi-led coalition’s campaign in Yemen. On Wednesday, a week after Khashoggi’s Oct 2 disappearance, the White House said that senior officials had spoken to the crown prince, referred to in shorthand as MbS, and Trump described the case as a “very serious situation.”

The outcry from lawmakers of both parties, including Republican allies of Trump, foreign policy analysts, former US officials and leading media commentators who knew Khashoggi, has intensified pressure on the White House to take a hard line. Khashoggi, who had been living in the United States for the past year, was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Khashoggi’s Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, waiting outside, said he never emerged and Turkish sources said they believe Khashoggi was killed inside the building, allegations that Riyadh dismisses as baseless. —Reuters

## International

# Lebanon oldest newspaper goes blank to protest political crisis

## A precious \$11-billion aid package at risk

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's oldest newspaper An-Nahar went out to newsstands completely blank yesterday to protest a political deadlock and economic woes in the tiny Mediterranean country. Despite more than five months of wrangling, premier-designate Saad Hariri has been unable to form a new government, putting a precious \$11-billion aid package at risk. An-Nahar, which was founded in 1933, published eight blank pages in print and linkless white boxes on its main page online, posting headlines but no news items. "People are tired and An-Nahar is tired of writing up your pretexts and repeated empty promises," editor-in-chief Nayla al-Tuani said at a press conference in Beirut. "God knows how long we will wait to see" a decision on a cabinet line-up, she said.



**Premier designate unable to form a new government**

A new government would be able to sign off on billions of dollars in aid pledged at a conference in April, notably to help boost the coun-

try's ailing infrastructure. But political parties in the small multi-confessional country have been locked in dispute over the makeup of a future cabinet. "The situation is no longer bearable," Tuani said, adding, however, that the newspaper was not taking sides in the ongoing wrangling. The blank issue aimed to express "our deep moral sense of responsibility as a press institution over the disastrous state of the country", she said.

Economic growth in Lebanon has plummeted in the wake of a series of political crises, compounded by the war since 2011 in neighboring Syria. An-Nahar has faced financial difficulties in recent years, while other landmark newspapers have shuttered. Successive governments in Lebanon have been unable to address a waste management crisis, or improve an electricity grid that causes daily power cuts. In recent days, Lebanese have complained of wastewater arriv-



BYBLOS, Lebanon: Blank copies of Lebanon's leading newspaper An-Nahar are displayed on a newspaper stand outside a bookstore in the coastal Lebanese port city of Byblos, north of Beirut yesterday. —AFP

ing in their taps at home, with activists sharing images on social media of vegetables soaking in murky water. The tiny country, which weathered

its own civil war from 1975 to 1990, has a multi-confessional system of government that seeks to represent all religious sects. —AFP

## Can Saudi Arabia be considered 'francophone'?

**PARIS:** It might seem absurd to question whether Saudi Arabia can be considered francophone, but the world's club of French-speaking countries will take up the matter at a meeting that opened yesterday in Armenia. The Arabic-speaking kingdom is not expected to be admitted as a full member of the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF), but it will probably be granted "observer" status.

Still the debate is set to highlight one of the biggest challenges for the 54-strong OIF grouping as it looks to expand its influence by admitting new members - at the risk of diluting its identity and losing sight of its original mission. It has already admitted Moldova in eastern Europe, where francophones account for 2.0 percent of the population, as well as Egypt (3.0 percent francophone) or Bulgaria as full members, while Ukraine and Uruguay have been given observer status. Ireland too has applied for observer status which is set to be considered at the two-day meeting under way in the Armenian capital Yerevan.

"The OIF is running a real risk of losing its cohesion," Pierre-Andre Wiltzer, a former French minister responsible for "Francophonie" who is one of a growing group of critics, told AFP. Such worries are set to be compounded by the naming of a new head of the organization at the summit in Armenia on Thursday and

Friday with Rwanda's foreign minister, Louise Mushikiwabo, tipped for the role. Rwanda recently dropped French from its constitution in favor of English — and Rwandan President Paul Kagame spoke English when announcing his minister's candidacy for the job during a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in May.

### African effect

The membership list and leadership of the OIF also raises questions about what the organization should strive to achieve. It held its first summit in 1986 to strengthen ties among then 40 French-speaking members, with the group modelled along the lines of the Commonwealth club which brings together the former territories of the British empire. "Over time the OIF has looked to all sorts of matters which it can hardly influence", such as the search for peace, sustainable growth, or the defense of human rights, Wiltzer said.

Macron, like his predecessors, is keen to support the organization, seeing the OIF as a means of spreading influence and promoting French as a global language, which he has stated as one of his goals. On a visit to the west African country of Burkina Faso last year, Macron appealed to Africans to resist the lure of English and make French "the first language in Africa and maybe even the world in the coming decades". Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, a junior minister in charge of Francophonie in Macron's government, recently told RFI radio that he wanted the organization to "concentrate on the core of its mission which is language and culture." "What we've seen recently is perhaps a scattering effect." —AFP

## US student challenges Israeli entry ban in court

**TEL AVIV:** A US student banned from entering Israel for allegedly having supported a pro-Palestinian boycott of the country appeared in court yesterday to challenge the decision. It is the latest in a series of cases drawing criticism of an Israeli law barring boycott supporters that opponents say violates freedom of expression. Israeli authorities have also come under criticism in recent months over what some have seen as the politically motivated questioning of certain foreigners seeking to enter the country. Lara Alqasem, 22, arrived at Israel's Ben-Gurion airport on October 2 to study for a master's degree at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, but was not allowed to enter despite having a visa.

She has been held at an immigration facility, choosing to challenge the entry ban rather than fly back to the United States. Her lawyers defended her at a hearing in Tel Aviv district court yesterday, saying the government had no grounds for barring her. "She was accepted by the university, got a visa from the ministry of interior," said lawyer Yotam Ben Hilel. "Now she is barred on the basis of searches in Google in which they found scraps of information she may or may not have said and an organization she may or may not be linked to."

The hearing was adjourned with the judge saying he would inform the lawyers of his decision later. In March 2017, Israel's parliament passed a law banning the entry of supporters of the pro-

Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, inspired by measures against South Africa before the fall of apartheid. Alqasem, reportedly of Palestinian descent, is said to have been president of a chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine while an undergraduate student at the University of Florida. The group has supported boycott campaigns against Israel.

### US weighs in

Alqasem has reportedly said she has distanced herself from the movement, and supporters point to her willingness to enter Israel to study as proof. Israeli media has quoted her mother, Karen Alqasem, as saying that she had enrolled for a one-year master's course in human rights at Hebrew University. The university has called on the authorities to allow her in to study, while professors from the University of Florida have also supported her.

A professor of Jewish language and culture who taught Alqasem in Florida wrote in a letter to the editor to Israeli newspaper Haaretz that she was "an outstanding student, curious, with an open mind". Dror Abend-David added that she was "someone who very much wanted to study international relations in Israel to develop her own opinion on the conflict." The United States said Wednesday it supports freedom of expression and that its embassy in Jerusalem was offering Alqasem consular assistance.

"As a general principle, we value freedom of expression even in cases where we don't agree with the political views expressed and this is such a case," State Department spokesman Robert Palladino told reporters. "Our strong opposition to the boycotts and sanctions of the state of Israel is well-known." But he added: "Israel is a sovereign nation that can determine who enters." Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan has said that he would consider allowing Alqasem to take up her university place if she publicly denounces BDS. —AFP

# Plight of stranded Syrians worsens as food blocked

## Thousands of refugees face starvation

**AMMAN:** Thousands of Syrians stranded on Jordan's border with Syria are running out of food as routes leading to their camp are closed by the Syrian army and Jordan is blocking aid deliveries, relief workers and refugees said yesterday. The Syrian army has tightened its siege of the camp, in Rukban, near the northeastern Jordanian border with Syria and Iraq, preventing smugglers and traders from delivering food to its 50,000 inhabitants, mostly women and children.

"More than a week ago the Syrian regime cut all the routes of supplies towards the camp. There are now only very small amounts of food that smugglers bring," Abu Abdullah, the head of the civil affairs council that runs the camp said. "The camp is a balloon that could explode at any moment because of hunger, sickness and lack of aid ... if the situation continues like this there will be real starvation," he added by phone. In the last three years, tens of thousands of people have fled to the camp from Islamic State-held parts of Syria that were being targeted by Russian and US-led coalition air strikes.

Rukban is located near a US garrison in southeastern Syria at Tanf on the Iraqi-Syrian border. The camp falls within a so-called deconfliction zone set up by the Pentagon with the aim of shielding the Tanf garrison from attacks by pro-Assad forces. Damascus says the US forces are occupying Syrian territory and providing a safe-haven in that area for rebels it deems terrorists. Jordan has since the start of the year blocked any aid deliveries to the camp over its frontier and says now that the Syrian government had recovered territory around the camp, it

could not be made responsible for delivering aid.

### Lives at risk

With Damascus intransigent, UN aid agencies have been pressing Jordan to let in urgent deliveries to stave off more deaths, aid workers and diplomatic sources said. The UN children's agency UNICEF warned yesterday that without "critical action" by parties to the conflict to "allow and facilitate access" the lives of thousands of children in the camp were at risk. "The situation for the estimated 45,000 people - among them many children - will further worsen with the cold winter months fast approaching, especially when temperatures dip below freezing point in the harsh desert conditions," Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF regional director for Middle East and North Africa, said in a statement. Already two more infants died in the last 48 hours, Cappelaere added. Relief workers inside the camp say a woman also died this week.

Jordan wants the United Nations and Russia to put pressure on Damascus to give the written authorizations needed to allow supplies into Rukban from Syrian government-held territory. Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said recently that his country, already burdened with hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing war-torn Syria, could not be made responsible for delivering aid to the camp. Western diplomatic sources believe the siege of the camp is part of a Russian-backed Syrian government effort to put pressure on Washington to get out of Tanf. —Reuters

## Pentagon grounds global fleet of F-35s after crash

**WASHINGTON:** The Pentagon grounded the global fleet of F-35 stealth fighters yesterday, as a result of the first ever crash of the costliest plane in history. A Marine Corps F-35B was completely destroyed in a crash during training in South Carolina on September 28. The pilot safely ejected. According to Joe DellaVedova, a spokesman for the F-35 program, the US and its international partners - including Britain and Israel - have temporarily suspended F-35 flight operations for a fleet-wide inspection of a fuel tube within the engine on all F-35 aircraft. "The action to perform the inspection is driven from initial data from the ongoing investigation of the F-35B that crashed in the vicinity of Beaufort, South Carolina," DellaVedova said in a statement. He added that suspect fuel tubes would be removed and replaced. If good tubes are already installed, then those planes would be returned to operational status. Inspections were expected to be completed within the next 24 to 48 hours. Launched in the early 1990s, the F-35 program is considered the most expensive weapons system in US history, with an estimated cost of some \$400 billion and a goal to produce 2,500 aircraft in the coming years.—AFP



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## International

# Burkina Faso attacks open a new front in anti-terror fight

## Alarming increase in deadly jihadist attacks

**PARIS:** An alarming increase in deadly jihadist attacks has led to expanded French military action in Burkina Faso, a marked shift after years of reticence by the west African nation to call in help from its former colonial master. Until now France's 4,500-member Barkhane anti-terror force in West and Central Africa has intervened mainly in Mali, while focusing on training in Burkina Faso and the other nations of the G5 Sahel military alliance—Chad, Mauritania and Niger.

But over the past two weeks, more than 20 members of Burkina Faso's security forces have been killed in the country's restless north and east. After rebels raided a police station in the north last week, officials asked Barkhane's command for air strikes, which killed around 10 of the attackers as they fled. It also deployed two attack helicopters to the suspected rebel haven in the heavily forested Pama region last weekend after a Burkinabe soldier was killed by an IED, military sources said.

The new theatre for operations highlight the challenges facing France as it tries to contain the jihadist threat in the region, which has taken a toll on economic growth and helped fuel the wave of migrants fleeing toward Europe. Paris's strategy has been based on trying to build up local African forces in the stuttering G5 Sahel alliance, but the growing instability

in Burkina now looks likely to draw its troops into more front-line fighting. French Defense Minister Florence Parly sought to put a positive spin on the prospect of deeper French involvement last week during a visit to Chad. "A pragmatic and constructive step has been taken," she said.

### New strain?

The new front could put further strain on the Barkhane force, whose command was taken over two months ago by General Frederic Blachon. Yet officials are playing down such risks for now, pointing to the rapid air responses possible from the Barkhane air base in Niger's capital of Niamey. "A plan can be adapted," Blachon said recently, adding that Burkina Faso's government "will have the same support that we give to others in the G5." "We always maintain sufficient intervention capacity to lend support" outside Mali, a senior military officer said in Paris, requesting anonymity to discuss military strategy. Burkina's requests for help underline the worsening security situation in the country due to the state of the country's armed forces and the difficulty in containing numerous armed jihadist groups operating in the region.

Since the 2014 ouster of Burkina leader Blaise Compaore, who used elite forces as his personal guard, the government

has been wary of giving the military too big a role in a country scarred by several coup attempts. But the attacks are now jeopardizing President Roch Marc Christian Kabore's vow to improve security, education, health and drinking water in the country's Sahel region. French officials have made no secret of their concerns about the violence, and the risk of contagion to countries further south like Ghana and Ivory Coast.

### Special forces

Paris has for years stationed special forces in the Burkina capital Ouagadougou, who intervened after twin attacks last March on the French embassy and Burkina's military headquarters which left eight soldiers dead. That attack was claimed by the Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM), one of several prowling across the vast desert expanses of the Sahel. But French forces are still trying to identify the insurgents operating with increasing boldness in the country's east. "It appears they are not with Ansarul Islam," a jihadist group based in the country's north which has carried out several attacks against the army along the 1,000-kilometre border with Mali, a Barkhane intelligence officer said. "But we don't yet have enough information about how many there are, or where they're coming from," he said.—AFP

## N Ireland's DUP: Unbending Brexit power-broker

**LONDON:** Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which is threatening to bring down the British government over Brexit compromises, is a party with hardline views whose tough negotiating tactics were forged in war. The DUP's 10 members of the House of Commons have propped up Prime Minister Theresa May's government since the June 2017 election, in which her Conservatives lost their majority and were forced to turn to the fellow rightwing party for help.

The agreement came at the price of a promise of £1.0 billion (1.1 billion euros, \$1.3 billion) in extra funding for Northern Ireland and the party has done little to risk undermining the government until now. Its importance in Westminster and the pivotal role of the Irish border issue in negotiations with Brussels has put the party, known for its harsh rhetoric and steely determination, at the sharp end of Brexit.

DUP Brexit spokesman Sammy Wilson yesterday warned that any checks on goods transiting between Northern Ireland and the rest of Britain, of the type outlined by EU negotiator Michel Barnier on Wednesday, would be "unacceptable". Accepting this "would have implications not just for Brexit legislation... but also for the budget, welfare reform and other domestic legislation". The DUP campaigned in favor of Brexit and has supported the government in a series of crucial votes, but is also faced with public concern in Northern Ireland about the possible reimposition of physical checks on the border with the Republic of Ireland.

Both sides have warned that a so-called hard border could threaten the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that brought an end to decades of civil strife between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. DUP leader Arlene Foster came under fire last week after suggesting that the peace deal could be altered to shape Northern Ireland's post-Brexit relationship with the EU.—AFP



**KASHMIR:** Special Operation Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel searches for suspected militants, who killed two National Conference (NC) party workers in Srinagar. — AFP

## Indian forces kill militant leader in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR:** Indian forces yesterday killed a Kashmir militant leader who became a folk hero in the troubled territory after giving up geology research at an Indian university to become a militant, officials said. Manan Wani, 26, and an associate were killed in a fierce gunfight that lasted more than 10 hours after security forces were tipped off that he was hiding in a residential area, officials told AFP on condition of anonymity. "Wani's family have identified the body and now legal formalities are underway," one police officer said. Another police officer said Wani and his associate escaped a first siege but became trapped in a village in the

northern area of Handwara, where they were killed.

Wani quit a PhD program at Aligarh University in January to join Hizbul Mujahideen, the biggest group fighting for Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. He rose to prominence after circulating two open letters in the Indian media explaining why he took up arms. "We are soldiers we don't fight to die, but to win, we don't feel dignity in death but we do feel dignity in fighting (Indian) occupation, its military might, its oppression, its tyranny, its collaborators and most of all its ego," Manan Wani wrote in his first letter in July.

The scholar-turned-rebel died not far from his home in the densely militarized frontier area of Kupwara. The killing of another popular rebel leader Burhan Wani—no relation—by security forces in July 2016 sparked fierce protests in Indian Kashmir that left more than 100 dead. Top separatist leaders opposed to India's rule in Kashmir called for a general strike on Friday over Wani's killing. "Deeply pained that we lost a budding intellectual and writer like him, fighting for the cause of self-determination," Mirwaiz Umar Farooq one of the three top separatist leaders of the Joint Resistance Leadership said in a tweet—AFP

# Britain 'very worried' about British student held in UAE

## 31-year-old PhD student detained without charge

**LONDON:** Britain's foreign secretary said yesterday he was "very worried" about the fate of a British student who, according to his wife, has been detained in the United Arab Emirates without charge since May. Matthew Hedges, a 31-year-old PhD student who was researching the UAE's foreign and internal security policies after the Arab Spring revolutions, was stopped at Dubai Airport on May 5. "We are... very worried about Mr Hedges," Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told AFP.

"I've spoken to the Emirati foreign minister twice now on this matter face to face so they are very aware of our concerns and we are monitoring it very closely," he said. "Obviously every country has a judicial process and, just like in the UK, in the UAE the judiciary operates independently of the politicians and we re-

spect that. "But we have a duty to make sure we are doing everything we can to make sure British citizens have due process," he added. Hedges' wife Daniela Tejada, who has visited him once and spoken to him on the phone a few times said: "He simply isn't guilty of anything. He was just doing academic research".

Following reports in British media that he has been accused of spying, Tejada said his research involved only open resources. "He's not disclosed anything... classified or confidential," she said, adding that Hedges had lived in the UAE for "several years" before he returned to Britain in 2015. Tejada said Hedges was diagnosed with depression and anxiety shortly before travelling to the UAE for his research. She said he had been allowed to take anti-depressants in prison, but added: "My big concern is that without the appropriate

psychiatric treatment the effects of medication are not only not effective but can actually be counter-productive".

Tejada said Hedges had been kept in solitary confinement "nearly the entire time". Stuart Corbridge, vice-chancellor of Durham University in northern England where Hedges is a student, voiced concern. "We are seriously concerned about Matt's welfare and wellbeing and we remain in close contact with the family," he said. Britain's foreign ministry said in a statement: "Our staff are supporting a British man following his detention in the UAE". Hedges appeared in court in Abu Dhabi last week but the case was adjourned and then delayed a second time on Wednesday. The next scheduled hearing is on October 24, his wife said.— AFP

## Rohingya family makes rare return to Myanmar

**YANGON:** A Rohingya family of five has returned to Myanmar from Bangladesh, sources said yesterday, a rare development while a large-scale repatriation deal remains stalled. More than 720,000 of Myanmar's stateless Muslim minority fled a brutal military crackdown in August last year, taking shelter in crowded camps in Bangladesh. There they recounted tales of rape, murder and arson as villages in Rakhine state were burned to the ground.

United Nations investigators have said senior Myanmar military officials should be prosecuted for genocide, but the country has rejected these calls, insisting it was defending itself against militants. Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a deal to bring back the Rohingya but many fear returning without guaranteed rights such as citizenship, access to healthcare and freedom of movement. Authorities in Myanmar say more than 100 displaced Rohingya have returned in recent months though rights groups have questioned whether the returnees did so voluntarily.

The family of five "displaced people" came back to Rakhine state on Wednesday morning, state mouthpiece Global New Light of Myanmar reported yesterday. Myanmar's government has trumpeted each return but Bangladesh insists that the official process has not commenced. The Bangladesh government's Rohingya camp commissioner Mohammad Abul Kalam said he had only heard about the family leaving, but has not received official confirmation of their return to Myanmar. "Anyone can go back if he/she wants," he said. "But formal repatriation has not begun."

Abdur Rahim, a Rohingya camp leader in Bangladesh, said the family had been staying in the Balukhali camp in Cox Bazar district. "They returned to their home...near Maungdaw township in Rakhine yesterday," he said. UN agencies, which signed a deal with the Myanmar government to assess conditions on the ground in northern Rakhine, said they had carried out an initial survey in September of about two dozen villages. "Mistrust, fear of neighboring communities and a sense of insecurity are prevalent in many areas," they said in a statement.— AFP



**COPENHAGEN:** A view of Gilleleje Church, where Jewish people hid at the Church attic. Denmark marks 75-year Commemoration of the Rescue of the Danish Jews.— AFP

## Danish Jews recall desperate escape from Nazi camps

**COPENHAGEN:** Freddy Vainer was only four years old when he and his family were forced to flee Copenhagen to escape being deported to Nazi concentration camps, but he remembers it like it was yesterday. "My grandfather was at the synagogue on October 1, 1943 when he found out that he had to flee," he said. That month nearly 7,000 Danish Jews made the desperate journey by boat to neighboring Sweden.

Occupied by Nazi Germany since April 1940, Denmark surrendered but retained some independence of its institutions until the end of the summer of 1943, when the Danish government was forced to resign. At first the Jewish population seemed relatively safe, and were not forced to wear a yellow star. But "in September orders from Berlin were being sent to deal with the so-called Jewish question," Cecilie Banke, a researcher at the Danish Institute of International Studies,

told AFP. She said that plans were leaked from within the German authorities so Denmark's Jewish population could be warned.

"This is the essence of the rescue operation, the Jewish population knew so they could actually flee and since information was leaked, the Danish population could also help Jews to flee," Banke added. "This is the exception in the story of the Jews in World War Two," said Silja Vainer, Freddy's wife. More than 6,500 Jews who mainly lived in Copenhagen left their homes and hid mostly near the coast north of the capital before fleeing by sea, largely to the towns of Gilleleje and Snekkersten. While Freddy and his family hid in a house in the northwestern coastal town of Hellebaeck before finding someone to take them across the water, 197 others were arrested trying to escape.

A fisherman agreed to take only five of Freddy's eight-member family. Freddy said he stayed at the docks with his mother and grandmother before finally crossing over. The passage cost on average 1,000 Danish kroner per person (the equivalent today of 2,700 euros, \$3,100). "My grandfather also paid for others who didn't have any money so that everyone could flee," Freddy, a former doctor in his eighties, recalled. His future wife Silja was three-and-a-half years old during the exodus. However the people smuggler her family's friends found refused to sail with adults and children together. She had to hide in an orphanage for a few days with her brother and a cousin while her parents made the crossing.—FP

## International

# Israel destroys Hamas attack tunnel from the Gaza Strip

## Qatar announces \$150 million aid to Gaza

**JERUSALEM:** Israel's military said it destroyed a Hamas-built tunnel extending into its territory from the Gaza Strip yesterday that was intended for attacks. Military spokesman Jonathan Conricus said it was the 15th such tunnel discovered and destroyed by Israel in the past year. There were no indications of casualties linked to the destruction of the tunnel around one kilometer in length (less than a mile) and which originated from the Khan Yunis area of southern Gaza. It extended around 200 meters into Israeli territory, Conricus said, adding Israel's army had been monitoring its construction for several months. He declined to elaborate on how the tunnel was destroyed, but said "combat engineering means" were used. Conricus called it a "complex tunnel system with various connections and branches." Israel has in recent months employed technology to detect and destroy tunnels without bombing them, including by filling them with material to make them unusable.

