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# Lawmaker claims 30% of expats in Kuwait 'useless'

Expatriate-only clinics to open soon • Citizenship returned to Ajmi, Awadhi

## Khan says Pak 'desperate' for loans, leaves for Saudi summit

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan left for Saudi Arabia to attend an investment conference boycotted by other leaders over the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Khan told an interviewer before leaving he was concerned about Khashoggi's death but could not skip the conference because "we're desperate" for possible Saudi loans to shore up Pakistan's economy.

It is Khan's second visit to Saudi Arabia in just over a month, but he has not succeeded in securing significant financial assistance to stave off a looming balance of payment crisis. Khan told the Middle East Eye in an interview published yesterday that he could not pass up the invitation to meet Saudi leaders again. "The reason I feel I have to avail myself of this opportunity is because in a country of 210 million people right now we have the worst debt crisis in our history," he was quoted as saying.

"Unless we get loans from friendly countries or the IMF (International Monetary Fund), we actually won't have in another two or three months enough foreign exchange to service our debts or to pay for our imports. So we're desperate at the moment." Finance Minister Asad Umar and Commerce Minister Abdul



RIYADH: Journalists collect their press badges yesterday at the press center of the Future Investment Initiative ahead of the conference. — AFP

Razak Dawood are accompanying Khan, a statement from Khan's office said yesterday, adding it "will give a chance to connect with those people who are interested in investing in Pakistan".

Islamabad has already asked the IMF to open negotiations for the country's second potential bailout in five years. Khan, who took office in July, still has been seeking alternatives to the tough conditions the IMF is likely to impose for loans, limiting his vision of an Islamic welfare state. The central bank's foreign reserves dropped this month to \$8.1 billion, a four-year low and barely enough to cover sovereign debt payments due through the end of the year. The current account deficit has swelled to about \$18 billion.

Khan has blamed the previous government's policies for the ballooning current account deficit. He told the Middle East Eye that he was concerned over the

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By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A senior lawmaker said yesterday that over 30 percent of the 3.3 million expatriates living and working in the country are "not useful", and the government must start practical measures to reduce the number of foreigners. MP Mohammad Al-Dallal, a member of a National Assembly's panel entrusted to find more jobs for Kuwaitis, told reporters that the large number of expatriates in the country, who form 70 percent of the population, put major pressure on essential services and infrastructure like health, traffic and others.

He called on the government that measures must be taken to reduce the numbers of each expat community, especially large ones like Indians, Egyptians and Bangladeshis. Dallal said expatriates must be welcomed and highly appreciated for all the great services rendered to the country, adding that they must be given their full rights. He however insisted that the current demographic structure, which is in favor of foreigners, involves national security risks for Kuwait and measures must be adopted swiftly to deal with this.

There have been several proposals in the past that called for reducing the number of expatriates, sharply reducing each community to become less than 10 percent of Kuwait's 1.4 million native population. This would have directly impacted Indians, who total more than 900,000, and Egyptians, who exceed 700,000. But the Assembly did not even reach the point of debating such proposals.

MP Dallal said the committee for Kuwaiti employment and replacement is expected to recommend to the government to turn certain jobs or professions in the private sector "entirely for Kuwaitis". He said this proposal, which appears to be difficult to achieve due to the total dominance of expatriates in the private sector, can be made

possible over a period of 10 or 15 years. The lawmaker said the committee held a meeting yesterday and discussed preparing a report to be debated by the Assembly over employment of Kuwaitis in the government as well as the private sector.

Dallal said the number of Kuwaitis in the private sector is very small, and the committee found that the government in fact does not have a proper program for encouraging Kuwaitis to seek jobs in the private sector. He said the committee will meet again on Sunday to approve its report to be sent to the Assembly, which starts its new term on Oct 30.

Head of the panel MP Khalil Al-Saleh said it will inquire from the Civil Service Commission why it has allocated 90,000 jobs for expats in the government, some 5,000 jobs above the current level.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah said yesterday that the health insurance clinics for expatriates only will start functioning very soon. Separately, the Cabinet yesterday voted to return revoked citizenships to nine people, who include opposition figure Saad Al-Ajmi and cleric Nabeel Al-Awadhi. Their citizenships were revoked several years ago over political issues, according to the opposition.



Nabeel Al-Awadhi



Saad Al-Ajmi

### News in brief

#### No plans for oil embargo

MOSCOW: Saudi Arabia said yesterday it had no plans to repeat its harsh 1973 oil embargo, even as relations with the West sour following the killing of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi. Saudi Oil Minister Khaled Al-Faleh told the TASS news agency that "there is no intention" of repeating the events of 1973. "Saudi Arabia is a completely responsible country. For decades, we have used our oil (production) policy as a responsible economic tool and we have kept it apart from politics," Faleh said. "If oil prices were to rise too much, that would slow the global economy and set off a global recession. Saudi Arabia has been coherent in its policy. We work to stabilize global markets and to facilitate global economic growth," he added. "This incident will pass," Faleh forecast. — AFP

#### 122 nails in stomach

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopian doctors extracted over a hundred iron nails and other sharp objects from the stomach of a patient in the capital Addis Ababa at the weekend. Dawit Teare, a surgeon at St Peter's Specialized Hospital, said the 33-year-old patient suffers from mental illness and had apparently consumed the items, including 122 four-inch nails, four pins, a toothpick and pieces of broken glass. "The patient has been suffering from mental illness for the last 10 years and had stopped taking his medication two years ago, one probable reason he started consuming inanimate objects," Dawit told AFP after the two-and-a-half hour operation. He added that the patient was recovering well. — AFP

#### Alleged organ theft denied

CAIRO: Egyptian authorities yesterday denied reports of alleged organ theft after the body of a British tourist who died suddenly while on holiday was returned home without some organs. David Humphries, 62, died in the seaside resort of Hurgada on the shores of the Red Sea on Sept 18. His body was returned to the UK where a second post-mortem ordered by a coroner discovered that his heart and some other organs had been removed, a British media outlet said. Accusing the UK media of publishing "flawed reports", the Egyptian state information service (SIS) said allegations of "organ theft are unfounded". The statement said that samples were taken and the heart, parts of the liver, kidneys and other organs had been removed in order to establish the cause of death. — AFP

## Trump vows aid cuts as migrant caravan rolls on

WASHINGTON/TAPACHULA, Mexico: US President Donald Trump yesterday vowed to begin curtailing tens of millions of dollars in aid to three Central American nations and called a caravan of migrants bound for the United States a national emergency as he sought to boost his party's chances in Nov 6 congressional elections. "Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador were not able to do the job of stopping people from leaving their country and coming illegally to the US. We will now begin cutting off, or substantially reducing, the massive foreign aid routinely given to them," Trump wrote in a series of Twitter posts.

Trump and his fellow Republicans have sought to elevate the caravan, which has made its way into Mexico bound for the US border, and immigration as campaign issues ahead of the midterm elections, in which his party is fighting to maintain control of the US

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## Congress won't name Gandhi as PM candidate

NEW DELHI: India's main opposition Congress party said yesterday it would not name its leader Rahul Gandhi as the prime ministerial candidate of an alliance seeking to defeat Prime Minister Narendra Modi in next year's general election. Congress is working to build an opposition front with other parties in preparation for the vote, and spokesman Sanjay Jha said it would respect the "aspirations" of potential alliance partners though no alternative candidates will be nominated.

Jha said the party would be following the same strategy as it did in 2004 when its alliance defeated a coalition led by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) without formally naming a prime ministerial nominee. "Defeating the BJP is our primary goal, and therefore the Congress party is going to be very politically accommodating because we believe that regional parties' aspirations and their ambitions will have to be respected depending upon relative strengths in different areas," he told Reuters yesterday.

Many of Congress' potential alliance parties are run by ambitious regional leaders with years of governance experience. Echoing Jha's comments, senior Congress leader and former finance and interior minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said the party's main focus



METAPA, Mexico: Honduran migrants, heading in a caravan to the US, board a truck on their way to Tapachula in Mexico's Chiapas state yesterday. — AFP



Rahul Gandhi

was on forging an alliance to win the election, due by May 2019. "We want to form a coalition, make it win and then the parties involved will decide who becomes prime minister," he told TV channel News18 Tamil Nadu in an interview broadcast at the weekend.

Gandhi, 48, is a scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that has ruled India for nearly four decades since its independence from Britain in 1947. Unlike Modi, a powerful orator who ran the western state of Gujarat before becoming prime minister, Gandhi has never held a ministerial position despite being a lawmaker since 2004 and critics question whether he has the charisma or experience to defeat Modi. The decision by Congress not to impose Gandhi's candidacy could also be exploited by Modi to suggest the opposition alliance is indecisive and not fit for government, political analysts say.

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## Mars likely has enough oxygen to support life

PARIS: Salty water just below the surface of Mars could hold enough oxygen to support the kind of microbial life that emerged and flourished on Earth billions of years ago, researchers reported yesterday. In some locations, the amount of oxygen available could even keep alive a primitive, multicellular animal such as a sponge, they reported in the journal Nature Geosciences.

"We discovered that brines" - water with high concentrations of salt - "on Mars can contain enough oxygen for microbes to breathe," said lead author Vlada Stamenkovic, a theoretical physicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. "This fully revolutionizes our understanding of the potential for life on Mars, today and in the past," he told AFP. Up to now, it had been assumed that the trace amounts of oxygen on Mars were insufficient to sustain even microbial life. "We never thought that oxygen could play a role for life on Mars due to its rarity in the atmosphere, about 0.14 percent," Stamenkovic said.

By comparison, the life-giving gas makes up 21 percent of the air we breathe. On Earth, aerobic - that is, oxygen breathing - life forms evolved together with photosynthesis, which converts CO2 into O2.

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## Local

# Amir praises Global Finance Magazine's honoring of Central Bank Governor

## Award achievement for Kuwait and its global status: Sheikh Sabah



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the State Audit Bureau's (SAB) annual report from SAB Acting Chairman Adel Al-Saraawi.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel, who presented His Highness with the Global Finance Magazine's award for Central Banks' Governors. His Highness the Amir praised such honoring, deeming it an achievement for Kuwait and its global status. Later yesterday, Hashel met separately with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the occasion of his honoring.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir

received Acting Chairman of the State Audit Bureau Adel Al-Saraawi, who handed His Highness the annual report of the financial year 2017/2018. Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the reception. Saraawi also handed copies of the report to His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem in separate meetings.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday. In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister received Jordan's Ambassador to Kuwait Saqr Abu Shattal, who handed His Highness a letter

from Jordan's Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Omar Razzaz, enclosed with an invitation to visit the Hashemite Kingdom.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable yesterday to Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain expressing deep condolences and sincere solace for his excellency and families of people who perished in the latest deadly traffic accident in Punjab, Pakistan. His Highness the Amir, in the cable, prayed for souls of scores of people who lost their lives in the accident and wished the injured quick recuperation. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister echoed similar sentiments in cables they addressed to the Pakistani president over the tragic accident. — KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Jordan's Ambassador to Kuwait Saqr Abu Shattal.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting Chairman of the State Audit Bureau Adel Al-Saraawi and bureau members.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Acting Chairman of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) Adel Al-Saraawi and a number of SAB staff.

## GCC Red Crescent Society Day celebrated today

RIYADH: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries celebrate today the GCC Red Crescent Society Day. In March of 2017, the celebration was approved by a number of Gulf Red Crescent officials to commemorate the societies' humanitarian efforts. A number of festivities and activities will be held all over the GCC region during the celebrations. The first GCC Red Crescent Day will be dedicated to the humanitarian efforts in the war torn country of Yemen.

Although the conflict in Yemen continues to preoccupy people with destruction, famine, and displacement of families, GCC countries took charge in providing urgent aid to Yemeni people through humanitarian and development packages totaling around \$22 billion. Such vital assistance has strengthened Gulf States' charitable role and humanitarian work on both the official and popular fronts, which is a continued measure that helped to heal the wounds of those who are distressed.

GCC countries have provided Yemen with around \$11.5 billion in development aid since November 2006, and another \$10.4 billion from 2015 to 2018. The Gulf Red Crescent Societies played a major role in alleviating the suffering of Yemeni brethren through providing them with a number of vital projects that helped them in their daily lives and met their basic needs.

According to statistics issued by the GCC General Secretariat in September 2018, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have provided \$1.25 billion, or 42.2 percent of the global humanitarian response to Yemen, while the global humanitarian aid estimate reached \$2.96 billion in 2018. Since

2006, GCC countries have shared development assistance to Yemen, with Kuwait totaling around \$709.4 million, the UAE \$2.9 billion, including \$1.5 billion since 2015, and Saudi Arabia nearly \$5 billion. Oman has provided \$100 million, Qatar \$1 billion, and Bahrain \$4.5 million.

In terms of humanitarian assistance, Gulf countries provided humanitarian assistance since 2015 and until September 2018 another generous sum. With Kuwait providing \$350 million, Saudi Arabia with \$8.4 billion, including an exemption for health and education fees for Yemenis inside Saudi Arabia, Qatar provided \$419 million, with UAE providing \$1.3 billion, and Bahrain with \$1 million. Furthermore, Gulf countries' aid and grants to Yemen have varied in all areas, including food and relief assistance, humanitarian needs, health, education, electricity, water and shelter projects. The GCC countries have also been quick to rescue those affected by hurricanes through operating emergency air and land relief bridges to help those affected in Yemen, which played a decisive role.

### Crucial and active

"Since the beginning of the humanitarian tragedy in Yemen, GCC relief efforts and aid in various areas were crucial and active, including treatment of those wounded with provision of hospitals and medical assistance," minister of local administration and head of the Yemeni Higher Relief Committee Abdurraqeab Fattah said yesterday.

"Gulf aid has reached all people in Yemen and its various provinces, without prejudice to a sect, party affiliation. Without Gulf relief aid, which represented more than 75 percent of what was provided to the Yemeni people, famine would have spread in all Yemeni provinces," he added.

Fattah added that the Gulf Coordination Office for the Yemeni people has also played an active role in coordination and identification of various needs since its establishment. The office continues to meet periodically at the beginning of each month, discusses the various relief requirements, and works needed among the relief agencies in the Gulf,

Fattah noted.

Fattah mentioned as well that "the Gulf aid and relief was critical during natural disasters and emergency situations such as the 'Chabala' and 'Mukano' typhoons, which hit a number of coastal governorates Socotra, Al-Muhra, Hadhramowt, which included air operation, land and sea bridges to help with relief efforts of the western provinces, especially the province of Hodidah, which Houthi militias imposed a siege on it for more than four years.

### Helping hand

Meanwhile, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Vice President Anwar Al-Hasawi said that Kuwait has always been helping those in need globally, regardless of race, affiliation or any other considerations except the humanitarian aspect in any given situation. "So as usual we stood by our brothers in Yemen and we will remain supportive in Yemen," Hasawi said.

Kuwait extended a helping hand to the Yemeni brothers to alleviate their suffering, which according to the United Nations the crisis in Yemen has become the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, where about 22 million people need some kind of humanitarian assistance and protection, Hasawi explained. He added that is why His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has swiftly contributed with \$100 million to improve the situation there in Yemen.

Hasawi noted that the Kuwaiti aid covered various aspects such as medicine, food, as well as education from building or renovating schools, paintings, school supplies, water and electricity projects. Hasawi pointed out that his office meets every month to follow up on what has been accomplished and discuss future arrangements, with a delegation consisting of Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, and the Kuwaiti Relief Society. Hasawi concluded GCC countries last week, have increased their efforts to save Yemeni lives in Al-Muhra province, which was affected by the hurricane Laban, through a number of relief and aid packages using air and land routes. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah visited yesterday Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mohi Al-Deen Salim Ahmed to convey His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's condolences over the passing of former Sudanese President Abdurrahman Suwar Al-Thahab. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah also conveyed condolences of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos





## Local

# Govt meets MPs to 'talk them out' of signing motion against Prime Minister

## Premier's 'antagonists' determined to carry on with no-cooperation motion

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A number of lawmakers are scheduled to hold a decisive meeting with government officials by the beginning of next week to agree on the final results expected after grilling His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in the new parliamentary term's inaugural session due to be held next week, said informed parliamentary sources, noting that another grilling filed by MP Riyadh Al-Adasani against Minister Adel Al-Kharafi will also be discussed in the same session.

The sources added that the meeting mainly aims at talking lawmakers out of signing a no-cooperation motion they intend to file after grilling His Highness the Prime Minister, which has never been done before. The sources said that some MPs they described as His Highness the Prime Minister's antagonists who are after deposing him are determined to carry on with the no-cooperation motion, such as Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, Mohammed Al-Mutair, Riyadh Al-Adasani, Abdulwahab Al-Babtain and Abdulkareem Al-Kandari, adding that they will not attend the meeting.

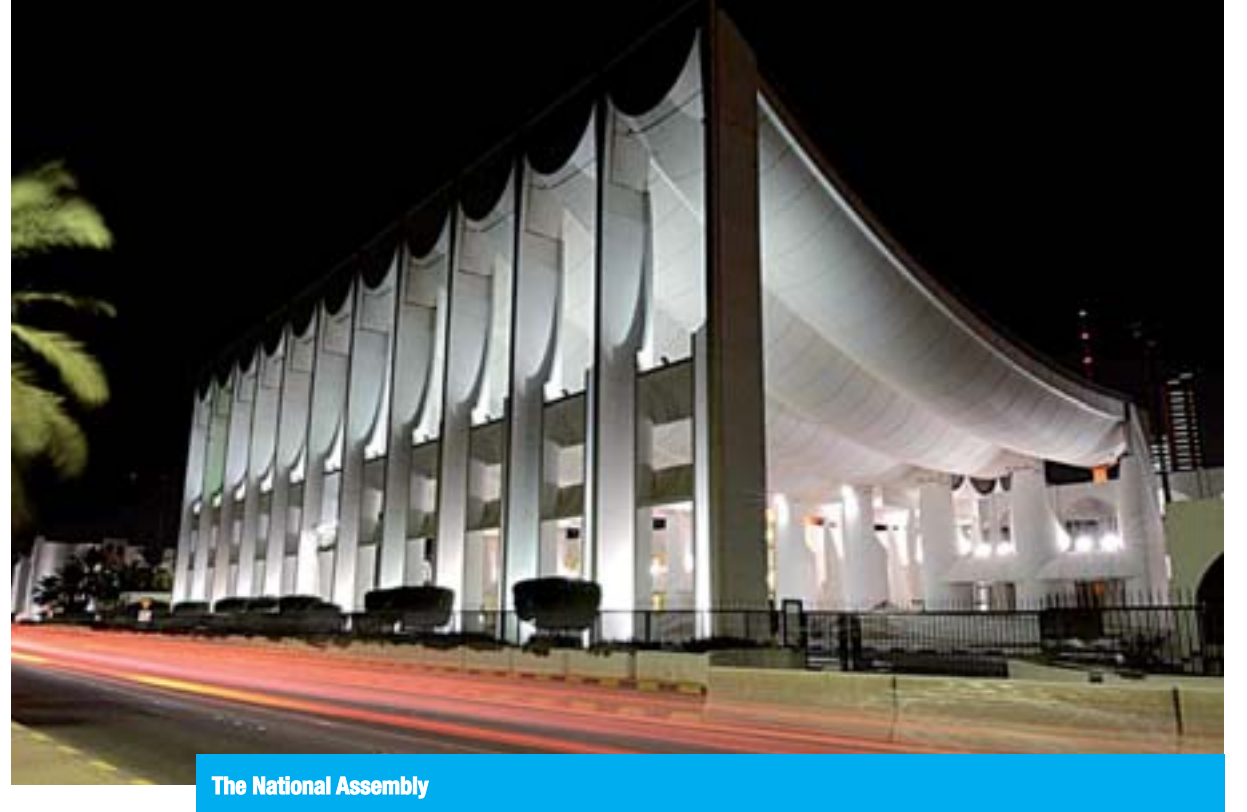


### Inaugural session to feature two grillings

The sources also noted that this group of MPs is after returning the citizenship withdrawn from some citizens and passing a general amnesty to relieve MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Jamaan Al-Harbash, who have been indicted for storming the parliament. Moreover, the sources said the government has informed lawmakers that some of the withdrawn citizenships have been returned but stressed that it was up to the constitutional court to decide about the general amnesty bill. They also noted that the government will attempt to have at least two of the less stubborn lawmakers drop taking part in the no-cooperation motion, which needs to be signed by at least 10 MPs.

In another parliamentary issue, MP Nasser Al-Dousseyri warned Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah of what he described as selectiveness in appointments to leading positions to bring particular people to office.

In other news, Ministry of Education's assistant undersecretary for private education affairs Abdul Mohsen Al-Huwailah warned any teacher in the private sector found to be using fake degrees will be referred to the public prosecution.



The National Assembly

## Kuwait welcomes Saudi announcement of Khashoggi's probe findings

KUWAIT: Kuwait government yesterday welcomed anew Saudi Arabia's announcement of initial findings of a probe into Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder, and urged the international community to refrain from interfering in this case until all facts were announced. The Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, commended Saudi Arabia's "transparent" announcement of the initial investigation into Khashoggi's death as well as Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz's decisions to sack top officials at the intelligence agency and the restructuring of the agency. Saudi Arabia has shown commitment to unveiling truth behind Khashoggi's killing and holding those behind this act accountable, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said in a statement after the cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet, he added, called on the international community to refrain from interfering in this "sensitive

case until completion of the investigation and facts are revealed." Saleh praised Saudi Arabia's role in maintaining peace and stability in the region and around the globe. Saudi Arabia announced that 18 citizens were held in custody in connection with case of Khashoggi, who was killing in a fistfight at the Kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet expressed condolences for the Saudi King for the death of the crew of a Saudi military plane. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet about the legal measures against those who attack Kuwait and its leaders in social media. He said diplomatic missions were instructed to firmly pursue people offending Kuwait or its leaders.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled then briefed the cabinet about the recent visit by the Dominican Foreign Minister Miguel Vargas, which resulted in cooperation agreements over diplomatic training, trade and energy. His Highness the Prime Minister also briefed the cabinet about a recent visit by Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dancila during which the two countries signed an MoU over consultations between the foreign ministries, and tourism. On the other hand, the Cabinet expressed condolences for Moroccan King Mohammad VI regarding a train accident that killed and injured many people. The government expressed regret over victims of floods in southern France, the passing away of former Sudanese President Abdulrahman Sewar Al-Thahab and the death of dozens of people in a train accident in India. —KUNA

## KFSD ready for emergencies during rain: Official

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said yesterday that it was ready to address any urgent situation or emergencies during the rain and winter season. While inspecting fire stations in a number of areas, KFSD chief Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad said in a press release that fire engines would be ready to address any situation involving heavy rain and floods, noting that teams responded to some 20 calls for help yesterday as a result of the rainfall witnessed in the country. He affirmed that the KFSD would assist the Interior Ministry and other bodies when required. Meanwhile, head of KFSD support center Major Hamad Al-Rashed urged citizens and expatriates to contact the 112 number in case of emergency. He called on the people to adhere to safety procedures during rain to allow emergency teams to operate efficiently. The Interior Ministry had also cautioned drivers yesterday of the rain "that might cause sudden traffic stops and slippery roads."



KUWAIT: Vehicles drive through a pool of rainwater in Fintas following yesterday's rain showers. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Wide scale traffic campaign in Farwaniya

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: As instructed by Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Hmoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, Farwaniya traffic department carried out a wide scale campaign that covered many areas against violators of the traffic law. The campaign resulted in issuing 80 citations for obstructing traffic and confiscating many license plates of trucks.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said Hawally municipal branch carried out an inspection campaign at shops within Hawally governorate. Director of inspection and services follow-up in Hawally Faleh Al-Otaibi said the drive resulted in issuing 54 citations for operating without a license and having signs without permission.



who died, but did not stop. Detectives reviewed security cameras of a bank and were able to see the car's license plate number, and the driver was arrested. She told police that she fled because she got very scared when she saw the child's body.

### Youth dead

Security sources solved the mystery of the disappearance of a Syrian youth from his family's home a few days earlier. Investigations revealed the missing youth was in a Jahra apartment with three friends - a Kuwaiti, a Gulf national and a bedoon. When the Syrian died under unknown circumstances, they got rid of his body on the Seventh Ring Road. Two suspects were arrested, while Interpol arrested the bedoon who escaped to a Gulf country using the ID of a citizen. He led policemen to the decomposed body.

### Man beats up ex-wife

A female citizen accused her ex-husband of storming her house, beating her and abducting their son. The victim went to the station with a medical report stating that she had bruises. She said the suspect knocked at her door and when she opened it, he beat her with a stick, then kidnapped the boy. The suspect denied the charges, so she brought witnesses. He then admitted that he committed the acts. The boy was handed back to his mother while the man was detained.

### Schoolbag's theft

An Arab man told Mubarak Al-Kabeer police that thieves stole 12 cartons containing schoolbags from a popular store in Qurain. A police source said the complainant said while his car was parked in front of a famous mall with the boxes inside for a few minutes, he was surprised with the disappearance of the boxes. Detectives are working on the case.

—Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

## Kuwait appreciates Romania's pledge to find missing citizen

KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi yesterday praised Romanian authorities' cooperation to determine destiny of the missing Kuwaiti citizen, Mohammad Al-Baghli. Ambassador Khubaizi, in a statement, admired Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dancila's hosting of Baghli's family at Bayan Palace during her visit to the country and her promise to follow up on the case. Dancila's visit to Kuwait, which concluded late on Sunday, was the last of recurring and reciprocal visits at the official level between the two countries. The Romanian premier had also met His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Ali Al-Ghanem and officials of Kuwait Investment Authority.

The Romanian and Kuwaiti sides, during the meetings, underlined need for elevating the 55-year relationship between the two countries to higher levels. Official talks that had been held between His Highness the Prime Minister and his Romanian counterpart dealt with necessity of expanding cooperation in domains of common interest. Ambassador Khubaizi said. The Romanian side expressed desire to send in medical cadres and host Kuwaiti patients for treatment. —KUNA

## Court upholds return of syndicate's board

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's civil employees syndicate's deputy chairman Hamed Al-Jelawi yesterday said the court of appeals seconded a ruling issued by the court of first instance concerning returning the syndicate's original board of directors to office under chairman Bader Meraji Al-Enezi. Jelawi added that this verdict cancels the board of directors formed by the Public Authority for Manpower - which he described as 'illegal' because it was not elected by a general assembly. Jelawi stressed that proper legal actions would be taken against the 'fake' board and announced that the syndicate plans to file a report to the public prosecutor in this regard.

### Unlicensed halls

Relevant municipal authorities recently distributed warning notices to a number of temporary wedding halls in various governorates, said informed authorities, noting that the majority of such halls are in Farwaniya. Notably, Municipal Council member Abdullah Al-Mahri had recently warned Kuwait Municipality about unlicensed temporary wedding halls.

## Ministry says employees stole power cables

KUWAIT: Deputy head of the judicial action team at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) Ahmad Al-Shimmari said five gangs that were stealing materials and cables in exchange of bribes were busted. He said the gangs include expat employees at MEW and persons contracted to do some work. He said the continued success of the judicial action team is due to the strategy the team adopted against electricity and water thieves to carry out preemptive campaigns in all governorates and monitor most sites without waiting for a theft to take place.

### Sexual assault

Ahmadi prosecutor ordered the arrest of three men who sexually assaulted a policeman working at the border department of the interior ministry, then threatened to kill him if he complained about what happened. The victim said the attack may be due to old differences with the suspects, but did not say anything about the nature of the problems. A police source said the victim told police he was with a friend, then they went to another friend's house. After that, they went in a car owned by a third friend who was accompanied by a person he could not identify. He said that he was taken to an isolated area where one of the suspects beat him while the other raped him. The third suspect made the threats to kill him if he told about what happened.

### Fatal accident

Security cameras led to a woman who ran over a child



KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy Larry Memmott and a delegation accompanying him met with Interior Ministry's Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Major General Khaled Al-Dayeen yesterday. The two sides discussed the steps taken by the Interior Ministry to fight trafficking in persons in accordance with global protocols. Memmott expressed his appreciation to the mechanism taken by Kuwaiti authorities in combatting human trafficking, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.



## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Camels compete in a race on October 20, 2018, in Kabad area, 50 kilometers southwest of Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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## Disabled Kuwaiti diver breaks world record

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Faisal Al-Mosawi, a Kuwaiti diver with kinetic disability, was honored on Sunday at the 360 mall for setting a new world record in scuba diving. At a celebration hosted by the Public Authority for the Disabled (PAD), he received a Guinness World Records certificate for diving 10 km in five hours and 24 minutes, one hour less than the previous record. PAD Director General Shafiq Al-Awadhi congratulated him on adding to the achievements made by Kuwaiti disabled athletes.

Mosawi said he had to double his efforts in order to break the previous record set by an able-bodied athlete. "I trained for three months in the pools of the Scientific Club and one month in the open sea. I used 26 small air cylinders during my record-breaking dive," he said during the ceremony.

This has been Faisal's dream since about 13 years, when he became disabled after a car accident. "I achieved the fastest dive for 10 km. I broke the previous record although I have a disability. Today I believe that the disabled can challenge people without disabilities. The care of H.H. the Amir for the disabled is encouraging us and we all can have achievements: we all can succeed," he added.

Adjudicator from the Guinness World Records Ahmad Al-Jaber noted that Mosawi's record is a historic achievement. "We all feel proud of this achievement of breaking the previous record of a normal diver by almost an hour. I consider Faisal as superhuman," he told Kuwait Times.

Sheikha Sheikha Al-Abdullah Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Club for the Disabled, said the event was very important as a Kuwaiti disabled person achieved an international record. "We all know that the Guinness World Records includes rare achievements. Al-Mosawi is a real hero who achieved an international



Faisal Al-Mosawi poses with his Guinness World Records certificate.

record although being disabled, which is rare. This award by Guinness is for all people of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti government is always taking care of its citizens in general and the disabled in particular," she emphasized. A documentary about his preparation and training for the dive including achieving the record was shown.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti diver Faisal Al-Mosawi is honored for setting a new world record in scuba diving. — Photos by Abdellatif Sharaa



Local

# KFAS organizes FourSight professional development course to encourage creative leadership, innovation

## Helping leaders develop, understand and cultivate innovation and creativity

By Jamie Etheridge

**KUWAIT:** I recently had the opportunity to attend a course on creative leadership and innovative thinking. The course aimed to teach participants, mostly mid-level managers, how to leverage creativity to lead their organizations to greater levels of success and achievement. The course, organized by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and delivered by FourSight, also helped leaders develop a 'language and approach to understanding and cultivating innovation and creativity' that they can then bring back to their organizations and businesses.

Creativity and innovation have become the holy grail of business in the digital age. The World Economic Forum, citing a survey conducted by IMG of 1,500 CEOs, named creativity as the "single most important skill for leaders."

### Innovation = growth

In an economy like Kuwait's that has long been dependent on oil revenues for the bulk of earnings, creativity can be the spark that helps the private sector leapfrog to first place - or at least a greater share of the GDP. But to get there, all the various segments of the economy will need some 'creative' encouragement. This is where organizations like KFAS step in. Established in 1976, KFAS is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with the primary aim of driving progress in science and technology in Kuwait.

"We believe that by providing these types of training opportunities to everyone in the Kuwaiti private sector, we are giving them useful tools to not only improve their business, but to progress in their self-development," explains Sarah M Y Al-Abdullah, program officer at KFAS.

Innovation sustains growth and in Kuwait, the need for progress and especially creative progress in the fields of science and technology has never been keener. The entire globe has watched as digital and social media, fintech and other technology-oriented companies have disrupted traditional economic sectors and completely overwhelmed others. Companies like Google, Alibaba, Amazon, Instagram and other digital and technology companies are trailblazing a future where innovation and creativity aren't just a part of the game but a core aspect of the business model.

In Kuwait, tech companies like Talabat.com completely upended the restaurant delivery business and created an entire new market segment. Soon a whole slew of 'service-oriented' apps began popping up, taking on dry cleaning, salons, gyms and fitness and more.

The more creative and innovative, the more space for an entrepreneur or even an established business to tap into or create a new market.

"In the Kuwait context, there is a real interest and desire for improving business practices and outcomes. The alignment with the objectives of KFAS to positively help the transformation of the economy to a modern and efficient, effective economy for all - these kinds of leadership practices help managers and leaders achieve those goals," notes Blair Miller, a partner of FourSight.



### Creative Leadership in the Kuwait context

#### Tools and techniques

One of the tools taught to participants during the Creative Leadership workshop includes the idea of turning problems into questions. When faced with a problem - let's say no budget to transition a work system into an online digital platform - a creative leader can turn the problem into a question: What might be all the digital platforms, available for free or low cost, that could be utilized as substitutes suitable to our needs?

The idea seems simple but its power is in the effect. Rather than accepting a problem as a fact, the idea flips the problem into a question - a question with a possible or perhaps many possible solutions.

Other tools taught focusing on creative leadership by challenging the process, storyboarding and reversing assumptions. In an economy where businesses are often long established and resistant to change, simple brainstorming sessions may not be enough to break out of stagnancy.

"One of the takeaways is a basic awareness of their own creative leadership strengths and opportunities for development. We started on the first day by giving people insight into how they approach the creative process: Where they gain energy and where they lose energy. And throughout the course, we gave folks the experiences so they have tangible tools and tangible strategies for impacting their own leadership and those they work with, their teams, their colleagues and



**KUWAIT:** The participants of the KFAS/FourSight Creative Leadership course included bankers, journalists, media and HR professionals, engineers and scientists. The participants celebrated graduating the course with a group photo followed by lunch. — Photo courtesy of KFAS

their peers," Russ Schoen, FourSight practitioner leader, explains.

The course, which ran for three days, is part of the KFAS Open Enrollment initiative which provides a range of professional development courses and workshops for Kuwait's private sector. "I learned many different tools and techniques for creative problem solving," said Hanadi Al-Hunaidi, district manager for Commercial Bank of Kuwait who attended the Creative Leadership course. "Ideas like 'reverse assumptions' help prompt creative and unique ideas that I can apply to my work."

Facilitators walked the group through a variety of

activities to teach them through hands-on learning the techniques and tools of creative leadership. Examples of morale-boosting tactics like 'model the way' or 'enabling others to act' aren't just feel-good ideas but science-backed techniques for motivating teams to achieve their highest potential.

One of the most important tools, participants learned, is the leader's own attitude and openness to creativity. "Creative leadership is about people making the place - whether that's emerging or established organizations," notes Schoen. "The creative climate that the leader sets for his or her team has a direct influence on creative productivity."

## Ten Arab enterprises win prestigious Kuwaiti informatics award

**KUWAIT:** Some 10 Arab-made projects from across government and private sectors have been given top honors this year in His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award. Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, among other Arab nations, have each won awards for stellar projects, the deputy president of the award's organizing committee Bassam Al-Shemmari told a press conference yesterday. In the government sector division, the UAE bagged a trio of awards, while two went to Qatar and the Palestinians picked up a single award, the official revealed.

Kuwaiti civil society organizations picked up a pair of awards worth \$200,000, one of the most lucrative prizes given in the wider Arab region, he went on to say. He added that the winners will be feted in a lavish ceremony



**KUWAIT:** Deputy president of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award's organizing committee Bassam Al-Shemmari (left) speaks during a press conference yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

slated for November 26, under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The official thanked His Highness the Amir for such gracious sponsorship and the support given since the award's inception. — KUNA

## Kuwait examines Qatar's airport security

**DOHA:** Security delegates from Kuwait examined Qatar's airport security and checked the means, devices, and modern technologies used to ease the passenger's arrival and departure process. The delegates headed by Director General of the General Directorate of Airport Security Major-General Waleed Al-Saleh visited Hamad International Airport on Sunday and get acquainted with the security systems and modern technologies used for inspection and surveillance to safeguard the safety of the travelers and air traffic control.

The delegates were provided with a detailed presentation on the tasks of the administration of airport management and information technology used in electronic gates for departure and arrival. Saleh praised Qatar's experience in airport security, pointing to Hamad International Airport's security management and the information technology means that contribute to facilitation of airport traffic. He also assured the importance of continuing cooperation between the two countries and the exchange of airport and port security capabilities in addition to other areas as stipulated in relevant agreements.

Director of the Security department of Hamad International Airport Brigadier Essa Al-Rumaihi said that this visit came within the framework of ongoing cooperation and coordination between Qatar and Kuwait, and that Doha was keen on the exchange of experiences in this field.

Rumaihi added the delegates checked out the latest devices like the smart robotic security that identifies suspects and detects weapons, explosives, counterfeit currencies and credit cards as well as other illegal objects. The Director of airport passport at Doha's airport Brigadier Mohammad Al-Mazroui also added that the delegates from Kuwait witnessed the modern systems used inside the airport which ease and smooth the passport process of the travelers. — KUNA

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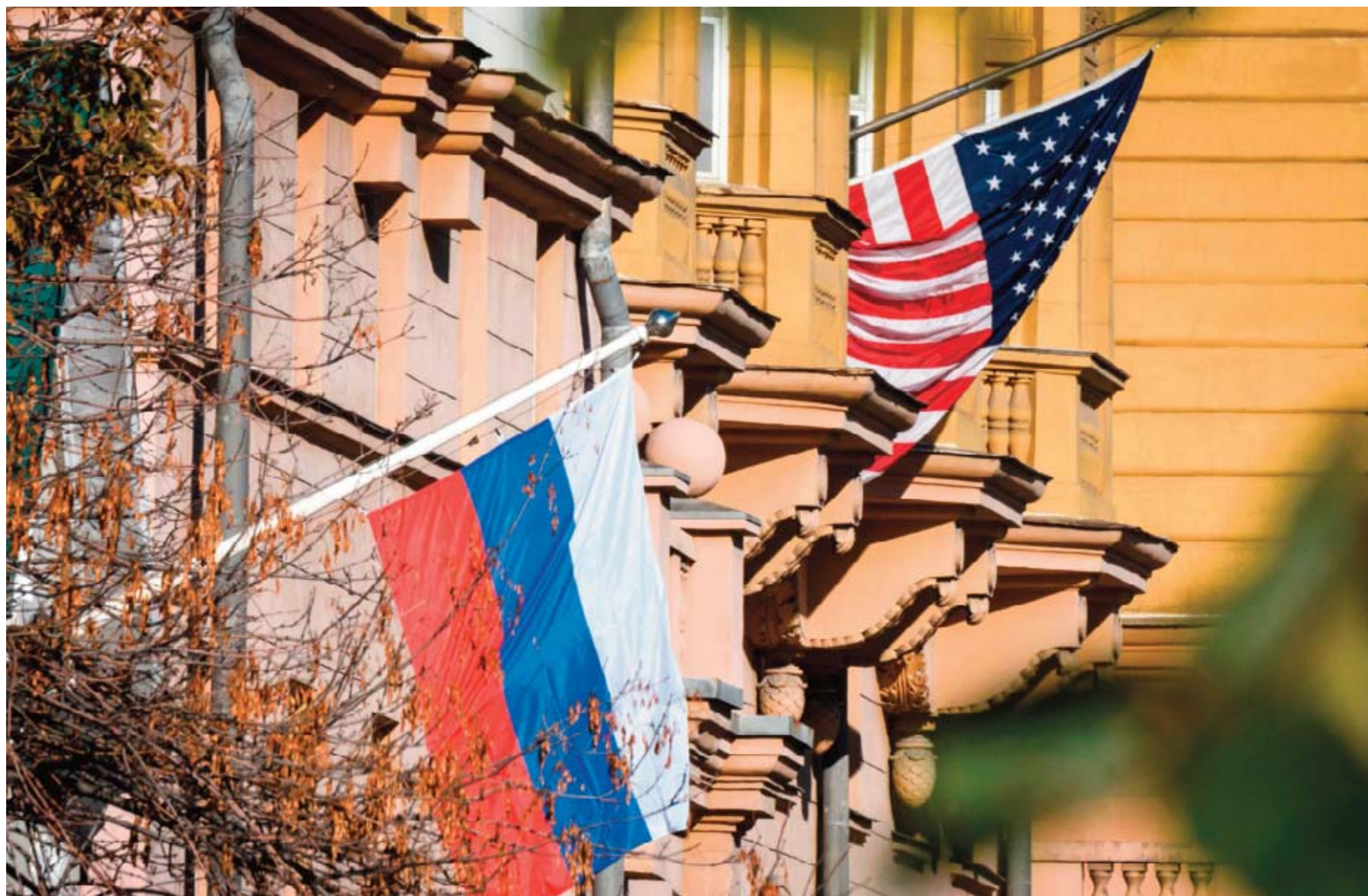
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Taiwan investigates train crash; 18 killed

## Mingogo Island: A rocky marriage between Kenya and Uganda



MOSCOW: A Russian flag flies next to the US embassy building in Moscow yesterday. US national security advisor John Bolton is in Moscow holding meetings with senior Russian officials following Washington's weekend announcement of withdrawal from the Cold War-era Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, known as the INF. — AFP

# World 'more dangerous' if US drops nuke treaty

## Beijing urges Washington to 'think twice'

MOSCOW: The Kremlin yesterday said the world would be less safe if Washington goes ahead with plans to withdraw from a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty that banned intermediate-range missiles. "Such steps, if taken, will make the world more dangerous," said presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov as he rejected claims by US President Donald Trump that Russia had violated the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). "Russia has been and remains committed to the provisions of this treaty," he said.

The US had previously undermined the foundations of the agreement, Peskov added. "The intention to withdraw from this document is of the deepest concern." Peskov reiterated an earlier statement by President Vladimir Putin that Russia would never strike first even if threatened with a nuclear attack. "We don't feel that we have the right to inflict the first strike," he said. The INF resolved a crisis over Soviet nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles targeting Western capitals. The treaty was signed by then US president Ronald Reagan and Mikhail

Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, who at the weekend also criticized plans to pull out. US national security advisor John Bolton is in Moscow for two days of talks in which the issue will be discussed.

**US must 'think twice'**  
 Meanwhile, China yesterday called on the United States to "think twice" about its decision to ditch a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty with Russia. US President Donald Trump announced over the weekend his plan to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which banned ground-launch nuclear missiles with ranges from 500 to 5,500 kilometers. But Trump said the Russians had been



### Top Republican lawmakers back Trump's worries

violating it "for many years" and that China, not a signatory, remained free to develop such weapons.

Two top Republican lawmakers backed Trump's worries about China on Sunday, saying there are concerns the treaty is holding the US back while allowing China to move forward with its own developments. "It needs to be emphasized that it is completely wrong to bring up China when talking about withdrawal from the treaty," said Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying yesterday. The treaty has played an important role in advancing the disarmament process and maintaining a strategic balance and global stability, Hua said.

"Unilateral withdrawal will have a multitude of negative effects," she told a regular news briefing. Hua said China hoped the relevant parties can "think twice about the issue of withdrawing," in a reference to the US. On Sunday Republican Senator Lindsey Graham backed Trump's plan to withdraw from the nuclear accord, saying the US needed to be free to respond to a Chinese nuclear build-up. Washington has complained for nearly two years that a ground-launched missile system deployed by Russia breaches the treaty.

Another senior Republican, Senator Bob Corker, said on CNN that he hoped Trump's stance was designed merely to pressure Russia to return into compliance. The landmark treaty was signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev and led to nearly 2,700 short- and medium-range missiles being eliminated. It put an end to a mini-arms race in the 1980s triggered by the Soviet Union's deployment of SS-20 nuclear missiles targeting Western European capitals. — Agencies

## Ryanair passenger racism video sparks outrage and probe

DUBLIN: A viral video showing a man racially abusing an elderly passenger on a Ryanair flight has prompted widespread outrage and an investigation by British police. The video - now viewed on Facebook more than four million times - appears to show a white man in an altercation with a black woman over seating arrangements in their row.

Despite protests from another passenger that the woman was disabled, the man can be heard threatening to push her and calling her an "ugly black b\*\*\*\*\*" in the three minute clip. A cabin crew member and a passenger can be seen intervening in an apparent attempt to calm the man, whilst another can be heard pleading for staff to move the woman. But the no-frills Irish airline has drawn criticism on social media for failing to eject the abusive passenger from the flight.

"He refused to sit next to the woman because she was black," wrote David Lawrence, the man who filmed the incident, in a caption to the video on Facebook. "Ryanair are accountable for the protection of their customers and they FAILED!" "The elderly lady was moved to another seat whilst the man was allowed to continue his journey with extra room and on board service," he added on Youtube. Lawrence also said he has drawn personal criticism for choosing to record the situation rather than intervene. "One of the passengers whilst I was filming basically said to me don't you think you're being a bit childish by filming this," he told BBC Breakfast.