Israel is also building an underground wall around the blockaded Gaza Strip to stop tunnel digging. Work on the massive project is expected to be completed by the end of 2019, Conricus said. Conricus alleged Hamas used new methods in building the tunnel destroyed Thursday that seemed intended to evade Israel's detection methods. He declined however to provide specifics, but noted it was equipped with electricity and communication hardware. The destruction of the tunnel comes amid months of protests and clashes along the Gaza border that have raised fears of a fourth war since 2008 between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Palestinian enclave.

At least 198 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza since the protests began on March 30, while one Israeli soldier has been shot dead by a Palestinian sniper in that time. Israel says its actions during the protests and clashes are necessary to defend the border and stop infiltrations and attacks, which it accuses Hamas of seeking to carry out. Palestinians and rights groups say protesters have been shot while posing little threat. The last conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza in 2014 was waged in part over tunnels that were used to carry out attacks within Israel.

### Aid to Gaza

Meanwhile, Qatar has pledged \$150 million in aid for Gaza, a day after fuel purchased by the Gulf state arrived at the only power station in the Hamas-run enclave. A statement from Doha's foreign ministry said the money had been pledged via the Qatar Development Fund, the government body responsible for distributing the country's foreign aid. "Under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, the Qatar Development Fund has pledged \$150 million in humanitarian aid to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in the besieged Gaza Strip," the ministry said.

It added that the United Nations Development Program would oversee distribution of the aid. The UN estimated the value of Qatar's earlier donation of fuel at \$60 million. The world body says Israel's 11-year blockade of the enclave, ruled by Islamist movement Hamas, has resulted in a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation.



**GAZA:** A tanker delivers fuel at the Gaza power plant in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip. Trucks carrying Qatari-bought fuel entered the Gaza Strip on October 9 to help power the Palestinian enclave's only power station. —AFP

Gaza's two million residents endure dire living conditions including a shortage of safe drinking water and regular power cuts, partly due to a lack of fuel for the strip's power station. For months Gaza residents have been receiving an average of just four hours of mains electricity a day. Gaza residents have staged regular protests since March along the territory's border with Israel, sparking deadly gunfire from Israeli troops and fears of an all-out conflict between Hamas and Israel, which have fought three wars since 2008.

Hamas has been in control of Gaza since 2007. Much of the international community considers the group a terrorist organization and Hamas has rejected calls to recognize Israel. Qatar, which has poured billions into Gaza, is home to former prominent members of Hamas including ex-leader Khaled Meshaal. Those ties came under intense scrutiny when a diplomatic crisis broke out in June 2017, pitting Qatar against a Saudi-led bloc that accuses the gas-rich emirate of supporting "extremists" and being too close to Iran. Qatar denies the charges. —Agencies

## Majorca death toll rises to 12

**MAJORCA:** Rescue workers found the bodies of a man and a woman yesterday on Spain's holiday island of Majorca, bringing to 12 the death toll from flash floods that tore through streets and swept away cars. Emergency services in the Balearic archipelago tweeted that a man and a woman were found near Arta, one of the affected towns, "close to the area" where the car of a missing German couple had been found. A spokesman for the Guardia Civil police said the bodies were "possibly" those of the two missing Germans.

Rescue workers were still searching for a five-year-old boy missing after intense rain surprised locals on Tuesday afternoon. Locals only had a precious few seconds to react before a torrent descended. A massive clean-up was under way in the mud-covered streets of Sant Llorenç des Cardassar, one of the worst-hit towns, with excavation machines clearing streets of debris. Soldiers used shovels to clear the thick mud from the streets of the town, 60 kilometers (40 miles) east of the island's capital of Palma.

Locals tried to recover lost valuables from the wreckage of their homes with the help of volunteers. Some 900 emergency services workers were involved in the clean-up operation and search for the missing, the public administration minister in the regional government of the Balearic Islands, Catalina Caldera, told reporters. The missing child had been in a car in Sant Llorenç with his mother, who was one of those killed, a spokesman for the central government's representative in the Balearic Islands said. The boy's sister survived. Local media reported that the mother managed to save her daughter before being swept away.

### 'Disaster'

Emergency services tweeted that six men and four women were killed. A British couple and a Dutch woman were among the dead. The elderly British couple were travelling in a taxi which got swept away by flood waters, the spokesman said. They were reportedly on their way to their hotel in the east coast fishing town of Cala Bona after landing at Palma airport. The taxi driver was also among the dead. His body was found a distance away from where the taxi was found with the two Britons inside. One of the male victims could not yet be identified but is also believed to be a foreigner. —AFP

## Some journalists in Bangladesh allege 'breach of trust'

**DHAKA:** More than 100 journalists staged a protest in Bangladesh's capital yesterday, their faces covered in black cloth, accusing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of breach of trust in enacting a law they fear is aimed at curbing press freedom. Hasina's government has defended the Digital Security Act, passed by parliament last month, saying it aims to control cyber crimes. But journalists say the law that carries prison sentences of up to 14 years for anyone trying to secretly record information inside government buildings will create a climate of fear.

They said the government had gone back on its commitment to reconsider some of the harsh provisions. The Editors' Council expressed "deep disappointment" that a promise made by cabinet ministers in recent weeks to work towards amending the law had not been kept. "(The council) considers this a breach of trust that it had reposed, in

good faith, on the commitment made by three senior cabinet ministers," the group said in a statement.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq and two other ministers had promised journalists last month that their concerns over the law would be raised at the weekly cabinet meeting chaired by the prime minister, the council said. Haq told Reuters there were other items on the agenda at recent cabinet meetings, due to which the journalists' concerns could not be discussed. "We have told the prime minister about the concerns of the Editors' Council and we hope that in next cabinet meeting they may be raised for discussion."

Critics see the law as Hasina's latest move to suppress freedom of speech ahead of national elections in December, when she will be seeking a third consecutive term against an opposition in disarray. The main opposition party's leaders have been jailed this year over charges ranging from corruption to a plot to assassinate Hasina. The new law combines existing measures such as the much-criticized colonial-era Official Secrets Act with tough new provisions. The Editors' Council asked that the law be amended in the last session of the parliament that starts on Oct 21. —Reuters



## International

# On the scent: India mulls Calvin Klein to lure man-eating tigress

## Deploying an unusual weapon to lure the big cat

**MUMBAI:** Indian rangers hunting a man-eating tiger are considering deploying an unusual weapon to lure the big cat—Calvin Klein cologne, an official said yesterday. A major operation to kill or capture the tigress, which is suspected to have killed up to 13 people in India's western state of Maharashtra, was launched a month ago.

Patrol teams, infrared camera traps and even elephants have all failed to find her so officials are now pondering whether Calvin Klein's Obsession fragrance is the answer. "Someone suggested using the Calvin Klein perfume as a way to lure her with the scent and one of our officials purchased it. "It is one of the experiments we may conduct but no decision has been taken yet,"

forestry official A.K Mishra told AFP. Scientists in America discovered that the smell of Calvin Klein's Obsession For Men was attractive to big cats in 2013, owing to the presence of a synthetic aroma based on the musk of a civet mammal.

The fragrance has been used before to successfully lure a tiger in Tamil Nadu state, according to Indian media. The hunt for the tigress named Avni, which means earth in the local language—began in early September after she was reported to have killed five villagers in the past year. Officials suspect she may also have been responsible for another eight deaths stretching back to 2016, according to Mishra. India's highest court last month dis-

missed appeals by activists that it intervene to stop the rangers from shooting her dead.

Last week one of five elephants taking part in the hunt for the big cat ran astray overnight and trampled a woman to death. The elephants were being used by armed forest rangers who sat atop the animals as they entered thick forests inaccessible to vehicles. Tigers do not generally target humans, but some experts believe they can develop a taste for human flesh. Wildlife activists say attacks occur when humans encroach into tiger corridors. India is home to more than half of the world's tiger population with 2,226 of the animals roaming its reserves, according to the last count in 2014. —AFP

## Asia tops World Bank ranking on support for kids

**NUSA DUA:** Asian nations got the highest marks in a World Bank ranking launched yesterday that names and shames countries on how much they invest in their own children, saying neglect was dooming millions to sub-par lives. Singapore, South Korea and Japan took the top three spots in the World Bank's Human Capital Index, released at the institution's annual meeting in Bali.

They were followed by Hong Kong, Finland, Ireland, and Australia. Sweden, the Netherlands and Canada round out the top 10. European countries dominated the next 10, while the United States came in 24th and China 46th. Rather than using traditional measures such as GDP, the index ranks countries on how well children are prepared for the future, with an emphasis on factors like schooling and healthcare.

The World Bank said those considerations often get lost amid other national political priorities, yet were vital to fostering high-quality economic growth and development. World Bank president Jim Yong Kim told a press conference on the Indonesian resort island that one-quarter of the planet's young people are at risk of "chronic malnutrition and illness that result in stunting". He said this "permanently affects a child's cognitive development, school performance, and future income".

Africa dominated the bottom half of



**TOKYO:** Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (right) listens as he speaks with the head of the Chinese Communist Party's international department, Song Tao (left), during their meeting at Abe's official residence in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

the 157-nation ranking system. The worst ranking went to Chad, followed by South Sudan, Niger, Mali and Liberia. "If a country's children grow up unable to meet the needs of the future workplace, that country will find itself incapable of employing its people, unable to increase its output, and utterly unprepared to compete economically," Jim said. "Policies to build human capital are some of the smartest investments that countries can make to boost long-term, inclusive economic growth."

Jim said the bank hopes the ranking

and the data provided for each country can provide nations with a "stronger argument" when weighing whether to put resources into policies that benefit children. The World Bank said the index shows 56 percent of children born today across the world will lose more than half their potential lifetime earnings due to inadequate government policies. The Human Capital Index purports to measure the amount of "human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18" by assessing a range of national conditions and factors. —AFP

## Defying China, Malaysia releases Uighur detainees

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia has freed from detention 11 ethnic Uighur Muslims who fled to the southeast Asian nation after a Thai jailbreak last year, and sent them to Turkey, their lawyer said yesterday, in disregard of China's request to hand them to Beijing. The move is likely to strain ties with China, already tested since Mahathir Mohamad became prime minister after a stunning election victory in May and cancelled more than \$20 billion worth of projects awarded to Chinese companies. Prosecutors in Muslim-majority Malaysia dropped charges against the Uighurs on humanitarian grounds and they arrived in Turkey after flying out of Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, their lawyer, Fahmi Moin, said. "The charges were withdrawn because the attorney general's chambers agreed to the (appeal) from our side," he said. Malaysia's immigration department, home ministry and the attorney general's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment. China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The men were detained and charged with illegally entering Malaysia after last November's daring prison break, by punching holes in a prison wall and using blankets as ladders. In February, Reuters reported that Malaysia was under great pressure from China to deport the men there, citing sources. Some Western missions sought to dissuade it from sending them to China, which has been accused of persecuting Uighurs. Beijing accuses separatist extremists among the Uighur minority of plotting attacks on China's Han majority in the restive far western region of Xinjiang and elsewhere.

China has been accused of rights abuses in Xinjiang, torture of Uighur detainees and tight controls on their religion and culture. It denies wrongdoing. Over the years, hundreds, possibly thousands, of Uighurs have escaped the unrest by travelling clandestinely via Southeast Asia to Turkey. The Uighurs in Malaysia were part of a group of more than 200 detained in Thailand in 2014. Although they identified themselves as Turkish citizens and asked to be sent to Turkey, more than 100 were forcibly returned to China in July 2015, sparking international condemnation.

In February, Malaysia said it was considering China's request to extradite the 11 men. In the past, it has sent some detained Uighurs to China. Their detention came as Malaysia drew closer to China under former prime minister Najib Razak, but 93-year-old Mahathir, in his second stint as premier, has been vocal in backing Muslim communities against persecution. He recently criticized Aung San Suu Kyi, the de facto leader of neighbouring Myanmar, over the Nobel peace laureate's handling of the Rohingya crisis, saying, "We don't really support her anymore." —Reuters

## International

# Indonesia calls off grim search for the dead in quake-tsunami

## 5,000 bodies 'still buried under the ruins'

**PALU:** Indonesia yesterday called off the grim search for those killed in a quake-tsunami, with no hope of retrieving around 5,000 bodies believed to be still buried under the ruins nearly two weeks after the disaster. The magnitude 7.5 quake and a subsequent tsunami razed swathes of the city of Palu on Sulawesi island on September 28. A total 2,073 bodies had been recovered since the twin disasters, authorities said yesterday. But there are fears that 5,000 more could be buried beneath the ruined city, where entire villages were swallowed. Rescuers had struggled to find remains in the twisted wreckage, a job made worse as mud hardened and bodies decomposed in the tropical heat.

"The search and rescue (SAR) operation for the victims ended yesterday afternoon," SAR field director in Palu, Bambang Suryo said. "Considering the difficulty on the ground, we really need to consider the health and safety of our rescue personnel." Teams would however remain on standby in Palu to assist where needed until October 26, when a state of emergency is expected to be lifted. The government earlier indi-

cated that hard-hit areas would be left untouched as mass graves. Prayers were expected in coming days at three of the worst-hit areas—Balaroa, Petobo and Jono Oge.

### 'It will rise again'

Parks and monuments are also eventually planned at these locations to remember the untold thousands of dead who will never be found. Those zones were all but destroyed by liquefaction, a phenomenon where the brute force of a quake turns soil to quicksand. At Balaroa, 29-year-old Muhammad Rasidi was coming to terms with the fact his three missing siblings would never be found. "What else can we do? We just have to accept it," he told AFP. More than 200,000 people remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance in Palu. Clean drinking water and medical supplies are still in short supply, and many survivors were entirely reliant on handouts to get by. "What's important is that we get support from the government", said Sapri, who lost 10 members of his family at Balaroa. Many Indonesians go by one name.

**A total 2,073 bodies have been recovered**



**PALU:** Indonesian search and rescue personnel work on the final day of recovery operations at soil liquefaction-hit Balaroa village in Palu yesterday, following the September 28 earthquake and tsunami that hit the area. — AFP

Central Sulawesi governor Longki Djanggola said although the search effort was over, survivors would be supported in their time of need. "I am sure Central Sulawesi will rise again," he said. The United Nations has sought \$50.5 million for immediate relief to help the victims. Planeloads of donations have flown into Palu from the United

States, Australia, the European Union and the Philippines, among many others. Nearly 90,000 people were displaced by the disaster, many sheltering in tents outside their destroyed homes. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres will tour the disaster zone with Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla on Friday. —AFP

## The death penalty around the world

**PARIS:** Malaysia will join the nearly three quarters of countries in the world which have abolished or ceased to use the death penalty, according to Amnesty International. Capital punishment currently remains in place in 23 countries, with China still believed to be the "world's top executioner", according to the rights group's 2017 report. Here is an overview:

### Death penalty decline

Amnesty International says that at the end of last year, 142 countries had abolished the death penalty in law or in practice, with 106 ending it in law for all crimes. The latest were Guinea and Mongolia which in 2017 abolished capital punishment for all crimes, while Guatemala outlawed it for civil crimes only. Sub-Saharan Africa made significant progress towards abolition with a big reduction in the number of death sentences throughout the region. Only Somalia and South Sudan carried out executions in 2017 compared with five countries in the region in 2016. Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya and The Gambia, meanwhile, took measures to end the use of capital punishment by adopting new legislation or introducing bills. In Europe and central Asia, Belarus was the only country to have carried out the death sentence in 2017, with at least two executions, down

from at least four the previous year, Amnesty says. Kazakhstan, Russia and Tajikistan maintained moratoriums.

### Still executing

There were 993 executions recorded in 2017 in 23 countries, a decrease of four percent from 2016 and 39 percent from 2015, which was a peak year with 1,634 executions. Amnesty's numbers do not include the "thousands" it says are believed to have been executed in China, which classifies this information as a state secret. Excluding China, Amnesty says Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan—in that order—carried out 84 percent of all executions in 2017. Compared with the previous year, the figures were down by 31 percent in Pakistan and 11 percent in Iran. Iran carried out around 30 executions in public. Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates took up executions again in 2017. Conversely, Amnesty recorded no executions in five countries that had applied the death penalty in 2016: Botswana, Indonesia, Nigeria, Sudan and Taiwan, though the latter did execute one man in August this year.

For the ninth consecutive year the United States was the only country on the American continent to execute prisoners, with 23 recorded. The United States and Japan, where there were four executions in 2017, were the only countries in the G8 group of leading economies to carry out executions. In July Japan executed the 13 Aum Shinrikyo cult members sentenced to death for their role in the fatal 1995 sarin attack on the Tokyo subway. Countries carrying out the penalty last year used methods ranging from decapitation to hanging, firing squad and lethal injection, Amnesty says. —AFP

## Malaysia to abolish the death penalty

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia has decided to abolish the death penalty, a senior minister said yesterday, with more than 1,200 people on death row set to win a reprieve following a groundswell of opposition to capital punishment. Executions are currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes, and is carried out by hanging - a legacy of British colonial rule. Human Rights Watch hailed the "fabulous news", with its deputy director for Asia Phil Robertson saying the move would increase pressure on other countries in the region to follow suit. The government decided to scrap capital punishment because the Malaysian public had shown they were against the death penalty, communications and multimedia minister Gobind Singh Deo Gobind said.

"I hope the law will be amended soon," he said. Government minister Liew Vui Keong reportedly said earlier yesterday there would be a moratorium on executions for inmates currently on death row. "Since we are abolishing the sentence, all executions should not be carried out," the Star newspaper quoted him as

saying. Liew said the amended law would be put before parliament next Monday. The government's announcement was "an encouraging sign", Amnesty International's Kumi Naidoo said in a statement. "There is no time to waste - the death penalty should have been consigned to the history books long ago."

The moratorium on the death penalty affects, among others, two women accused of assassinating the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il last year. A Malaysian court last year ruled the case could proceed against Indonesian national Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam after Kim Jong Nam's murder at Kuala Lumpur Airport. Australian citizen Maria Elvira Pinto Exposto, 54, who was found guilty of drug smuggling by an appeals court in May, will win a reprieve. "The reprieve can be in the form of a life sentence," Gurdial Singh, president of the National Human Rights Society, told AFP.

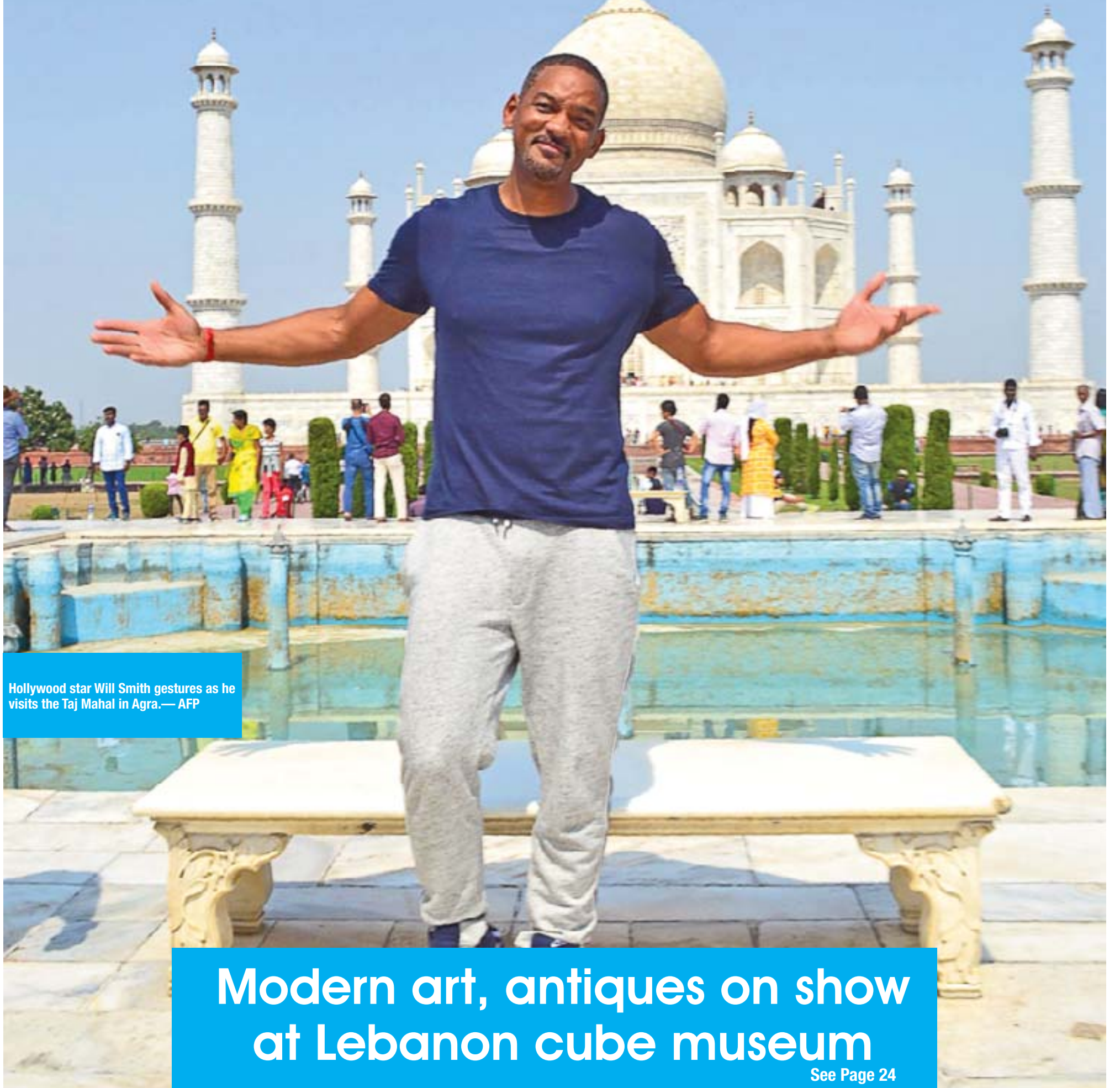
Two Chilean tourists, currently on trial for the murder of a Malaysian man, would also have faced the death penalty if found guilty of murder. The abolition could also pave the way for the extradition to Malaysia of a convicted hitman in the high profile murder of a Mongolian model who was the lover of one of ex-prime minister Najib Razak's close associates. Former Malaysian police officer Sirul Azhar Umar was convicted in Malaysia for the murder of Altantuya Shaariibuu in 2006, but fled to Australia. Australia has said it can only extradite him if Malaysia abolished the death penalty. —AFP

# Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018

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Hollywood star Will Smith gestures as he visits the Taj Mahal in Agra.— AFP

**Modern art, antiques on show  
at Lebanon cube museum**

See Page 24

# Two centuries of photo history go on show at London museum



A visitor views the "Collecting Photography: From Daguerreotype to Digital" exhibition opening the new photography centre at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum in west London. —AFP photos



Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, views the "Collecting Photography: From Daguerreotype to Digital" exhibition as she officially opens the new photography centre at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum in west London.