"I had to make a difficult decision at that time because if I had stepped in I don't think you would have seen the footage that I captured." Lawrence said the video was filmed on flight FR 9015 from Barcelona to London Stansted on Friday



DUBLIN: A Ryanair plane lands at Dublin Airport. Ryanair's first half to September profits fell seven percent to €1.2 billion, the low-cost airline announced yesterday, after widespread strike action by pilots and cabin crew disrupted operations. — AFP

19 October. British police say they understand the incident took place whilst the plane was on the tarmac at Barcelona airport. Essex Police, the force with jurisdiction over Stansted Airport, told AFP they were made aware of the incident on Sunday and are now working with Spanish officers on an investigation.

"Essex Police takes prejudice-based crime seriously and we want all incidents to be reported," a spokesman said in a

statement. "We are working closely with Ryanair and the Spanish authorities on the investigation." Ryanair said in a statement: "We have reported this to the police in Essex and as this is now a police matter, we cannot comment further". Asked about the incident at a daily press briefing yesterday, Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said: "When people are travelling and going about their public life, no-one should be subjected to intimidation or any form of abuse". — AFP

## Outrage as Manila probes 'massacre'

MANILA: Philippine authorities said yesterday they have launched a probe into the mass slaying of nine farmers gunned down after taking over part of a sugar plantation to grow food for themselves. The deadly attack has provoked outrage in the Philippines, as well as criticism of Manila's slow-moving program to redistribute farmland to millions of sharecroppers - tenant farmers who give a part of each crop as rent - who remain mired in poverty.

The violence erupted Saturday on the central island of Negros, the centre of the nation's sugar industry and home to some of the country's wealthiest landowners as well as some of its poorest farm workers. Up to 40 gunmen attacked a group of about 25 people who had entered the plantation near the city of Sagay just hours earlier to sow their own crops.

"This was... a grim reflection of the decades-old failure of the government's agrarian reform program to extricate poor Filipino farmers from vicious and degrading cycle of poverty," Senator Leila De Lima said. Authorities said they were investigating reports the farmers were killed by "goons" employed by either the landowner or entities that leased the land. "We vow to mobilize all available resources to ensure that those responsible are held accountable," Philippine national police chief Oscar Albayalde told reporters. The Philippines passed a law in 1988 to redistribute public and private agricultural lands to landless farm workers. Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castricones said his ministry has handed out 4.8 million hectares to nearly three million people, but more than 800,000 hectares have yet to be broken up. — AFP



International

# Barzani makes a comeback on both Kurd, Iraqi fronts

## Barzani's KDP wins parliamentary elections

**SULAIMANIYAH:** A year after a disastrous independence vote he had championed in Iraqi Kurdistan, veteran leader Massud Barzani has made a strong comeback both on the home front and in Baghdad. While Iraq's presidency, a ceremonial post, has gone to Barham Saleh of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) was on Sunday declared the clear winner of the September 30 parliamentary elections in the autonomous region of northern Iraq.

In the political maneuvering for ministerial posts in Baghdad, meanwhile, the KDP can also even boast it is the largest single party in Iraq. The party garnered 25 seats in Iraq's legislative elections in May, contested mainly against party lists. With 45 seats won in the 111-member Iraqi Kurdish parliament, Barzani's party can



**Party grabs 25 seats in Iraq's legislative poll**

form a majority without the PUK. It can, in theory, rely solely on the 11-seat allocation reserved for the region's minority Turkmen, Christian and Armenian communities. "Now that he is the great heavyweight of Kurdish politics, no-one can do without him in Baghdad," said Adel Bakawan, a research associate at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris (EHESS). He predicted Barzani would seek the deputy premier, foreign and finance minister posts for the KDP in the federal government that is to be formed by November. "He lost the gamble of the referendum, but the legislative (polls) in May were a tremendous moment of grace: he was courted by the Americans and the Iranians," the two key powerbrokers in Iraq, he said.

**New opposition movement**

Barzani looked down and out after the Kurdistan independence vote, which was ruled illegal by Iraq's central government and resulted in Baghdad imposing economic penalties and retaking disputed territory. The Iraqi Kurdish presidency has been left vacant since



**ARBIL:** Iraqi Kurds wave flags and a poster of Massud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), during an electoral rally for the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), at the Franco Hariri Stadium, in Arbil. — AFP

Barzani stepped down following the fiasco. The appointment of a new president has been on hold, pending the drafting of a new Kurdish constitution for which no timetable has been set.

The leaders of the region's top two political parties also took their rivalry to Baghdad, contesting the role of Iraqi president. The PUK's candidate Saleh won that race, maintaining a tacit accord between the two parties which sees the PUK take the federal presidency while the KDP holds the Kurdistan presidency. Kurdistan is split politically and geographically between the KDP and the PUK, which won 21 seats in the region's election, but unlike in the past they no longer have to work together to form a government.

According to political scientist Wathiq al-Hashemi, the region could "see the return of two leaderships" but "regional pressures" from neighboring states are likely to rule out a return to the deadly clashes of 1994-2006 when the Kurds had rival governments.

Kurdistan's parliamentary vote also saw the emergence of the New Generation movement, which was founded this year to channel public anger at the region's elite. The movement picked up eight seats in the vote, while the main opposition Goran (Change) party lost half of its seats and was left with 12 lawmakers. Analysts put Goran's losses down to the arrival of New Generation, whose candidates stood in opposition to the KDP and PUK. — AFP

## Jihadists claim responsibility for abduction

**TEHRAN:** A jihadist group has claimed responsibility for the abduction of 12 Iranian security personnel near the border with Pakistan, Iran's semi-official news agency ISNA reported yesterday. "The terrorist group Jaish Al-Adl (Army of Justice in Arabic) has posted two photos... claiming that those in it are the forces abducted" on October 16, ISNA said.

Jaish al-Adl, formed in 2012, is a successor to the Sunni extremist group Jundallah (Soldiers of God) which has carried out a spate of attacks on Iranian security forces in recent years in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan. The photos show seven members of the elite Revolutionary Guards force and five police commandos, all in combat gear, according to state news agency IRNA. The Iranians, including intelligence offices, were abducted near Lulakdan, a village 150 kilometres (90 miles) southeast of Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchistan.

They were "made unconscious" by a "single infiltrator" and then kidnapped and taken to bases inside Pakistan, said Guards commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, quoted by IRNA. The photos also show a haul of automatic weapons and sniper rifles, rocket launchers, machine-guns, grenades and ammunition, apparently seized from the Iranian forces. Sistan-Baluchistan has long been a flashpoint, with Pakistan-based Baluchi separatists and jihadists carrying out regular cross-border raids against Iran.

The province has a large, mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic Baluchi community which straddles the border. A delegation led by the Guards' ground forces commander Mohammad Pakpour visited Pakistan yesterday to follow up on efforts to free the Iranians, the force said on its website. Pakistan said last Wednesday that it has launched "active" efforts to locate the missing men. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has blamed the kidnapping on "our common enemies unhappy with the existing close, friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran". — AFP



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## International

# 'Missing' pro-Biafran separatist leader Kanu resurfaces in Israel

## Nigerian former state governor charged with corruption

**ABUJA:** Missing pro-Biafran separatist leader Nnamdi Kanu gave a radio broadcast on Sunday saying he was in Israel, suggesting he owed his survival to the Jewish state. Kanu, a former London estate agent, heads the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement and the outlawed pirate radio station Radio Biafra but has not been seen in public since September last year. He maintains the Igbo people, who are in the majority in south-east Nigeria, are a lost tribe of Israel and it is his mission to lead them to the promised land of Biafra.

There had been fevered speculation that Kanu was in Israel after a video live-streamed on Friday via the Facebook accounts of his known associates appeared to show him praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, sparking questions over how he had managed to leave Nigeria. Kanu is facing treason charges in his homeland and had been on bail at the time troops were deployed to his home city of Umuahia in Abia state, southeast Nigeria, in September 2017. He then failed to show at his trial in the capital, Abuja, sparking speculation as to his whereabouts.

In Sunday's broadcast on Radio Biafra, Kanu declared: "I'm in Israel". "I owe my survival to the State of Israel," he added, referencing the country's Mossad spy agency but without specifying what kind of support Israeli authorities may have given him. But he vowed to return to his homeland and called on his followers to boycott upcoming elections in Nigeria. "I will be back soon in the land of Biafra and I will bring hell with me," he said. "IPOB will liberate Biafra and we will not take part in any elections until we get a referendum, it is not negotiable, we will do it by any means," he added.

A previous unilateral declaration of independence by the Igbo people in 1967 sparked a brutal 30-month civil war that left more than one million dead. Questions have been raised about how Kanu was able to get to Israel, as he had to surrender his Nigerian and British passports after his arrest. In Friday's video the man at

the Western Wall bore a clear resemblance to Kanu and was dressed in sandals, white trousers, a white Jewish prayer shawl and skull cap. Kanu's younger brother, Prince Emmanuel Kanu, told AFP the footage was of his brother and was shot on Friday. He also spoke to him directly and said he was "fine".

### Ex-governor charged

In another development, a leading opposition politician and critic of Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari appeared in court yesterday on corruption charges, less than a week after he stepped down as state governor. Peter Ayodele Fayose pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of criminal breach of trust and theft totalling nearly \$18 million (15.5 million euros). The Federal High Court in Lagos was told that Fayose, 57, and his company, Spotless Limited, took the cash to fund his 2014 campaign to become governor of the southwestern state of Ekiti.

The case was adjourned until Wednesday and Fayose was remanded into the custody of Nigeria's main anti-corruption agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). Fayose is one of the most prominent members of Nigeria's main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and tried to secure the ticket to run against Buhari at elections next year. He stepped down as governor on October 16 after a controversial election for his successor that was mired in claims of vote-buying by the PDP and the ruling All Progressives Congress. As governor, he had immunity from prosecution.

He has been held and questioned since last Tuesday, when he voluntarily turned up at the EFCC's offices in Abuja with a crowd of supporters, wearing a T-shirt saying: "EFCC I'm here." The latest prosecution is part of Buhari's pledge to root out corruption in Nigerian politics, which has led to PDP claims of a witch-hunt as most of those charged are its members. Before the 2015 election, Fayose claimed Buhari was terminally ill with



**UMUAHIA, Nigeria:** In this file photo, political activist and leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement Nnamdi Kanu, wearing a Jewish prayer shawl, poses in the garden of his house in Umuahia, southeast Nigeria. —AFP

prostate cancer, was too old to be president and would die in office. He more recently called for the 75-year-old head of state to resign and criticized his decision to be treated abroad for an undisclosed illness that kept him out of Nigeria for months.

### Deadly sectarian violence

In another development, Nigerian authorities declared a 24-hour curfew Sunday in Kaduna after clashes between young Christians and Muslims left at least 55 people dead. Governor Nasir El-Rufai posted a statement on Facebook from his spokesman stating: "The state government has declared a curfew in Kaduna metropolis and its environs to manage the situ-

ation." "The governor appealed to all residents to do their best to uphold peace," the statement added.

Kaduna was plunged into communal violence this week after fighting broke out between Hausa Muslim and Adara Christian youths in the town of Kasuwan Magani's market following a dispute among wheelbarrow porters. Two people were said to have been killed in the initial market fracas on Thursday. The violence then dramatically escalated when Adara youths later attacked Hausa residents, burning homes, and killing dozens. "Most of the killings were done in the second attack which took the Hausa community off guard," Muhammadu Bala, a Kasuwan Magani resident who lost his home, told AFP over the weekend. —Agencies



### Kanu praises Jewish state

### News in brief

#### Ethiopia's peace deal

**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopia said yesterday it had signed a peace deal with the separatist Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), formally ending more than three decades of insurgency in the eastern Somali regional state. Formed in 1984, ONLF had been fighting for the rights of ethnic Somalis living in eastern Ethiopia to self-determination, including the option of secession. Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu and the vice-president of the Somali regional state Mustafa Omer travelled to the Eritrean capital Asmara to hammer out the peace deal with the ONLF. "The Ethiopian government and ONLF delegations held productive discussions and reached a historic deal that allows the ONLF to undertake a peaceful political struggle in Ethiopia," the foreign ministry said. Since taking office in April, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has released imprisoned dissidents and prioritized reconciling with the country's various opposition groups. —AFP

#### Palestinian shot dead

**JERUSALEM:** A Palestinian man attacked an Israeli soldier near a holy site in the southern West Bank city of Hebron before being shot dead, the army said yesterday. "An assailant attempted to stab a soldier adjacent to the Cave of the Patriarchs, lightly injuring him. The soldier and other forces at the scene, responded with live fire," the army said in a statement. The military confirmed the assailant was Palestinian and had been shot dead, but gave no further details of the attacker's identity. A series of deadly incidents have increased tensions in the West Bank this month. On October 15 a Palestinian was shot dead after stabbing a soldier in the northern occupied West Bank. Earlier this month, a Palestinian shot dead two Israelis and wounded another in a West Bank industrial zone. —AFP

#### Migrant boat sinks

**ANKARA:** Two people died yesterday after a boat carrying illegal migrants sank off Turkey's southwestern coast, the Turkish coastguard said. Seventeen others were rescued after the boat ran into trouble 50 meters off the coast of Bodrum district in Mugla province, it said in a statement. Initially 20 people were taken to hospital including three who managed to reach the shore without assistance but two later died. Search and rescue efforts were continuing, the coastguard said. The boat, believed to be carrying nearly 30 people, had been on its way to the Greek island of Kos, NTV reported. Officials did not give details of the migrants' nationalities. However, Turkey hosts over three million Syrian refugees and up to 300,000 Iraqis. —AFP

#### Quakes hit Canada coast

**WASHINGTON:** Two strong earthquakes—the first measuring 6.6 magnitude, the second 6.8 — struck in quick succession off Canada's west coast late Sunday, the US Geological Survey said. The epicenter of the first tremor, at 10:39pm, was located about 135 miles southwest of Port Hardy—a small municipality on the northeastern tip of British Columbia's Vancouver Island. The second stronger quake occurred 122 miles southwest of the same town more than half an hour later, at 11:16pm. There were no initial reports of damage or injuries, and no tsunami warnings were issued. —AFP

## Why? Taiwan mourner asks, after 18 killed

**YILAN:** Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen offered words of consolation yesterday as she met relatives of 18 people killed and 187 injured when a train derailed in the island's northeast, its worst rail disaster in more than three decades. Officials said four carriages overturned on Sunday after all eight cars of a train carrying 366 passengers left the tracks on a bend near a railway station in Yilan county, about 40 km from Taipei, the island's capital.

Tsai joined Buddhist monks in prayer before an altar adorned with flowers next to a hospital, while nearby, relatives and friends of the victims wept as they sifted through battered suitcases recovered from the train wreck. "We are really sorry ... you have to stay strong," Tsai told Chen Yu-chan, 41, whose only daughter, a seventh grader, was killed. "We will do everything we can," she told another person, who was sobbing bitterly during her visit to the hospital.

Health authorities appealed for blood donations to help treat the many injured people, who included one foreigner, an American. Six of the dead were under

## Mingigo Island: Rocky marriage between Kenya and Uganda

**MINGIGO:** A rounded rocky outcrop covered with metallic shacks, Mingigo Island rises out of the waters of Lake Victoria like an iron-plated turtle. The densely populated island is barely a quarter of a hectare large, its residents crammed into a hodge-podge of corrugated-iron homes. There's little else but a few bars, brothels and a tiny port.

Nevertheless for over a decade Mingigo has been a source of tension between Uganda and Kenya, who have been unable to decide to whom it really belongs. They were once pushed to the brink of what some said would have been Africa's "smallest war" over the island. While fishing communities around Lake Victoria have seen their catches slowly diminish over the years, the deep waters surrounding Mingigo abound with catch such as Nile Perch.

Isaac Buhinza, 22, of Uganda learned fishing from his father and never went to school, and said he was drawn to Mingigo because "my friends who were here before used to come back home with lots of goodies" from their fishing bounty. "I do not know which

18, officials said. The disaster was Taiwan's deadliest rail accident since a 1981 collision that killed 30 people, the official Central News Agency said. The head of the state railway administration, Lu Jie-shen, had offered to resign but the transport minister did not accept the offer, the news agency reported. China's policy-making Taiwan Affairs Office expressed "deep condolences" to the families of victims. Train services resumed yesterday, after all the derailed carriages had been moved to one side of the tracks.

Authorities have set up an investigation committee and said they were trying to determine the cause of the accident, which remains unclear. Many of the casualties happened in a carriage at the front of the train, said one official, adding that the driver, surnamed You, has been moved out of intensive care, though his condition was still unstable. "We will ask him what happened after he stabilizes," said Liu Can-huang, head of the car maintenance unit of the railways. The train recorder, which tracks speed, among other data, had been sent to prosecutors to be examined, he added. The derailment was not expected to cause a major disruption to economic activity, however.

### Bride in mourning

Tung Xiao-ling, 43, sobbed as she told Reuters how she had lost eight of 17 family members, aged nine to 67, as

country this (island) belongs to, I just stay here." For fisherman like Buhinza, living directly on the tiny island saves them fuel and also gives them direct access to wholesale buyers. It was in the early 2000s when the island was barely inhabited - then situated within Kenya on all maps - that it began drawing the attention of Ugandan authorities who sent officials to Mingigo to tax fishermen and offer protection against pirates.

Kenyan fishermen in return began complaining they were being shaken down by the Ugandans in their own waters and chased from the island. They called on Kenya's government which deployed security forces to Mingigo in a move that nearly brought the two nations to blows in 2009. Kenya and Uganda then decided to create a joint commission to determine where the watery border is, relying on maps dating from the 1920s whose interpretation is a key point of contention. But nothing has come of the commission, and in the absence of any decisions on the boundary, the island is co-managed by both countries, a marriage of convenience that has seen highs and lows.

### A flap over flags

Whether gutting fish on the rocks of the island, frying them up in greasy cafes, or stringing them up to dry on wires between rusty metal shacks, Mingigo's residents generally just go about their own business. But "sometimes there are tensions", admitted Collins Ochieng, a young fisherman who moved to Mingigo to



**YILAN:** A general view shows the location where a Puyuma Express train derailed in Yilan, eastern Taiwan. —AFP

they returned from celebrating her sister's wedding. "No one can accept that one day you are a bride and the next day you are mourning a family member," said Tung, who was not on board the train. "I hope they find out what happened as soon as possible. We trusted the safety of Puyuma," she said, referring to the express train line.

The fastest of Taiwan's regular trains, the Puyuma Express began operating in 2013 to negotiate the rough terrain of the east coast. Hundreds of rescuers and

military worked through the night, using spotlights to search the wreckage for survivors, as ambulances waited to take the injured to hospital. Some rescue workers gave first aid to the injured, while others used cranes to lift some of the battered cars sprawled in a zigzag near the tracks. "This is something that is not supposed to happen when taking a train," said Chen Tai-liang, whose niece, a seventh grader, was killed. "Why did it happen?" he asked, after speaking to Tsai. —Reuters



**Photo shows a general view of Mingigo Island which is densely populated by residents fishing mainly for Nile perch in Lake Victoria on the border of Uganda and Kenya. —AFP**

"make money". A Kenyan policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the latest flare up of acrimony came in mid-September, when Kenya tried to raise its flag on the island — which had long had only the Ugandan flag fluttering above it. He said the Ugandans "wanted to flex their muscles" and began patrolling the island in uniform and carrying weapons, "terrorizing" residents.

On the Ugandan side, a policeman concedes there were tensions but said the issue was

quickly resolved. "We decided no flag would be hoisted," he said. For Boaz Owuor, a 28-year-old fisherman based in Soroti on the Kenyan side of the lake, about 15 kilometers from Mingigo, the incident proved that "Ugandan authorities take Mingigo a lot more seriously than Kenyan authorities." The co-management agreement stipulates there should be equal numbers of police from both nations but "there are more Ugandans", said a Kenyan officer based on the larger nearby island of Ugingo. —AFP



International

# Me and my shadow: 'Spycam' epidemic rocks South Korea

## Spy camera phenomenon hits epidemic proportions

SEOUL: South Korea is in the grip of a 'spycam' epidemic, with covert footage of sex, nudity and urination posted online in what amounts to a "social death penalty" for thousands of women forced to live with a pornographic shadow. The footage may be taken surreptitiously by boyfriends or captured on covert devices as small as car keys. Daily camera checks are now part of life for cleaners in many public toilets.

The spy camera phenomenon has reached such epidemic proportions in tech-savvy South Korea, that tens of thousands of women have taken to the streets to march for action. Women's groups want greater rights in all walks of life and say the spycam scandal is indicative of wider sexism in society. Under fire for moving too slowly, the government has enacted a slew of measures, including the formation of a taskforce to help victims and increased inspections in risky public places.

"The situation is getting out of hand," Ryu Hye-jin from the government-backed Women's Human Rights Institute of Korea, which oversees the taskforce, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Since the establishment of the task force, many victims have called and reached out to us," she said at her office. In April, her 16-member force launched a free service to help victims remove illicitly filmed footage from the web - the team has been inundated. So far, it has handled some 15,000 requests to remove footage and counseled 3,000-plus victims.



### 'Social death penalty' for thousands of women

#### 'Social death'

Perpetrators typically use tiny devices that can easily film women in public places, such as toilets or changing rooms, and later sell the footage to porn sites for profit. The footage shows women undressing or having sex and can be sold for up to 100,000 won (\$90), with top earners netting more than 100 million won a month, according to media reports that could not be verified by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

In many cases, however, the filming is done by partners - with or without consent - at homes or in love hotels, and later used as a form of revenge if the relationship turns sour. "It sends the victims into depression because there is no end to it. It is on the internet forever. It's a social death penalty," said Ryu, head of counseling at the task force. Last month, Seoul city authorities said they would assign extra staff to conduct daily checks in public toilets, after official inspectors failed to uncover any hidden cameras.

Women who fall victims to the hidden camera have previously turned to "digital laundries", private firms that remove the videos for a fee, giving rise to a lucrative, new industry. However, the new task force now offers the same services for free, and has taken over the bulk of such work. Distributing and making pornographic materials is punishable under South Korean law, but remains widespread. The number of spycam porn cases jumped to nearly 6,500 in 2017, from about 2,400 in 2012, according to the Yonhap news agency.

Activists say the "laundry" services only go a small way to righting the wrong and that it is just as important to educate people about gender equality, sexual stereotypes and consent. Campaigner Park Soo-yeon said many victims were not even aware they were the subject of such videos, and were reluctant to speak out when they did find out, cowed by social stigma. "These are the people who are trying to hide themselves as much as possible," Park, who always carries a hidden camera detector, said at her office in the suburbs of Seoul.

A fierce government critic, the 22-year-old activist founded the group Digital Sexual Crime Out in 2015 and was credited with bringing down a notorious porn website, Soranet, in 2016. The illicit porn website, set up in 1999 and which had claimed more than a million users, had hosted thousands of videos of women that were filmed without their consent. "What we need to tell people is that this is a crime, this is sexual violence, this is not porn," said Park, who called for the sales of hidden cameras to be tightened and regulated.

#### Never gone

It is virtually impossible to wipe all online traces of illicit images. After a victim asks for help, the taskforce scours websites to look for the footage in question and - if successful - contacts the website, asking them to remove the video. Should they fail to comply, the taskforce could ask the authorities to restrict access to the site - but this only applies in South Korea, meaning overseas users can still watch.

"These websites are all over the world and every country has different laws. It is really hard to get to a point where we can punish all the perpetrators," said Song Eugene, a counselor at the taskforce. She said it has been difficult for victims to speak up about the issue in South Korea, where discussions about women's rights are still sometimes seen as taboo

observers, according to CCTV. Exercises are expected to include a joint search and rescue operation and communication exercises while in formation, the Chinese defense ministry said in a statement late Sunday.

The joint naval exercises are taking place after preparatory tabletop exercises were held in Singapore in August between ASEAN and China. In a speech during yesterday's opening ceremony, Singapore chief of navy, Rear-Admiral Lew Chuen Hong emphasized the security benefits, as well as economic growth, to be reaped from regional collaboration, reported The Strait Times. "To allow the stable and collective use of a shared space, a set of common rules and understanding is very important," he said.

The Chinese defense ministry said Sunday the exercises would "enhance mutual trust" and "help promote military relations between China and ASEAN countries, strengthen maritime security cooperation, and enhance the ability to jointly respond to security threats." Attending an ASEAN ministerial meeting where the drill was announced on Friday, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he did not believe the exercises were "contrary" to US interests. The United States has raised concerns about China's installation of military facilities in artificially-built islands in the South China Sea, and routinely conducted "freedom of navigation" operations to challenge Beijing's territorial claims. —AFP

in a male-dominated society. "It's important for women to speak up about the issue to create awareness about the pain that has been inflicted," Ryu said there was no way to stop

such crimes so long as women were routinely seen as sex objects. "What we need is to change the way our society treats our women," she said. —Reuters

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## China and ASEAN begin joint drills

BEIJING: China and Southeast Asian states kicked off their first joint maritime exercises yesterday in an effort to ease regional tensions linked to rival claims in the South China Sea. Eight warships set sail from the port of Zhanjiang, in China's southern Guangdong province, with 1,200 military personnel taking part in the event, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

Beijing's expansive claims to the South China Sea have long been a source of friction with rival claimants in Southeast Asia, as well as Washington which has traditionally been the dominant naval power in the area. The navies of China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to hold the week-long manoeuvres as part of efforts to promote stability and ease tensions across the disputed sea.

Singapore, which is co-organizing the event, Brunei, Thailand, Vietnam and Philippines deployed ships to participate in the exercise, according to China's defense ministry. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Myanmar sent

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## Analysis

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## Belgian reactors shutdown test run for nuke-free future

Belgium's energy production is plunging as its nuclear reactors are taken offline for repairs, with the power shortfall this winter seen as a test of the country's ability to cope when the reactors are phased out from 2022. Four nuclear reactors at Doel near Antwerp and three at Tihange in Liege, all operated by Electrabel, part of France's Engie, produce about half of Belgium's electricity when they are fully operational. Six of the seven - all built between 1975 and 1985 with an original lifespan of 40 years - are currently closed for repairs and maintenance, reducing their combined 6 gigawatts (GW) capacity by nearly two-thirds. They are expected to come back online between late November and June.

Grid operator Elia has warned it may have to ration electricity during the high-demand winter months, while fears of a supply shortage that could see lights go out and trains stand still have pushed power prices to record highs. The Doel 1 and 2 reactors were shut down in the spring for repairs to their water-cooling systems, while Tihange 1 went offline on Oct 13 for refuelling and regular maintenance. Tihange 2 and 3 and Doel 4 are closed while concrete degradation in bunkers close to the reactor buildings is investigated and repaired. Similar concerns led to a shutdown last year at Doel 3, the only reactor scheduled to remain online through November.

Engie built a new roof for the bunker at Doel 3 and will do the same at the other reactors with concrete degradation, deputy director general Pierre Mongin told a briefing on Thursday. Belgium's nuclear regulator FANC has said problems in the concrete structures surrounding the four reactors are classed as the lowest level of severity, with no impact on the population or the environment.

### Problems

This year, Belgium extended the area within which it distributes free iodine tablets for use in a nuclear emergency to all its territory and parts of Germany and the Netherlands, although it said there was no specific risk from the reactors. John Large, an independent nuclear engineer and analyst, said fixing the concrete degradations could take months longer than Electrabel has projected. Based on the problems at the other reactors, he said the year-end finish targeted for the repairs at Doel was optimistic, adding: "I would expect them to go into, very certainly into the mid of next year before they can come back online." Electrabel spokeswoman Anne-Sophie Huges told Reuters the dates given for restarting the reactors - which will need permission from FANC - were its best estimate given the information it has.

### Risk of power cuts

Elia estimates it will need about 1,700 megawatts (MW) of additional capacity for the winter because of the outages, of which 700-900 MW has yet to be found. To help make up the loss, Engie has fired up old gas plants and brought in diesel generators, as well as paying heavy industrial consumers to curb their use, Mongin said. Grilled by lawmakers this month, Engie Electrabel's chief nuclear officer Thierry Saegeman said it would work with Elia to find power but that its first priority was safety.

If shortfalls persist, an eight-stage load-shedding plan devised by Elia could see daily power cuts in rural areas, Danielle Devogelaer of the Federal Planning Bureau told the hearing. Trains could not operate beyond the first stage of load-shedding, Thomas Baeken, spokesman for rail operator Infrabel, told Reuters - halting passengers and freight within Belgium, a major transport hub for goods coming from Asia to Europe.

Energy minister Marie Christine Marghem said imported power would help avoid blackouts. "The month of November, which was critical, is now a lot more secure. For the rest of winter we will continue working," she told Reuters. A deal to free up capacity on Belgian interconnectors, through which much renewable electricity produced in northern Germany reaches southern Germany, will allow more imports.

Elia CEO Chris Peeters told lawmakers that France would supply 1,000 MW in November and December. Belgium's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from overseas are at high levels, with six tankers due to arrive within days. But Peeters was "less positive" about January and February, especially if a cold winter limits the energy neighboring countries can export. France, for example, has issues with energy availability in winter due to safety concerns at its own nuclear reactors. Many European reactors are reaching the end of their lives and showing defects that ultimately cannot be fixed.

The struggle to meet energy demand this winter has raised questions about how Belgium will cope after its nuclear reactors are decommissioned. A law passed in 2003 extended the lifetime of the oldest reactors to 2025, with phasing out due to start in 2022. Energy expert Devogelaer told Reuters Belgium is likely to rely on natural gas, while an Elia spokeswoman said it expects to make up the loss from nuclear with gas and renewables such as solar and wind, plus higher imports. The grid operator said in 2017 that at least 3.6 GW of new build adjustable (thermal) capacity would be needed to "cope with the shock of the nuclear exit". — Reuters



## Dems threaten Trump grip on Great Lakes

Two years ago, Ohio and other states in the former industrial heartlands of the Great Lakes region catapulted Donald Trump into the White House. Today, in the final stretch to November's congressional elections, they are showing that Trumpism has its limits as Democrats make surprising gains in races across the region, according to opinion polls.

Last week, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray, often described as a liberal "progressive populist", campaigned in working-class Toledo in a race that has remained tight with election day just two weeks away - a sign of a resurgence in his party in Ohio. "We will change this state for the better. We will change this nation for the better," Cordray told a room of black voters in downtown Toledo on Thursday. "2018 leads to 2020."

A poll released this month by Suffolk University showed Cordray with a six-point lead, although other polls have showed the race to be essentially a toss-up. Not only is Cordray, the former head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau who has long been vilified by Republicans as an anti-business zealot, staying neck-and-neck with his opponent, Mike DeWine, but US Senator Sherrod Brown, a Democrat, is on track to keep his Ohio seat in his race against Trump-backed candidate Jim Renacci.

That pattern is playing out in other states in the Great Lakes region that Trump won in 2016, where Democratic Senate and gubernatorial candidates are either convincingly ahead of their Republican opponents or, like Cordray, beating expectations and holding their own. It suggests that Republican hopes that Trump had transformed the industrial Midwest into friendly ground may have been misplaced. Beyond the Nov 6 elections, which will decide which party controls the Senate and the US House of Representatives, that has ramifications for Trump's reelection bid in 2020.

The reasons why Democrats now have an edge in these states are complex and go beyond Trump's standing, party sources and analysts say. It is a mix of historical midterm election trends, well-known Democratic candidates with reliable constituencies facing weaker Republican opponents, enthusiasm among Democratic voters, deepening concerns on issues such as healthcare, and yes, some push-back against the president.

"Folks are just sick and tired of him. It's too much," said Joe Zepecki, a Democratic strategist in Wisconsin. "It's the Trump show all the time. And that is not helping Republican candidates." A Republican source familiar with the party's thinking, however, said the problem lies more with Trump himself not being on the ballot, which has left many of his supporters in these states either dis-

engaged or willing to consider supporting Democrats. "If it's not Trump, they're not going to pull the R lever just because it's the same party of the president," the source said. Democrats need to pick up a net total of two seats to take control of the Senate and 23 seats to assume control of the House, which is considered more likely by election handicappers. Taking either chamber would stymie much of Trump's agenda.

### Change of season

After Trump's surprise victory in 2016, the thinking was that perhaps Democrats had lost touch with their



### There is some push-back against the president

traditional middle-class supporters in this "Rust Belt" region. Republicans looked to capitalize and tighten their grip on power. But that has never materialized. Beyond Ohio, in next-door Pennsylvania, Democratic governor Tom Wolf is comfortably ahead of his challenger, Scott Wagner, who aired a shocking TV ad threatening to stomp Wolf's face with "golf spikes" in a last-minute effort to spark his campaign.

The US Senate race there, featuring incumbent Democrat Bob Casey against US Representative Lou Barletta, another Trump favorite, has long considered to be over in Casey's favor. In Michigan, Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow never faced a serious threat from her Trump-supported opponent, John James. And Democrat Gretchen Whitmer has held a steady lead in the governor's race over Republican Bill Schuette.

In Wisconsin, where Trump's presidential victory in 2016 marked the first by a Republican in the state since 1984, Republican Governor Scott Walker is in the fight of his political life against his Democratic challenger Tony Evers, while the state's Republican Senate candidate Leah Vukmir is badly trailing Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin in a race that was widely expected to be competitive. A poll this month by Marquette University showed Evers and Walker tied. The same poll gave Baldwin a 10-point lead in the Senate race.

sources in Washington said. The administration of US President Donald Trump took a negative view on the provision. US Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer sees it as a subsidy for US companies to invest in Mexico. A spokeswoman for USTR declined to comment for this story, referring to Lighthizer's previous statements, which essentially said the old provision encouraged companies to move operations overseas at the cost of American jobs. Trump blamed NAFTA for the loss of thousands of US manufacturing jobs to Mexico, where labor is cheaper. He threatened to end the free trade deal until Mexico and Canada agreed to more favorable terms. A revised pact was signed last month.

### A phase-out of protections

The new deal, officially called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), will phase out much of the old investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) protections over coming years. Lighthizer had initially wanted to remove all such protections, but agreed to some carve outs after pressure from Mexico and US industry groups, Mexican sources said. "He took a more moderate position because Mexico wanted to preserve ISDS, because it is very important for investment," said Jesus Seade, lead trade negotiator for Mexico President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Republican lawmakers in the United States, including Senator Orrin Hatch from Utah, also opposed Lighthizer's attempts to cut ISDS from the deal. He led other lawmakers to press Lighthizer to keep NAFTA's "robust investor protections" in a March letter. A spokeswoman for Hatch said he is still reviewing the

Trump's efforts appear to have done little to boost the prospects of the candidates he has endorsed, despite his multiple trips to the region and his promises that renegotiated trade deals with Canada and Mexico and strong tariffs will bring jobs back to the Rust Belt. Despite that push, unions such as the AFL-CIO have been heavily involved in the region's races, encouraging members to back Democratic candidates and mobilizing voters, hoping to avoid a repeat of 2016 when many members defected to Trump, said Julie Greene, director of mobilization for the union.

Trump's hold in the Great Lakes has never been as strong as he has claimed. While he took Ohio by 445,000 votes, he won Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, with their combined 46 electoral votes, by less than 1 percentage point, or by total of just about 80,000 votes. He can afford little slippage in the region when he runs for reelection.

### Healthcare focus

Capturing governorships and statehouses has been a longstanding goal of the Democratic Party with the next US census approaching in 2020. States will use the results to redraw congressional districts, a process that was dominated by Republicans in 2010. Democratic officials and strategists believe healthcare and specifically, former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, once a political liability, have become a difference-making issue.

Candidates such as Cordray and Evers have centered much of their campaigns around the act's protection of preexisting medical conditions and its expansion of Medicaid. All four Trump states have been hit heavily by the opioid epidemic. That's put Republicans, who largely resisted what they call "Obamacare," in a bind. A poll released last week by the Kaiser Family Foundation listed healthcare as the top voting issue for Democrats and independents, particularly among women voters.

Walker in Wisconsin and DeWine in Ohio both at times have backed efforts to repeal the act or challenge it in court. But both candidates say they have always favored coverage for preexisting conditions in some form. Success in congressional midterm elections has been an unreliable indicator for the following presidential election. For example, after a Republican wave in 2010 resulted in that party taking the House, Obama was reelected two years later. That is why Steve Mitchell, a Republican pollster in Michigan, warned that Democrats should not underestimate Trump's strength in the region. A presidential election, he said, "is a whole different animal". — Reuters

## New trade pact leaves most US industry at mercy of Mexico courts

The new North American trade agreement ends key legal protections for many US businesses operating in Mexico, leaving their operations exposed to a risk they had avoided under the old trade deal: Mexico's court system. For thousands of US firms, the change could add complications and uncertainty to doing business south of the border. Mexico is the third-largest US trading partner. The previous trade agreement, NAFTA, included provisions that gave US firms operating in Mexico and Canada the option to challenge government decisions at an international tribunal.

A change in Mexican or Canadian regulations, for example, that had a material impact on a US firm's operations, could be challenged through an international panel instead of local courts. The removal of the investment protection means firms would now be at the mercy of Mexico's courts, which are notorious for corruption, an energy industry source said. The provision has been part of numerous trade pacts to lessen risks for firms operating overseas. Its removal makes the new agreement an outlier, trade experts and industry

deal and working to ensure it "will build on NAFTA's proven success". Under the new deal, the ISDS tribunal would only be an option for firms disputing a small number of issues, such as state expropriation of assets or discrimination against foreign entities.

A handful of industries retain broader protections under USMCA. They are oil and gas, telecommunications, power generation and infrastructure sectors that have contracts with the Mexican government. But even those sectors face some uncertainty, industry sources said, because it is unclear if contracts with state-owned enterprises, such as oil company Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) and state power utility Comision Federal Electricidad, would be covered. "This is a major degradation of investor protections," a business industry source in Washington said.

Large US firms have typically won these kinds of disputes, sources said. In 2009, agribusiness Cargill Inc won \$77 million from the arbitration tribunal over trade barriers the company said Mexico erected against high-fructose corn syrup from 2002 to 2007. In 2015, Ottawa was forced to pay ExxonMobil Corp and Murphy Oil Corp \$17 million in damages after the companies won a victory against a requirement to spend money on research and development.

"The change to ISDS is certainly deliberate and signals what USTR will pursue in the future," said Inu Manak, a trade specialist at the Cato Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington. USTR last week said it plans to open trade talks with the European Union, the United Kingdom and Japan. "We'll have to see how far they push it in the coming year as more negotiations begin," Manak said. — Reuters



## Business

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LONDON: Pedestrians walk through Waterloo Bridge with the skyline of the City of London in the background. Leaders at the Guildhall in the heart of the London's powerhouse financial district fretted over a brain drain when the country voted for Brexit, but are now over two years on in October 2018 convinced of one thing: the City will win. — AFP

# Bullish City of London stays confident

## Brexit fears ease as Chinese, Indian and Japanese investors boost investments by 50%

LONDON: London's powerhouse financial district fretted over a brain drain when the country voted for Brexit, but its leading players are now convinced of one thing: the City will win. Christopher Hayward is one of the nearly 500,000 Londoners who work in the City, Europe's largest financial centre and a hub that traces its origins back almost 2,000 years. Emerging from an Underground station, Hayward's walk to work takes in recently built skyscrapers such as the "Cheese Grater" and the "Walkie-Talkie". Countless cranes document the booming activity, overlooking the main roads and narrow alleys that lead to the majestic Guildhall building, the administrative centre of the City of London.

The centuries-old hall still echoes with the cries of horror from the Brexit referendum night in June 2016, a result that threw the British business community into panic.

"We were very worried that we would lose hundreds of thousands of jobs," Hayward, chairman of the City of London's urban planning committee, said.

"That has not happened," he added, saying it will be "a few thousand" at most. Taking into account the City and the nearby financial hub at Canary Wharf, the figure represents a small fraction of London's 800,000 financial professionals working in the banking, insurance, asset

management, legal and consulting sectors. The British capital continues to vie with New York for the status of the world's financial top dog, coming ahead of the Asian centres of Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai and Tokyo in a ranking by Z/Yen, a commercial consultancy and think tank.

"Everybody thinks that because of Brexit, we are going to be threatened by Paris, Frankfurt and so on, but our challenge does not come from other European cities," Hayward said. "Our major challenges are coming from the major financial and professional services centers, like New York and Singapore."

European markets that have struggled for two years to attract workers from London recognize the challenge. "The idea that the London market will move en masse to another market on the continent, it won't happen," admitted Marie Celie Guillaume, head of Paris's La Defense financial district.

London led the way in attracting international real estate investment between the summers of 2017 and 2018, pulling in \$25 billion (22 billion euros), twice as much as next-placed Hong Kong, according to a Cushman & Wakefield study. Chinese, Indian and Japanese investors increased their investments by almost 50 percent. "A lot of Far East countries are seeing the City of London as a safe haven... This feeds the

demand for businesses wanting to be in the City," said Hayward.

### Tax haven?

In addition to its large pool of international talent, its culture and its nightlife, one of the City's strengths lies in Britain's business-friendly regulatory and tax systems. Commentators have pointed out that outside the EU the City could become friendlier still towards foreign investors—a prospect that the main opposition Labour Party has warned could turn Britain into a tax haven. Several large British financial heavyweights have come out in favor of Brexit, seeing it as a way of escaping the gaze of Brussels.

"To be honest, it will do the world of good," said Stephen Lansdown, co-founder of Hargreaves Lansdown, a financial service company listed on the London Stock Exchange's top index. The City will have "to work harder, and actually work out what its role in life is and how to do it well rather than just expect it," he added. Beyond the advantages of experience and the global prevalence of English, London has also proved that it is durable, having recovered from market crashes, fires, revolution and war. "The City of London has seen many ups and downs, many challenges, but always we have been adaptable," said an optimistic Hayward. — AFP

## Tijari declares operating profit before provision KD 81.5m for 9 months of 2018

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced an operating profit before provision of KD 81.5 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to KD 75.0 million for the same period in last year, a growth of 8.7 percent. The net profit of KD 15.2 million for the same period of 2018 is higher by KD 0.8 million as compared to last year, a growth of 5.5 percent.

Total assets as at September 2018 were KD 4,228 million, mainly comprising of KD 2,198 million of loan portfolios and KD 533 million of investment securities. The quality of assets remains at its strongest level with a NPL ratio at 0.6 percent while the NPL coverage ratio reached 982 percent.

Sheikh Ahmad Duajj Al-Sabah, the Bank's Chairman, commented that the Bank's conservative approach towards growth, maintenance and improvement in the quality of its assets will continue in order to meet the challenges of volatile economic and geopolitical situation in the region, as the Bank's main focus is on quality not quantity.

Sheikh Ahmad continued that the Bank's strategic objectives to diversify its income sources and mitigation of risks, particularly geographical and sector concentration are being pursued. This strategy bore its fruit and will continue yielding benefits in the future too. The assets base is now well diversified with a reduced concentration in higher risk sectors and a growth in deposit base. The Bank will continue its balanced strategy and actively continue financing new projects of national importance by efficient management of risks and associated returns.

Sheikh Ahmad added that the Bank witnessed growth in all the key areas of its business. Net interest income grew by 1.4 percent, dividend income by 4.7 percent and

the foreign exchange income grew at a robust rate of 124.8 percent.

Sheikh Ahmad further added that the Bank's capital adequacy ratio at the end of September 2018 was at 18.8 percent, the leverage ratio at 11.9 percent, net stable funding ratio at 111.9 percent and liquidity coverage ratio at 142 percent.

This comfortably exceeds the regulatory requirement set by the Central Bank of Kuwait. The Bank continues to demonstrate its cost leadership with operational efficiency, a competitive advantage for the Bank, which continues to maintain one of the lowest cost/income ratios amongst Kuwait banks at 28.6 percent for the nine months period of 2018.

He pointed out that the Bank has made a leap in digitalization of the processes to enhance the customer experience at various touch points. We will continue investing in technology and human capital to exceed the customers' expectations by providing effective and efficient virtual services to minimize the need to visit the branch in person. Some of the new initiatives taken during current year are the launch of the Live-Chat service, another digital communication channel that gives customers and non-customers the chance to converse with the contact service agent at the bank. The new personalized live chat service would help the bank to evolve business model from the in-person branch model to the online, 24/7 digital service model. Customers can now complete several tasks online through the mobile application, without having to visit a branch, such as: update civil ID information, enable their cards (debit/credit) before travelling, NFC on debit card payments (tapping card) and create and activate beneficiaries. Moreover, customer can have easy access to their accounts by using face ID feature on their iPhone.



Sheikh Ahmad Duajj Al-Sabah

## US sets high hurdles for Linde-Praxair mega-merger

FRANKFURT: Linde and Praxair executives celebrated yesterday a green light under strict conditions from Washington for their planned mega-merger, but even as the German group's share price climbed, workers warned of hard times ahead.

The US Federal Trade Commission said the \$80 billion merger, creating the world's largest industrial gases supplier, could go ahead if the two groups sell off nine American business units. Linde will sell activities including its bulk liquid

oxygen, nitrogen, and argon business, carbon dioxide facilities and a liquid hydrogen plant to Germany's Messer Group. Meanwhile New Jersey-based Matheson Tri-Gas will buy five hydrogen-carbon monoxide facilities and a hydrogen pipeline. "Praxair and Linde have agreed to divest the required facilities within four months of signing the Agreement Containing Consent Orders," the FTC said.