Charting two centuries of photographic history from the early pioneers to digital smartphone snappers, London's Victoria & Albert Museum opens its new Photography Centre this week. The exhibition "tells the story of photography as a way of collecting the world, from the medium's invention to today," V&A director Tristram Hunt told reporters on Wednesday. "In an era when everyone's iPhone makes them a photographer, the V&A's Photography Centre explores and explains the medium in a compelling way," he said, showing off the four new galleries.

Museum-goers enter the galleries through an installation of more than 150 cameras spanning 160 years. Visitors can handle cameras from throughout the ages—and witness the improvement in technology—from an 1820s camera obscura, through a 1920s Kodak No.2 Brownie to a 1930s Leica II rangefinder and

a 1970s Polaroid 1000 instant camera. Through stereoscopic viewers, visitors can see three-dimensional pictures from the 1851 Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London, and some of the earliest photographs ever taken of Japan.

The exhibition includes photojournalism, with 1930s copies of the Picture Post magazine, displaying the realities of war overseas. The collection also includes pictures recently donated by Beatles icon Paul McCartney taken by his late photographer wife Linda. The pictures include shots of 1960s stars including Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles, the Yardbirds and model Twiggy.

The exhibition contains British photography pioneer William Henry Fox Talbot's 1840s wooden tripod camera and a selection of his cameras and pictures. The center includes a project space filled with new works by German photographer

Thomas Ruff, digitally reinterpreting Linnaeus Tripe's 1850s paper negatives of India and Burma, bringing modern developing techniques to landmark originals. The catalyst for developing the new exhibition space was the transfer last year of the Royal Photographic Society's collection of 270,000 photographs, 6,000 cameras and 26,000 books to the V&A.

The museum's archive of more than 800,000 photographs is now one of the world's largest and most important collections of historic and contemporary pictures. A second section of the center, due to open in 2022, will include teaching space, a browsing library and a studio for photographers' residencies. The museum is also looking to bring photography exhibitions from its expanded collection to Shanghai and across China. —AFP

## With climate change fiction, novelists aim for 'radical empathy'

As alarm bells over global warming ring louder, authors are increasingly turning to climate change fiction to dramatize the catastrophic effects of droughts, hurricanes and floods—and inspire action. Dubbed "cli-fi", the genre has seen an explosion in popularity in recent years as environmental changes sweep the globe and tales of a planet in turmoil appear less like science fiction and a lot more real. "Climate change is slow-moving and intensely place-based," said US literary expert Elizabeth Rush, a lecturer at Brown University. "It is difficult for us to notice these things in our day-to-day lives," she told AFP.

But with climate fiction, "you can imagine being a person whom flood or drought displaces, and with that imaginative stance can come radical empathy." For Norwegian novelist Maja Lunde it started with a documentary about colony collapse disorder, the mysterious die-off of bees that has sparked international concern. "I had an epiphany: this is

what I want to write about," Lunde told AFP. "The History of Bees", which conjures up a world without bees where humans have to hand-pollinate trees, became a global best-seller, shifting over a million copies and translated into more than 30 languages.

Sensing that she "wasn't done yet with this topic", Lunde has set out to write a quartet of climate change novels. The second book, "Blue" deals with a shortage of water and was published in Norway last year. Lunde will discuss her novels at this week's Frankfurt book fair, the world's largest publishing event where climate change fiction is expected to feature prominently. "I think we will see more of these books in the years to come," Lunde said.

"People are caring about climate change more and more... and authors write about what makes them scared." The latest UN climate report, which warned on Monday that drastic changes were needed to prevent Earth from hurtling towards



Norwegian writer Maja Lunde attends a press conference at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2018 in Frankfurt am Main, central Germany. —AFP

an unlivable rise in temperature, showed that the situation was "getting worse", Lunde said. "But we can still do a lot," she added. "We can all do something. I absolutely think that climate change fiction can change minds." —AFP

## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

## Gaga, Serena Williams, Styles and Gucci star to host Met gala

**L**ady Gaga, Serena Williams, Harry Styles and Gucci's star designer Alessandro Michele will co-chair next year's Met Gala with Anna Wintour, museum officials said Tuesday. Organized every year by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Gala is a fundraising dinner for its Costume Institute. It is run by Wintour, editor-in-chief of Vogue magazine, whose influence is such that the space dedicated to the Costume Institute since 2014 has been called the Anna Wintour Costume Center.

Trading shrewdly on her name, the high priest-

ess of fashion has managed to turn the event into a can't-miss collision of the creative world from fashion to film to theater to TV to sport—and anyone ready to pay for the 30,000-dollar ticket. The theme of the May 6, 2019 Gala will be camp style, as defined by US writer Susan Sontag. "Camp's disruptive nature and subversion of modern aesthetic values has often been trivialized, but this exhibition will reveal its profound influence on both high art and popular culture," said Max Hollein, director of The Met. — AFP



In this file photo Singer/actress Lady Gaga attends the premiere of "A star is born" at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos

## Forbidden City hosts record label's 120th anniversary concert

**T**he world's oldest classical record label Deutsche Grammophon on Wednesday marked its 120th anniversary at a special concert in the historic Forbidden City in Beijing. Once the seat of China's emperors, the palace last played host to a classical music concert in 2001 when the Three Tenors—Plácido Domingo, José Carreras and the late Luciano Pavarotti—performed before a 30,000-crowd. Under a crisp, cool sky, the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Long Yu,

opened the evening with an arrangement of Chinese composer Liu Tianhua's *Enchanted Night*. The 1,200-strong crowd took in a repertoire which included Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Rachmaninov's *Second Piano Concerto*.

Deutsche Grammophon president Clemens Trautmann told AFP that the Forbidden City was picked because of its significance. "What I find really fascinating is that the Latin text written by Bavarian monks (that formed the basis for the *Carmina Burana*)

came into existence around the same time as the Forbidden City was built in the 13th century," he said. "More fundamentally, Deutsche Grammophon has always been a very internationally minded label with a very diverse roster of exclusive artists and we want to foster cross-cultural dialogue here tonight and build bridges." — AFP



The Wiener Singakademie choir perform with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.



Soloist Aida Garifullina of Russia performs with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra during a classical concert.



Soloist Aida Garifullina of Russia performs with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra during a classical concert marking the 120th anniversary of the world's oldest classical label, Deutsche Grammophon, at the Imperial Ancestral Temple in Beijing's Forbidden City. — AFP photos

# India gets its first transgender cab driver

**A** Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Human Resource (HR) and Marketing, Meghna Sahoo is India's first transgender cab driver, hailing from Bhubaneswar. Speaking to ANI, 30-year-old Sahoo, who became the first transgender driver-partner of cab aggregator Ola, said she faced a lot of discrimination and rejection due of her gender identity and switched jobs in the hope of being treated at par with others. "I struggled to get the same opportunity as others and it's difficult for transgender people to get jobs and driving training/ license etc. After the Supreme Court ruling that recognized 'transgender' as the third 'gender' it became easier for transgender people," she said.

Although landing a job was a difficult task, Meghna said that women travellers felt safer while commuting in her cab. "I also didn't face any difficulty with male travellers because of my gender identity, and I feel happy about that," she added. Meghna has appealed to more members of the transgender community to look at driving as a viable career option to become self-reliant. Transgenders in India still find it hard to find a place in the mainstream society. Earlier in March, a Mumbai-based transgender was denied an accommodation due to her gender. According to the Mid-Day report, a 22-year-old Shakti Rakesh Waghela was looking for



India's first transgender taxi driver, Meghna Sahoo, stands outside her cab in Odisha, India. — Reuters

a rental flat, but every agreement she's finalized so far has gone sideways once the broker or potential flatmate see her Aadhaar card, which mentions her as transgender.

Waghela told the daily that she had finalized a few homes in Andheri, but when she produced her Aadhaar card, which states that she is transgender, the broker said that the flat had



India's first transgender taxi driver, Meghna Sahoo, behind the wheel in Odisha, India.

been occupied and that there were no homes in the area. It's not just the brokers, Waghela says. A number of potential flatmates expressed discomfort in renting their home to a transgender person. — www.dnaindia.com



Finalists of the Faso Don dancing contest perform on stage during the filming of the TV show.



Finalist of the Faso Don dancing contest, Mohamed Kassogue, performs on stage during the filming of the TV show in the Malian capital Bamako.



Finalist of the Faso Don dancing contest, Naba Kante, performs on stage during the filming of the TV show.

## In fractured Mali, dance contest offers a sense of unity

**A**ll 3,000 seats in the cavernous Palace of Culture in Bamako had been snapped up, and the mood was at fever pitch as the TV dance competition reached its climax. The three finalists took to the floor one by one, dancing alongside a celebrity—a format familiar to viewers of talent shows around the world. But here's the difference: the three hopefuls each had to perform a traditional dance from a region of Mali that was not their own.

To outsiders, the format may seem odd—rather as if, in France, one asked a Corsican to don Breton folk clothing and do a jig. But in the landlocked Sahel state of Mali, the show has been a raging success. And it has bred a desperately-needed sense of unity in a country burdened by jihadist violence and ethnic tensions.

### 'Cultural wealth'

The competition is the brainchild of dancer and choreographer Sekou Keita. Just six years ago, he was wondering how he could reverse the decline of traditional dance in Mali, a country whose music is now achieving global fame. "Our dances are so varied, we have a number of ethnic groups—we're very lucky to have such cultural wealth," he told AFP. But the sad thing is that all of Mali's dancers have one thing in common, he said.

"If you ask them to do the coupe-decale, a modern dance from Ivory Coast—which I have nothing against, by the way—they all know how to do it. "If they go to (Senegal's capital) Dakar, they all know how to dance the sabar," he said. "But they don't know the traditional dances of their own country."

### Exploring ancient roots

From this came his idea for a program that explored ancient cultural roots and built bridges across ethnic divides—"Faso Don" or "Dances of the Country" in the Bambara language. Over six weeks, TV audiences shared the fate of eight young men and women from different regions, who shared a house "Big Brother-style" in Bamako, the capital. Each week they performed before an audience and the TV cameras, their numbers progressively falling as a competitor was eliminated by a vote by the public and the jury—a device familiar to lovers of Britain's "Strictly Come Dancing" or its US spin-off, "Dancing with the Stars." The final took place last weekend before an audience exhilarated by the ground-breaking, cross-cultural performances.

Dressed in traditional costumes, the finalists performed one dance from their region and one from another region, accompanied by

Malian stars such as musician Bassekou Kouyate and singers Habib Koite and Oumou Sangare. Among the finalists was Mohamed Kassogue, a member of the Dogon group who hails from the central region of Mopti. His dream of dancing initially sparked a skeptical response from his family but in the end, Billy Elliot-style, their resistance crumbled and they became a source of "huge support and pride in me," he said.

### 'Dancing is useful'

"They always call me to congratulate me," Kassogue said. "They now see that dancing is useful, it's not something bad." Kassogue, who donned dramatic masks for one of his dances, ended up coming second. The winner was Rokia Diallo, a woman from the Fulani pastoral community in Sikasso, southern Mali. Dressed in a flowing gown and a veil, she interpreted the takamba, a sinuous, sensuous dance from the Songhai group in the far north of the country. "It's the first time I've seen something like this," said hip-hop dancer Oumar Tamboura, who had come to support a relative who was also one of the finalists.

"Until now, people weren't interested in folk dance, tradition and costumes." "Faso Don" has not just revived interest in generations-old regional dances in Mali. It has also reinforced mutual respect in a country whose reputation for hospitality is tragically being supplanted by one for violence.

### 20 ethnic groups

The eighth largest country in Africa and one of the poorest in the world, Mali is a sprawling state whose external borders were defined by the French colonial era, often cutting communities in two. It has around 20 ethnic groups, ranging from Arabs to the Bambara and the Songhai, each drawing on their own language and customs. Six years ago, problems flared when Tuareg separatists in northern Mali staged an uprising which jihadists then exploited to take over key cities.

The extremists were routed in a French-led military operation in 2013 but large stretches of the country remain out of control. Chronic instability has inflamed competition for resources, especially between Fulani pastoralists and Dogon farmers in the center of the country. Across the country, around 600 civilians have died in "inter-communal violence" since the start of the year, according to UN figures. — AFP

## Lifestyle | Feature



This photo shows a general view of Bhutan's capital Thimphu. — AFP photos



A car is pictured driving along a road in a valley of the Bhutanese town of Punakha.



The Punatsangchu River flows into the first unit of the hydropower project, next to the under-construction site of the Punatsangchu hydropower project second unit, in Wangdue Phodrang.

## 'Carbon sink' Bhutan counts cost of plans for green future

The gentle whirring of the wind turbine speaks volumes of Bhutan's record as the world's only carbon negative country, but major challenges stand in the way of the Himalayan kingdom's decision to follow a green path over rampant economic expansion. The mountainous state, holding only its third election on October 18, absorbs three times more CO<sub>2</sub> than it emits, thanks mainly to the lush forests covering 72 percent of its land.

Famed as the "last Shangri-La" for using happiness as a measure of success, Switzerland-sized Bhutan has been careful to keep its environment pristine, often by sacrificing profits. The nation of 800,000 has restricted tourist numbers with a daily fee of \$250 per visitor in high season, helping keep at bay the kind of boom that has ravaged other scenic hotspots.

In May, Bhutan opted out of an India-backed regional road connectivity project mainly over concerns that trucks coming in from other countries will pollute its air. The constitution stipulates that at least 60 percent of Bhutan must be covered in forest, putting a brake on farming and a potentially lucrative timber industry. "There was a great temptation to dig into our forest wealth but we thought of the longer term," said Dasho Paljor Dorji from Bhutan's National Environment Commission.

### Five-year plan

Under its 11th five-year-plan, Bhutan aims to reduce "substantially" its fossil fuel imports by 2020. It has just 100 electric cars so far but wants to increase numbers and plans to introduce a nationwide network of charging stations. In 2016 it installed its first wind turbines. A walk through spick and span Thimphu-Asia's only capital city with no traffic lights-gives a glimpse of Bhutan's green commitment. A rare sight in South Asia, heavy road-cleaning vehicles sweep the streets in slow circular motions, while trucks collect organic waste from households.

Just two hours away in Punakha district earthmovers and bulldozers are chugging away at a hydropower project. It is one of the 10 the country aims to build as part of its plan to remain carbon neutral. All existing and future hydropower projects are financed by its friend and biggest partner India. Hydropower was also Bhutan's largest export in 2016, accounting for 32.4 percent of the country's total exports and eight percent of its GDP, according to the Asian Development Bank.

All of the energy currently goes to India but there are plans to export also to Bangladesh. But concerns have been growing over the impact of dams on biodiversity especially as Bhutan shifts from low-impact "run-of-the-river" dams, which do not require large reservoirs, to larger-scale barriers that do.

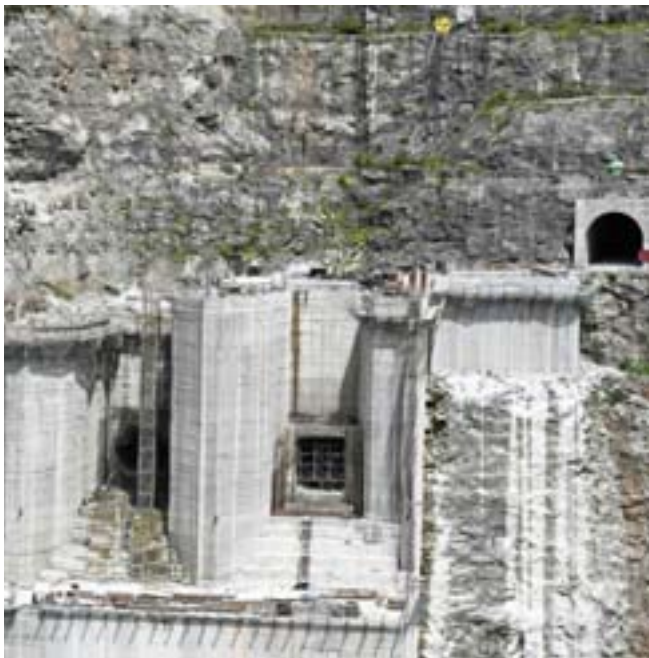
### Heavy price

And being able to afford staying on a green path depends on Bhutan receiving outside funding, something in doubt since President Donald Trump announced last year that the US would withdraw from the 2015 Paris climate accord. Under that accord, wealthy nations agreed to establish an annual \$100-billion fund to help developing nations adapt to a heating planet. Bhutan is keenly feeling the ravages of climate change, from melting glaciers, changing crop patterns to the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

Temperatures have started touching 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit), alarming locals unused to heat and humidity. "Even the snowfall pattern has changed. Earlier it would snow for a few days, now it doesn't even last a day," Tenzin Wangmo, Bhutan's chief environment officer, told AFP.

Wangmo said the warmer climes meant paddy fields dot places like Bumthang that never grew rice in the past. "Climate change is not in our control. We haven't done anything but we are paying a heavy price," she said. Furthermore, new drainage systems required to prevent flooding downstream require the deployment of workers in remote areas high in the mountains, Wangmo explained. "A lot of money and manpower is needed for such measures. But where is the funding and capacity-building?"

A Green Climate Fund (GCF) delegation that visited Bhutan in August said it would help the country's progress on a low-emission and climate-resilient path. "I think Bhutan's contribution to the global community through keeping its carbon sinks intact, its nature as pristine as possible is a great one," said Dorji. "Our cause is worth supporting. We should be rewarded equally, if not more." — AFP



The under-construction site of Bhutan's Punatsangchu hydropower project's second unit in Wangdue Phodrang.



Bhutanese women walk with umbrellas under fog at the 'Druk Wangyal Khang Zhang Chortens' stupas in Dochula Pass.

## Lifestyle | Feature

A picture of the Nabu Museum, in Lebanon's El-Heri village, north of Beirut. — AFP photos



A statue of Phoenician deity Baal is seen on display at Nabu Museum.



Visitors look at a painting on display at Nabu Museum.

## MODERN ART, ANTIQUES ON SHOW AT **LEBANON CUBE MUSEUM**

“Nabu is the god of writing and wisdom. Not the god of war”

At a new private museum in Lebanon, a contemporary sculpture of a mortar missile is displayed alongside millennia-old statues retrieved from the bottom of the sea. Named after the Mesopotamian god of wisdom, the Nabu Museum opened in late September to showcase the cultural wealth of an ancient region devastated by conflict. Its inaugural exhibition includes 60 contemporary works, as well as around 400 antiquities from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Yemen. “We



Artifacts are seen on display at Nabu Museum.

have a more or less complete picture of what was once the cradle of civilization,” says French curator Pascal Odille. Next to a private beach in the village of El-Heri in Lebanon's north, the museum's collection sits in an impressive futuristic cube of steel, coated with a rusty orange patina.

A tall glass opening in the metal and concrete structure provides a view straight through the museum's interior and out to the sea. Designed by Iraqi artists, the museum for the first time opens up the private art and antiquities collections of wealthy businessmen to the public for free. Drawn from the homes and warehouses of its patrons, the exhibits are displayed on two floors, floodlit by the sunlight streaming through the tall windows.



A view of Lebanon's Nabu Museum overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in the village of El-Heri, north of Beirut.



## Lifestyle | Features



Clay artifacts bearing Mesopotamian writing are seen on display at Nabu Museum.



Clay cones bearing Mesopotamian writing are seen on display at the Nabu Museum.



Lebanese businessman Jawad Adra (left), one of the founders of Nabu Museum, walks alongside the museum's French curator Pascal Odille (right).

There are "ushabti" from Ancient Egypt, finely carved turquoise figurines traditionally placed in coffins to ensure passage to the afterlife. Nearby, a contemporary sculpture of a mortar missile by Lebanese artist Katya Traboulsi is adorned with hieroglyphs. The artwork is topped by a sculpted bust of the Ancient Egyptian god of the sky, Horus, instead of a warhead.

#### 'Ray of optimism'

Visitors can see Lebanese artist Saliba Douaihy's abstract landscape paintings, one largely red, the other bright blue. But they can also admire terracotta statues harking back to the Phoenician period found during marine excavations off the southern coast of Lebanon. "You can see the seashell and limescale deposits on them," says Odille, of the figures from the sixth or seventh century BC. The museum's founders—two Lebanese and a Syrian—want it to be a beacon of hope in a region scarred by conflict and the brutality of jihadists.

"Nabu is the god of writing and wisdom. Not the god of war," says Lebanese co-founder Jawad Adra. "We're a ray of optimism in this region, amid all this obscurity," says the 64-year-old, whose colorful, modern-art inspired tie contrasts with his grey suit. The project

cost \$7 million, the organizers say. But the works on show only represent a fraction of its founders' private collections, and there are plans to switch the exhibits every few months. Adra's personal collection includes 2,000 items from the Levant and Mesopotamia regions, according to the exhibition's catalogue.

The businessman says his hobby dates back to his childhood. "I've been collecting stamps and coins since I was 10," says Adra, who now heads a Beirut-based polling company and owns quality control labs in the Gulf. He says it is time to give back. To set up the museum, he banded together with Syrian business partner Fida Jdeed, and fellow Lebanese entrepreneur Badr El-Hage, who runs a rare book firm in London.

#### 'Payback'

"We've all reached an age where we're starting to ask ourselves, 'What have you done? What have you given your country?'," he says. Lebanon's interior minister recently attended an evening inauguration ceremony at the Nabu Museum. In Lebanon, a 2016 law demands all private owners of antiquities register their items with the ministry as part of its efforts to combat illegal trafficking. Adra says that "a large part" of his collection has been declared to the authorities, and he

is registering the rest.

In recent years, part of the region's cultural heritage has been damaged, destroyed or looted by armed groups including jihadists. The Islamic State group in particular swept across large parts of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014, wrecking countless historical sites in territory it controlled. Mahmud Al-Obaidi, who designed the museum building with fellow Iraqi artist Dia Azzawi, sees the project as compensation for years of loss. "I feel this place is payback for everything that has been destroyed," says the 53-year-old, who left Iraq in 1991 for Canada.

With governments in the region busy battling troubled economies and poverty, personal initiatives are key to preserving culture, he says. "Our states don't take culture seriously," says the artist, dressed in a light blue linen shirt and dark blue jacket, whose work is on show inside the museum.

Yet, passing civilizations live on in their art, Obaidi says. "They don't realize that everything fades away, but it's the books, paintings and antiquities that remain," he adds. — AFP

## First tuna auction at Japan's 'new Tsukiji' market

The cries of the raucous pre-dawn tuna auction rang out for the first time at Tokyo's new fish market yesterday, just days after the world-famous Tsukiji site closed the door on its 83-year history. The location may have changed but the ritual remained the same: huge whole tuna laid out on the ground, bells tolling to sound the start of the auction and a loud and bewildering system of bidding understood only by those taking part. "There we go. We're off," said Kiyoshi Kimura, one of the celebrities of the sushi world, who owns the Sushi Zanmai chain and has previously paid record prices for tuna at New Year auctions. "We won't get the same prices today," he told AFP with a smile.

On Sunday, after an emotional final tuna auction the previous day, the Tsukiji market's famed "turret trucks"—one-man flatbeds with a barrel-shaped steering column at the front—began the mass exodus to the new site. However, the move was a lengthy and controversial process. Few would contest the fact that Tsukiji was past its prime, and there were concerns about outdated fire regulations and hygiene controls. In contrast, the new market, located around two kilometers to the east at Toyosu, boasts state-of-the-art refrigeration facilities and is nearly twice as big again as Tsukiji, already the world's largest. But Toyosu is located on the site of a former gas plant and the soil was found to be contaminated, forcing local authorities to spend millions of dollars to clean it up and delaying the move.