Until then, "Linde and Praxair are prohibited from integrating their operations anywhere in the world," it added. FTC officials worked with antitrust agencies in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the European Union, Korea, and Mexico to issue their approval, just two days before a deadline under German law that could have seen the deal fall through.

Major regulators elsewhere had already given the all-share merger the go-ahead. Munich-based Linde said in a statement that the sell-offs will be completed by January 29, adding that Japan's Taiyo Nippon Sanso had confirmed it will buy most of Praxair's European businesses under concessions required by Brussels. "The

final closing conditions for the merger of equals between Linde and Praxair were satisfied," the German firm said, outlining plans to list the combined Linde PLC on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange on October 29 and in New York on October 31.

A Linde spokesman told AFP that the competition concessions needed to get the deal over the line overstepped the original upper limit the two companies had set.

They had agreed not to sell off activities with more than \$3.7 billion in annual revenues. But executives are determined to press ahead despite the larger divestments, which will shrink the combined firm's yearly sales to "approximately \$27 billion" according to Linde's statement, rather than the \$30 billion first targeted.

Staff representatives at Linde blasted the final form of the deal. "The sell-offs will increase the pressure for efficiency and synergies and thereby pressure on the employees. It's impossible to put a number on how many jobs will be endangered," powerful union IG Metall said in a statement. — AFP



## Business

# NBK Capital showcases digital revolution in banking industry

## International experts attend Global Finance's conference in Dubai

**KUWAIT:** Attended by financial institutions and international banking industry experts from around the world, NBK Capital took part in Global Finance's 2018 Digital Bank and Innovators Conference held for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Hosted in Dubai on September, the Conference highlighted key trends such as the future of digital banking in the Middle East, the digital revolution in customer service, the culture of innovation in the region, technology and innovation in the banking sector, and the bank of the future.

NBK Capital's Head of Structured Investments and Advisory, Hazem Rasbeih, and Financial Technology Sector Vice President, Fahad Al-Rasheed Al-Bader, both participated in the discussions during the Conference, speaking of technology and digital solutions and the role of companies and banks in embracing these trends and changes to deliver better services to customers online.

Both participants showcased recent examples of interest in digital transformation, the revolution it brings to customer experience and the reasons for the success of such excellent solutions. Among the topics discussed in the Conference were the development of real-time payment methods, open banking services and the impact of technology in banking advisory services, "omni" channel platforms, big data and social media.

During the 2018 Digital Bank and Innovators Conference, Hazem Rasbeih, highlighted the SmartWealth service launched by the Company to enable every segment of society to efficiently invest in diversified accounts across the globe. The service provides a fast and easy registration process with a timeline of up to two days to open an account. It is also entirely digitized with remarkably low fees. These features, in addition to other advantages, have made the platform an ideal choice for customers who want to save to achieve their long-term goals such as buying a home or save for college tuition for their children, mainly attracting young professionals.

### SmartWealth platform

"We spent a considerable amount of time designing the SmartWealth platform to ensure ease of use with the least number of clicks required from accessing the site to opening an account," said Rasbeih.

Rasbeih said, "SmartWealth is indeed a digital service, but its core strength lies in the quality of the invest-

ment advice and execution it provides." He added that NBK Capital has developed a relationship management portal to allow customers who prefer human interaction to open an account through NBK's branches. These customers can still benefit from our investment solutions while maintaining human interaction through an assigned relationship manager who will guide them through the steps of investing with SmartWealth.

In terms of the broader wealth management industry, Rasbeih ruled out that human interaction would completely disappear. However, he pointed out that digital transformation and automation will spread from the back office, through the middle office to front line operations, adding that it will be difficult to determine with a high level of certainty which areas and sub-sectors will see the most significant changes within the next five to ten years. However, Rasbeih highlighted that mega trends such as increasing transparency, efficiency, and control and reducing costs will prevail and technology will be the enabler.

Fahd Al-Rasheed Al-Bader said, "NBK Capital believes that the investment tools and strong investment practices in the industry require new ways to enhance the relationship between the bank and the investment company on one side and their customers on the other. This is achieved by providing better solutions employing modern infrastructures, best practices and the expertise of specialists, and providing these features at the lowest cost possible for every segments."

"NBK Capital achieves this combination by designing and developing infrastructures and technologically-driven services. Following this step, we work closely with our colleagues to ensure that these features are properly maintained and continuously improved for the benefit of end users." Al-Bader said that SmartWealth provides end users with the ability to invest worldwide in multi-asset accounts. The service also gives customers the flexibility to invest periodically and withdraw when they want without having to pay any penalties whether partially or fully.

### Customization of products

The service also enables customization of products according to needs, requirements, and financial objectives. Finally, this service and others were designed to provide best in class knowledge and



Hazem Rasbeih



Fahad Al-Rasheed Al-Bader

experiences in the investment industry to ultimately benefit end users. He further added that these features are all combined in one easy-to-use platform by using technological applications on websites or smartphones.

Speaking of the financial services industry amidst technological development, Al-Bader said: "As it revolutionized the hospitality, transport and even banking industries, technology will revolutionize how people behave with savings and planning, allowing them to develop and manage their own plans, efficiently and effortlessly. As for ultra-high net worth investors (UHNW) who want to plan their wealth for the benefit of their family and children, or professional investors who have very specific goals such as buying a home,

or the segment of investors who are not financially sensitive and are looking for peace of mind, the technology simply has the ability to show the best that both service providers and consumers can achieve."

NBK Capital's SmartWealth service allows all segments of customers to invest in foreign markets, meet various investment and savings needs in a way that was not previously available. Through the service, investors can have an account that is diversified geographically across multiple asset classes and designed according to the recommendations of international investment experts, providing them with solutions that enable them to manage their own investments with the most advanced and safe technology, while keeping an eye on risks.

## Beyond setbacks, Macron's reform push begins to pay off

**PARIS:** While France has experienced political turbulence and disappointing economic data in recent months, beneath the surface are signs of deeper change that suggest President Emmanuel Macron's reform drive is starting to bear fruit.

For much of this year, the 40-year-old president and former investment banker has had to endure less-than-thrilling news on the economic front, with consumer and business confidence waning and the growth outlook souring. But looking past those lackluster short-term indicators, employment and new business creations are at record levels and a purchasing power boost is around the bend.

Together, they are evidence of more meaningful, structural economic changes afoot that might one day, albeit not yet, help to stem a long-term decline in France's export competitiveness.

"There are some shifts that are starting to crop up," said economist Denis Ferrand, managing director of the

Rexecode think tank, pointing in particular to a surge in the employment rate.

At nearly 66 percent, the proportion of people in work has reached the highest level in records going back to late 2003, which Ferrand said was an indication the economy's growth potential was shifting up a gear. While Rexecode's growth forecast of 1.3 percent next year is lower than the government's estimate of 1.7 percent, Ferrand's colleagues believe that, over time, Macron's reforms will add 0.2-0.3 percentage points to annual growth.

### Voters frustrated

Macron has promised pro-business reforms that boost investment and jobs. But voters have grown restless in the face of such slow growth.

His sometimes brash leadership style, and the desertion of several key ministers that triggered a messy reshuffle this week, have only added to their sense of frustration. Yet despite such headline-grabbing setbacks, the labour market appears to be growing stronger, even though the unemployment rate remains stubbornly high at 8.7 percent.

People are not only getting jobs but also increasingly signing long-term contracts, once shunned by employers who feared they would not be able to lay workers off if business declined.

An overhaul of the labour code last year sought to address such worries by making it easier to both hire and fire. —Reuters

## It will be harder for Iran oil importers to get waivers: US

**JERUSALEM:** US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Sunday it will be harder for countries to get waivers on Iran oil sanctions than during the Obama administration and dismissed concerns that oil prices could rise, saying the market had already factored in the losses.

In an interview with Reuters in Jerusalem at the start of a Middle East trip, Mnuchin said countries would have to reduce their purchases of Iranian oil by more than the roughly 20 percent level they did from 2013 to 2015 to get waivers. "I would expect that if we do give waivers it will be significantly larger reductions," said Mnuchin.

He added: "Oil prices have already gone up, so my expectation is that the oil market has anticipated what's going on in the reductions. I believe the information is already reflected in the price of oil," he said.

His comments come two weeks before the Trump administration reimposes oil and financial sanctions against Iran after President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 deal between Iran and six world powers, which aimed to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

Iran's oil exports could fall by as much as two-thirds due to the sanctions, straining oil markets.

Mnuchin was adamant that countries would eventually have to cut imports to nil.

"I don't expect we will get to zero in November but I do expect we will eventually get to zero," he said, adding, "There have been already very significant reductions in advance of this date."

His comments come as the administration actively considers waivers on sanctions it will reimpose for countries that are reducing their imports of Iranian oil.

The administration withdrew from a deal over Tehran's nuclear program in May and is unilateral-

ly reimposing sanctions on Iran's crude oil consumers after Nov. 4.

The sanctions aim to force Tehran to stop its involvement in regional conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq and halt its ballistic missile program.

Iran says it has abided by the 2015 nuclear deal, which was struck with five other world powers, besides the United States.

While Iran believes that it can ward off severe economic damages from the U.S. sanctions for the remainder of Trump's term, Mnuchin predicted a significant impact on its economy as major companies exit the Iranian market for fear of US reprisals.

"We have already begun to see the impact and my expectation is we will see a significantly larger impact once the sanctions go into place," he said, "The economic squeeze will be very big over the next two years."

### Swift negotiations

Mnuchin said the US Treasury was in negotiations with Belgian-based financial messaging service SWIFT, that facilitates the bulk of the world's cross-border money transactions, on disconnecting Iran from the network.

Washington has been pressuring SWIFT to cut Iran from the system as it did in 2012 before the nuclear deal. Although the United States does not hold a majority on SWIFT's board of directors, the Trump administration could impose penalties on SWIFT unless it disconnects from Iran.

"I can assure you our objective is to make sure that sanctioned transactions do not occur whether it's through SWIFT or any other mechanism," he said, "Our focus is to make sure that the sanctions are enforced."

Mnuchin declined to give details of the talks with SWIFT executives. He said, however, that the Treasury Department would identify "as quickly as possible" banks that would be allowed to process transactions for humanitarian funding to Iran. "We want to get to the right outcome, which is cutting off transactions," he said, declining to comment on which banks would be selected.

Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called in August for a SWIFT-style system independent of Washington that would possibly keep the nuclear agreement with Iran alive. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.390079	0.403979
Czech Koruna	0.005511	0.014811
Danish Krone	0.042825	0.047825
Euro	0.342392	0.356092
Georgian Lari	0.111974	0.111974
Hungarian Forint	0.001182	0.001182
Norwegian Krone	0.032908	0.038108
Romanian Leu	0.057989	0.074839
Russian ruble	0.004622	0.004622
Slovakia	0.009088	0.019088
Swedish Krona	0.029769	0.034769
Swiss Franc	0.298394	0.309394

<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.207723	0.219723
New Zealand Dollar	0.193958	0.203458
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.226792	0.235792
US Dollars	0.300050	0.305350
US Dollars Mint	0.300550	0.305350
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002974	0.003775
Chinese Yuan	0.042415	0.045916
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036702	0.039452
Indian Rupee	0.003641	0.004413
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002613	0.002793
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069564	0.075564
Nepalese Rupee	0.002630	0.002970
Pakistan Rupee	0.001748	0.002518
Philippine Peso	0.005497	0.005797
Singapore Dollar	0.215402	0.225402
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001470	0.002050
Taiwan	0.009723	0.009903
Thai Baht	0.008977	0.009527
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013

<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.792194	0.808694
Egyptian Pound	0.014292	0.020010

<b>Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd</b>			
Iraqi Dinar	0.000084	0.000085	
Jordanian Dinar	0.000212	0.000272	
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.424685	0.433685	
Lebanese Pound	1.000000	1.000000	
Moroccan Dirhams	0.000151	0.000251	
Omani Riyal	0.022483	0.046483	
Qatar Riyal	0.783682	0.789362	
Saudi Riyal	0.079252	0.084192	
Syrian Pound	0.080020	0.081320	
Tunisian Dinar	0.001289	0.001509	
Turkish Lira	0.102989	0.110989	
UAE Dirhams	0.047676	0.059176	
Yemeni Riyal	0.081384	0.083084	
	0.000989	0.001069	

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.790
Canadian Dollar	233.635
Sterling Pound	400.365
Euro	351.850
Swiss Frank	304.845
Bahrain Dinar	807.890
UAE Dirhams	83.115
Qatari Riyals	84.350
Saudi Riyals	81.905
Jordanian Dinar	429.760
Egyptian Pound	16.969
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.777
Indian Rupees	4.133
Pakistani Rupees	2.272
Bangladesh Taka	3.630
Philippines Peso	5.637
Cyprus pound	18.075
Japanese Yen	3.700
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.574
Malaysian Ringgit	73.930
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.220
Thai Bhat	10.310
Turkish Lira	54.775
Singapore dollars	219.848



AMMAN: A handout picture made available by the Jordanian Royal Palace yesterday shows Jordanian King Abdullah II (right) meeting with US Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin in the Jordanian capital Amman. —AFP



Business

# Gulf Bank records an increase of 18% in net profit for first nine months of 2018

## Bank's net profit reaches KD 42.7 million

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. ("The Bank") announced its financial results for the first nine months of 2018. The Bank recorded a net profit of KD 42.7 million in the first nine months of 2018, an increase of 18 percent over the same period in 2017. In Q3 2018, Gulf Bank reported a net profit of KD 16 million, an increase of 19 percent compared to the same period in 2017.

The Bank generated net interest income of KD 115.4 million during the first nine months of 2018, 19 percent above the same period of the prior year. The operating margin (Operating profit before provisions / impairment losses) was KD 97.4 million during the first nine months of 2018, recording a growth of 9 percent, over the same period in 2017.

Over the same respective periods, The Bank witnessed an enhancement in margins and returns as net interest margin expanded from 2.33 percent to 2.66 percent, return on assets increased from .87 percent to .98 percent, and return on equity grew from 8.4 percent to 9.5 percent. In addition, asset quality continues to improve as the non-performing loan ratio fell to 1.5 percent with an NPL coverage ratio of 478 percent at the end of September 2018.

Compared with 30 September 2017 balances, total assets increased by 5 percent to KD 5.9 billion while loans and advances to customers increased by 7 percent to KD 3.8 billion. Total equity was up 4 percent to KD 614 million and customer deposits grew by 5 percent to KD3.7 billion.

As of the end of September 2018, total general provisions on the balance sheet stood at KD 219 million, over and above shareholders' equity of KD 614 million.

Commenting on the results, Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank's Chairman said: "We are pleased with our Bank's solid performance for the first nine months of 2018. These strong results highlight the Bank's progress quarter after quarter and confirm that we are on the right track in delivering sustainable results to our stakeholders. Gulf Bank's adequate capitalization is reflected in its Capital Adequacy ratio of 16.8 percent at the end of September

2018, which is well above our minimum regulatory requirement of 14 percent. The quality of our assets also continues to improve, as the Bank's non-performing loan ratio fell to 1.5 percent at the end of September 2018."

### Recent developments

In line with Gulf Bank's new strategy of Customer Service and Innovation, the Bank announced the launch of its new website. This new website was designed following global best practices and introduces many new features to enhance the overall customer experience.

In addition, Gulf Bank launched the Gulf Bank Cashback card, which provides cardholders up to 10 percent cashback on all local and international spends. The program has been built around the spending patterns of our customers and it adds to the new line up of cards that were introduced to all customer segments in the second quarter of 2018.

### "A" Credit Ratings

Gulf Bank continues to be well recognized in terms of its credit worthiness and financial strength internationally as it is rated "A" by all four leading credit rating agencies. Recently, Fitch Ratings affirmed Gulf Bank's long-term issuer default rating at "A+" with a "Stable" outlook, Moody's Investor Services revised their outlook on the Bank to "Positive" from "Stable" and affirmed its issuer credit rating at "A3" in May 2018. Similarly, S&P Global Ratings affirmed Gulf Bank's credit rating at "A-" with a "Stable" Outlook in June 2018. Capital Intelligence, on the other hand, recently upgraded the Bank's rating to "A-" from "BBB+" with a "Stable" outlook.

Alghanim commented on the Bank's credit rating by saying: "The "A" credit ratings by the four leading rating agencies is considered an international validation of Gulf Bank's sustained improvement in its asset quality and financial strength".

Alghanim concluded his remarks by stating: "I would like to thank everyone that contributed to these strong results. I'd also like to thank our shareholders and the Central Bank



Omar Kutayba Alghanim



of Kuwait for their continued support. I especially want to thank our customers for their loyalty and reiterate our commitment to place them at the center of everything we do."

Gulf Bank is one of the leading conventional banks in Kuwait with total assets of KD 5,949 million as on 30 September 2018. The Bank provides a broad offering of consumer banking, wholesale banking, treasury, and financial services through its large network of 58 branches and more than 200 ATMs in Kuwait. The Bank was founded in 1960 and is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa Kuwait) since 1984.

	9 Months - 2017	9 Months - 2018
Net Profit (KD Million)	36	43
Earnings Per Share (fiils)	12	15
NPL Ratio	2.6%	1.5%
Liquidity Coverage Ratio	285%	388%

2018	
Moody's	A3 Positive
S&P Global Ratings	A- Stable
Fitch Ratings	A+ Stable
CI CAPITAL intelligence	A- Stable

# KD 43 MILLION

## NET PROFIT

### 18% increase year over year

Net Interest Income

115

MILLION KD

Operating Margin

97

MILLION KD

Total Assets

5,949

MILLION KD

Total Equity

614

MILLION KD

As of or for the nine months ending 30 September 2018

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## Business

# KAMCO issuance advisor, subscription agent for Burgan Bank's capital increase

## Value of subscribed shares reach KD 64.81m, total value of offered shares KD 62.55m

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment firm with one of the largest AUMs in the region, acted as the sole issuance advisor and subscription agent for Burgan Bank's recently completed capital increase. The successful transaction was well received and oversubscribed by existing shareholders, with a total of 249,278,253 shares subscribed, whereas total shares offered were 240,581,530, indicating a subscription of 103.6 percent. The value of subscribed shares reached KD 64.81 million, whereas total value of offered shares was at KD 62.55 million.

By successfully completing the capital increase, Burgan Bank raised its paid-up share capital from KD 225.9 million to KD 250.0 million, an increase of approximately 10.6 percent compared to the Bank's issued share capital prior to the capital increase.

Along with providing the Bank with additional funding, the capital increase will further strengthen Burgan's regulatory capital ratio.

Khaled Fouad, Chief Investment Officer of KAMCO, said, "We extend our gratitude and appreciation towards the collaborative efforts placed forth by both teams at Burgan and KAMCO for successfully completing this transaction. We would also like to thank Burgan Bank for selecting KAMCO as the sole issuance advisor and subscription agent. We look forward towards maintaining the trust and confidence of our clients and investors by seeking lucrative investment opportunities that bolster the private sector and support the growth of the Kuwaiti and regional economy. We would like to thank the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority, and Ministry

of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Clearing Company for their support. We would also like to extend our appreciation and gratitude towards our legal advisors for the issuance ASAR - Al Ruwayeh & Partners for their joint commitment and support."

Also commenting on the transaction, Omar Zaineddine, Senior Vice President and Head of Investment Banking Department at KAMCO, said, "We are proud to have played a prominent role in the rights issue of one of the largest banks in Kuwait. This transaction is yet another significant milestone achieved to further strengthen the bank's capital base. The oversubscription of the rights issue reflects the strong confidence shareholders have in Burgan Bank's strong management and strategic future growth outlook."



Khaled Fouad



Omar Zaineddine

## KIB announces winners of 'Double Your Savings' campaign

**KUWAIT:** KIB announced winners of its newest campaign yet, the 'Double Your Savings' campaign for Savings Account customers; the first account in Kuwait to combine savings and investment under one account. Customers entered a monthly draw for every KD 100 deposited in the account, qualifying them to win the campaign's grand prize, doubling their savings up to KD 5,555. Additionally, the campaign offered 10 customers the opportunity to win KD 100 every month.

The lucky grand prize winner was Khaled Sulaiman Al-Rasheed, who won a staggering KD 5,555. Moreover, as part of the campaign, an additional 10 winners for the KD 100 cash prize were named, that is: Qamariya Mohamed Mutawa'a, Khedr Abdullah Mohammed, Khaled Saleh Mohamed, Nadia Mohamed Al-Naqi, Nasser Salah Al-Majroub, Salah Sahoud Al-Mutairi, Waleed Najef Al-Faraj, Ali Abdulaziz Al-Thalji, Zuhair Hassan Al-Betar, and Mohammed Nuweed Shafei.

Ongoing until December 12, this latest KIB campaign reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to rewarding its customers, as well as encouraging them to increase their savings in the account, as it has the highest return in Kuwait at 1.65 percent. Additionally, each KD 100 deposited into the Savings Account will give customers the opportunity to enter the grand prize monthly draw that doubles the amount saved up to KD 5,555. This is in addition to KIB's other cash prizes which allows 10 customers to win KD 100 every month.

On this occasion, General Manager of the Retail Banking Department, Othman Tawfiq, said: "KIB is committed to providing its customers with the best offers and most innovative products in the market. The Bank aims at meeting the diverse needs and lifestyles of all its customers. The 'Double Your Savings' campaign reflects KIB's commitment to rewarding its customers for their continued trust and loyalty in the Bank. For a limited time only, this new campaign allows new and existing customers a unique opportunity in banking. In addition to enjoying the highest return in the market at 1.65 percent, with the Savings Account, customers can save and win a grand prize, doubling savings up to KD 5,555. Savings Account customers can also enter the draw to win KD 100 for every KD 100 deposited."

KIB offers a wide range of benefits for its Savings Account customers. The Savings Account is unique in offering the benefits of both savings and investment combined into one single account. Additionally, customers are able to open the account in Kuwait Dinar or any other major foreign currency and enjoy a free debit card that can be used all over the world - all with no restriction on minimum account balance. With the Savings Account, customers can also enjoy a range of features, and comprehensive online banking solutions, such as easy money transfers and fast access to account balance and details; allowing them to fulfil all their banking needs anytime, anywhere.