#### 'Not the same atmosphere'

The early morning tuna auction at Tsukiji became an institution and a must-see for tourists to the Japanese capital, who lined up

from the night before to be one of the 120 allowed to witness the organized chaos. Especially at the first auction of the new year, wholesalers and sushi tycoons have been known to pay eye-watering prices for the biggest and best fish. The record still stands from 2013 when 155.4 million yen (\$1.8 million) was paid for a 222-kilogramme bluefin. The move affected not only the famed fish-mongers, but also fruit and vegetable vendors, restaurants and other shops in the inner market.

The so-called outer market, with bricks-and-mortar shops selling everything from seaweed to coffee, will remain after the move. But the warehouses that housed vendors and additional shops and restaurants are expected to be leveled to make way, initially, for a transport depot for the 2020 Olympic Games. Tokyo



mayor Yuriko Koike has insisted the new complex is safe and will provide a "cutting-edge" environment for the selling of fish.

However, for some Tsukiji veterans competing in their first auction in the brand-new, sanitized and enclosed new arena, the move has deprived the market of some of its soul. "It's not the same atmosphere as at Tsukiji," said Lionel Beccat, a Michelin-starred chef who has been going to the pre-dawn auctions for years. "On a purely professional level, maybe Toyosu is better, but on a sentimental level, it's Tsukiji. The head says yes, but the heart says no," Beccat told AFP, referring to the new location.

#### 'Not completely reassured'

Koike has promised to listen to the numerous complaints about parking spaces for vans and traffic jams. "It's too early to say how it will turn out. We'll see when we start using it but we are not completely reassured," said one tuna trader. Meanwhile, back at Tsukiji, a few dozen protesters broke through lines of city officials and forced their way back in to the old premises—populated now mainly by rats. Some protesters have suggested keeping the Tsukiji site in case of serious problems at Toyosu. "We didn't want it to come to this but we wanted to come here because it's our right. We still have a commercial license here. We have not given it up," said one fishmonger to AFP. — AFP

Buyers, workers and auctioneers attend the first tuna auction at the new Toyosu fish market, the first day of the market's opening in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

# Rocket bound for ISS fails, crew survives emergency landing



BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan: NASA astronaut Nick Hague, a member of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 57/58, is helped by specialists as his space suit is tested at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. —AFP photos



BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan: Spacesuits gloves are seen prior to the launch of the Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft.

**BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan:** A two-man crew bound for the International Space Station was forced to make an emergency landing when a Soyuz rocket failed shortly after blast-off on Thursday, in a major setback for Russia's beleaguered space industry. US astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin were rescued without injuries in Kazakhstan. The manned spacecraft incident is the first of its kind in Russia's post-Soviet history.

The Russian space industry has suffered a series of problems in recent years, including the loss of a number of satellites and other spacecraft. "The emergency rescue system worked, the vessel was able to land in Kazakhstan... the crew are alive," the Russian space agency Roscosmos said in a tweet. "An accident with the booster, two minutes, 45 seconds," the voice of Ovchinin could be heard saying calmly in live-streamed footage of the launch from Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome.

The incident came as the rocket was travelling about 4,700 miles, 119 seconds into the voyage, according to NASA. "Shortly after launch, there was an anomaly with the booster and the launch ascent was aborted, resulting in a ballistic landing of the spacecraft," the American agency said in a statement. Rescue workers reached the site of the emergency landing and evacuated Ovchinin and Hague.

Roscosmos published pictures of the men on a sofa in the Kazakh city of Zhezkazgan,

having their blood pressure taken. The descent was sharper than usual meaning the crew was subjected to a greater G-force, but they have been prepared for this scenario in training, according to a commentator on NASA's video livestream of the launch. "We're tightening our seatbelts," Ovchinin said on the video. "That was a short flight." "Thank God the cosmonauts are alive," Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists. Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov told news agencies that Russia would suspend manned flights. Roscosmos's online stream of the launch cut out shortly after lift-off.

## Hole on the ISS

There were two similar Soviet-era accidents involving the Soyuz spacecraft, which are still used to ferry crews to and from the ISS. In 1975, Oleg Makarov and Vasily Lazarev made a successful emergency landing in Siberia's Altai mountains following problems during booster separation. Vladimir Titov and Gennady Strekalov survived a fire during launch in Kazakhstan in 1983. Former military pilots Ovchinin and Hague had been set to join Alexander Gerst of the European Space Agency, NASA's Serena Aunon-Chancellor and Sergey Prokopyev of Roscosmos following a six-hour flight.

The International Space Station—a rare point of cooperation between Moscow and Washington—has been orbiting the Earth at



BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan: Members of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 57/58, NASA astronaut Nick Hague, right, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin walk prior to the launch.



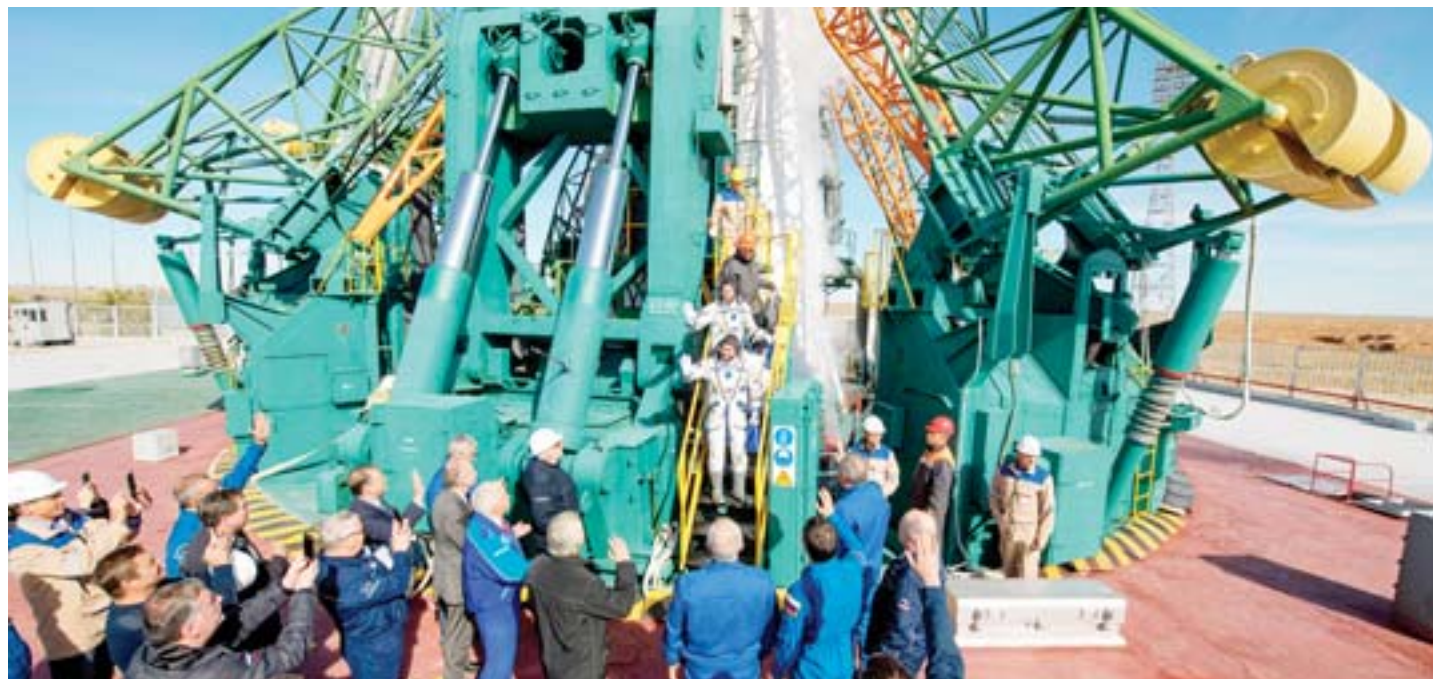
BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan: Russia's Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft carrying the members of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 57/58 blasts off to the ISS from the launch pad at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Baikonur.



roughly 28,000 kilometers per hour since 1998 and will mark its 20th birthday in November. But even the space station has proved a source of controversy in recent weeks. Russian space officials have said they are investigating whether a hole that caused an oxygen leak on the ISS was drilled deliberately by astronauts.

The hole was detected in August and quickly sealed up, but Russian newspapers said Roscosmos was probing the possibility that US crewmates had sabotaged the space station to get a sick colleague sent back home. Dmitry Rogozin, a firebrand nationalist politician who this year was appointed by President Vladimir Putin to head Roscosmos, said on Twitter he had ordered a state commission to probe the accident. He was shown talking to the astronauts after they arrived in Zhezkazgan.

The politician has clashed with the US, suggesting American astronauts should use trampolines instead of Russian rockets to reach the ISS after Washington imposed sanctions over Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea.—AFP



# #NoTimeToSleep: In the shoes of a dead man walking in Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: This photo shows members of the press, society and the diplomatic community watching a performance of the last 24 hours of a death row prisoner being live-streamed at the EU ambassador's residence in Islamabad. —AFP photos

**ISLAMABAD:** How does a condemned person feel in the 24 hours before execution? In Pakistan, one of the world's top executioners, an unprecedented artistic performance lays bare what happens when a life is ended behind prison walls. The project, dubbed "No Time to Sleep", saw actor Sarmad Khoosat embody "Prisoner Z", locked in isolation for his last hours in this world, in a live-streamed 24-hour performance which ended at the stroke of midnight Wednesday.

His story is inspired by a real case, that of an inmate named Zulfiqar Ali Khan, who spent 17 years on death row before being executed in 2015. The project was launched by the Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), an organisation which seeks to defend the most vulnerable prisoners. Its goal is to show "the sheer humanity of how, what a person goes through... what it actually takes up front and close when the state decides to take a human life," said Sarah Belal, JPP director and the lawyer for Zulfiqar Ali Khan.

As the performance began at 12.00am on Wednesday, Z sat in his cell, faithfully reconstructed in a Lahore studio, and awaited his final hour. Cameras broadcast his movements in real time on Dawn newspaper's website. Through them, Pakistanis watched Z talking to his guard, reading the Koran, and receiving the last, heartbreaking visit from his family.

"We give permission for the state to execute in our name, so if we're going to do that it's our duty as citizens to be educated about how it's actually done," Belal said. Executions generally take place "in the dark of night behind prisons... so it's really removed from the society that's taken that decision". The performance, unprecedented in Pakistan, was shown in universities and captivated social media, becoming a top trend in Pakistan and spurring widespread debate.

Many described watching the "jaw-dropping" performance for hours. "It took me some time to recover from #notimetosleep -



Sarah Belal, director of Justice Project Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: This photo shows European Union ambassador to Pakistan Jean-Francois Cautain speaking to AFP as a performance (on screen in background) of the last 24 hours of a death row prisoner is live-streamed at the EU ambassador's residence in Islamabad.

& I still don't have the right words to express the impact this screening has had. I've never felt more confident in my choice to be against the death penalty," said one viewer, Daanika Kamal. Others criticized JPP for focusing on the experiences of the condemned man. "Do you understand the destruction and devastation, a murder causes to the victim and the family and heirs of the victim? Or is your sympathy for the criminal alone?" tweeted Ismael Malek.

Excluding China, which classifies its executions as a state secret, Amnesty International says Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan—in that order—carried out 84 percent of all executions in

2017. Since 2004, 4,500 people have been sentenced to death in Pakistan, almost one per day, according to statistics gathered by JPP—and that time period includes a six-year moratorium on executions. The moratorium was controversially lifted shortly after a bloody attack on a school in Peshawar in 2014.

Since then, according to JPP, Pakistan has hanged 496 people, among them some of the school attackers. But the executions were carried out behind closed doors to the anger of grieving parents, who demanded the hangings be public—a grim demonstration of support for the death penalty in a traumatized country which has lost so much to militant violence. The list of crimes punishable

## Lifestyle | Feature

Friday, October 12, 2018

by death in Pakistan is long-taking in 33 offences including blasphemy, extra-marital sex, drug trafficking, and, oddly enough, "sabotage of the railroad".

"(The) death penalty is usually presented as a means to try to curtail crimes, but we know that it does not work," said Jean-Fran-

cois Cautain, ambassador of the European Union in Pakistan. He regularly discusses the issue with Pakistani authorities, he said, trying to convince them that more violence will not help victims. Belal said there was "a lot of hope" after the performance. "We definitely feel public opinion shifting." But it has been hard to

watch, she added. Zulfiqar Ali Khan was her first death penalty client. "I'm reliving the memory of this prisoner that changed the course of my life."—AFP



LAHORE: Pakistani artist Sarmad Khoosat prays during a 24-hour live performance as 'Prisoner Z' in isolation, in Lahore.

## 40 years on, Brittany tanker wreck is magnet for divers

**RENNES, France:** Forty years after it sank, the remains of a super tanker wrecked off northwestern France have become a favorite spot for divers when the weather allows. On March 16, 1978, the Amoco Cadiz tanker ran aground off the Brittany coast, causing one of the world's worst oil pollution disasters. The 227,000-ton tanker broke up on the reefs off the small fishing port of Portsall, covering miles of coastline in oil. Its hull, broken into three separate rusted parts and now covered in seaweed, is slowly sinking into the seabed. Thousands of soldiers and volunteers spent three months cleaning up 360 kilometers of coastline and trying to save hundreds of oil-coated sea birds. Local mayors and regional authorities spent 14 years tied up in court before winning compensation from the US company that operated the ship.—AFP



RENNES, France: A cyclist passes by the anchor of the super tanker Amoco-Cadiz displayed at the entrance of the Portsall harbour, north-eastern France.—AFP

# Boomtown Seattle

## aims to add jobs - and subtract emissions



SEATTLE: A view of the Bullitt Center, a living office building in Seattle.—Reuters photos

**SEATTLE:** From the Bullitt Center's roof, Seattle's status as the North American crane capital is in full view. Sixty-five cranes are currently reshaping the Seattle skyline, a building boom that reflects this city's phenomenal growth spurt. In US Census data released this year Seattle was ranked the fastest growing US big city over the last decade, with new residents pouring in to take jobs at companies such as Amazon.com. But that growth is a worry as the "Emerald City" - nicknamed for its evergreen trees and environmentalist politics - strives to become "carbon neutral" by 2050, meaning it will produce no more climate-changing emissions than it can offset by measures such as planting carbon-absorbing trees.

A building boom unlike any seen since the late 19th century Yukon Gold Rush is making an already challenging goal harder, experts say. Seattle's greenhouse gas emissions have fallen 6 percent since 2008, according to 2014 data, the most recently available from the city's Office of Sustainability and the Environment. Over the same period, the city's population grew 13 percent. "We have decoupled growth from emissions," the city's chief climate official, Jessica Finn Coven, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

But, nonetheless, "we're not on track to meet our ambitious 2050 goals," she said. As old structures fall and new ones are built, heating and lighting them account for a third of the city's emissions, Finn Coven said. Figuring out how to slash emissions further without either scaring off economic development or hampering the pace of housing construction is a challenge, she admits. But "it's not rocket science", she said. "We have to stop heating our buildings with fossil fuels."

Companies leasing office space in the Bullitt Center, a six-story modern glass-and-concrete edifice eight blocks from downtown, are doing their part to help Seattle become carbon neutral. The

Bullitt Center is the world's largest "living building", one that produces more energy than it consumes thanks to an energy-efficient design that exceeds the highest standards set by LEED, a green building ratings system.

Floor-to-ceiling windows allow ample natural light during working hours. Windows open and close automatically to adjust the temperature, and an energy-sipping heat pump takes advantage of stable temperatures below ground to heat the building in the winter and cool it in the summer. A cantilevered roof, carpeted in photovoltaic panels, captures enough solar energy in this cloudiest of major US cities to power the needs of an engineering firm, a tech company satellite office, and a home contractor, among others.

Occupants of the building say it's comfortable as well as efficient. "I love that there's so much daylight," said Amanda Falkenhagen, a lighting designer with Rushing, an engineering and sustainability consulting firm with an office in the center. "I was recently in a traditional office building and it made me realize all the things in this building I take for granted - the lightness, airiness, connectedness to the outside," she said. Denis Hayes, president of the Bullitt Foundation, an environmental philanthropy serving the Pacific Northwest, noted that often, in the center, "there are no lights on, but nobody complains".

The foundation invested more than \$32 million - a third of its \$110 million endowment - in 2013 to erect the Bullitt Center, hoping to pave the way for other similar buildings. "It suddenly takes something that developers thought was impossible and shows that it's in fact practical," Hayes said in the center's airy conference room.

The problem is the Bullitt Center still remains one of a kind - despite Hayes saying that if it was still the biggest "living" building



in the world five years after being commissioned, "I would consider our efforts a failure". Seattle hopes to change that through incentives. The Bullitt Center, for instance, benefitted from a pilot initiative that waived some zoning requirements on height and roof design, in order to accommodate its energy-efficient makeup.

In April, Mayor Jenny Durkan reauthorized that program and launched a new pilot that will allow up to 30 buildings to be built higher than existing rules permit if they meet certain energy efficiency standards. She also directed the city-run utility company, whose electricity comes almost entirely from hydropower, to feed excess energy created by buildings such as the Bullitt Center back into the power grid, and pay the building owners for creating it.—Reuters

## Comic

### Word Search

#### Easter

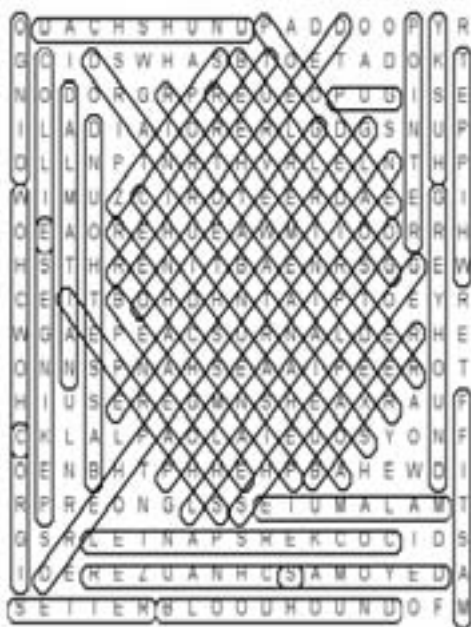
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 34 letters spell a secret message.

COSELPICSIDCHURCHY  
SRNESACRAMENTESAAS  
GTUTHFFPBUNNYDUDER  
GTNCROAAPMEMASSRNA  
EETIISLASUOEDEEYOF  
LCDNSFRYCTRTNTJAE  
PANOEAIHWBIDUAFDTS  
YAVEDMAXTEENSLASCT  
DELETRASIWENGMREI  
RYAMIITHOOKRCIURV  
CASSSRNSSINOIOLHRA  
ADTTTHIAETEAREOHTUL  
LISCNICIPSTCECSASI  
VLUTONDDETECWRYOEEG  
AOPRAAMOTSUCEOADRI  
RHPNREEGGHUNTNSRAV  
YTETAMARYADRUTASPE  
EPRLGGSCLEBRATION

ASH WEDNESDAY	DEATH	JESUS	PENTENCE
BREAD	DISCIPLES	LAST SUPPER	PRAYER
BUNNY	EGG HUNT	LENT	RESURRECTION
CALVARY	EGGS	MARY	ROAST
CELEBRATION	EUCCHARIST	MASS	SACRAMENT
CHOCOLATE	FAMILY	MEAL	SATURDAY
CHRIST	FASTING	NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY
CHURCH	FESTIVAL	PALMS	THURSDAY
CROSS	FRIDAY	PARADE	TOMB
CRUCIFIXION	HOLIDAY	PASSOVER	TRADITION
CUSTOM	HOLY WEEK	PENANCE	VIGIL

### Yesterday's Solution

#### Dogs



BASSET HOUND	DACHSHUND	HASTIFF	SAMOYED
BEAGLE	DALMATIAN	POKONGESE	SCHNAUZER
BLOODHOUND	DEERHOUND	PINSCHER	SETTER
BOKER	DONGO	POINTER	SHAR PEI
BULLDOG	GERMAN SHEPHERD	POMERANIAN	SHEPPOG
CHIHUAHUA	GREAT DANE	POODLE	SPITZ
CHOW CHOW	GREYHOUND	PUG	TERRIER
COCKER SPANIEL	HUSKY	RETRIEVER	WAGPET
COLLIE	LHASA APSO	ROTTWEILER	
CORGI	MALAMUTE	SAINT BERNARD	

The hidden sentence is: A DOOR IS WHAT A DOG IS PERPETUALLY ON THE WRONG SIDE OF.

### Crossword 2032



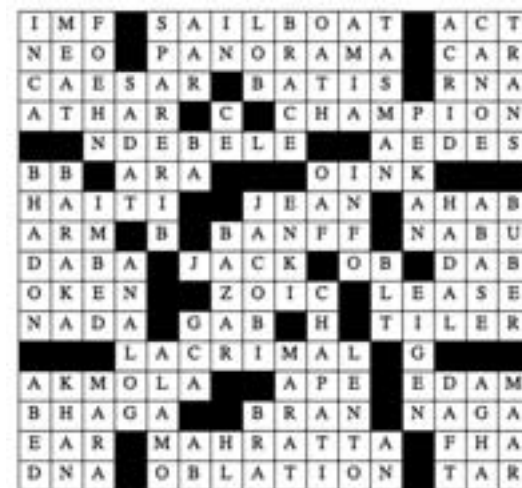
#### ACROSS

- (computer science) Protocol that allows users to copy files between their local system and any system they can reach on the network.
- How long something has existed.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- Pertaining to the tiny air sacs of the lungs.
- United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
- Humorously vulgar.
- Great brightness.
- A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
- The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
- United States economist noted as a proponent of monetarism and for his opposition to government intervention in the economy (born 1912).
- Prolific Flemish baroque painter.
- Genus of sticky herbs with yellow flowers open in morning or evening but closed in bright light.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- A genus of European owls.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- Medicine consisting of a tablet (trade name Carafate) used to treat peptic ulcers.
- Someone who is morally reprehensible.
- A resident of Kansas.
- A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
- Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggesting candelabra.
- French writer considered by some to be a founder of the detective novel (1832-1873).
- A form of energy that is transferred by a difference in temperature.
- A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- The sign language used in the United States.
- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- A sign of assent or salutation or command.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- The month following March and preceding May.
- A tumor consisting of a mixture of tissues not normally found at that site.
- Having undesirable or negative qualities.