Othman Tawfiq

## Ooredoo Kuwait wins 2 awards at International Stevie Awards

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait won two awards at the prestigious International Stevie Awards that took place earlier this week at the Intercontinental Park Lane Hotel, in London. The International Business Awards are considered one of the most prestigious awards and is awarded to companies and institutions around the world in recognition of their achievements in several professional areas. The winners are selected through a judging committee based on strict conditions and criteria. Representing Ooredoo Kuwait at the event were Fatemah Dashti, Senior Manager, Public Relations & Internal Communications and Fajer Al-Matrouk, Specialist, Public Relations & Internal Communications.

Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communication department triumphed and gained the Gold Award for Communications Department of the year. This award included all the campaigns that were executed in 2017 in terms of PR, Internal Communications, Social media, CSR and Sponsorships.

For the category of Campaign of the Year, Ooredoo was able to secure the Silver award for the iPhone X device launch that took place in November 2017. This event included activities and witnessed an audience of over 5000 customer throughout the day including social media influencers. The event also showcased over 20 local entrepreneurs and small businesses



which goes in line with the company's strategy of supporting the youth. This event is considered one of the biggest events organized by the company in Kuwait.

This achievement is a testament to Ooredoo's leadership in keeping up with the competitive telecommunications sector. The company stated "The awarding of these awards is a culmination on the unique relationship we have with our customers. We respect our

customers and are committed to providing them with everything that enriches their experience. We continue to offer them the best in line with our core values of caring, connecting and challenging. Today, the awards are a testament to the fact that we have challenged ourselves to become the best and we dedicate this award to all our customers that have given us their trust over the year."

## AUB, Kuwait Airways launch in-flight payment services

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) and Kuwait Airways announce the launch of Kuwait's first-ever in-flight payment service exclusively on board Kuwait Airways' planes. This service allows customers to use their credit and debit cards in-flight to make purchases. In addition to duty free items, the service allows customers to purchase upgrades once on-board. Customers can now upgrade to business or first class once having boarded using preferential rates. This initiative attests the Bank's determination to utilize technological and technical capabilities to reach the customers wherever they are, with the aim of offering them an unparalleled banking experience.

Commenting the new service Tareq Muhmood, Senior Deputy Chief Executive Officer said, "We are proud to be the first bank to provide Kuwait Airways' customers in-flight payment services. We're currently working on adopting a more comprehensive system boasting state of the art payment terminals that comply with international standards and provide the latest in technical capabilities. We continue in our mission in enhancing our products and offering the best services to our partners to match

their needs and lifestyle and ensure their utmost convenience and benefit." Huda Al-Madani, AUB's Deputy General Manager for Alternative Delivery Channels confirmed: "The launch of the service is in line with our investment in digital technologies that provide a safe, convenient banking experience for our customers - and are proud to partner with Kuwait Airways to offer this experience to passengers during their flight."

From his end, Fayeze Abdullah Al-Anzi, Kuwait Airways' PR & Media Director stated that "The in-flight payment service is a new addition to the variety of services provided by our airline to passengers on board. By allowing travelers to upgrade their seats from economy to business and first class, the service will pave the way to many more beneficial services that will be offered to customers in the future to help them optimize their time and give them access to the best travel experience."

Al-Anzi underlined that "Kuwait Airways' doors remain open to all local banks, which reflects the company's important role in fostering collaborations with



Tareq Muhmood



Huda Al-Madani



Fayeze Abdullah Al-Anzi

## US Treasury voices 'deep concern' over S Korea banks' N Korea plans

**SEOUL:** The US Treasury Department is "deeply concerned" about planned financial cooperation between North and South Korea and has told South Korean banks that "UN and US sanctions on North Korea remain valid", a South Korean regulatory document has shown.

The document, drafted by South Korea's Financial Services Commission (FSC) and released yesterday after a parliamentary audit, reveals the US Treasury Department's unusual direct calls to South Korean banks, and highlights another sign of discord between Washington and Seoul over North Korea.

While maintaining that it remains in lockstep with Washington, the administration of South Korea's Moon Jae-in has forged ahead with efforts to engage with the North, drawing US concern over a range of issues, from sanctions enforcement to plans for a no-fly zone between the two Koreas.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to work towards denuclearization during an unprecedented June summit with US President Donald Trump.

But the North's actions have fallen short of US demands for irreversible steps to scrap its arsenal, including a full disclosure of nuclear facilities and material. Just after Kim and Moon signed an agreement in Pyongyang on Sept. 19 during their third summit this year, an unidentified deputy assistant secretary at the US Treasury Department's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence called executives in charge of compliance at seven South Korean banks, according to the document.

The official mentioned "media reports that said South Korean financial institutions were preparing to re-open branches within North Korea or task forces and working groups to support inter-Korean economic cooperation", according to the document, excerpts of which were released by the office of opposition lawmaker Kim Seon-dong.

Such "resumption of financial cooperation with North Korea ... does not align with US policies", the official said. The official also expressed "deep concern" that the banks had misunderstood their duties "to comply with UN and US financial sanctions on North Korea", according to the document, which was drafted in Korean.

An FSC spokesman said the document in question was submitted to parliament, in line with a request, declining to elaborate. The US Treasury Department was not immediately available for comment, outside office hours.

A senior official at South Korea's presidential office, asked about the possibility of discord with the

public and private sector institutions in the country. He concluded: "The launching of the new service comes in line with our company's strategy to introduce fast technological solutions to customers. We're always working on offering novelty and exclusivity whether through services and features offered on ground or in the air, before or after boarding and disembarking the plane, or even on board of Kuwait Airways' flights. We truly spare no efforts in catering to the needs and requirements of our customers by providing them with exciting services, products and offers that fit their different segments and offer them a multitude of choices."

United States over sanctions, said the two countries would "eventually be on the same path" towards denuclearization though there might be a "procedural difference".

### 'In step with sanctions'

The US Treasury Department held telephone conference calls, on Sept. 20 and 21, with the seven South Korean banks, including NongHyup, Woori Bank and state-controlled Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK), three sources with direct knowledge of the matter previously told Reuters.

All seven have branches in New York. An Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK) spokesman said that as a policy bank, it was watching events and could re-consider inter-Korean cooperative projects in the future.

NongHyup Bank, an affiliate of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF), was "internally considering reopening its Mount Kumgang branch with consideration for U.N. and U.S. sanctions on North Korea", the bank's president, Lee Dae-hoon, told a parliamentary audit last week.

The branch at the North Korean scenic spot has been closed since 2009.

A NongHyup spokesman said the bank intended to make progress in step with the sanctions, and could not do anything unless sanctions were eased. Woori Bank, which had a branch in the Kaesong industrial complex in North Korea before withdrawing in 2016, confirmed that there was a call from the US Treasury Department, but declined to elaborate. —AFP



## What's On

# GUST's Gulf Financial Center organizes live stock market simulation workshop



The Gulf Financial Center (GFC) at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) organized a workshop on campus, in collaboration with, Al-Tijari Financial Brokerage Company. The workshop, entitled "Live Stock Market Simulation", was created specifically for GUST finance students to experience hands-on trade training on how the Kuwait financial market operates on a daily basis. GFC Director, Dr Fida Karam, said: "We aim to provide our students with the best tools to experience live stock market simulation in order to ensure their exposure to real trading habits within the

Boursa Kuwait stock market." Utilizing the latest technology and interactive methodology available at the GFC, 17 students were able to learn the intricacies of virtual trading, trading floor vocabulary, how markets work, how to trade instruments, as well as the appropriate way to react to market movements.

Mohammad Al-Rudaini, Deputy CEO, and Abdullah Al-Salman, IT Senior Officer, from Al-Tijari Financial Brokerage Company, led the training, and introduced students to the latest stock market trading systems that can help improve their skills and knowledge in trading.

Al-Tijari Financial Brokerage Company CEO, Mishal Alqinai, said "We built the workshop to start with an overview of the history of the Kuwait Stock Exchange since its inception until today, then explained the concerned authorities and regulatory bodies and the role of each of them. From there, we were able to shed light on all kinds of electronic trading systems. It was an honor to lead this workshop in such an experimental environment in to adequately demonstrate how the stock trading process works in Kuwait." Al-Tijari, is a financial firm that facilitates the buying and selling of financial securities.

Through this collaboration, students were given the opportunity to establish lasting connections, and learn more about mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities in the field. GFC at GUST is one of the most advanced academic applied financial centers in the Middle East. It is the center's goal to empower the upcoming generation and enhance their command and fluency in the field of finance. It is through this type of initiative that GUST continues to build on its mission to become a knowledge-hub that benefits and engages students, academics, and the wider Kuwait community.

## 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi and its essence at ICSK

ICSK in collaboration with the Indian Embassy flagged off the yearlong celebration on 2nd October in the school. As per the Government of India, all institutions affiliated to CBSE have been instructed to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi by organizing variety of activities in the school campus throughout the year, starting from October 2, 2018. An illustrative list of activities that can be organized at the School level namely are 'Swachh Bharat', Multi-faith prayers, Shramdaan, taking pledge, Seminars, debates on the ideal of non-violence and communal harmony, presentations on Gandhiji's life and work and study visits.

ICSK took the lead and conducted special cultural programs to commemorate the celebra-

tions on the eve of 150th birth anniversary of the 'father of nation'.

Dr V Binumon, Principal & Senior Administrator welcomed the jamboree. He congratulated the students, staff and teachers for organizing a spectacular show. He threw light on the life and great personality of Mahatma Gandhi and how he led India in the freedom struggle. Dr Haila Al-Mekaimi, Professor of Political Science department, University of Kuwait enlightened the audience with an inspirational talk 'Satya Vartna' about Mahatma Gandhi's life. His Excellency, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Sri K Jeeva Sagar graced the function. HE Sheikha Fadyah Saad AS Al Sabah, granddaughter of former Prime Minister of Kuwait ennobled this function and made it more eventful by planting saplings in the campus. Krishna Kumar Pahal, Sri Secretary, Indian Embassy and Sanjay Saklani's presence added allure to the program.

As a part of its social initiatives, the school undertook a number of activities on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti extolling the Gandhian Principles and his life. The 150th birth anniversary of our Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated with great zeal and patriotism throughout the nation. On this occasion, in order

to pay tribute to Gandhiji and to encourage the students to follow the path shown by him, ICSK organized multiple activities. A mesmerizing 'Dance Drama', through powerful narration highlighted Gandhiji as a person of dedication, will-power and devotion enthralled the audience. A frenzy of patriotism encapsulated the audience when the Dandi March was enacted. The students made a great impact through a tableau of 'The Gyarah Murti' (Eleven Figures) representing Gandhiji's march to the sea in a defiance of the Salt Satyagraha. Mrs Siji Alex motivated the students with her speech.

As a token of appreciation, a memento was presented by the school Chairman, Shaik Abdul Rahiman to the dignitaries, Dr Haila Al-Mekaimi, Professor of Political Science department, University of Kuwait and HE Sheikha Fadyah Saad AS Al Sabah, granddaughter of former Prime Minister of Kuwait. Rajesh Nair C, Principal, Amman branch presented the vote of thanks. He profusely thanked the dignitaries for sparing time to be a part of the great event marking the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. The Gandhian Jayanti function was celebrated in true spirit by the students of ICSK who wholeheartedly contributed their efforts and resources.



Ahmadi governor Sheikh Fawwaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently received the Ahmadi Educational Zone's co-curriculum activities manager Haya Al-Doussary at his office to discuss the preparations of the 2019 National anniversaries celebrations.



## BSK hosts Awards Evening 2018

The annual Awards Evening for Year 7-11 students at The British School of Kuwait (BSK) took place in lavish style in the Al Baraka Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, as parents and staff celebrated the many achievements of the school year 2017-18 in the presence of BSK Chairman Mr Sadiq Al Mutawa and BSK Founder Madam Vera Al-Mutawa MBE.

The evening got off to a brisk and exciting start with the presentation of the Special Awards including those for the House Competitions, Creative Writing, French DELF and German Goethe Institute language examinations, MUN, Quran Memorization, Hadith and Islamic Culture. Presentations were made by Madam Vera and the Ambassadors of France: HE Marie Masdupuy, Brazil: HE Norton Rapesta and Mexico: HE Miguel Angel Isidro Rodriguez. HE Rodriguez completed his presentations with a heartfelt speech in which he praised the achievements of the students and highlighted qualities such as initiative, creativity and independent and reflective thinking, adding that positive values and public spirit set these young people apart as role models and young leaders of tomorrow. Praise indeed.

The Middle Phase Head Teacher, Nicholas Smith, welcomed parents, staff and students, before delivering his Annual Report, including recent developments and plans for further improvement. He reviewed Middle Phase devel-

opments and achievements which included, as part of PSHE, the largest global educational initiative, the F1 Racing in Schools STEM Challenge with over 200 Year 7 students participating. Extracurricular successes continued in the prestigious Young Musicians of the Gulf competition in Bahrain, and Sporting successes both within Kuwait and at the British Schools of the Middle East competition, also in Bahrain, where both their U13 and U15 teams produced outstanding performances.

In both the Middle and Higher Phases, prestigious Subject Awards went to the top student in each subject within each year group, many of whom achieved near to 100% in their end of year examinations. The Roll of Honour for the Middle Phase was read by Miss Alya Muflihi the Assistant Head Teacher, and by Mr Simon Amura, the Higher Phase Assistant Head Teacher.

Ms Emma Bowie, the Higher Phase Head Teacher introduced her speech by recounting the examination achievements of the BSK Year 11 to Year 13 students. Parents were delighted to learn that BSK's June 2018 examination results at IGCSE and GCSE were yet again outstanding, with 93% A\*-C and 50% at A\*-A. Of note, one current Year 12 student and Assistant Senior Prefect, Maria Elias, achieved an absolutely incredible 13 A\* grades, a BSK record. AS Level results were just as impressive, with 96% A\*-E, 79% A-C and 58% A-B. A Level results were also highly commendable with a 100% pass rate at A\*-E, 89% A\*-C and 71% pass rate at A\*-B. She informed parents and guests that, once again, many Year 13 students had decided to pursue their degree courses in Britain, with destinations including the University of Oxford, the University of Warwick, Imperial College London, University College London

and the University of Edinburgh. Other Year 13 graduates opted to pursue their studies elsewhere, their destinations including the USA, Canada, Australia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Hungary. An important initiative in 2017-18 was the formation of the Higher Phase Prefect Team, the development of which continues this year.

The Awards Evening also honored over 200 students who achieved Excellence Awards and Commendations in 2017-18. The Rolls of Honour were read by the Middle Phase Coordinator Mr Sylvain Kerzerho, Assistant Middle Phase Coordinator Miss Sophie Ali, the Upper Department Coordinator Miss Hannah Glendinning and the Sixth Form Department Coordinator, Mr Thomas Campbell.

The BSK Concert Orchestra, under the baton of Ms Galina Bojilova, served up a feast of music including the rousing Aces High by Ron Goodwin as the Award Winners entered the ballroom and the William Tell Overture by Gioachino Rossini during the interlude. Ali Alboaidan wowed the audience with his rendition on Alto Saxophone of the Witch Hunt by Ulrich Schultheiss, accompanied by Miss Emily Jeffcott on piano.

The final student awards of the evening were the much coveted Head Teachers' Awards. Five such awards were conferred, to one student from each Year. The role of honour was Freya Kurniawan, Omar Badr, Arisha Saifuddin, Mariam Eskaross and Youssef Mehany. BSK Principal, Mr Paul Shropshire rounded off the evening by proposing a vote of thanks, congratulating the students on their great successes and looking ahead to another year of hard work and exceptional achievements. The evening closed with the students and parents enjoying a sumptuous buffet dinner.

## ACK outstanding achievement awards

Each semester, the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) recognizes outstanding diploma and degree student performance inside and outside the classroom through various Awards. Recipients of the Awards were invited, with their family members, to a special presentation event in the college auditorium, attended by ACK President, Professor Isam Zabalawi and other members of the college executive. Professor Zabalawi congratulated the students on their success and encouraged them to continue striving for future awards. He also thanked the parents for their support and attendance.

Within the School of Engineering, four Special Academic Awards were given for the most outstanding work by students in nominated projects. For Electrical Engineering, the recipient was Khaled AlMutairi who designed and constructed a "smart meter to measure electricity consumption of houses or companies. The recommendation from the Head of Electrical Engineering department, Dr Hassan Salti, included recognition that "The presentation by the student takes a unique approach. His positive and professional attitude, even when faced with challenging tasks, was commendable. His leadership efforts played a major role in the suc-

cess of the project prototype and achieving the desired outputs. There is clear evidence of high student potential."

The School of Business approved two Special Academic Awards for the highest performing students in projects related to management and marketing studies. One of the recipients was Hanaa Al Houli for her research and report relating to Business Integration. The recommendation from the Head of the Management Department, Dr Steven Telford, noted that the student had conducted "excellent primary data collection, use of academic theory and referencing. A range of analysis methods was used and each was explained and introduced to justify selection. Clear recommendations were made from the analysis to potentially benefit the local company."

The English Language Program also allocated a Special Academic Award for an outstanding essay written by Mohamed Nour. The recommendation from the Head of English department, Dr Abdessattar Mahfoudhi, commented that "Mohamed's essay was above the required level. He showed a strong lexical range and ability to construct a coherent argument through a well-structured and organized essay. The student has been a leader in class, often seen helping students to grasp certain points and offering suggestions." Further awards were distributed to ACK students such as, Dean's List for students with perfect semester GPA of 4.00 for Spring 2018 and the ACK Award for students who completed voluntary participation in a program of personal development.





## Health &amp; Science

# Pave the future: Employee volunteers build a 'societal ecosystem' in Japan

## Everyone now has the potential to participate in the digital world

**TOKYO:** As technology grows as a force in our daily existence and across society as a whole, the idea that we can rely on a few "experts" is becoming a thing of the past. Everyone now has the potential to participate in the digital world. Making technology widely available enhances our lives and economic opportunities. So, putting technology into the hands of a greater number of people, in the true sense, is an important social mission. That is why Microsoft uses employee engagement and supports nonprofits. The company provides the digital tools that nonprofits can use regularly, and it also sends its specialists to nonprofits as employee volunteers.

### Teaming up to promote technology

Let's look at Japan, where computer programming is to become a compulsory subject at Japanese schools in 2020. Volunteers from our company are helping to pave the way. Among them is Yuka Matsubara, who joined Microsoft Japan in 2015. She regularly gives coding lessons at elementary schools.

We visited one elementary school where Matsubara was teaching a class of sixth graders. Her lively voice held the attention of the group made up equally of girls and boys. "We want to take on this challenge together. So if there's anything you don't understand, don't struggle on your own and let me know. If you finish early, please help others around you," she says with a smile.

Learning materials for elementary and junior high school students are designed to help spark their interest in programming. But some students become overly immersed in the work. Telling children not to struggle on their own and to help others is not just a message to encourage and comfort them, it also carries one of the basic but often overlooked elements of programming.

These learning materials - such as the Minecraft Hour of Code tutorial - let the children build programs to con-

trol the movement of creatures, such as sheep and zombies, and make them drop and pick up items such as jewels and vegetables. To increase the fun, sounds can be added to each movement, creating a world of endless possibilities. The children sometimes drop diamonds on each creature with an unlikely groaning sound to accompany the move. Matsubara says this sort of creativity and spontaneity helps to serve as an inspiration in her own work.

Matsubara got into computer coding while studying agricultural informatics. She needed programming skills to help her use huge amounts of data to better understand how to improve farm work efficiencies.

Nowadays, she wants children to take a keen interest in technology and so expand their career options, and that is why she volunteers as a teacher. She says being exposed to the spontaneous ideas of children makes her want to teach more. "Everyone is full of a free and imaginative spirit. I want to help them be able to put in action what they want to do or express, in whatever way that they want to."

### Nonprofits are important partners

Microsoft Japan has formed partnerships with many nonprofits in community building and educational support activities by sending employee volunteers and providing IT tools, helping them maintain their ties with local communities and educational institutions. When Tokyo-based nonprofit, Sodateage Net, was preparing to offer an IT course for young people, Microsoft wanted to ensure that it could provide an on-going benefit. So, instead of sending its employees to teach the course directly, the company trained Sodateage's staff to become instructors who are now providing learning on a long-term basis.

"Through collaboration, we want to continuously support nonprofit activities that have a structural impact on society," says Megumi Kusumoto of Microsoft



TOKYO: Girls taking part in a programming class.

Philanthropies Japan. Building a societal ecosystem, in which employees share their experience and skills with local communities, is also about creating a framework for

volunteers to engage with local communities in the long-term. "We want our employee volunteers to use their skills to give back to society," says Kusumoto. — AFP

## Understaffing, human errors put ICS Security at risk in META region

**DUBAI:** In line with their commitment to increase awareness around sophisticated cyberthreats landscape at GITEX Technology Week 2018, Kaspersky Lab's 'State of Industrial Cybersecurity 2018' survey highlighted the different opinions industrial and energy enterprises, as well as transport and logistics companies, have regarding the negative effects of cyberattacks on their industrial networks.

However, when it comes to the issues affecting their ability to keep networks secure there are three key concerns they can agree on — understaffing, underinvestment by senior management and the human factor. With over 40% of ICS computers in the Middle East region facing attacks every 6 months, these cybersecurity gaps in critical infrastructure can significantly increase the risks for organizations. Algeria (66.2%), Morocco (60.4%), Egypt (57.6%) and Saudi Arabia (48.4%) are amongst the top countries that face attacks on its ICS systems.

### Different fears

Depending on the industry, organizations have different assessments concerning the damage caused to their business by cyberthreats. For transport and logistics companies that build their business based on a service model, the most negative impact is losing customer confidence. But for the majority of manufacturing enterprises and energy companies, their biggest concern is compromising the quality of production due to a cyberattack.

### Under-resourced and under-skilled

The task of protecting industrial networks often falls to

those providing corporate information security. Globally, in 40% of manufacturing organizations, ICS protection is the responsibility of corporate IT security officers. Within transport and logistics companies, over half of those surveyed (58%) confirm that ICS safety is provided by a dedicated team working full-time to combat threats. Industrial organizations, especially those with complex technological processes, need highly specialized, qualified employees to fill the gap. For example, in the energy sector, where national critical infrastructure is managed with the help of ICS, the main challenge when it comes to security management (61%) is hiring employees with the relevant skills.

### Lack of top management involvement

In many enterprises, IT security is a priority for senior management, but in more than half (54%) of manufacturing companies globally, top management is little - if at all - involved in ICS protection issues, which results in underinvestment. Indeed, two-thirds (66%) do not have a dedicated budget for providing security of critical infrastructure. And this position remains unchanged, even in the event or risk of an incident, with 17% of manufacturing organizations not considering this a sufficient enough reason to invest in ICS security.

### Human factor is an evergreen problem

The consequences of employee errors pose a critical threat to half of all organizations worldwide and in all sectors (49%). This is not surprising, given that after malware and ransomware, it is the most common reason for security incidents in ICS (27%). According to a new report from Kaspersky Lab and B2B International, almost (25%) data breaches in Middle East, Turkey and Africa in the past year have led to people losing their jobs. Fortunately, companies are aware of this problem and are trying to solve it by training personnel and creating rules of behavior on critical infrastructure objects. Our research shows that 82% of organizations around the world have already implemented training for employees, contractors and vendors.

Whatever the most feared consequences for industrial



Amir Kanaan

organizations, the only way to prevent or lessen the effect of an attack is to put in place robust safety measures and procedures for ICS networks. Monitoring and timely responses to incidents on industrial networks should become key IT security priorities, along with educating and arming staff on how to minimize the risks to their business. "Recent malware such as Industroyer and Triton have far exploited employee weaknesses, proving to be malicious threats to organizations and making it more evident that the cyberthreats landscape is evolving at an unprecedented pace. Incidents caused by actions of employees can lead to data breach and failure of business processes, as well as result in huge financial losses and reputation damage.

Keeping this in mind, GITEX serves as an ideal platform to focus our efforts in building awareness around this critical issue," said Amir Kanaan, Managing Director for the Middle East, Turkey and Africa Kaspersky Lab. "Enterprises across the region have started to pay a bit more attention to ICS cybersecurity issues, and are evaluating the industrial segments of their networks, training employees, etc. It is a good sign, because it's highly important for businesses to take proactive measures in order to avoid firefighting in future," he adds.

## Giant mice threaten rare seabirds on remote British isle

**LONDON:** Mice brought to a remote South Atlantic island by sailors in the 19th century are threatening seabirds including the critically endangered Tristan albatross, a British charity said yesterday. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the rodents have proliferated on uninhabited Gough Island, part of a British overseas territory, and are killing two million birds every year.

"We knew there were large numbers of chicks and eggs being beaten each year but the actual number being taken by the mice is just staggering," Alex Bond, a researcher from the Natural History Museum in London, said in a statement released by the RSPB. The predatory mice have evolved to become "two or three times larger" than the average house mouse and they attack in groups, eating away at the flesh of chicks which can suffer for days before the open wounds lead to their deaths, the RSPB said.

Other threatened species endangered by the mice include the Gough bunting and Atlantic petrel, the RSPB said. Gough Island is part of the same territory as Tristan da Cunha and Saint Helena, the island where Napoleon was exiled and died in 1821. The RSPB and Tristan da Cunha government are teaming up with international partners to eradicate mice from Gough Island in 2020, using two helicopters laden with poisonous pellets. "Restoring the island to a more natural state will prevent the deaths of millions of seabirds," said John Kelly, RSPB manager for the Gough Island mouse eradication program. — AFP

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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
- ◆ Member of the European Laryngological Society

**Specialized in:**

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- ◆ Vocal cord augmentation.
- ◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
- ◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- ◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

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Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
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- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
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- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant

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

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

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

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

**Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368**  
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**DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
Laposcopic 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.**

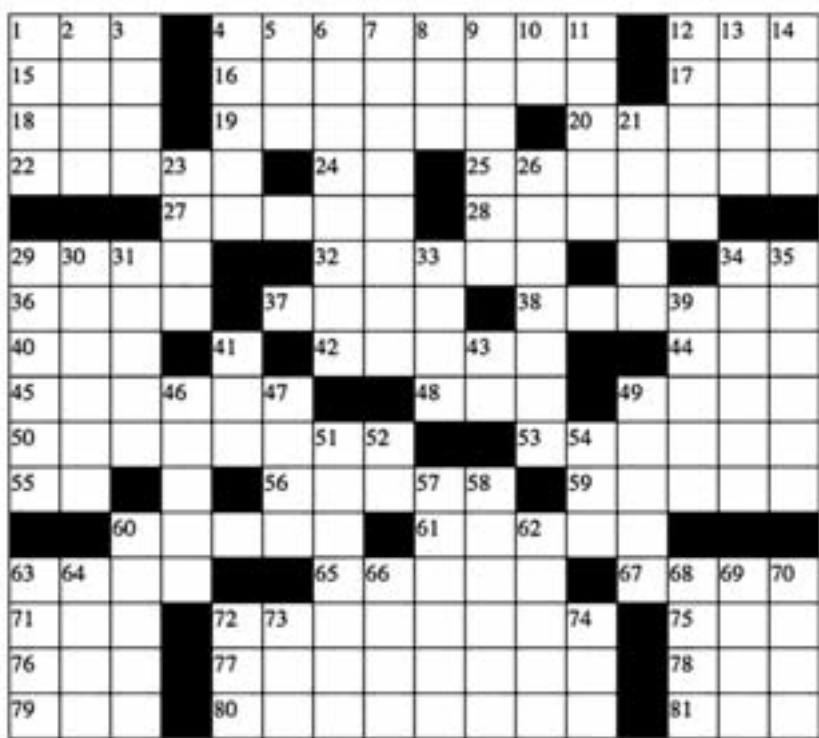
- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

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



Stars

CROSSWORD 2041



ACROSS

1. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
4. Bridge formed by the upper level of a crossing of two highways at different levels.
12. (computer science) A measure of how densely information is packed on a storage medium.
15. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
16. A river that rises in northeastern New Mexico and flows eastward into Oklahoma where it becomes a tributary of the Arkansas River.
17. (usually followed by "of") Released from something onerous (especially an obligation or duty).
18. British dominion over India (1757-1947).
19. Special design or visual object representing a quality, type, group, etc..
20. Lower in esteem.
22. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
24. Being nine more than forty.
25. A town in Italy in southwestern Sicily near the coast.
27. Cause annoyance in.
28. Little known Kamarupan languages.
29. A French abbot.
32. A Muslim council of state.
36. A standard or model or pattern regarded as typical.
37. A self-replicating protein molecule that occupies a fixed place on a chromosome.
38. Male hawk especially male peregrine or gyrfalcon.
40. Black tropical American cuckoo.
42. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
44. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
45. A republic in northeastern Europe on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea.
50. Tiny marine and freshwater crustaceans with a shrimp-like body enclosed in a bivalve shell.
53. Of or relating to abasia (inability to walk).
55. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
56. The back side of the neck.
59. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
61. Having come or been brought to a conclusion.
63. A fraudulent business scheme.
65. A right or legal share of something.
67. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
71. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
75. An associate degree in applied science.
76. The compass point that is one point north of due west.
77. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
78. Government agency created in 1974 to license and regulate nuclear power plants.
79. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
80. The visual percept of a region.
81. A doctor's degree in preventive medicine.

DOWN

1. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
2. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
3. A Hindu prince or king in India.
4. A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere.
5. A healthy capacity for vigorous activity.
6. Web spinners.
7. Rousing or recalling to unity and renewed effort.
8. (prefix) Coming before or being preliminary or preparatory.
9. A large fleet.
10. Conforming to truth.
11. Make off with belongings of others.
12. An ancient city in northern Portugal.
13. A city in Tuscany.
14. In the Roman calendar.
21. (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
23. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
26. Hard fiber used in making coarse twine.
30. Ruffed grouse.
31. The young of a herring or sprat or similar fish.
33. Deprive (infants) of mother's milk.
34. A severe recurring vascular headache.
35. A waste pipe that carries away sewage or surface water.
39. ("cease" is a noun only in the phrase "without cease") End v l.
41. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
43. Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
46. Make a loud, roaring sound, as of a car engine, while moving.
47. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
49. A genus of Ploceidae.
51. Remove the yoke or harness from, as of a draft animal.
52. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
54. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
57. Horizontal beam used as a finishing piece over a door or window.
58. The capital of Turkey.
60. Any plant of the genus *Canna* having large sheathing leaves and clusters of large showy flowers.
62. Close-fitting pants of heavy denim for casual wear (usually in the plural).
64. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
66. Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants.
68. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on land.
69. The lean flesh of a fish that is often farmed.
70. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
72. Of southern Europe.
73. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
74. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Life is wonderful for you today. You take the time to stop and smell the roses while visualizing all that life can be in your future. Plans are being made now while you're most influential in expressing thoughts and ideas. Wanderlust has you day-dreaming about where to go and what to see. Don't be surprised by your playing counselor today for your friends and acquaintances. You appear to be understanding and capable of handling anything which makes you a good shoulder on which to lean. You might want to start planning that much needed vacation. You're certainly in the mood for it Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a great day for your career wise. You may be just the one for the job that is coming available. It is an awesome day of harmony with not only your friends but with your co-workers. Your ideas and input are greatly appreciated today. Stick to your routine and stay true to yourself and you will experience a great sense of admiration from others. Even though today may find you in a very impulsive mood, resist temptation and think long and hard about decisions you make today. You may be facing some life changing decisions. This is not only a great day to organize your thoughts but also work on organizing your affairs and surroundings.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find this a great time to reflect and gain understanding of your own situation. How did you get to this point in your life? You know that everything happens for a reason and you have learned to have a positive outlook on adversity. You have learned lessons from obstacles that have been placed in your path in the past. This a great time for you to gain a sense of understanding for those around you. A deeper connection is possible for your relationships. This is a good time for you to spend with a loved one. Gemini, you may find yourself at peace today. All is well in your world.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find yourself craving attention. You work hard, love hard, and want to be appreciated for your contributions. You may be feeling you are not receiving the admiration and recognition you deserve for the effort you put into helping and providing for those around you. This is a time you may need to focus on others instead of yourself. You may find that others express their gratitude and appreciation differently than you. You may not realize you a being provided all that you crave just not in the way you expected it. Take time to consider this to prevent high tensions and an exchange of words they may result otherwise.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

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



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Words are powerful. They may not break bones, but they can definitely sting. Conversely, they can boost confidence and brighten lives. A simple compliment- that color looks good on you; I like your haircut; you handled that presentation well; congratulations on your promotion- can make a big difference to someone who needs a boost. Be intentional about handing out kudos where they are deserved. Use your power to lift someone's spirit. A by-product will be an increase in your own self esteem. Everyone wins!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

On days when you feel frustrated and emotionally blocked, it is best to keep your focus positive. They say what doesn't kill us makes us stronger. This is true. This is a great time to analyze your situation. Some obstacles are placed in our path, not to be moved, but to send us on a detour. A detour is the route you need to take. Be thankful you are forced to take a new approach. This could be a great learning experience for you. Enjoy the journey.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It seems you may find yourself in a power struggle. You may find someone challenging you concerning a very private matter. Your personal issues are just that, personal! You may find someone invades your space and this could lead to conflict. Respect is something that is a priority in your world. Not only to treat others with respect, you demand to be treated as such. You are ambitious and practical and may find this a time you are able to work well with others developing strong teams who will be able to accomplish big goals.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today finds you high energy and your mind seems to be set on a hair trigger. Try to avoid hasty decisions as this hasn't worked well for you in the past. This is a great time to find an escape. Take a trip, a long drive, or spend some time alone. Do what it takes to calm your mind and spirit. Being grounded will not only be beneficial in decision making but also make you more enjoyable for others to be around. Relaxation is the key to your happiness today.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself tense and anxious about a situation you have found yourself in. You may feel under pressure and feel somewhat anxious. This may lead to you mentally checking out. You may use this as a coping mechanism for the stress you are under. An out of body feeling in a dreamy state may be the way your mind chooses to handle this conflict. Others may not be fond of this side of you and this could result in conflict with someone close to you. You will find your way and through your ability to get to the root of your problems, this too will be solved. Aquarius. You may find a negative result from the escape you take from reality as it may cause an opportunity you have been hoping for to pass you by.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself taking your creativity to new levels. You have always been able to think outside of the box but this time you have taken this to a new level in a totally new area. You have gone "high tech". You find yourself reaching beyond your boundaries and surrounding yourself with new friends that are like minded. The potential for that successful, new, invention is great. You have a great desire to be in control but now may be the time to step back and work together with your peers. Pisces, you could greatly benefit from working together on this project and avoiding conflict.

Wordsearch Puzzle

**Fish 2**  
Find and circle all of the fish that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Benjamin Franklin quotation.

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

AMBERJACK	CROAKER	PICKEREL	SOLE
BASS	DOLPHIN	PIKE	SPEARFISH
BLUEGILL	FLOUNDER	POLLOCK	STEELHEAD
BONITO	GOLDFISH	PORGY	TARPON
BOWFIN	GROUPE	PUMPKINSEED	TROUT
BUFFALO	HADDOCK	ROCKFISH	TUNNY
BURBOT	HOUDFISH	SAILFISH	WALLEYE
CARP	LINGCOD	SHAD	WEAKFISH
CHAR	MARLIN	SHEEFISH	WHITEFISH
CISCO	PERCH	SNAPPER	YELLOWTAIL
COBIA			

Yesterday's Solution

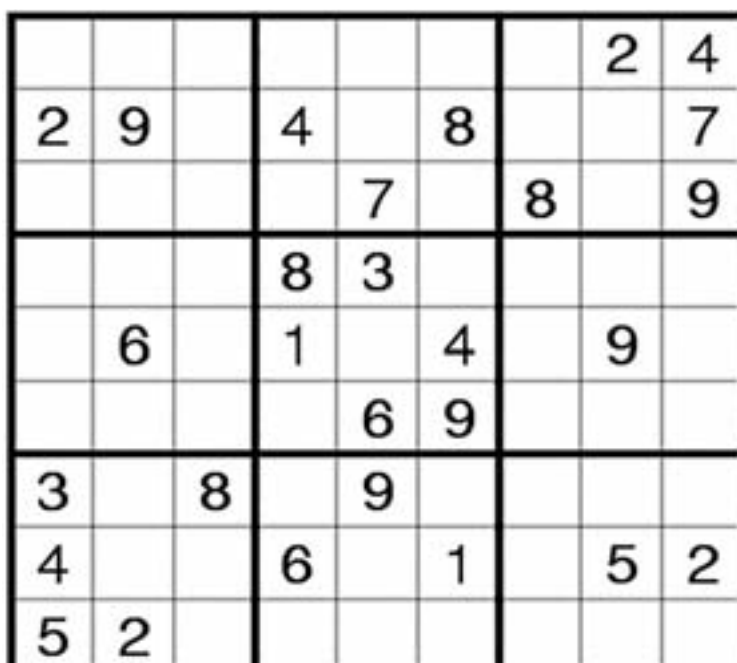
**Fish 1**

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

BARRACUDA	DORADO	PARROTFISH	SMELT
BLUEFISH	DRUM	PERMIT	SNOOK
BONEFISH	GAR	POMPANO	STURGEON
BULLHEAD	GRAYLING	RODFISH	SUNFISH
CATFISH	GRUNT	ROOSTERFISH	SWORDFISH
CHUB	HALIBUT	SALMON	TILAPIA
COD	JEWFISH	SAND DAB	TRIPLETAIL
CRAPPIE	MACKEREL	SAUGER	TUNA
CREVALLE	MUSKELLUNGE	SHARK	WAHOO
DOLLY VARDEN	PADDFISH	SHEEPSHEAD	WARMOUTH

The hidden sentence is: FISH AND VISITORS SMELL IN THREE DAYS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018



This combination of pictures shows (from left to right top) Arlette Ortiz, Jessica Esquivias, Alejandria Copado and Jossy Javier and (left to right bottom) Victoria Garcia, Donovan Sanchez, Jimmy Roman and Monica Molina disguised as 'Catrina' (Mexican representation of death) before the March of Catrinas in Mexico City. Mexicans get ready to celebrate the Day of the Dead highlighting the character of La Catrina which was created by cartoonist Jose Guadalupe Posada, famous for his drawings of typical local, folkloric scenes, socio-political criticism and for his illustrations of 'skeletons' or skulls, including La Catrina. — AFP

## Lebanese seek to save landmark concrete park from crumbling



Visitors gather by the stone pyramid during an exhibition at the grounds of the Tripoli International Fair.



A visitor stands by a model rocket during an exhibition commemorating Lebanon's former space program at the Tripoli International Fair.



A view of the concrete helicopter platform at the grounds of the Tripoli International Fair, close to the seafront of the northern Lebanese port city. — AFP photos

Close to the seafront in Lebanon's Tripoli, giant curves of concrete stand testimony to dreams before the civil war, etchings of an exhibition park never finished but already cracking. This month, a rare exhibition is being held at the site designed by legendary Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer in a desperate call to save it from ruin. Inside the vast grey grounds of the Tripoli International Fair in northern Lebanon, a palm tree throws its dark silhouette onto a giant concrete dome. A thin arch sweeps high over a narrow footbridge, and a steep staircase spirals up vertically, onto a circular cement platform perched on a curvaceous pillar.

"It's a futurist paradigm that is unique in Lebanon and the region," said Lebanese architect Wassim Naghi. "In its modernity, in its reliance on curves, it sums up the progress of architecture over a hundred years," he said. And with buildings dotted over an area the size of 70 rugby pitches, it's among "Niemeyer's largest works outside Brazil", he said. The Brazilian architect designed landmarks around the globe during a decades-long career that started in the 1930s and ended in the 21st century. When he died six years ago aged 104, he left behind hundreds of buildings, in Brazil as well as in the United States, France, Malaysia, Algeria and Cuba.

### Space program

But today his work in Lebanon is in urgent need of restoration. "These buildings of reinforced concrete need to be restored rapidly. There are buildings being eaten away at, blocks falling down, and many cracks," Naghi warned. "We fear there will be unpleasant surprises, especially during the rainy season," he said. Until October 23, a show titled "Cycles of Collapsing Progress" seeks to celebrate the era that gave rise to the fairground, but also sound the alarm. In the halls under the perched platform, visitors can

admire a seabed of snaking rebar, or even an elongated white space rocket hanging from the ceiling.

The show "documents a golden age in Lebanon's modern history—the architectural, scientific and cultural dreams of the time", said curator Karina Al-Helu. During the 1960s, the tiny Mediterranean country had its own space program, successfully launching a small unmanned rocket into space. When Niemeyer was first asked to design the outdoor space in 1962, there were plans for the rooms under the circular platform to house a space museum.

But dreams of outer-space exploration, and any museum to commemorate it, were indefinitely put on hold with the outbreak of the 1975-1990 civil war. The exhibition aims to remind Lebanese visitors of this chapter of the country's recent past, Helu said, but also shine a light on a landmark about to collapse.

### UNESCO list?

In a country whose history goes back millennia to the Phoenician period, she urged the authorities to give equal attention to modern architecture. "It's great to restore buildings that show Lebanon's ancient history, but we should also care about the landmarks of this country's modern history," she said. Architect Naghi said he was not optimistic about any immediate intervention by the government.

“It's a futurist paradigm that is unique in Lebanon and the region”



A view of the thin concrete arch at the grounds of the Tripoli International Fair.

"The current atmosphere of crisis in the country doesn't bode well," he said, referring to a months-long deadlock over forming a cabinet.

Any renovation should involve in-depth studies and specialized companies, he said, "and that would require a lot of money, as well as a government decision". Instead, Naghi and others hope that the site can be added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. Brazil's capital Brasilia and an outdoor center in the south of the country, both of which were designed by Niemeyer, are already featured on it.

Sahar Baassiri, Lebanon's delegate to UNESCO, said efforts were now being made towards adding the concrete park to the list's contemporary architecture section. Akram Oueida, president of the fairground, said Lebanese officials have made promises of assistance, but none have yet materialized. Getting the concrete park listed by UNESCO may help, Oueida said: "That could open the door to funding from donors." — AFP



A view of the concrete dome of the experimental theatre at the grounds of the Tripoli International Fair.



A view of an arched structure in the grounds of the Tripoli International Fair.





## Boyzone have more male fans than female now

**B**oyzone get more attention from male fans than their female admirers. The pop group's fan base has changed over the years and now instead of girls running on stage it's more likely a "tattooed geezer with a beard" will try and crash a performance from the group - made up of Keith Duffy, Ronan Keating, Mikey Graham and Shane Lynch. Speaking to the Daily Mirror, Shane said: "We used to have girls running on stage. We now have tattooed geezers with beards there've been men trying to get on stage and give you hugs. I like that." Mikey added: "They're old enough to not be embarrassed about being a Boyzone fan." Shane, 42, admitted that it's a pleasant change meeting male fans rather than men who are jealous that "their girlfriends are into them". He said: "It's nice to walk into a public place and men want to shake your hand as opposed to wanting to fight you because their girlfriends are into you."

Although the band has loyal fans, they have revealed they don't have any plans to make themselves or their late bandmate Stephen Gately into a hologram. Speaking about the news that Amy Winehouse is to be made into a hologram for a tour, Mikey admitted: "To be honest, I think it's a bit too soon with Amy. There was a Roy Orbison hologram recently and an Elvis thing that did well but that was long after those guys passed by." Whilst Shane added: "I don't think it's something we would ever think about." And Ronan quipped: "I suppose we could end up staying at home, like Abba are." Before concluding: "When we are long gone, maybe - but until then we'll keep doing it ourselves and turn up ... we probably wouldn't get paid otherwise."

## Ozzy Osbourne looking forward to live return

**O**zzy Osbourne is already excited to return to the stage after cancelling tour dates due to a hand infection. The 69-year-old rocker has undergone surgery to treat an infection in his hand, and he has been forced to push back his North American run until 2019 to make sure he gives himself time to recover. He told Rolling Stone magazine: "I was really looking forward to doing the Hollywood Bowl. I'm going to make those shows up next year. It could have been a lot worse. I could have been dead." Now visiting a specialist once a week - initially it was three visits each week - Ozzy doesn't expect to feel like his old self, but he revealed he is "well on the mend". He added: "To be honest with you, I didn't feel that bad all along. I said to the doctor at one point, 'When can I work out?' He said, 'You can do whatever you like, but I don't advise you to for at least 10 days.' "I tried working out for two minutes and I thought I was gonna die, because the antibiotic knocks the wind out of your sails big-time. So I went, 'You know what? I'll let the doctor be the doctor and I'll be the patient.' "So now compared to what I was like, I feel about 85 to 90 percent better. So I'm well on the mend." When he was hospitalized - which saw the Black Sabbath legend put on drip and pill antibiotics - the musician didn't consider cancelling any shows after the initial treatment. He admitted: "I said to Sharon, 'What the fuck am I gonna do for the gig?' Then the doctor said, 'You must be crazy. You get another staph infection, and you could die.' "He said, 'One's enough. You've got three individual ones.'"