#### DOWN

- Found on a farm.
- The cardinal number that is the sum of one and one and one.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- A song that was formerly popular.
- A state in the western United States.
- Two-year-old sheep.
- Norse chieftan who became the first duke of Normandy (860-931).
- Experiencing a sudden sense of danger.
- Type genus of the Cariamidae comprising only the crested caria.
- Forced to turn and face attackers.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- Offering fun and gaiety.
- A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
- A popular island resort in the Netherlands Antilles.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- A painful emotion resulting from an awareness of inadequacy or guilt.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- The capital of Lombardy in northern Italy.
- Expletives used informally as intensifiers.
- An outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm animals.
- An audiotape recording of sound.
- United States anarchist (born in Italy) who with Bartolomeo Vanzetti was convicted of murder and in spite of world-wide protest was executed (1891-1927).
- An island of central Hawaii.
- Large genus of tropical subshrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
- A cravat with wide square ends.
- Of a temperature scale that registers the freezing point of water as 32 degrees F and the boiling point as 212 degrees F at one atmosphere of pressure.
- A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
- A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
- Serving during an intermediate interval of time.
- In bed.
- (New Testament) One of the three sages from the east who came bearing gifts for the infant Jesus.
- A great waterfall on the border between Brazil and Paraguay.
- Greek author of fables (circa 620-560 BC).
- (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
- A cigar made with light-colored tobacco.
- Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Advanced in years.
- Standard time in the 6th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 90th meridian.
- Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

### Yesterday's Solution



### Yesterday's Solution



### Daily SuDoku



## TV Listings



02:00 The Edge  
04:15 Dangerous Lessons  
06:00 The Bodyguard  
07:45 The Mask Of Zorro  
10:10 The Hollow Point  
11:55 The House Sitter  
13:30 Deepwater Horizon  
15:25 Acts Of Vengeance  
17:00 Bushwick  
18:40 Check Point  
20:20 Chokehold  
22:00 Under Siege 2  
23:45 Flight World War II



00:45 North Woods Law  
01:40 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall  
02:35 Sharks Of Palau  
03:25 Whale Wars  
04:15 North Woods Law  
05:02 Wildest Latin America  
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
06:36 Animal Battlegrounds  
07:00 Animal Battlegrounds  
07:25 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker  
08:15 Animal Cops Houston  
09:10 Whale Wars  
10:05 North Woods Law  
11:00 Wildest Latin America  
11:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
12:50 Sharks Of Palau  
13:45 Animal ER  
14:40 North Woods Law  
15:35 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall  
16:30 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker  
17:25 Animal Cops Houston  
18:20 Shark City  
19:15 Extinct Or Alive  
20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
21:05 Wildest Arctic  
22:00 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall  
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
23:50 Extinct Or Alive



00:10 Friday Night Dinner  
00:35 Mum  
01:05 Back  
01:30 Holby City  
02:25 Death In Paradise  
03:20 Friday Night Dinner  
03:45 Mum  
04:15 Father Brown  
05:00 Last Tango In Halifax  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Holby City  
08:00 Casualty  
08:50 Father Brown  
09:40 Death In Paradise  
10:40 Casualty  
11:30 Casualty  
12:25 Holby City  
13:20 Father Brown  
14:10 Death In Paradise  
15:05 Casualty  
15:55 Doctors  
16:25 Doctors  
17:00 Doctors  
17:30 Doctors  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Agatha Raisin  
19:15 Agatha Raisin  
20:05 Bancroft  
20:55 The Witness For The Prosecution  
22:00 The Last Post  
22:55 Father Brown  
23:40 Doctors

01:55 The Killing Season  
02:50 It Takes A Killer  
03:20 It Takes A Killer  
03:45 The First 48  
04:30 Crimes That Shook Australia  
05:15 Homicide Hunter  
06:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:20 The First 48  
08:05 Cold Case Files  
08:50 Homicide Hunter  
09:35 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
10:30 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
11:25 Crimes That Shook Britain  
12:20 Cold Case Files  
13:15 It Takes A Killer  
13:45 It Takes A Killer  
14:10 The First 48  
15:05 Crimes That Shook Australia  
16:00 Homicide Hunter  
17:00 The Eleven  
18:00 The Eleven  
19:00 The Eleven  
20:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
22:00 It Takes A Killer  
22:30 It Takes A Killer  
23:00 The First 48



00:05 Tosh.0  
00:30 Graves  
00:58 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
01:20 Chappelle's Show  
01:45 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central  
02:10 Tosh.0  
02:32 Graves  
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
03:25 Tosh.0  
03:50 Tosh.0  
04:15 Sweat Inc.  
05:05 I Used To Be Fat  
05:55 Disaster Date  
06:25 Disaster Date  
06:50 Disaster Date  
07:15 Lip Sync Battle UK  
07:40 Lip Sync Battle UK  
08:05 I Used To Be Fat  
08:55 Sweat Inc.  
09:45 Snack Off  
10:10 Snack Off  
10:35 House Of Food  
11:25 Lip Sync Battle  
11:50 Lip Sync Battle  
12:15 Friends  
12:40 Friends  
13:05 Friends  
13:30 Kroll Show  
13:55 Kroll Show  
14:20 Impractical Jokers  
14:45 Impractical Jokers  
15:10 Impractical Jokers  
15:35 House Of Food  
16:30 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
16:55 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
17:20 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
17:45 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
18:10 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
18:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
19:00 Lip Sync Battle  
19:25 Lip Sync Battle  
19:50 Friends  
20:12 Friends  
20:35 Friends  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Demetri Martin: Person  
22:25 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
22:50 Tosh.0  
23:15 Tosh.0  
23:40 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show

03:00 Tanked  
03:50 Bear Grylls Survival School  
04:15 Bear Grylls Survival School  
04:40 Weather Gone Viral  
05:30 NASA's Unexplained Files  
06:20 How It's Made  
06:40 How It's Made  
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
07:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
07:50 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 Tanked  
10:20 Bear Grylls Survival School  
10:45 Bear Grylls Survival School  
11:10 Destroyed In Seconds  
11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
12:00 How It's Made  
12:25 How It's Made  
12:50 Weather Gone Viral  
13:40 NASA's Unexplained Files  
14:30 The Food Inspectors  
15:20 Rip Off Food  
16:10 Country House Rescue  
17:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
17:50 Tanked  
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
19:30 Ultimate Ninja Challenge  
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect  
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect  
21:10 How It's Made  
21:35 How It's Made  
22:00 Bear Grylls Survival School  
22:25 Bear Grylls Survival School  
22:50 Ultimate Ninja Challenge  
23:40 The Carbonaro Effect



00:45 Twisted Sisters  
01:40 Evil Lives Here  
02:35 The Killer Beside Me  
03:30 Murder Comes To Town  
04:25 A Crime To Remember  
05:20 Evil Online  
06:10 I Almost Got Away With It  
07:00 California Investigator  
07:25 Obsession: Dark Desires  
08:15 Disappeared  
09:10 Evil Stepmothers  
10:05 Evil Online  
11:00 Murder Calls  
11:55 Obsession: Dark Desires  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:45 A Crime To Remember  
14:40 Evil Online  
15:35 Murder Comes To Town  
16:30 Obsession: Dark Desires  
17:25 Disappeared  
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
19:15 A Crime To Remember  
20:10 Evil Online  
21:05 Evil Online  
22:00 Murder Among Friends  
22:55 Murder By Numbers  
23:50 Twisted Sisters



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

07:20 Bizaardvark  
07:45 K.C. Undercover  
08:10 Bunk'd  
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
09:25 Tangled  
09:50 Tangled  
10:15 Bizaardvark  
10:40 Bizaardvark  
11:05 Liv And Maddie  
11:30 Liv And Maddie  
11:55 K.C. Undercover  
12:20 K.C. Undercover  
12:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
14:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
14:15 Bunk'd  
14:40 K.C. Undercover  
15:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
15:10 A.N.T. Farm  
15:35 Bizaardvark  
16:00 Tangled  
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
16:50 Raven's Home  
17:15 Stuck In The Middle  
17:40 Bunk'd  
18:05 K.C. Undercover  
18:30 Bunk'd  
18:55 Descendants Wicked World  
19:00 Raven's Home  
19:25 Liv And Maddie  
19:50 K.C. Undercover  
20:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
20:20 A.N.T. Farm  
20:45 Bizaardvark  
21:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
21:35 Stuck In The Middle  
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
22:50 Lolirock  
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



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

13:20 PJ Masks  
13:40 Paprika  
13:50 Paprika  
14:00 Claude  
14:20 Claude  
14:35 PJ Masks  
14:40 Trulli Tales  
14:55 Trulli Tales  
15:10 Paprika  
15:20 Paprika  
15:30 Vampirina  
15:50 Vampirina  
16:05 Vampirina  
16:25 Muppet Babies  
16:40 Paprika  
16:50 Paprika  
17:00 Claude  
17:15 Claude  
17:31 Puppy Dog Pals  
18:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
18:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
18:30 Vampirina  
18:45 Vampirina  
19:00 PJ Masks  
19:15 PJ Masks  
19:30 The Lion Guard  
20:00 Sofia The First  
20:25 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
20:30 Elena Of Avalor  
21:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
21:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
21:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
22:01 Vampirina  
22:20 Vampirina  
22:40 PJ Masks  
22:55 PJ Masks  
23:15 The Lion Guard  
23:45 Sofia The First



00:15 Street Outlaws  
01:05 Salvage Hunters  
01:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
02:35 Dubai's Amazing Animals  
03:20 NASA's Unexplained Files  
04:05 Alaska Monsters  
04:50 Dirty Jobs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 Auction Kings  
06:23 Container Wars  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 How Do They Do It?  
07:35 Alaska Monsters  
08:20 Auction Kings  
08:45 Container Wars  
09:10 Dirty Jobs  
09:55 Alaska Monsters  
10:45 Dirty Jobs  
11:30 Street Outlaws  
12:20 Auction Kings  
12:43 Container Wars  
13:05 Storage Hunters  
13:30 How Do They Do It?  
13:55 Space Dealers  
14:40 Street Outlaws  
15:30 Salvage Hunters  
16:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
17:05 Dubai's Amazing Animals  
17:50 Abandoned Engineering  
18:40 Impossible Engineering  
19:25 Street Outlaws  
20:15 NASA's Unexplained Files  
21:00 Diesel Brothers  
21:50 Street Outlaws: No Prep Kings (Special)  
22:40 Street Outlaws: No Prep Kings  
23:30 Gold Rush: The Story So Far



00:05 Model Squad  
00:55 Model Squad  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 WAGs  
03:40 WAGs  
04:35 WAGs  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 Mariah's World  
06:55 E! News Middle East  
07:10 Mariah's World  
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop  
09:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

10:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
11:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
12:00 E! News Middle East  
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
13:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:00 E! News Middle East  
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Model Squad  
17:10 Model Squad  
18:05 Model Squad  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Celebrity Style Story  
20:30 Ashlee+evan  
21:00 Ashlee+evan  
21:30 Ashlee+evan  
22:00 Life Of Kylie  
22:30 Life Of Kylie  
23:00 E! News Middle East  
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:20 The Curse Of Oak Island  
01:05 Mountain Men  
01:50 Alone  
02:35 American Pickers  
03:25 Swamp People  
04:15 Alone  
05:05 American Pickers  
06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island  
06:45 Mountain Men  
07:25 Swamp People  
11:10 The Curse Of Oak Island  
14:55 American Pickers  
18:45 Mountain Men  
19:30 Alone  
20:15 Ultimate Wheels  
21:50 Swamp People



00:15 Andy And Ben Eat The World  
00:45 Cesar's Recruit: Asia  
01:10 Carnival Eats  
01:40 Eat Street  
02:05 Eat Street  
02:35 Straight To The Source: Korean Food  
03:00 Places We Go  
03:30 Celebrity Chef: East vs West  
04:25 Cesar's Recruit: Asia  
04:50 A Is For Apple  
05:20 A Is For Apple  
05:45 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
06:15 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
06:40 United Plates Of America  
07:10 Eat Street  
07:35 Eat Street  
08:05 Straight To The Source: Korean Food  
08:30 Places We Go  
09:00 Celebrity Chef: East vs West  
09:55 Cesar's Recruit: Asia  
10:20 A Is For Apple  
10:50 A Is For Apple  
11:15 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
11:45 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
12:10 United Plates Of America  
12:40 Eat Street  
13:05 Eat Street  
13:35 Straight To The Source: Korean Food  
14:00 Places We Go  
14:30 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
14:55 Late Nite Eats  
15:25 Cesar's Recruit: Asia  
15:50 A Is For Apple  
16:20 A Is For Apple  
16:45 What's For Sale With A View  
17:15 Route Awakening  
17:40 United Plates Of America  
18:10 Hotel India  
19:05 Straight To The Source: Korean Food  
19:30 Places We Go  
20:00 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
20:30 Late Nite Eats  
21:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia  
21:30 A Is For Apple  
22:00 A Is For Apple



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

00:30 Destroyed In Seconds  
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
01:20 How It's Made  
01:45 How It's Made  
02:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101





## Stars



### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Decide exactly what you want. Imagine it happening. Project that image and make those dreams become a reality. Just as your words have power, so do your visions and dreams. Focus on making a reality out of your visions and set your plans in motion. This is the perfect time to make positive changes in your life. You are on the path to success. Your actions today will lead to great success in the future. Reach for the stars, Aries. You may just surprise yourself.



### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Seems as if all is well in your world. You should be experiencing much love and support from those around you. You are able to sense and respond to the needs of others. This is a quality that draws many to you. You are the friend others not only want to have but also wish they could be. You are extremely sympathetic and understanding to others and this is a trait that finds you surrounded with many friends. This may be a very spiritual time in your life and you could find yourself going above and beyond for someone very close to you. Count your blessings and continue to bring blessing to the lives of those around you.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have become a more emotional person. Being more in touch with your emotions has led you to nurture and care for those surrounding you. You may find yourself especially drawn to those younger and children. This is mostly driven by an "if I knew then, what I know now" type of attitude. You feel as if you could help so many others and wish someone would have been around to mentor and guide you. You may find yourself signing up to volunteer to work with children or find some other role to step in where your knowledge may be beneficial to others. You will benefit in many ways from helping those close to you.



### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find you deeply desire to be respected. This may not only be in the workplace but also concerning your home life. This is an excellent time for you to organize your affairs and your surroundings. You may find yourself much more productive when all around you is in order. This could lead to greater accomplishments and you may find yourself receiving the respect you desire. You are always able to act and accomplish any task put before you quickly. You may find you are not only gain recognition from this ability you may find yourself being praised for it today. You may find today is a great day to surround yourself with friends and find someone younger has a great sense of admiration for you and looks to you as a role model.



### Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself extremely creative today. This is a great way to express your emotions and feelings as well as having new experiences. You may feel drawn to take chances, take a new and different approach to problem solving or just change your routine all together. You are more willing at this time to take financial risk. Hopefully this will lead you towards the stock market rather than the casino. Either direction you may choose you are in the mood to do a bit of gambling. Good luck with this, Leo. May the risks you take be profitable.



### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have a strong desire for a change of surroundings. You wish to broaden your horizons. This is a time you feel as though you occupy a tiny little spot on this Earth and wish to see and experience all the world has to offer. You need more out of life. You may find your desires to broaden your horizons are met with opposition from someone dear to you. This may be a time to consider a get away for yourself and with yourself, only. You seem very sensitive when it comes to the needs of others. The only thing missing is someone who makes you feel as if you are understood.



### Libra (September 23-October 22)

An instinctive urge to take care of your physical health may come over you today. Meal planning, exercise programs, and an overall healthier lifestyle may be just where your focus needs to be. These are steps in the direction of feeling good about yourself. You not only want to feel good about how you look, but also how you do things. This is a great time to organize your thoughts and surroundings. Become more focused and attentive to keeping your affairs in order. Choices you make today will have long-term effects on your future. Make sure they are positive ones.



### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Sometimes you may question just where you fit in and be long. This is one of those times. You crave a strong foundation. Relationship wise you want stability and a relationship that can stand the test of time. As you are well aware, the only thing that will establish this is strong roots. You have to be as open and honest with your partner as you expect them to be with you. This is a good time to confide in your partner and open your heart to them. You will learn you have to give in order to receive. Showing a more vulnerable side of yourself will be very beneficial to you.



### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself extremely creative today. This is a great way to express your emotions and feelings as well as having new experiences. You may feel drawn to take chances, take a new and different approach to problem solving or just change your routine all together. You are more willing at this time to take financial risk. Hopefully this will lead you towards the stock market rather than the casino. Either direction you may choose you are in the mood to do a bit of gambling. Good luck with this, Aquarius. May the risks you take be profitable.



### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Taking chances today could bring great reward your way. If attention and appreciation for your talents is what you seek, be sure to share them with someone special today. Let your guard down and be open with your feelings. You may find the more you are able to share your thoughts and feelings, the closer you become to someone who means the world to you. As you show them a less independent and more vulnerable side of yourself, you may find they are more comfortable sharing their true feelings about you. Remember, your strength and independence may have a tendency to make you come across as unapproachable to those who do not know the real you.



### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You feel as though you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. You are driven and focused. You don't meet a stranger. People are drawn to you and you make friends easily. You are a people person. You may find yourself in a position where you are led to take step out of your comfort zone and take a chance on an emotional level that may lead to a great reward. You may still especially close to a love one today. You also may find that your being complemented on your possessions or talents. People seem to really be taking notice of you today.



### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Look for a rainbow today. Something good is happening in your life. It may lead to something important in your career or your personal life. Even if the pleasure you derive from it is not permanent, you can find pleasure in the moment. You're getting a break you deserve. Don't discount it by projecting the future. If you take a "live today" attitude, the future will take care of itself-and you. You are on the right track.

## Country Codes

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

## Health

## Ethiopia aims to boost urban green

**ADDIS ABABA:** When Habtamu Worku left his hometown of Bahir Dar seven years ago and moved 550 kilometers south to Addis Ababa, he quickly grew to like the city of 5 million people. Except for one thing: the ubiquitous air pollution that is a constant problem for the residents of Ethiopia's capital. The combination of smoke from numerous factories dotted around the city, exhaust from the old-model cars that jam the roads and heat coming off buildings can make commuting a miserable experience, Worku said.

"When I came to Addis Ababa, the first thing that struck me is how little space is given to green spaces in contrast to my home city," said the 27-year-old. More of those are what "Addis Ababa sorely needs if it's to create a healthy, functioning, liveable metropolis", he said. For the past few years, several regions and cities in Ethiopia have been planting trees and increasing green spaces to improve the lives of their residents.

Now the Ministry of Forestry, Environment and Climate Change (MoFEC) wants to build an integrated approach among local, regional and federal government institutions to spread the benefits of urban greening to even the most congested cities. Those benefits can include a cooler and shadier environment; less noise pollution as trees muffle the sounds of traffic, loud music and factories; - and fewer climate changing emissions in the atmosphere.

"If you have two matured trees, they can absorb one ton of carbon annually," said Yitbetu Moges, the national representative for REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) at the

ministry. By getting authorities at various levels and in different parts of the country to work together on urban greening, the ministry aims to not only make Ethiopia's cities healthier, but also strengthen efforts to curb climate change and adapt to its impacts. That would be a major step toward reaching Ethiopia's goal of building a net-zero carbon economy by 2025, Moges said.

#### Calling on community

Moges pointed to the cities of Bahir Dar, Hawassa and Adama as examples of urban greening programs that are already seeing successes. Some have been implemented by federal institutions, while others are overseen by city administrations. Having worked on Adama's 10-year-old urban greening project, "I have seen how the weather of the Rift Valley city has changed from that of unbearable heat to a pleasant moderate climate," he said.

While the goal is to do the same for Addis Ababa, Moges said financial constraints make it unrealistic for the environmental ministry to carry out a comprehensive urban greening program in the rapidly growing capital. "If you look at Addis Ababa, almost every square inch is taken. It's a very built-up area," he said. "While you have some green areas, they are not well arranged. They have to be integrated to maximize the benefit to residents."

Instead, the government is working on greening the mountainous areas surrounding the city. Planting more trees in the mountains will help offset urban pressures on the ecosystem and regenerate the city's water resources, helping stabilize the city's water supply during times of drought and overconsumption, Moges said. Within Addis Ababa, the government is spending some money on greening small spots around the city and asking residents to get involved.

"We are planting pest-resistant, long-lasting indigenous trees along some streets, while also encouraging churches and public institutions to green their own spaces," Moges said.

A long-term urban greening program could also help the government boost its coffers by selling carbon credits on the international market, he added. But success relies on residents doing their part. Moges would like to

see the government offer economic incentives and make more resources available to people - including experts - to support community greening efforts.

#### Urgent need

As the environment ministry focuses on how the federal government and local authorities can work together to bring urban greening to all of Ethiopia's cities, Negash Teklu, executive director of the Population Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium, says cre-

ating healthier cities starts with urban planning. Teklu cited Singapore as a model for the way the city incorporates environmentally-friendly features into new construction.

"Green space can be made to fit even the most crowded urban areas," he said. Teklu said changing public attitudes is an important step, to make it clear to urban dwellers how greening their surroundings and homes can benefit them. A sustainable urban greening program could help alleviate poverty and help women by providing a source of income from urban agriculture, he said. That would also increase access to fresh, nutritional foods.

And green areas could be used to grow vegetables for biogas production, generating much-needed energy and easing the country's reliance on fossil fuels, he added. "The government needs to make sure every planned house has a green package within its construction plan," Teklu said. "If Addis Ababa's master plan can make it compulsory, it would be easier to implement for everyone from an ordinary citizen to a factory owner."

Whatever strategy Ethiopia's cities choose to take, both Teklu and Moges agree that the need for urban greening is taking on urgency. The country's urban population is growing rapidly. Experts estimate that the 2019 census will show around 18 percent of Ethiopia's population of approximately 105 million is living in cities, a number that is expected to keep rising. "Money can't be an excuse, population pressure can't be an excuse. Our commitment and principles need to guide us, if we are to have successful urban greening projects in Ethiopia," Teklu said. — Reuters

“If you have two matured trees, they can absorb one ton of carbon annually”

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

### DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM

Consultant Pediatrician

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



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### DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED

Consultant of General Surgery  
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

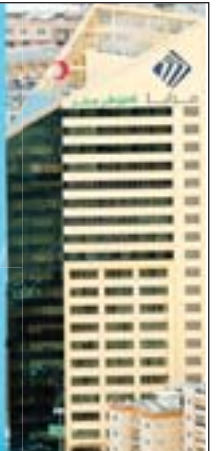


#### Academic Certificates – Training

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

#### Scope of clinical Practice.

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



email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228

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**Kuwait Times**  
248 33 199

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

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

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@Malhajry

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

**ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:**

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

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

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- ◆ Laser Treatments.
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- ◆ Injectable Fillers & Botox.

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

**Specialized in:**

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

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**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist

- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
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**Specialized in:**

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
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- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
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**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

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

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

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

**Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad**  
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**Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine**  
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

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

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# Classifieds

## Airlines

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

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

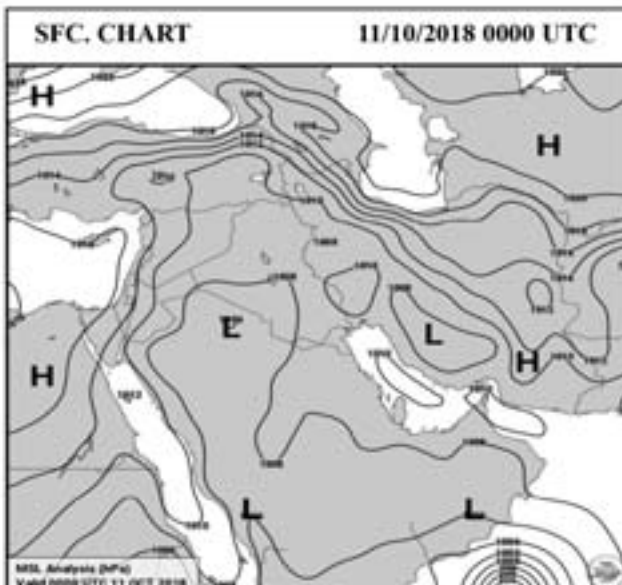
**BY DAY:** Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

#### WEATHER WARNING

No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	43 °C	30 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	43 °C	24 °C
ABDALY	43 °C	23 °C
BUBYAN	*** °C	*** °C
JAHRA	44 °C	26 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	41 °C	27 °C
SALMIYAH	39 °C	30 °C
AHMADI	41 °C	30 °C
NUWAISIB	44 °C	25 °C
WAFRA	43 °C	24 °C
SALMY	42 °C	26 °C



#### 4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	10/12	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	40 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Saturday	10/13	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming	39 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Sunday	10/14	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	38 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Monday	10/15	Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered light rain	38 °C	24 °C	S-SE	10 - 32 km/h

#### PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:28
Sunrise	05:47
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:52
Sunset	17:23
Isha	18:39

#### RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	43 °C
MIN. Temp.	25 °C
MAX. RH	56 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	S 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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#### 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)

#### EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

# Business

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NUSA DUA, INDONESIA: Southeast Asian leaders pose for a family photo for the ASEAN Leaders Gathering at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meetings in Nusa Dua on Indonesia's resort island of Bali.—AFP

## IMF chief defends rate hikes

### Trump blames 'crazy' Fed policies for financial market turmoil

**NUSA DUA, INDONESIA:** IMF chief Christine Lagarde yesterday defended central bank rate hikes in a veiled rebuke to Donald Trump after the US president blamed "crazy" Fed policies for contributing to financial market turmoil. Lagarde spoke as a global market sell-off rolled into Asia following Trump's comments, underscoring the rising financial volatility that the IMF will address at its annual meetings with the World Bank this week in Bali.

Lagarde, 62, said central bank rate increases such as those by the policy-setting US Federal Reserve were justified by fundamentals—as several central bankers pointed to their need for independence. "It is clearly a necessary development for those economies that are showing much improved growth, inflation that is picking up... unemployment that is extremely low," Lagarde told a press briefing in Bali. "It's inevitable that central banks make the decisions that they make." Following a sharp Wall Street sell-off on Wednesday, Trump said the Federal

Reserve "is making a mistake." "I think the Fed has gone crazy," he said.

#### Gathering clouds

Trump has repeatedly touted Wall Street record highs as proof of the success of his policies and confrontational trade strategy, and frequently criticizes the Fed for gradually raising interest rates, which could squeeze the brakes on equity markets. "Regulators need to be given the space to act independently, without continuous political interference," South African Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago told a panel in response to questions about Trump's comments.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney added: "I think the sanest way to answer that question is to associate myself entirely with Lesetja's answer." The world's financial elite are on the Indonesian holiday island for a week of talks clouded by the economic outlook. An IMF report released Wednesday said global growth

could be at risk if emerging markets deteriorate further or trade tensions escalate. Much of the global angst has been dominated by Trump's escalating tariff war with China and his disdain for world trading norms.

But higher US interest rates have also helped send emerging market currencies into a tailspin, as countries that borrowed heavily in dollars race to pay back debt. Lagarde said in Bali that world leaders should fix global trading systems instead of tearing them down, in response to rising nationalist and protectionist impulses. While defending rate hikes, Lagarde added Thursday that uncoordinated increases in advanced economies were contributing to destabilizing capital outflows from emerging markets.

Combined with trade tensions, this had created "a bit of an unprecedented situation" for the world economy, she said. "Clearly as a result of (rate hikes)... we see and we will continue to see capital flow movements," she added. "The fact that large central banks of advanced

economies are not exactly all moving at the same pace is also probably accelerating that phenomenon."

#### Economic tremors

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, hurting the United States, China, and others.

The IMF on Tuesday cut its global GDP growth forecast by 0.2 percentage points to 3.7 percent for both 2018 and 2019, citing the economic uncertainties. Lagarde warned the world against falling into "collective amnesia" about what led to the 2008 global financial crisis, saying it was a time when protectionism and geopolitical tensions led to "terrible events."—AFP

## Business

# European stocks slump to 21-month low, Wall Street braces

## Dollar loses ground against Japanese yen

**LONDON** European stocks slumped to a 21-month low yesterday after Wall Street's worst losses in eight months triggered a surge of global selling that also hit Asia and emerging markets. Losses in London, Paris and Milan were at nearly 2 percent ahead of what looked set to be another early dive from Wall Street, although it wasn't quite as dramatic as the overnight session in Asia.

MSCI's broadest index of Asian shares not including Japan ended down 3.6 percent, having struck its lowest level since March 2017. China's main indexes had slumped over 5 percent. It meant MSCI's 24-country emerging market index was having its worst day since early 2016, after Wall Street's swoon had given the 47-country world index equivalent its worst day since February. "Equity markets are locked in a sharp sell-off, with concern around how far yields will rise, warnings from the IMF about financial stability risks and continued trade tension all driving uncertainty," summed up analysts at ANZ.

The sell-off, which came as the head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, said stock market valuations have been "extremely high", erased hundreds of billions of dollars of global wealth.

Japan's Nikkei ended down 3.9 percent, its steepest daily drop since March. The broader TOPIX lost around \$207 billion in market value, falling 3.5 percent. Shanghai's drop was its most severe since February 2016 and left it at its lowest level since late 2014. Shares in Taiwan were even harder hit, losing 6.3 percent. Seoul's Kospi index dropped 3.8 percent.

"I think what happened was that we were a maximum elevation of risk appetite and maximum valuation of (US) large caps and tech, so when you have that situation you are always vulnerable," said UBP macro and

FX strategist Koon Chow. Europe's traders retreated to the safety of German and other higher-rated government bonds. Italian bonds aren't on that list though, and though they squeezed through a 6.5 billion euro debt sale, they saw more selling amid ongoing concern about the country's financial health. "It remains to be seen whether the accelerating equity plunge is a healthy correction or the tip of the iceberg," Commerzbank analysts said in a note.

### Blood on the street

Sinking global shares had raised the stakes for US inflation figures which ended up coming in relatively tame. High inflation would only stoke speculation of more aggressive rate hikes from the Federal Reserve - one of the things that has spooked markets. On Wall Street, the S&P500's sharpest one-day fall since February on Tuesday had wiped out around \$850 billion as the S&P toppled over 3 percent and the Nasdaq's high-flying tech shares tumbled even more on fears of slowing demand.

The bloodletting attracted the attention of US President Donald Trump, who pointed an accusing finger at the Fed for raising interest rates. "I really disagree with what the Fed is doing," Trump told reporters before a political rally in Pennsylvania. "I think the Fed has gone crazy". Hawkish commentary from Fed policymakers triggered the sell-off in Treasuries last week and sent long-term yields to their highest in seven years.

The surge made stocks look less attractive compared with bonds while also threatening to curb economic activity and profits. "The rise in Treasury yields has been the primary catalyst for the sell-off in equities,

### The tip of the iceberg

phase since 1966," Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said. Berlin points to record low unemployment and rising wages as factors that should sustain economic expansion as companies invest and consumers spend more. But "growing protectionist tendencies and international trade conflicts lead to uncertainty for the future," Altmaier said. "We should reduce tariffs and barriers to trade, not build them up," Altmaier shot at President Donald Trump, who aims to shrink the US' yawning deficits in the name of his "America First" policy.

While the European Union has struck a shaky trade truce with Washington, Berlin slashed its outlook for growth in exports for 2018 by almost half, to 2.8 percent, with a smaller cut to the 2019 projection. Elsewhere in its forecast, the economy ministry pushed back a surge in government spending from this year to 2019, after it took longer than expected for Chancellor Angela Merkel to form her fourth government. And it sees inflation relatively steady, around 2.0 percent level targeted by the European Central Bank in the coming years. —AFP



BEIJING: An investor looks at stock price movements on a computer screen at a securities company in Beijing. —AFP

since higher yields suggest a lower present value of future dividend streams, assuming an unchanged economic outlook," said Steven Friedman, senior economist at BNP Paribas Asset Management. "It is also possible that equity investors are growing concerned that the Federal Reserve's projected rate path will choke off the expansion."

### Yuan a flashpoint

The shift in yields is also sucking funds out of emerging markets. More than \$1 trillion has been wiped off MSCI's EM index since January and there has been particular pressure on the Chinese yuan as Beijing fights a protracted trade battle with the United States. China's central bank has been allowing the yuan to gradually decline, breaking the 6.9000 barrier and leading speculators to push the dollar up to 6.9377 at 0602 GMT.

China's move has forced other emerging-market currencies to weaken to stay competitive and drawn the ire of the United States, which sees it as an unfair devaluation. "The yuan has already weakened significantly, to offset the tariffs announced so far," said Alan Ruskin, Deutsche's global head of G10 FX strategy. "Further weakness could exacerbate concerns of a self-fulfilling flight of capital and a loss of control."

The dollar was already losing ground to both the yen and the euro, as investors favored currencies of countries that boasted large current account surpluses. The euro was at \$1.1550, up from a low of \$1.1429 early in the week. The dollar lapsed to 112.17 yen, a retreat from last week's 114.54 peak. That left the dollar at 95.263 against a basket of currencies. In commodity markets, gold struggled to get any safety bid and edged down to \$1,192.77. —Reuters

## Germany slashes growth forecasts

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** The German government yesterday slashed its growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019, blaming "a weaker international trade environment" for sapping the export powerhouse. After an expansion of 2.2 percent in 2017, gross domestic product should expand by 1.8 percent this year and next, the economy ministry said in a statement. Compared with April projections, the forecast cut the outlook for 2018 by 0.5 percentage points and for 2019 by 0.3 points.

"An essential reason (for the cut to the forecast) is the weaker international trade environment," the ministry said, adding that a new emissions test cycle for cars had temporarily slowed production and exports in the vital sector. Nevertheless, "the economy will enter the 10th year of growth next year—the longest upturn

## NY fines UAE's largest bank

**NEW YORK:** New York state financial regulators on Wednesday fined the Dubai-based Mashreqbank \$40 million, saying it cleared millions of high-risk transactions with scant safeguards against money laundering and terrorism finance. The bank's New York branch kept shoddy records and had internal controls that were not sufficient to prevent violations of US sanctions, according to the New York Department of Financial Services.

"Mashreqbank failed to fully comply with critical New York and federal banking laws aimed at combating international money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats," DFS Superintendent Maria Vullo said in a statement. Mashreqbank is the UAE's oldest and largest lender, with branches across the Middle East and Asia.

Between 2016 and 2017, the bank's New York branch processed millions of transactions with an aggregate value of \$717 billion for foreign customers in high-risk jurisdictions, the statement said. Reviews by DFS and New York Federal Reserve Bank examiners in 2016 and 2017 found deficiencies in bank policies, including failing to show how bank staff determined certain transactions were acceptable, the statement said.

Mashreqbank will hire an outside consultant to improve how it complies with the law, according to DFS, which noted the bank's "strong cooperation" and commitment to correcting shortcomings. Mashreqbank said it was devoting "substantial financial and corporate resources" to improving legal compliance at its New York branch. "Mashreqbank remains committed to providing its customers with superior and robust banking services while maintaining and enhancing its compliance with regulatory expectations," it said in a statement. —AFP

## Business

# War, poverty force Yemeni to build home in a tree

## Yemen's economy expected to contract by 2.6% in 2018

**SANAA:** Yemeni Ahmed Houbeichi is not acting out some childhood fantasy when he peers down on the street below from his tree-house. War and poverty have forced him to seek out such a lofty shelter. Wearing a red shirt, white turban, and a loincloth around his hips, the 29-year-old recounted how he lost everything, and how his country's dragging war has left him homeless and destitute. Just a few months ago, he ran a small grocery store, "but the prices went up and the debts accumulated", he said.

“

### 'I felt ashamed'

He would sell items to customers on credit, but they could not pay him back as the cost of living increased when the local currency de-

preciated amid a collapsing economy. Indebted, bankrupt and unable to pay the rent for his shop where he also lived, Houbeichi found himself without a roof over his head in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. A four-year war between the Iran-backed Huthi rebels and the government, which is backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, has resulted in severe food shortages in a country already considered the poorest in the Arab world.

"I was late on the rent by only one month,

which made the owner angry, so he asked me to leave," Houbeichi said. "He kicked me out. He threw my stuff onto the street. I felt ashamed, everybody was watching me as if I was an insane person." It was then he hit on the idea of living in a weeping fig growing on the busy Street 30 in rebel-held Sanaa.

His new home among the leaves has a door made of left-over wood from his old shop, while sheets and blankets draped between the branches provide both a makeshift roof and a soft platform on which to perch. There are a couple of pillows, and some bags hold his few possessions. And he easily clammers up and down. "It's better than being on the

Better than being on the street

”

street, and no one comes to you asking for rent," said Houbeichi wryly.

A small solar panel provides some electricity, and the little money he makes monitoring children playing at a foosball table is just enough for food. "There is no work. I hardly earn any money from the games centre, and work is going to get worse because school started and the students returned to class," he said. "It just enough for food, for one meal a day." More than 22 million Yeme-



**SANAA:** Homeless Yemeni Ahmed Houbeichi poses for a picture inside his tree house, built on a big tree in the middle of a public street, in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa. —AFP

nis-three quarters of the population—are in need of food aid. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Yemen's economy is expected to contract by 2.6 percent in 2018, while inflation has been projected at 42 percent—inevitably leading to higher unemployment rates.

### Black market

Houbeichi's struggle is not uncommon as the war has pushed millions to the brink of

famine. Jalal Qasim, 45, teaches Arabic at a school in the southwestern city of Taez by day and sells gasoline on the black market by night. "It's a very distressing situation," he told AFP, adding a teacher's salary "isn't enough for his personal expenses, let alone his family expenses, like rent." Nearly 10,000 people have been killed and more than 56,000 injured since 2015, resulting in what the UN has called the worst humanitarian crisis. —AFP

## Saudi Arabia opens high-speed railway to public

**JEDDAH:** Saudi Arabia's new high-speed railway opened to the public yesterday, whisking Muslim pilgrims and other travelers between Makkah and Madinah, Islam's holiest cities. The Haramain High Speed Rail system will transport passengers 450 kilometers via the Red Sea port of Jeddah at speeds of up to 300 kilometers per hour. Two trains, each carrying 417 passengers, departed from Makkah and Madinah at 8 am, according to the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

Two daily services are initially planned in each direction, it said. Saudi King Salman on October 25 inaugurated the high-speed railway, which local officials described as the biggest transportation project in the region. The new link will slash the travel time Makkah and Madinah from several hours to 120 minutes, transport officials said. The rail project, dogged by several delays, was built at a cost of more than \$16 billion, according to Saudi media.



**MAKKAH:** Saudi passengers walk in the platform at Makkah's train station as the new high-speed railway line linking Makkah and Madinah opens. —AFP

In 2011, Saudi Arabia signed a deal for a Spanish consortium to build the rail track, supply 35 high-speed trains and handle a 12-year maintenance contract. The kingdom is boosting its infrastructure spending and expanding its railways, including with a \$22.5 billion metro system under construction in the capital Riyadh, as it seeks to diversify its oil-dependent economy. The annual hajj pilgrimage, which is to be held in September next year, attracts more than two million Muslims to the Makkah region. — AFP

## S Leone scraps project for Chinese-built airport

**FREETOWN:** Sierra Leone has scrapped a \$400-million scheme for a Chinese-built airport, saying the project was too costly, but Beijing sought to dismiss the concerns yesterday. In a statement, the ministry of transport and aviation said that "after serious consideration and due diligence," the government had determined the Mamamah International Airport initiative was "uneconomical". All contracts under the project are being terminated, it said on Wednesday.

China's foreign ministry said yesterday the assertions that projects "do not contribute to local livelihoods do not correspond with the facts." "When cooperating with Sierra Leone, China always follows the principle of equal consultation," spokesman Lu Kang told reporters during a regular press briefing. Critics say China's approach to development abroad is exacerbating debt problems in poorer countries, but Chinese and African leaders rejected such concerns at a summit in Beijing last month, with President Xi Jin-

ping pledging another \$60 billion for the continent. Sierra Leone's previous president, Ernest Bai Koroma, signed a loan agreement with China for the airport shortly before elections in March that his party lost. His successor, Julius Maada Bio, vowed to stop the scheme. He also lashed Chinese infrastructure projects generally as "a sham" that brought the impoverished West African state scant economic benefit.

The scheme entailed building a new airport around 50 kilometers outside the capital Freetown. It would be completed in 2022 and managed and maintained by the Chinese. But critics questioned the need for a new airport given that Freetown's existing airport, Lungi, is operating below capacity. The government on Wednesday said it was looking into the possibility of building a bridge between Freetown and Lungi airport—a scheme that has been priced at more than \$1 billion.

The airport and another major Chinese project, a toll road, shouldered their way into Sierra Leone's presidential election in March. Several candidates declared the schemes were unaffordable and should be scrapped or reviewed. Bio went furthest, going on record as saying "most of the Chinese infrastructural projects in Sierra Leone are a sham with no economic and development benefits to the people." —AFP

## Business

# IMF to seek absolute transparency of Pakistan's debts in bailout talks

## China pledges \$60b to Pakistan for ports, railways

**NUSA DUA, Indonesia:** The International Monetary Fund launched formal bailout talks with Pakistan yesterday, and IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said she would require "absolute transparency" of Pakistan's debts, including those owed to China. She said such disclosures were necessary to determine the debt sustainability of countries seeking IMF loans. The requirements are likely to shine a spotlight on the extent, composition and terms of Pakistan's debts to China for infrastructure projects as part of Beijing's massive Belt and Road building program.

China has pledged some \$60 billion in financing to Pakistan for ports, railways and roads, but rising debt levels have caused Islamabad to cut the size of the biggest Belt and Road project by some \$2 billion. "In whatever work we do, we need to have a complete understanding and absolute transparency about the nature, size, and terms of the debt that is bearing on a particular country," Lagarde told a news conference when asked about Pakistan's debts to China.

The United States has criticized China's infrastructure lending, warning that it has saddled some developing countries with debts that they cannot afford to repay. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said there would be "no rationale" for an IMF bailout of Pakistan that pays off Chinese loans.



The United States has become increasingly impatient with what it sees as a lack of support from nuclear-armed Pakistan in quelling a Taliban insurgency that US-led forces are fighting in neighboring Afghanistan.

Lagarde said that the IMF would need to know the extent and composition of the country's debt, including sovereign debt and state-owned enterprise debt, "so that we can actually really appreciate and determine the debt sustainability of that country, if and when we consider a program," she added. Lagarde said in a statement that Pakistan requested IMF assistance during a meeting with Pakistani Finance Minister Asad Umar and central bank governor Tarik Bajwa on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Bali.

### IMF team to visit Islamabad

"An IMF team will visit Islamabad in the coming weeks to initiate discussions for a possible IMF-supported economic program," Lagarde said. "We look forward to our continuing partnership." The formal request follows an apparent 7 percent devaluation of the Pakistani rupee by the central bank on Tuesday, after Pakistani President Imran Khan announced it would seek financial assistance to ease a mounting balance of payments crisis. If a package is agreed, it would be Pakistan's 13th IMF bailout since 1988. The Fund lent Islamabad \$6.7 billion in 2013.

government this year. But the tomato policy is not working. An industry representative said tomatoes were being smuggled abroad.

"We have heard that trucks full of tomatoes are still leaving the country, especially to Iraq," Mohammad Mir-Razavi, head of the Syndicate of Canning Industry, said by telephone. "They put boxes of greenhouse tomatoes on top and hide normal tomatoes at the bottom," he said, referring to an exemption for hot-house grown tomatoes that left a loophole. It is one of many ways in which the sanctions are hurting ordinary Iranians while benefiting those with access to hard currency. Washington reintroduced steps against Iran's currency trade, metals and auto sectors in August after the US withdrawal from a deal that lifted sanctions in return for limits on Iran's nuclear program. Trump said the deal was not strict enough. With US curbs on Iran's oil exports set to come into force next month, some Iranians fear their country is entering an economic slump that may prove worse than the period from 2012 to 2015, when it last faced major sanctions.

"There is an emerging consensus that the economy will go through a period of austerity similar to that recorded during the Iran-Iraq war," said Mehrdad Emadi, an Iranian economist who heads energy risk analysis at London's Betamatrix consultancy. —Reuters



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani laborers load sacks of potatoes on a truck at a fruit and vegetable market in Islamabad. —AFP

### Debt restructuring

A Pakistani minister told Reuters in Islamabad on Wednesday that the government was considering options, including the possible restructuring of some foreign loans. "It's in very initial stages, the negotiations haven't started or matured yet, but this is something that we may look towards," Muhammad Hammad Azhar, State Minister for Revenue, said. Donors have warned Pakistan that its budget deficit, which hit 6.6 percent of the GDP in the year to end of

June, was unsustainable.

"We do have extremely high deficits," Azhar said. "Unless we restructure the debt the burden will mount." In the past year, Pakistan has borrowed billions of dollars from China to boost its foreign currency reserves, with the money spent defending an overvalued local currency. This is on top of money pledged for Belt and Road projects. Azhar said Chinese projects should proceed as planned as the government views the infrastructure as vital to stimulating growth. —Reuters

## US sanctions begin to distort Iran's economy

**DUBAI:** Tomato paste is not the most obvious economic indicator, but in Iran, where it is a staple that some people have started panic-buying, it says a lot about the impact of renewed US sanctions. While Iran makes its own paste from an abundant crop of locally grown tomatoes, sanctions reimposed by U.S. President Donald Trump since August have played havoc with supply. A 70 percent slide in the rial this year has prompted a scramble for foreign currency that has made exports much more valuable in local terms than selling produce at home.

Some shops are limiting purchases of tomato paste, which is used in many Persian dishes, and some lines have sold out as people buy up existing stock. The government has responded by banning tomato exports, one of a raft of interventions to try to limit economic instability that has fuelled public protests and criticism of the

## Lagarde calls for Italian 'discipline' on budget

**NUSA DUA, Indonesia:** IMF chief Christine Lagarde said yesterday that Italy must abide by EU budgetary norms on fiscal discipline amid concerns the country's 2019 spending could exacerbate its financial problems. "I will remind all of us that, when you are a member of a club and you decide to stay in that club... then you play by the rules of the club," Lagarde said at the International Monetary Fund's annual meetings in Bali. "When it comes to financial affairs, that certainly applies to the Italian commitment in terms of fiscal discipline."

European Commissioner for Economic Affairs Pierre Moscovici echoed concerns about Italy's spending plans. "It's a budget that risks deviating significantly from European norms," he told AFP in an interview at the IMF meetings. He added that there were "two pitfalls" to avoid: a clash between Rome and Brussels over spending and any member state ignoring accepted norms. "Italy is at the heart of the eurozone," Moscovici said. "It is in the eurozone's interest that Italy be strong and it's in Italy's interest to be a na-

tion that respects common rules."

The Italian government insisted on Wednesday that it would stick to budget forecasts despite a jump in borrowing costs sparked by nervous bond investors, and concerns over the numbers underlying its spending plan. Late Tuesday, the Italian parliament's budget office (UPB), which is charged with verifying whether the government's spending and revenue plans meet EU limits, rejected the forecasts used in the 2019 budget as too optimistic.

The government bases its budget on 1.5 percent growth, while the UPB expects growth to reach between 1.1 and 1.3 percent, and the International Monetary Fund only sees an expansion of around 1.0 percent. Slower growth than forecast would translate into less revenue for the government, resulting in a higher-than-planned deficit, in turn raising concerns at EU headquarters. Lagarde expressed hope that questions over the budget can be ironed out.

"So I think the time when the Italian authorities actually submit their budget, that will give the European Commission and their partners a time to assess exactly the journey between the rhetoric and the actual numbers," she told a press briefing on the Indonesian resort island, where the IMF and World Bank are holding annual talks. "It opens a period of, I hope, dialogue which will bring everybody back to the rules of the game and how the club is functioning." —AFP



## Business

# Germany's BMW plans to take control of China joint-venture

## Changes in ownership rules: Boon for foreign automakers

**BEIJING:** German luxury carmaker BMW announced yesterday a plan to take control of its China joint-venture, the first foreign automaker to take advantage of Beijing's new ownership rules for the sector. BMW will acquire a further 25 percent stake in the venture with Brilliance China Automotive for 3.6 billion euros (\$4.2 billion), the company said, bringing its stake to 75 percent by 2022 when the deal closes.

Foreign automakers have long been restricted to holding no more than a 50 percent stake in their China operations, but Beijing decided to relax the ownership caps this year. The reforms are part of Beijing's plan to further open its economy to foreign business, after years of facing pressure from the United States and Europe. "BMW is the first beneficiary of the Chinese government's relaxation of restrictions on foreign investment in the auto industry," Chinese premier Li Keqiang told BMW Chairman Harald Kruger at a meeting Wednesday, according to a government transcript.

"This shows China's promotion of reform and opening is not just 'in words', but firmly 'in action'." But US and European business groups say the reforms have still not gone far enough, and have pushed for further opening. To force the issue, and to hit back at China for alleged theft of American intellectual property, US President

Donald Trump has slapped tariffs on roughly half of US imports from China.

The joint-venture "is the cornerstone of the BMW brand's sustained success in its largest single market," Kruger said yesterday, announcing the deal in Shenyang, Liaoning's capital. "We are now embarking on a new era. China is quickly becoming an important development and production base for BMW new energy vehicles," he said.

### Trade war effect

The changes in ownership rules are a boon for foreign automakers which will gain a greater share of control and profits from their China operations, but hurt prospects for their Chinese partners. Brilliance China's shares in Hong Kong have plummeted this year, and were suspended from trading yesterday.

The two companies extended their joint venture contract until 2040 and announced a plan to pump 3 billion euros into expanding their auto plants in northeast Liaoning province—ramping up yearly production capacity to 650,000 cars early next decade while creating 5,000 new jobs. BMW has been hit particularly hard by the US-China trade war with many of its SUVs imported from the US facing new 25 percent taxes, while cars imported from other countries have benefited from China's tariff cut for vehicles from 25 percent



**SHENYANG:** Harald Kruger, CEO and chairman of the board for Germany's automaker BMW, speaks during an opening ceremony of a new BMW factory in Shenyang in China's northeastern Liaoning province.—AFP

to 15 percent. With the new production capacity, the China joint-venture will start to produce BMW vehicles like the fully-electric BMW iX3 for export globally from 2020, BMW said. China's

auto market, the world's largest, has faced headwinds this year as the economy slows. In August, China's new vehicle sales continued to fall, following a drop in July.—AFP

## MoCI holds press conference

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The ministry of commerce and industry (MoCI) held a press conference on Wednesday at the Public Authority for Industry to discuss a draft ministerial decree on the reorganization and procedures of importing precious metals. Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalid Al-Roudhan said the ministry takes the opinion of those working in the field. "Before approving this draft, we decided to discuss it with gold and jewelry traders to take their point of view. If there are mistakes, then the draft can be amended or changed," he noted.

MoCI Undersecretary Khalid Al-Fadel said the main goal of the conference was to listen to those who work in this field. "We aim to deal with the difficulties facing the precious metals industry. The suggested draft should make this business easier. We spent over a year studying this draft, and we aim to take the opinion of those working in this field," he reiterated.

The trading process should be easier. "We should also protect businessmen working in this field from nonprofessional traders. This is part of HH the Amir's plan to turn Kuwait into a financial and commercial center and the 2035 New Kuwait development plan," he explained.

Mohammed Al-Anezi, Assisting Undersecretary for Technical Affairs and Commerce Development, explained the articles of the draft. "We did a field study to find solutions to the problems facing the precious metals industry. This draft is inspired by the existing law, but with amendments to resolve the problems of traders in this field," he said.

## Trump trade war delivers boom in Brazil, gloom in Iowa

**LUIS EDUARDO, Brazil:** The Bella Vita luxury condominium tower rises 20 stories over the boomtown of Luis Eduardo Magalhaes in northeastern Brazil. Its private movie theater and helipad are symbols of how far this dusty farming community has come since it was founded just 18 years ago. Local soybean producers shell out upwards of a half-million US dollars to live in the complex. Nearby farm equipment sellers, car dealerships and construction supply stores are bustling too. Meanwhile, nearly 5,000 miles to the north in Boone, Iowa, farmers are hunkering down. At a recent agriculture trade show here, Iowa corn and soybean grower Steve Sheppard reflected the cautious mood. "I'm not buying any machinery, I'm not spending any money," Sheppard said. Two countries. Same business. Two very different fates. The reason: China.

A growing trade war between the United States and China is re-ordering the global grains business. In response to Trump administration tariffs on Chinese goods, Beijing this year imposed levies on US agricultural products. Among them was a 25 percent tariff on soybeans, the single most valuable US farm export. US growers sold \$12 billion worth to China last year alone.

The fallout has been quick. China, the world's largest importer of soybeans, has scaled back purchases of US grain to feed its massive hog herd. It is turning instead to Brazil, which has ridden the wave of Chinese demand for two decades to become a global agricultural powerhouse. Brazilian soybean exports to the Asian country jumped 22 percent by value between January and September, compared to the same period a year ago.

Brazilian producers are not only selling more grain, their soy is fetching \$2.83 more per bushel than beans from the United States,

up from a premium of just \$0.60 a year ago, thanks to stepped up Chinese purchases. Prices for US soybeans, meanwhile, recently sunk to decade lows that farmers say are below the cost of production. The slump has made the agricultural sector a drag on an otherwise healthy US economy. The Trump administration said in July it would spend up to \$12 billion in taxpayer funds to help US farmers offset trade-related losses, although the aid package could shrink.

Many American farmers, overwhelmingly conservative voters who helped propel Donald Trump to the presidency, are standing by their man. They believe he will eventually negotiate a better trade deal with China, whose appetite for soybeans is so vast that it cannot completely wean itself off US grain. But for the time being, Trump trade policies are handing precious market share, money and momentum to Brazil, the United States' most formidable agricultural competitor. Some fear the lost ground will be hard to reclaim. "Bad news on tariffs in the US is good news for them," Robert Crain, general manager for the Americas for equipment dealer AGCO Corp, said about Brazilian farmers in an interview at the Iowa show.

### BOON TO BRAZIL

Like their US counterparts, Brazil's farmers produce much more grain than is needed at home. Foreign customers are responsible for the country's agricultural boom. Nearly 80 percent of Brazil's soy exports now head to China. The city of Luis Eduardo Magalhaes is a testament to the importance of this international trade. Located in the state of Bahia, with farms stretching in every direction, the formerly unincorporated rural area in less than two decades has swelled to 85,000 people.

That is bigger than Sioux City, Iowa's fourth-largest city. Major employers in Luis Eduardo, as most locals call the city, include fertilizer factories, seed producers and processors of soy and cotton. The area "relies 100 percent on agriculture," said Carminha Maria Missio, a farmer and president of the local growers union. While Brazil's overall economy is stuck in a ditch, the nation's farm sector rolled to 13 percent growth last year. The John Deere dealership in Luis Eduardo saw its sales rise 15 percent in 2017 and is expecting double-digit growth again this year, managing partner Chico Flores Oliveira said.—Reuets

## Sports

# From ball-breaker to Tokyo Olympic dreams — China's latest golf starlet

## 'I'd just pick a golf ball and be hitting towards the wall'

**HONG KONG:** He began by driving golf balls to destruction against a wall because it was too cold to play outside, but now China's big-hitting number three Yuan Yechun has an eye on the Tokyo Olympics.

As a 10-year-old, during the long sub-zero winters that grip his native Dalian in northern China, the only practice available was in the relative warmth of a small room just a few metres long. The young Yuan, who likes to be known as 'Carl', would spend all day busting his balls.

The drill, pummelled into him by a "super strict" Japanese coach, helped him develop the power off the tee that has propelled him to being China's number three, despite only turning professional six weeks ago. It served him well.

"I'd just pick a golf ball and be hitting towards the wall," Yuan, 21, told AFP before the pro-am for this week's Clearwater Bay Open in Hong Kong, the season-ending event of the PGA Tour Series China.

"At the beginning of the day there'd be like a little crack on the golf ball. "All I would try to do is hit the ball as hard as I could and break it into two—you can learn to hit it straight when you get older," said Yuan, whose average carry off the tee with a driver tops 300 yards, putting him amongst the longest hitters around.

"Using muscles and power to get the ball far is an ability you've got to learn at a younger age." In August, Yuan won an Asian Games team silver medal for China in his final tourna-

ment as an amateur, but he had already made his mark among the pros.

### 'HE'S GOT A BIG FUTURE'

Victory at July's Qingdao Championship put the former University of Washington student in elite company as just the second amateur to win on the PGA Tour China Series, after his Asian Games teammate Cheng Jin who won at the Nine Dragons Open in 2014.

Promotion to the US PGA Tour's second-string Web.com Tour is stake for the top money winners on the Chinese tour, making it a potential career pathway to the sport's highest levels. China has produced several promising young golfers in recent years, including Li Haotong who was player of the year on the inaugural PGA Tour Series China in 2014 and now plays on the European Tour.

"Being away from my country for seven or eight years living in the United States was a good experience but being able to play for my country is a bigger honour than anything," said Yuan, who went to high school in Florida.

"That's why I turned pro at this time with two years to go until the Olympics. If I could play in that it would fulfil one of my big ambitions." As an amateur, he received no prize money in Qingdao, but he has already made it into the top 25 of the PGA Tour China Series money list after just four counting events.

He kicked off with second place at the Suzhou Open and has had two other top 10s



**HONG KONG:** In this handout photo taken by Zhuang Liu and released by PGA TOUR Series-China on Tuesday, Chinese golfer Yuan 'Carl' Yechun, 21, watches the ball after taking a shot during the Pro-Am of the Clearwater Bay Open golf tournament in Hong Kong. —AFP

since. A first professional win at Clearwater Bay this week would see him end the season in the top 10, despite having been able to bank prize money from just five of the 14 events on the 2018 tour. Even more remarkably, Yuan has shot to 520th in the world from outside the top 2,000 at the start of the year and is now ranked behind only multiple European Tour winners Li

(ranked 54th) and Wu Ashun (171st) among China's golfers.

"It a little more than I expected how fast I moved up the rankings," he admitted. "I'm moving towards the right direction and if I play as best as I can I have a good chance to be in the top two (in China) to play in the Olympics in two years' time." —AFP

## Golf back in Pakistan after 11-year hitch

**KARACHI:** Birds were released over fairways and ceremonial drives were struck as international golf returned to Pakistan yesterday after an 11-year absence. A full field of 132 players from around the globe were teeing up in the Asian Tour's UMA CNS Open Championship at Karachi Golf Club, the latest thawing of relations with the militancy-hit country that has spent years in the sporting wilderness.

"Coming back to Pakistan is a fantastic opportunity for us," Robert Andrew, event director of the Asian Tour told AFP, brushing off any security concerns. "This is the starting point for future years after the success of this event."

No major golf tour has visited Pakistan since 2007. The last scheduled tournament, in 2008, was cancelled after a wave of insurgent attacks. "It is always good to be here as people are very lovely and friendly," said Australian golfer Marcus Both. "I came here 10 years ago. The perception is bad but in reality it is very different."

The 2009 attack on Sri Lanka's bus in Lahore, in which eight people were killed, caused all sporting visits to be suspended. But successful military operations in the country's northwest near the Afghan border and crackdowns in urban centres, including the restive port city of Karachi, have improved the situation.

The country has twice hosted the Pakistan Super League cricket finals featuring international stars plus successful limited-over series against Zimbabwe, a World XI and Sri Lanka in the past 18 months. They cleared the way



**KARACHI:** Thailand's Pawan Ingkhapradit plays a shot in the Asian Tour's UMA CNS Open Championship at Karachi Golf Club in Karachi yesterday. Birds were released over fairways and ceremonial drives were struck as international golf returned to Pakistan yesterday after an 11-year absence. —AFP

for more sports with squash, tennis and now golf having returned.

Former Asian Tour winner and Indian national Digvijay Singh said arriving in Pakistan felt like home, suggesting sport could pave the road for better relations between Islamabad and Delhi. "I am really feeling home here and we are so overwhelmingly welcomed here. We are seeing the same faces not different to us," Singh told reporters. —AFP

## Japanese teen Hataoka grabs LPGA lead in Incheon

**INCHEON:** Japanese teenager Nasa Hataoka fired a seven-under-par 65 to secure a two-stroke lead in the first round of the LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship yesterday, with world number one Park Sung-hyun another shot behind.

Hataoka, who is only 19 and on her second tour season but ranks 14th in the world, carded eight birdies to grab the solo lead on a blustery day at the Sky 72 Golf Club's Ocean Course in Incheon, her round only spoiled by a bogey on the 17th.

"I nailed a lot of long putts today and read the greens really well," Hataoka said after the round. Hataoka won her first LPGA title at the NW Arkansas Championship in June and is aiming to represent Japan in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Danielle Kang of the United States and England's Charley Hull were tied for second place, two strokes adrift. Kang—who is ethnically Korean—said the conditions were "tough" but focused on "keeping it steady, keeping consistent" as she was cheered on by friends and family.

"I absolutely love playing in Korea," the 25-year-old said. "And I'm playing good which makes it even better because Korea, you know, they love when you play well and they just cheer you on and I like that."

Top-ranked Park of South Korea finished the first round at four-under 68, tied for fourth place with Minjee Lee of Australia. —AFP

# Minnesota Vikings take aim at Arizona, rookie QB Rosen

## 'We have just sort of one-off mental mistakes everywhere'

**MINNESOTA:** The Minnesota Vikings righted the ship somewhat against the Philadelphia Eagles last week, avenging last year's NFC Championship Game loss and getting back to .500 at 2-2-1.

With only one road trip between now and Nov 18, Minnesota has a great opportunity to put together a string of wins ahead of back-to-back NFC North showdowns in Weeks 11 (at Chicago) and 12 (vs Green Bay).

First up will be a visit Sunday from the Arizona Cardinals, who bagged their first win last week over the San Francisco 49ers to move to 1-4. The Cardinals have little time to celebrate, as they host the Broncos back in Glendale, Ariz., just four days after their trip to Minneapolis. The tight schedule could be particularly taxing for a defense that faced 98 plays in San Francisco.

"You'll definitely feel different," said safety Antoine Bethea, who racked up 13 tackles without missing a snap. "There's a little bit of wear and tear. You've got to get in the cold tub, hot tub, do whatever you've got to do to get back right. It's a six-day process."

That unit will be charged with slowing down a surprisingly high-volume passing game, as the Vikings have leaned very heavily on \$86 million man Kirk Cousins. Averaging 45.2 pass attempts per game, Cousins is on pace for 723 this season, well beyond his career high of 606.

Slinging it so often isn't normal for a Mike Zimmer-coached team, but he doesn't mind if it

produces results. "I don't really care about statistics," Zimmer said. "I just want to get wins. I don't care how we do it. Obviously, I have a philosophy, but we have to do what we have to do to win football games."

Running back Dalvin Cook remains limited by a hamstring injury and might not play Sunday. While Zimmer hits the gas with Cousins, the Cardinals have been less aggressive with rookie quarterback Josh Rosen, who has 52 attempts in two starts, and the results have been inconsistent. After moving the ball well despite receiver drops in Week 4, Arizona gained more than 39 yards on just one drive last week, a 75-yard TD on its first play.

Rosen said he and the whole group need to execute better, as various players have taken turns short-circuiting the attack at different times. "We have just sort of one-off mental mistakes everywhere," Rosen said. "Me, linemen, receivers, running backs. ...When you have eight or nine people making one mistake on separate plays, you almost just want to be like, 'Alright guys, let's all screw up this first play together and then play great from then on.'"

Entering his second road start, Rosen is embracing what should be a more hostile environment than the sparse Levi's Stadium crowd he saw last week. "I love people yelling and screaming at you," he said. "...The quick silence of a tough third down in the red zone, those are pretty fun."

Rosen's top receiver, 15th-year veteran Larry



**PHILADELPHIA:** File photo shows quarterback Carson Wentz #11 of the Philadelphia Eagles runs with the ball against defensive tackle Jaleel Johnson #94 of the Minnesota Vikings during the second quarter at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. —AFP

Fitzgerald, is looking forward to the trip for a different reason. A Vikings ball boy in high school, Fitzgerald has never won or caught a touchdown at Minnesota in five games.

Fitzgerald (hamstring/back) joined tackles D.J. Humphries (knee) and Andre Smith (hamstring) and left guard Mike Iupati (shoulder) in missing Wednesday's practice, but all should play Sunday,

per head coach Steve Wilks. For the Vikings, left tackle Riley Reiff (foot) and safety Andrew Sendejo (groin) were out, while Cook (hamstring) was limited after missing games in Week 3 and 5. Zimmer was pleased with how Rashod Hill, who moved to the left side, and rookie Brian O'Neill, who came in on the right, played after Reiff was hurt on Sunday. — Reuters

## Kuwait Squash Federation holds general assembly meeting

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Squash Federation held its ordinary general assembly meeting Wednesday. The meeting was chaired by Chair-

man of the Board of KSA Adel Al-Ghareeb, with Secretary General Mushari Al-Hamad, and Assistant Treasurer Ali Al-Sarraf.

The clubs were represented by Mohammad Al-Hamad from Tadhamon, Yousuf Asad from Al-Arabi, Mohammad Al-Jamal from Qurain, Fahad Al-Yaqout from Kheitan, Ismail Al-Aryan from Salmiya and Shihab Haji from Al-Ghareeb welcomed those in attendance and lauded the club's cooperation with the board of directors. The general assembly approved the administrative and financial reports.

Yousuf Asad, on behalf of the general assembly thanked the board of directors for reducing fees and canceling fees of loaning players.



## Former NBA coach Tex Winter dead

**LOS ANGELES:** Tex Winter, who teamed with Phil Jackson to lead the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers to multiple NBA championships, died Wednesday in New York. He was 96. Winter pioneered the triangle offense that the Bulls and Lakers both used to dominated the league for years.

"I learned so much from Coach Winter. He was a pioneer and a true student of the game," Michael Jordan told the Chicago Tribune. "His triangle offense was a huge part of our six championships with the Bulls. He was a tireless worker. Tex was always focused on details and preparation and a great teacher."

"I was lucky to play for him. My condolences to his family." Winter began his coaching career at Kansas State University in 1947. At age 30, he became the youngest coach in US college basketball. He was hired as an assistant coach with Chicago in 1985 where he joined forces with head coach Jackson to guide the Jordan-led Bulls to NBA titles in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Winter eventually followed Jackson to the Los Angeles Lakers. They guided the Lakers to three championships from 2000 to 2002. "On behalf of the entire Lakers organization, I'd like to express our sadness at the passing of Tex Winter," said Jeanie Buss, the Lakers chief executive officer. "Tex was a mentor to many of our coaches and players." —AFP

## Sports

# Sports industry gears up for virtual reality revolution

## 'It's going to disrupt all aspects of sport that you can imagine'

**LONDON:** From training with Major League Baseball pitchers to bone-jangling racing on board an F1 car, technology's potential to revolutionise sport was the hot topic as industry leaders met in London this week.

"It's going to disrupt all aspects of sport that you can imagine," virtual reality expert Michael Ludden told the two-day Leaders Sport Business Summit at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium.

Ludden said that virtual and augmented reality-together known as mixed reality (MR) — would transform sport for professionals, amateurs and spectators. "American footballers are already using VR to better train their minds, read the field," allowing quarterbacks to hone their skills without risking injury, he said.

"You can train with a real baseball bat that's tracked in virtual reality against real pitchers using data from those pitchers... giving you advanced analytics on how the swing is," added Ludden, who has worked for IBM and Google.

With the price of headsets such as Facebook's Oculus Rift falling, MR also promises to allow amateurs the experience of facing a 100 mph pitch from the safety of their living room. While MR immerses the user aurally and visually, other developing technologies are beginning to recreate the physical reality of top-level sports, opening up a whole new world of spectator experience.

Canadian company D-BOX Technologies, which designs and manufactures moving seats

found in cinemas and theme parks, is now moving into sports, showing off their Formula One simulator at the London event.

The seats mimic the G-Force and every judder as F1 champion Lewis Hamilton races around the Monaco circuit. The simulation seat uses pre-programmed data but could use real-time information sent by the car, allowing spectators to pick their driver and experience their full Grand Prix adventure, said Veronique Maheu, director at D-BOX.

"You would need... data sent straight from the car-tyre slip ratio, suspension, acceleration—we can take this minimal information and transform it. "They could broadcast live content through a network in pop-up theatres around the world," she said, adding that the company intended to roll out the experience at fan zones on the F1 circuit.

### AUGMENTED STADIUMS

The technology can be adapted to help train athletes in other sit-down sports such as rowing, and Maheu said she had received interest from members of the horse-racing industry. Telemetric sensors could also be placed on sports fields, balls and on players to remotely recreate the visceral reality of NFL, football or baseball, or even enhance reality.

"If you want to have the stress of the baseball player while he gets to the plate, you can have a heartbeat added to the sensation on the seat and then you can feel it, boom, boom," she explained.



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** In this file photo taken on August 01, 2016 Members of the German Olympic team react as they try out virtual reality (VR) headsets in Rio de Janeiro on August 1, 2016, ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. From training with Major League Baseball pitchers to bone-jangling racing on board an F1 car, technology's potential to revolutionise sport was the hot topic as industry leaders met in London this week. — AFP

"When he swings and hits the ball, you can have an impact." The seats currently cost \$10,000 each, putting them out of the reach of the armchair fan. However, headsets and the development of VR suits hold out the possibility that fans around the world could one day physically experience every tackle, touchdown and goal from their favourite player in real time.

VR expert Ludden also said that current and near-future technology could create "augmented stadiums" for live spectators. Panasonic

pitched their "Smart Venue" plans at the CES technology fair in Las Vegas, which included the overlaying of graphics, advertisements, player statistics and replays on the field of play at an NFL game.

"If you are sat in the nose-bleeds (cheap seats), I can see this being really useful," he said. MR could also revolutionise half-time entertainment by allowing fans to join in stadium-wide games, using the pitch as a platform, he added. —AFP

## Kohli shields India's 'boy wonder' from Tendulkar shadow

**HYDERABAD:** Virat Kohli sought to protect prolific teenager Prithvi Shaw yesterday from the weight of comparisons with India legend Sachin Tendulkar after the young batsman's Test debut century last week.

Another century in the second match against the West Indies which begins today in Hyderabad would see Shaw join a small group of greats including Mohammad Azharuddin, Sourav Ganguly and Rohit Sharma who all hit tons in their first two Tests.

The 18-year-old became India's youngest player to score a debut century and his country's second youngest in all Tests after Tendulkar—who was 17 when he made an unbeaten 119 against England in his ninth Test.

Shaw's sparkling 134 in the first Test rout in Rajkot had some commentators dubbing him India's "boy wonder" ahead of the tour of Australia next month. But captain Kohli warned India's notoriously demanding fans not to expect too much too soon from Shaw, who was earmarked as a future star when as a 14-year-old he hit a record 546 off 330 balls in a Mumbai school game in 2013.

"We are all very happy for him but I don't think we should compare him to anyone yet or we should put him in a space where he starts feeling pressure," Kohli told reporters. "He should be left to enjoy his cricket and slowly grow into the cricketer that we all believe he can be," said Kohli who hailed the diminutive right hander as "supremely talented".

"He has shown that in the first Test already and we believe he can keep repeating that because he is a very keen learner, he is a very sharp guy and he understands situations really well." Kohli said Shaw, 21-year-old wicketkeeper batsman Rishabh Pant and batsman Hanuma Vihari, 24, had learned to handle the stress of top competition by playing in the Indian Premier League.

### BIG STAGE VETERANS

"One always feels that pressure when you wear your country's cap on the morning of the match but yes, I think it's not as intense as say 10-15 years back when you didn't have any exposure to this kind of cricket," said Kohli. "They have played in situations like the IPL where they have played in front of so many people that they are not nervous any more of the big stage," he added. "They are not overawed by the scenario and I think that's always going to be an advantage because the guys can be fearless and they can start doing the job from game one."

Shaw's 2013 schoolboy exploits had already caused comparisons to be made with Tendulkar, who rose to prominence in the same Harris Shield competition more than two decades earlier. Shaw went on to make more headlines in India with debut centuries in both the domestic Ranji Trophy and Duleep Trophy and he was awarded the captaincy of country's Under-19 team. He led them to success in the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand this year where they beat Australia in the final. He has featured for Delhi Daredevils in the 2018 IPL but it was his debut Test ton, with 19 boundaries, that saw the rest of the cricket world take notice.

"Wow, carry on young man good luck," wrote former Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar on Twitter. Former England captain Michael Vaughan tweeted: "Wow... 18 yrs old @PrithviShaw. 100 on Test debut .. Looks like #India have another superstar". —AFP

## Kohli comes out swinging over Test balls

**HYDERABAD:** Captain Virat Kohli said India should ditch the SG ball for their home games, complaining that it scuffs up too easily and that he would prefer to see Dukes balls used for all Tests worldwide. India thrashed the West Indies by a record innings and 272 runs last week but spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said the SG ball was "disappointing", and that he preferred Australia's Kookaburra or Dukes.

"The quality of the (SG) balls used to be quite high before and I don't understand the reason why it has gone down because Dukes ball is still good quality. Kookaburra is still good quality," Kohli said ahead of the second Test in Hyderabad. He said the "quality of the ball has to be maintained otherwise you have too many dead sessions in a Test match. You want to see exciting cricket and guys working hard for runs being in the battle all day".

Kohli added: "I totally agree with him (Ashwin). To have a ball that is scuffed up in five overs is not something that we have seen before." The SG has always been used by India in five-day international and domestic games, while England use Dukes for Test cricket and Australia, South Africa, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka prefer the Kookaburra. —AFP

# Ton-up Khawaja helps Australia save draw against Pakistan

## Khawaja innings was the second longest in the fourth innings of a Test

**DUBAI:** Opener Usman Khawaja hit a fighting hundred to foil Pakistan and help Australia escape with a draw in the first Test in Dubai yesterday. The left-hander hit a solid 141 for his seventh Test hundred, while skipper Tim Paine (61 not out) and Travis Head (72) also hit half centuries as Australia finished at 362-8 late in the day with lights coming on at Dubai stadium.

After Khawaja was dismissed with 14.3 overs left and Yasir Shah quickly removed Mitchell Starc (one) and Peter Siddle (nought), Paine and number ten Nathan Lyon (five not out) survived 12.1 overs. Both had some anxious moments before players shook hands with one ball to go in leg-spinner Yasir's final over.

Yasir had shaken the Australian innings with 4-114 but Australia clung on. They have now won two and drawn two of their 16 Tests in Asia since 2012. Australia's hero was Khawaja, who started the day on 50 not out as Australia resumed on 136-3.

Khawaja and Head added 79 before lunch as Pakistan failed to take a wicket in the first session. The pair eventually put on an invaluable 132 runs for the fourth wicket. Khawaja, who was born in Pakistan but moved to Australia as a child, batted for eight hours 44 minutes and faced 302 balls before he was sixth man out in the final session. He was trapped leg-before sweeping Yasir.

Khawaja, who hit 11 boundaries, had a top score of 26 in five previous Tests in Asia. His innings was the second longest in the fourth innings of a Test, behind England's Michael Atherton's 645 minute vigil in scoring 185 not out against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1995. It was the highest fourth-innings score by any visiting batsman in Asia, beating New Zealand's Daniel Vettori's 140 made at Colombo against Sri Lanka nine years ago.

Pakistan started the day needing seven wickets to win but nothing worked for skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, despite multiple bowling changes. Pakistan could have had Head leg-before off leg-spinner Yasir on 44, but Sarfraz did not review umpire Richard



**DUBAI:** Pakistan cricketers celebrate during day five of the first Test cricket match in the series between Australia and Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium in Dubai yesterday. — AFP

Kettleborough's not out decision. Replays showed the ball was hitting the stumps. Pakistan were only rewarded when they took the second new ball as soon as it was due and Hafeez trapped

Head leg-before with the first ball. Australia wobbled but Khawaja and Paine, who batted for 3 hours and 39 minutes, ensured a draw. The second Test starts in Abu Dhabi from October 16. —AFP

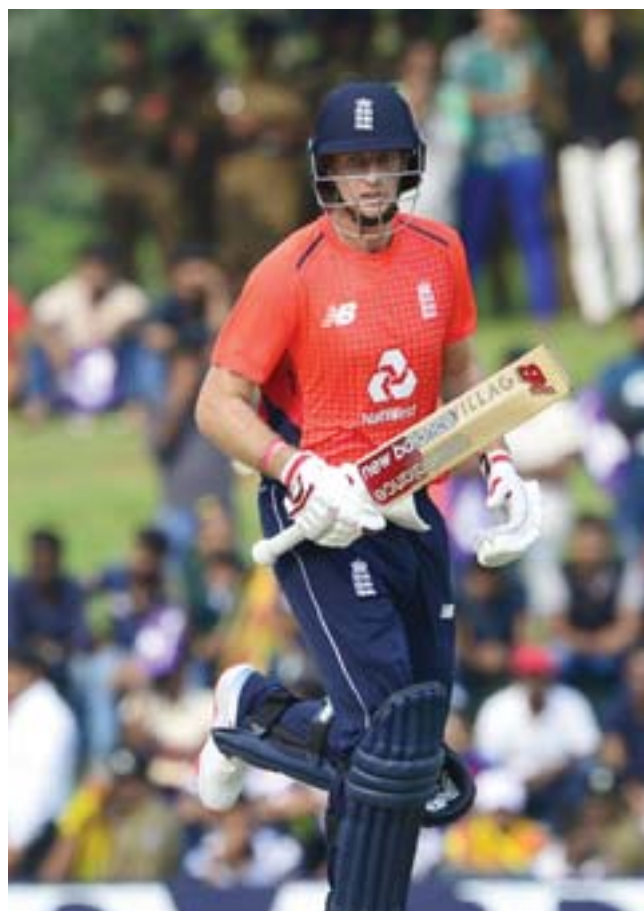
## Joe Root could be world's best if freed from captaincy: Warne

**LONDON:** Shane Warne believes England should seriously consider replacing Joe Root with Jos Buttler as Test captain to allow Root to focus on becoming the world's best batsman.

Australia spin great Warne says the Yorkshire star could dominate the global game with the bat and feels Buttler would make a "very, very good" Test skipper. Warne worked with Buttler in his role as mentor for Indian Premier League team Rajasthan Royals and is convinced the Lancashire player has credible Test leadership skills.

"I've worked with Jos a bit this year, and I think he's someone who would make an excellent captain," said Warne. "I really enjoyed working with him, I'd like to think I helped him out a little bit." Warne, who is promoting his autobiography, said Root is England's best player but would be disappointed with his conversion rate when it came to hundreds. "He'd love to have more hundreds to be able to be spoken about in the same sentences as Virat Kohli and Steve Smith," he said.

"Maybe England could think about their best player having the shackles off, not having the responsibility of captaincy, and give it to someone like Jos Buttler," he added. "If he (Root) totally 100 percent concentrates on his cricket, his batting and nothing else, then maybe we might see Joe Root become the best batsman in the world," Warne said. "He's got the talent to do it." —AFP



**Joe Root**

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final 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** 181-6 declared (Imam-ul-Haq 48; J. Holland 3-83)

#### Australia 2nd innings

A. Finch lbw b Mohammad Abbas	49
Usman Khawaja lbw b Yasir	141
S. Marsh c Sarfraz b Abbas	0
M. Marsh lbw b Abbas	0
T. Head lbw b Hafeez	72
M. Labuschagne lbw b Yasir	13
T. Paine not out	61
M. Starc c Azam b Yasir	1
P. Siddle lbw b Yasir	0
N. Lyon not out	5
Extras: (b 13, lb 4, nb 3)	20
Total: (for eight wkts; 139.5 overs)	362

#### Did not bat: J. Holland

Fall of wickets: 1-87 (Finch), 2-87 (S. Marsh), 3-87 (M. Marsh), 4-219 (Head), 5-252 (Labuschagne), 6-331 (Khawaja), 7-333 (Starc), 8-333 (Siddle)

Bowling: Abbas 27-7-56-3, Hafeez 6-0-29-1, Yasir 43.5-9-114-4, Riaz 16-3-42-0 (3nb), Asif 37-8-87-0, Sohail 9-1-16-0, Shafiq 1-0-1-0

Result: Drawn.

## Sports

# US football looks forward a year after WCup qualifying failure

## Michael Bradley, back in the squad

**LOS ANGELES:** One year after a humbling failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, the United States are hoping a string of upcoming friendlies will show they're on the path to redemption. Wednesday marked the anniversary of the USA's shock loss to Trinidad & Tobago that ended their bid to reach this year's World Cup. Midfielder Michael Bradley, back in the squad for the first time since then, said players are looking forward, not back.

"It doesn't linger," said Bradley, who was recalled to the US squad by interim coach Dave Sarachan for friendlies against Colombia yesterday and Peru next week.

Sarachan said it had always been his plan to reintroduce a veteran element to complement the young players who have stepped forward in the past year, but Bradley admitted he was never 100 percent certain he would be back.

"I don't think anybody ever knows that, so you enjoy every opportunity you have with the national team and you don't ever take it for granted," Bradley said.

"For me, the opportunity to be back now and start to get to know some of the younger guys that have been around the last nine or 10

months is great," he said. "I'm very excited."

US Soccer, aware that the wound from that night in Trinidad & Tobago is still raw for fans, marked the anniversary with a statement on their website.

"Today we look forward," the statement said. "With the march towards 2022 underway and the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America as our guidepost, the US Men's National Team has embarked on a new journey."

"The hallmarks of the culture remain, with perseverance, grit and dogged determination fueled by the pride to represent the United States and each and every one of you." The federation played a key role in landing the 2026 World Cup for North America, along with Mexico and Canada. There has been change at the top with the departure of Sunil Gulati and the election of former vice president Carlos Cordeiro as the new US Soccer president and the arrival of Earnie Stewart as general manager of the national team.

But the Americans are still searching for a permanent replacement for Bruce Arena, who stepped down as coach three days after the Trinidad debacle.



US national soccer team

With Sarachan at the helm they split friendlies against Brazil and Mexico in September, and the caretaker coach said he's seen a "progression" in the rebuilding team in the

eight matches played to date under his guidance. "It's by no means a finished progression, but it's moving along in a good direction," he said. —AFP

## AC Milan confirm Paqueta deal, Ibrahimovic a possibility

**MILAN:** AC Milan have reached agreement to sign rising Brazilian star Lucas Paqueta with Swedish veteran Zlatan Ibrahimovic a possibility to return to Italy, club sporting director Leonardo said yesterday.

The Serie A giants are reported to have agreed a 35 million euro (\$40.4 million) deal with Flamengo - the club Paqueta joined as a ten-year-old - in what would be the most expensive signing of a Brazilian player by an Italian club. The 21-year-old completed his medical in Rio on Wednesday, and should arrive in Milan in January.

"We have a basic agreement with Flamengo, but the market doesn't re-open until January so there's still a little bit to go before it's official," Brazilian Leonardo told journalists after receiving the Liedholm Award, an Italian prize which honours those who embody the values of sport.

"Now we can only think of the league and the Europa League, not the transfer market. "At the moment he's a Flamengo player, he still has some Brazilian league matches to play. We have to wait for January 3."

Leonardo confirmed that the club have also "thought about" signing Ibrahimovic, who joined

LA Galaxy this season and has a contract through the 2019 season with the Major League Soccer side.

Ibrahimovic played for AC Milan from 2010 to 2012, winning a Serie A title with the club, before moving to Paris Saint-Germain and then Manchester United. Leonardo, a midfielder who also played for both PSG and Milan, was director of football at the Parisian club when the Swedish striker joined.

"It's normal that there's a personal connection with him. When we first arrived we thought about it, even at the age of 37 he can drive a team," said Leonardo. "Right now the transfer window is closed, we have to do things calmly and not forget that there are some Financial Fair Play stakes. We want to build a competitive team."

In addition to his two seasons with Milan, the Swede earlier won three Serie A titles with city rivals Inter Milan, and also played two seasons with Juventus. According to reports, Paqueta who can play both in midfield and as a striker has agreed a five-year deal worth 1.5 million euro (\$1.7 million) per season.

Paqueta was called up to the Brazil squad for the first time in August for friendlies against the United States and El Salvador. He had also been targeted by top European clubs including Liverpool, Paris Saint-Germain, Lazio, Barcelona and Manchester City.

Leonardo, who also began his career at Flamengo, reportedly played a key role in Paqueta's move to the San Siro. Flamengo will receive 70 percent of the 35 million euros transfer fee and the remainder to be divided between the player and the Brazilian federation. —AFP

## USA advance, Panama out Mexico in Women's World Cup qualifying

**LOS ANGELES:** Panama ended Mexico's hopes of reaching a third straight Women's World Cup on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory as the United States roared into the CONCACAF qualifying semi-finals with another huge win.

Second-half goals from Karla Riley and Lineth Cedeno lifted Panama to victory in Cary, North Carolina, locking up second place in Group A behind reigning World Cup champions the United States who closed out round-robin play with a 7-0 rout of Trinidad & Tobago.

All four semi-finalists will have a chance to secure berths in next year's World Cup in France. Both the finalists and the third place team will punch their tickets to the FIFA showpiece, while the loser of the third-place playoff will play off for a berth against Argentina.

Mexico, who competed in the last two World Cups and had beaten Panama in their five previous meetings, were thwarted by Panama's sensational 17-year-old goalkeeper Yenith Bailey.

In the best of her several stops Bailey dived left to turn away a penalty attempt taken by Charlyn Corral after Aldrith Quintero's handball in the area shortly before halftime.

Two minutes after the break Riley put Panama ahead when she fired a left-footed shot past Mexico keeper Cecilia Santiago.



CARY: File photo shows Emily Sonnett #2 of the USA defends Natalia Mills #11 of Panama during the soccer game at WakeMed Soccer Park on October 7, 2018 in Cary, North Carolina. —AFP

Second-half substitute Cedeno added the insurance goal in the 85th and Panama finished group play with six points from two victories in three matches.

In the second game of the double header, Alex Morgan and Rose Lavelle both scored twice and Lindsey Horan, Crystal Dunn and Tobin Heath added a goal apiece as the United States capped a dominant group performance.

They scored 18 goals and didn't surrender one in three group matches.

Group B, which includes Costa Rica, Canada, Jamaica and Cuba, concludes on Thursday with two matches in Edinburg, Texas.

Panama will play the Group B winners and the United States will take on the Group B runners-up in the semi-finals at Frisco, Texas, on Sunday. —AFP

## Sports

# Monaco sack coach Jardim after poor Ligue 1 start

## Aston Villa appoint Smith and Terry as new coaches

**MONACO:** Monaco, languishing 18th in Ligue 1, said yesterday that they have sacked Leonardo Jardim, who led them to a French title in 2017. Monaco wished Jardim, who also led the club to a Champions League semi-final in 2017, and his staff “the best for the future.”

The club from the principality would not comment on a replacement, but their former player Thierry Henry has been linked to the job. Henry was youth player with the club and scored seven goals in the 1997-8 Champions League as another talented Monaco team, this one coached by Arsene Wenger, reached the semi-finals, where they lost to Juventus.

He was then sold to the Turin club and went on to a successful spell with Arsenal in England and World Cup and Euro-2000 winners medals with France. Henry is an assistant coach with Belgium, which finished third in the summer's World Cup.

He has recently been linked with jobs at Aston Villa and Bordeaux, but in both cases negotiations broke down after initial meetings. Jardim was at Monaco since 2014 and was under contract until 2020.

The 44-year-old Portuguese coach had to cope with the sale of many of the stars of his title-winning squad over the last two seasons. This summer Thomas Lemar, Joao Moutinho and Fabinho followed earlier departures Kylian Mbappe, Benjamin Mendy, Bernardo Silva, Tiemoue Bakayoko and Valere Germain

## Mbappe is Time magazine's 'Future of Soccer'

**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe's rapid rise to global fame has earned the teenaged World Cup winner an appearance on the cover of Time magazine's international edition, to appear today.

Time said Mbappe was a global superstar who “is the future of soccer.” Mbappe made headlines in September 2017 when he moved from Ligue 1 side Monaco to Paris Saint-Germain for a staggering 180 million euros (\$207 million), a deal that saw the then 18-year-old player handed a reported monthly salary of 1.5m euros (\$1.8m).

But the 19-year-old's stock skyrocketed during this year's World Cup, where a series of phenomenal displays drew compliments from Brazil legend Pele on his way to helping France end their 20-year wait to win another World Cup trophy.

Mbappe became the youngest French goalscorer in World Cup history when he struck in a 1-0 win over Peru in the group stages. The teenager from the gritty Parisian suburb of Bondy then tore apart Argentina, scoring twice and earning a penalty as Les

out of the club in lucrative transfers.

Monaco lost their last game 1-0 at home to humble Angers and have not won in Ligue 1 since their opening match and have lost both their Champions League group games. Against Angers, the only key members of the title-winning team to feature were skipper Radamel Falcao and the defensive trio of Jemerson, Kamil Glik and Djibril Sidibe.

Meanwhile, a summer spending spree headed by the signing of Russian World Cup star Aleksandr Golovin has not yet produced positive results for a club owned by Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev.

“I would like to salute Leonardo with the utmost respect for all the work done,” AS Monaco Vice-President Vadim Vasilyev said in a statement. “His brief time will remain as one of the most beautiful pages in the history of the club. Leonardo will always be part of the family of AS Monaco.”

Monaco's next match, after the international break, is on October 20 away to Strasbourg in Ligue 1. In London, Former England captain John Terry took his first steps into coaching on Wednesday when he was named as right-hand man to new Aston Villa boss Dean Smith. The second-tier English club also appointed Jesus Garcia Pitarch as sporting director as the former European champions moved to replace Steve Bruce who was sacked last week.

Terry, 37, who spent the bulk of his career



**GUINGAMP:** France's forward Kylian Mbappe (L) and France's midfielder N'golo Kante eye the ball during a training session in Guingamp, western France yesterday, on the eve of their friendly football match France vs Iceland. —AFP

Blues eliminated the highly-fancied South Americans 4-3 in the last 16 knockout round.

In doing so, Mbappe became only the second teenager, after Pele in 1958, to score two goals in a World Cup match. When Mbappe scored with a five-yard strike in the final, a 4-2 win over Croatia, he became only the second teenager to do so, after Pele, in 1958.

With a total of four goals in the tournament, Mbappe received Fi Fa's award for Best Young Player of the World Cup. Arguably better still were the plaudits from Pele himself, who said: “If Kylian keeps on equalling my records, I'm going to have to dust off my boots.” —AFP



File photo shows Monaco's Portuguese coach Leonardo Jardim talks to the players during a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group A football match Borussia Dortmund against AS Monaco in Dortmund, western Germany on October 2, 2018. — AFP

with Chelsea, captained second-tier Aston Villa last season. Capped 78 times by England, the central defender recently rejected a chance to play for Spartak Moscow, saying a move to Russia was not right for his family.

His last game as a professional was Villa's 1-0 Championship play-off final defeat by Fulham in May—a loss that denied Villa a return to the Premier League. But his club career will be best remembered for his time at Chelsea where he won five Premier League ti-

ties, five FA Cups, as well as the Champions League and Europa League, although he did not play in the two European finals.

Smith joins from Brentford who are just one place off the play-off places while Vill are marooned in mid-table. “These three appointments represent the start of a new era and direction at Aston Villa and we are delighted to secure their services after an extensive search,” said Villa chief executive Christian Purslow. —AFP

## Football seeks answers over dementia link to heading

**GLASGOW:** Does heading a football give you dementia? That's the question neuropathologist Willie Stewart is attempting to answer by comparing the health of thousands of former footballers with non-players.

Football authorities have been accused of dragging their feet on the matter since former England player Jeff Astle died in 2002, with the coroner citing industrial disease as the cause of death. Ex-England and Newcastle captain Alan Shearer, famed for his prowess in the air, has helped raise the profile of the issue by speaking of his dementia fears after years of heading balls. The man tasked with investigating whether there is a direct link is Stewart, whose research team is comparing the medical histories of 10,000 former professional footballers with 30,000 members of the general population.

The study, “Football's Influence on Lifelong

Health and Dementia Risk”, is funded by the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association, with the aim of gathering hard evidence on an emotive subject.

It was Stewart who in 2014 said that Astle had died aged 59 from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) stemming from head injuries after examining the former player's brain. The condition is normally associated with boxers. But he is cautious in his approach and said delving into big data is crucial because the issue is currently clouded by anecdote and speculation. He cites the example of three members of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team who developed Alzheimer's disease—Martin Peters, 74, and Ray Wilson and Nobby Stiles, both deceased.

“The problem is that bad science comes from anecdotes and they are all we have got,” he told AFP at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. “Anecdotes are quite persuasive as quite a lot of the 1966 winning team have dementia and other football teams have been brought forward with high rates of dementia but we don't fully understand.”

Stewart says it is not a simple matter of cause and effect. “One has to know whether for instance the other teams in the 1966 World Cup, do they have similar levels of dementia?” he said. —AFP



Mbappe is Time magazine's  
'Future of Soccer'

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