## Paula Abdul falls off stage during live show

**P**aula Abdul fell off stage during a concert over the weekend. The 56-year-old star was singing her 1991 single 'The Promise of a New Day' at the time as she clapped and danced towards the edge of the stage when the scary incident occurred. In a video of the accident, Paula could be seen falling head first into the crowd, with the audience heard gasping and screaming after the slip up during Saturday's show in Biloxi, Mississippi. As reported by TMZ, the 'Straight Up' hitmaker didn't fall keep her down as she was helped back on stage at the Hard Rock Live venue and continued with the show. Speaking before the current tour, the former 'American Idol' judge admitted she was starting to get nervous about the live run as they got closer. She previously explained: "There aren't enough days. It's like, every 24 hours that go by I'm like, 'Oh, s\*\*t! It's one less day [until] my first show!' "It's really close, especially [considering] everything you put into a tour. It's everything - hiring your crew, the creative team, the buses, costuming, the dancers, producers, music, all of it! There aren't enough hours in the day." Meanwhile, Paula also revealed she finds it "heartwarming" that people still care about her after decades in the industry. She said: "I didn't know whether or not people would care if I came back after 20-plus years, but it was very heartwarming and it felt incredible. I don't take anything for granted. I was very surprised and my heart was swelling, it really was."



## John can't do Teenage Cancer Trust shows because of Vegas residency

**S**ir Elton John hasn't been able to do any Teenage Cancer Trust shows because of his Las Vegas residency. The 71-year-old singer's husband David Furnish has fired back at Roger Daltrey's claims the 'Rocket Man' star has ignored requests to perform at the charity concerts. Speaking to the Mirror, David said: "Elton was puzzled when that came out because every time Roger has asked, we have responded. The reason Elton has not been able to support is because he has been in Las Vegas doing his residency. "And we've always got back to Roger. We had tremendous respect for the work that he's doing. When the requests have come in, Elton has always said: 'This is amazing. And I'd really like to support it when I have the time.' The Who rocker Roger had said he supported Elton's AIDS Foundation three times in the past, but even this has been refuted. David added: "Elton is a big, global star. He's now in the middle of a three-year farewell tour. We just can't stick him on a plane and move him around. "But we've supported in other ways. Elton has actually done video announcements and things. We do what we can. "The surprising thing was when Roger said he had been performing at our events, which is completely untrue." He added that the pair haven't confronted Roger directly because they're "not that close", but he suggested maybe the musician was just in a bad mood when he made his original comments. He said: "We're not that close. We reached out through mutual friends to say: 'Huh? We've always responded.' "Maybe he was just having a bad day."



## Steve Coogan says Laurel and Hardy were like a married couple

**S**teve Coogan claims that Laurel and Hardy were like a married couple. The 'Stan and Ollie' actor - who is playing Stan Laurel in the biographical film about the iconic comedy duo - revealed that the two entertainers had an amazing relationship which was more like a marriage than a friendship. The 'Night At The Museum' star told Premiere Scene: "It was like a marriage, really. It was more successful than the literal marriages that they had in their lives. "Actually, the one constant person in both of their lives was each other, more than their wives or partners. So it's an examination of a long friendship, really." The 52-year-old star appeared alongside John C. Reilly - who portrays Oliver Hardy - at the world premiere of the movie in matching kilts, as a tribute to the film's director Jon S Baird, who is originally from Aberdeen. The first screening of 'Stan and Ollie' - which was at the closing night gala for the BFI London Film Festival in Leicester Square - also saw co-star Rufus Jones and screenwriter Jeff Pope in attendance. The film tells the story of the cherished comedy double act and their farewell tour, including how the pair's love of performing - as well as their love for each other - endured immense pressure as the pair embarked on one final variety hall run. Reilly mused about the comedic duo's tumultuous friendship, explaining that the pair experience "a lot of ups and downs". He added: "It was a pretty hardy relationship actually. They were together for a long, long time. They went through a lot of ups and downs together."

## Boynton responds to Bohemian Rhapsody critics

**L**ucy Boynton has defended 'Bohemian Rhapsody' over accusations it 'ignores' Freddie Mercury's sexuality. The 24-year-old actress - who plays the late Queen frontman's friend and former fiancée Mary Austin in the biopic opposite leading man Rami Malek - has hit out at critics suggesting the movie would downplay his relationship with men and his battle with AIDS. She told Digital Spy: "It's when people want to have something to criticize that is kind of jarring, especially because it does and the one thing that we're so proud of with this film is that I don't feel it ever steps over the line into any kind of expose or intrusiveness. "I don't know what people wanted to see in terms of... they always ask about the darkness of Freddie and such and it's like, it's a celebration and ode to [him]." The 'Murder on the Orient Express' star admitted it was frustrating that the backlash came after a short trailer which was "supposed to tease basically nothing" about the film. She is involved in a vital scene in the movie which sees Mary and Freddie breakup while addressing the iconic singer's sexuality. Boynton - who didn't speak to Austin herself about the conversation - added: "Obviously that's a creative interpretation because no one else was in the room so no one else knows what exactly was said. "It was a weird moment of trying to navigate the most beneficial way to portray it to give the most impact on the audience, but also what she would be comfortable about seeing now and what was true to the situation then. It's a whole juggling act, it's really terrifying."



## Mike Leigh: I don't like being told what to do

**M**ike Leigh doesn't like being told what to do. The acclaimed filmmaker has admitted he'll happily walk away from a project if he hasn't developed a healthy relationship with the people he's working with. The 75-year-old director shared: "I'm open to people who are happy for me to do what I do. "I'm not open to anybody who tries to tell me what to do. I have on many occasions walked away from a project where there's been even the suggestion that, 'Well, we'll back the film so long as there's an American star in it.' Walk away." Mike feels it's important he's given the freedom to create his films in the way he initially imagined. And if he does start to witness interference from outside influences, he has no qualms about turning his back on a movie. The 'Vera Drake' director told the Observer newspaper: "I have [walked away] on a number of occasions. It's like a novelist being told what the novel should have in it. Or a painter being told, 'It must include a lighthouse.' And that's the polite version." Mike's films have always tended to focus on contemporary issues, and he's admitted to being particularly inspired by the 1959 movie 'Room at the Top', which was set in a town in northern England. He explained: "Now when I saw it, which was in a local cinema in north Salford, what was exciting about it was if you walked out of the cinema into the street, it was the same world as was in the pictures. "I'd spent all of that time up till then sitting as a kid thinking, 'Wouldn't it be great if you could have a film where the characters in the film were like real people?'" — Bang Showbiz





Lifestyle | Features



Young Palestinian members of a swimming club, run on the beach during a training session in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. — AFP photos



Palestinian children, members of a swimming club, participate in a training session in Beit Lahia.



Young Palestinian members of a swimming club, participate in a group exercise on the beach during a training session in Beit Lahia.



Young Palestinian members of a swimming club, participate in a group exercise on the beach.



Young Palestinian members of a swimming club, walk into the sea to begin a training session in Beit Lahia.

# Swim team braves pollution to dive into Gaza waters



Young Palestinian members of a swimming club, swim in the sea during a training session in Beit Lahia.

On one of the world's most polluted coastlines, 30 young Palestinians dive head first into the sea off the Gaza Strip, their minds filled with dreams of Olympic glory. Aged between 11 and 16, they make up a rare swimming club in the Palestinian enclave, and perhaps its only mixed-sex one. Coach Amjad Tantish talks through a warm-up before they race from the trash-strewn beach into the sea as he continues to bark instructions. Conditions are far from perfect: the waves make serious training difficult and they have little equipment. But Tantish explained that there are no free public swimming pools in the Gaza Strip, so they had to brave the sea. "We lack even the simplest equipment such as goggles and swimsuits," he said. "We don't have any funding."

The Mediterranean hugs the entire 40 kilometer (25 mile) western border of the Gaza Strip, but almost no one enters its waters. The desperate shortage of energy and lack of sanitation infrastructure mean around 100 million liters of poorly treated sewage are pumped into the sea every day, according to the United Nations. In the worst spots along the shore the sea is tinted brown. More than 95 percent of tap water is polluted, and water-related diseases are the primary cause of child mortality in Gaza, according to the World Health Organization.

### Olympic dreams

The UN says the situation has come about mainly because of Israel's crippling land and sea blockade of Gaza, warning recently the enclave is "implosion". Israel says the measures are necessary to isolate Hamas, the Islamist group that runs Gaza and with which it has fought three wars since 2008. It accuses the group of squandering international aid on arms and fortifications. Israel has seized dozens of diving suits and other swimming aids it says Hamas was seeking to smuggle into Gaza for military purposes. For those still willing to get wet, environmental experts say the water near Beit Lahia in northern Gaza has the lowest rates of pollution.

And so the team train there a few times a week, helping to fuel their dreams. Tantish says the squad dreams of competing in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, though he knows that is improbable. Even getting a visa to leave Gaza via Israel is an almost insurmountable hurdle. "We have many opportunities to participate in outdoor training camps and in Arab competitions, but travel is a major obstacle," he said. The Palestine Olympic Committee sent only six athletes to the 2016 Games. Four of those, including the two swimmers, were invited to attend despite not meeting the minimum requirements. But even they had regular access to pools and neither were based in Gaza. Abdul Rahman, 15, said he hopes to

become a "hero and achieve first place in international competitions".

### Social taboo

Mixed-gender activities are rare in conservative Gaza, particularly in the sporting arena. The girls mostly wear long black swim trousers and red blouses, with their heads largely uncovered. Tantish, 42, said in the past it "was not an acceptable idea, we faced many difficulties and troubles."

Now, he said, attitudes have changed. "Families drop their daughters off to practice swimming and the proportion of women reached 30 percent." Rania, 32, was walking with her husband along the beach but stopped to watch the swimming. "I don't think being religious stops our girls from being like other people or from having this beautiful ambition," she said. Most of the girls joining this year decided to get involved at their own initiative, Tantish said. Ruqiya, 14, said she loves the atmosphere at the club. "I started learning to swim three years ago and recently I joined the team. My family supports me and I train and play with my friends in the sea." She dreams of becoming a professional. "We want a large swimming pool especially to train for the Olympics." — AFP

## Easter Islanders hope to swap a copy for iconic statue in UK museum

For 150 years, the British Museum has housed one of the iconic, heavy-browed stone figures that Chile's Easter Island is famous for. Now the islanders are hoping desperately to get it back. They plan to build a copy of the four-ton monolith and, potentially swap it for the real thing. The statue, known as a "moai" and named the Hoa Hakananai'a, is one of hundreds originally found on the island. Carved by Polynesian colonizers somewhere between the 13th and 16th centuries, each of the big-headed figures was considered to represent tribal leaders or deified ancestors. About a dozen have been removed from the island over the years. Now Camilo Rapu, president of the island's Ma'u Henua community, said it's time Hoa Hakananai'a was returned.

The Ma'u Henua community, with Chilean government support, launched a campaign in August to persuade the British Museum and Queen Elizabeth II to return the famous moai-in exchange for an exact replica to be carved on Easter Island. "Our expert carvers will make a copy in basalt, the original stone used in the Hakananai'a moai, as an offering to Queen Elizabeth in exchange for the original," Rapu told reporters in Santiago. The Ma'u Henua have signed an agreement with the Bishop Museum-Hawaii's largest museum, with a huge collection of Polynesian artifacts-to produce a polycarbonate copy of the Hakananai'a, to be ready by November 3.

The actual carving of the statue will take place on Easter Island, using thousand-year-old Rapa Nui techniques-combined with some modern technology to allow the job to be completed in seven months. The Hakananai'a moai in the British Museum stands 2.4 meters tall (eight feet) and weighs about four tons.

On November 23, a committee of islanders and Chilean officials plans to travel to London in hopes of negotiating the moai's return. "This is a historic demand of the Rapa Nui people," said Rapu. The Rapa Nui were the island's aboriginal settlers, and their descendants still make up a large part of the population. "This moai has a spiritual value; it is part of our family and our culture. We want her (the queen) to understand that for us, this is its value-not as a museum piece," he said. The islanders will bring with them a book, in support of their demand, signed by some of the thousands of tourists who every year visit the Pacific island paradise some 3,700 kilometers (2,300 miles) off Chile's mainland. — AFP



Britain's Prince Harry pose of pictures with the members of the Butchulla people, who are the traditional owners of Fraser Island. — AFP photos



Britain's Prince Harry meets the members of the Butchulla people, who are the traditional owners of Fraser Island.



Britain's Prince Harry unveils the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy plaque on Fraser Island's Pile Valley.

# Meghan joins Prince Harry to meet royal fans after rest

Meghan, the pregnant wife of Britain's Prince Harry, emerged from her break from official duties yesterday to greet excited fans on the stunning World Heritage-listed Fraser Island during the royal couple's Australian tour. The Duchess of Sussex skipped most of the day's events on the island off Queensland state, after a packed tour that has seen the pair travel to Sydney, Melbourne and the regional town of Dubbo since touching down in Australia last Monday.

But she appeared in the late afternoon for a public meet-and-greet with her husband, delighting the large crowd at Kingfisher Bay. Wearing a striped linen maxi dress with a thigh-high split, reportedly by sustainable LA brand Reformation, the pair walked down the jetty and received more baby gifts-including quilts and stuffed toys-from the locals. One 16-year-old boy, who was carrying the sign "Meghan Markle you make my world sparkle" was so excited that he had met the Duchess that he forgot what she said to him. "She was just really thankful," he told news.com.au.

Earlier, the loved-up couple arrived in Queensland by plane before travelling to the island separately. Harry boarded a barge, a route used by tourists to travel to the island, while the Duchess of Sussex took a different vessel and then retreated to a private residence. Her choice of dress for the boat, a maroon number with white polka dots, sparked excitement in Queensland, as the deep

brownish-red happens to also been the official color of the state.

### Rainforest protection

The Duke of Sussex then headed to the peaceful shores of Lake McKenzie, where he was greeted with a traditional Aboriginal ceremony from the local Butchulla people. He later walked barefoot on the soft white sands of the lake, a source of drinking water for the Butchulla people, and splashed water on his face. Fraser is the world's largest

sand island and the prince unveiled a plaque to dedicate the holiday site's acres of rainforests to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy project.

It is the second time the plaque has been unveiled. "The first time was by my father-The Prince of Wales-in Bundaberg earlier this year when he was visiting," the Duke of Sussex said in a speech at the unveiling. "I now have the privilege of unveiling it in situ... Luckily we are both highly skilled when it comes to unveiling plaques." The prince also received an unexpected compliment from one member of the crowd who yelled "he's better looking in person!" according to news.com.au.

Taking a strong environmental interest, a cause close to his father's heart, he met with park rangers to learn more about the island's plants and animals. He was also due to meet with two Hervey Bay paramedics, who are being recognized for granting a dying woman's final wish by taking her to the beach. A photo of a paramedic beside a stretcher facing the ocean was posted on Facebook last year and went viral around the world. The pair are due to visit Fiji and Tonga after Fraser Island. — AFP



Britain's Prince Harry (right) poses for a photo with Indigenous Australian Joe Gaila (center) during his visit to Fraser Island, in Queensland.





In this photograph Indian students from Kendriya Vidyalaya in Dwarka sit behind the life size statue of British queen Mary displayed inside the Indian President's House museum in New Delhi. — AFP photos



Indian visitors watch an animated 3D documentary of independence icon Mahatma Gandhi inside the Indian President's House museum in New Delhi.



Indian students from Kendriya Vidyalaya in Dwarka look at the model of a boat made of clove trees that was presented to India's first president Rajendra Prasad by the first president of Indonesia Sukarno displayed inside the Indian President's House museum in New Delhi.



Indian visitors are projected with independence icon Mahatma Gandhi on a screen through a chroma key effect inside the Indian President's House museum.



Indian students from Kendriya Vidyalaya in Dwarka look at an interactive photo table with pictures of various political cabinets.



A rare painting of Robert Clive, a commander of British India in the mid-1700s, is displayed inside the Indian President's House museum in New Delhi.

## In Delhi, walk with Gandhi in the President's House

With a moon rock, a chunk of Mount Everest and the chance to stroll with Gandhi, the President's House in Delhi is lifting the veil on its treasures in its new museum. The President's House, a classical palace with an Indian twist, is one of the grandest buildings in India, built by the British as the Viceroy's House. Storerooms not opened for decades—some because of superstition—were unlocked in a treasure hunt to put together the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum's collection. It recreates moments from India's independence struggle such as Mahatma Gandhi's landmark protest march against the salt tax in 1930 and the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre of civilians by troops under British command.

Technology allows visitors to walk with Gandhi in the virtual reality room, while interactive features include a flipbook of India's constitution. "The museum depicts the democratic her-

itage of India and gives a peek into the lives of former presidents," education officer Pankaj Protim Bordoloi told AFP. "We have used augmented technology to keep visitors involved and interested. The museum is always a work in progress and we will add more exhibits as we discover them," said Bordoloi. Drawcards include a Mercedes car given to late premier Rajiv Gandhi by the king of Jordan and a horse-drawn presidential buggy complete with horses.

The collection also includes a long-lost painting of Robert Clive (1725-74), commander-in-chief of British India. The authorities contacted the National Gallery in Britain and also Clive's family who confirmed the work was genuine. "Their excitement too assured us that we had found the right painting," Bordoloi added. — AFP



An Indian man looks at a painting.



Indian students from Kendriya Vidyalaya in Dwarka walk past a statue commemorating the Salt March of 1930, featuring independence icon Mahatma Gandhi and his followers.

## From Jothen Gallery to Jothen Cosmetics



The exhibition is the first of its kind at The Avenues mall as it includes all beauty needs from head to toe under one roof. It also includes hair care and manicure products, hair extensions, perfumes, accessories and all hairstyling electronic systems.

Jothen Cosmetics is now making a quality move in its journey in the world of beauty, as it is changing its look, including its shops from Jothen Gallery to Jothen Cosmetics to raise the level of competition through its exclusive trademarks available in its shops, in addition to those that will be launched in 2019.

## Eye disorder may have helped Da Vinci's art: Journal

A common eye disorder may help explain Leonardo Da Vinci's talent for three-dimensional representation and the sense of perspective in his mountain landscapes, according to research published in an academic journal. The study looked at two sculptures, two oil paintings and two drawings by the Renaissance master which it said showed "a consistent exotropic strabismus angle of -10.3 degrees". Exotropic strabismus is a form of eye misalignment and is the opposite of crossed eyes, or esotropia. A misalignment of 10.3 degrees would be considered a medium level.

People with strabismus often have monocular instead of binocular vision, meaning that both eyes are used separately thereby increasing the field of view and depth perception. "The presence of exotropia, particularly if it was intermittent, may have contributed to da Vinci's exceptional ability to capture space on the flat canvas," according to the research published in the JAMA

Ophthalmology journal this month. The journal said da Vinci's condition would be particularly helpful "for depicting the 3-dimensional solidity of faces and objects in the world and the distant depth-recession of mountain scenes".

Professor Christopher Tyler, of City University of London, who conducted the research, said: "Several great artists, from Rembrandt to Picasso, are thought to have had strabismus, and it seems da Vinci had it too". "The condition is rather convenient for a painter, since viewing the world with one eye allows direct comparison with the flat image being drawn or painted," he said. Tyler carried out the research by fitting circles and ellipses to the pupils, irises and eyelid apertures and then measuring the relative position of these features. Da Vinci, who lived between 1452 and 1519, was an Italian polymath whose interests ranged from art to engineering and natural science. — AFP



# Classifieds

Tuesday, October 23, 2018



**Kuwait Times**  
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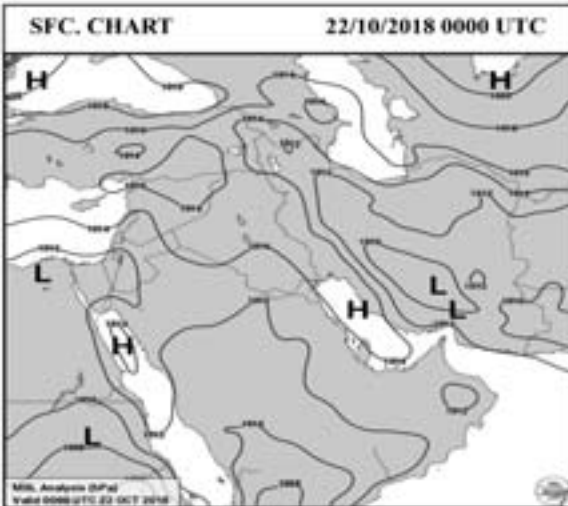
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 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Cloudy to partly cloudy with moderate to fresh north easterly wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WARNING			Thunder Rain	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 22/10/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	31 °C	23 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31 °C	19 °C		
ABDALY	32 °C	19 °C		
BUBYAN	*** °C	*** °C		
JAHRA	33 °C	22 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	29 °C	23 °C		
SALMIYAH	29 °C	23 °C		
AHMADI	30 °C	25 °C		
NUWAISIB	30 °C	24 °C		
WAFRA	30 °C	22 °C		
SALMY	30 °C	21 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	10/23	Partly cloudy to cloudy causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	33 °C	25 °C	SE-NW	20 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	10/24	Partly cloudy	34 °C	23 °C	VRB	08 - 22 km/h
Thursday	10/25	Clouds will increase gradually with a chance for scattered rain later on	35 °C	24 °C	SE	15 - 32 km/h
Friday	10/26	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery	35 °C	23 °C	SE-S	15 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:34
Sunrise	05:54
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:46
Sunset	17:11
Isha	18:28

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	35 °C
MIN. Temp.	24 °C
MAX. RH	79 %
MIN. RH	27 %
MAX. Wind	S 36 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
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

## ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden).  
 Contact: 51177342 (C 5430)  
 23-10-2018

## EMERGENCY

**112**

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

**1889988**

## Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9



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## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 23/10/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 23/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	FEG	242	Alexandria	14:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	ETD	9890	SGN	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	QTR	8512	Doha	17:45
MSC	415	Sohag	05:00	JZR	1332	Al Najaf	17:45
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
ADB	235F	GML	06:00	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	650	Lahore	18:35
RUN	6376	Istanbul	06:10	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
JZR	123	Bahrain	08:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	543	Cairo	22:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	325	Al Najaf	12:20	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	KAC	795	Madinah	23:00
ETD	995	Abu Dhabi/Bahrain	13:00	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45





Palestinian protesters wave national flags as they stand near burning tyres during a demonstration on the beach near the maritime border with Israel in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. — AFP

# For Trump, midterm elections are about 2020 presidential campaign

WASHINGTON: If you think the US midterms are a rollercoaster, then buckle up, because the 2020 presidential election campaign is tearing right behind - and Donald Trump is in the driver's seat. Even as Americans prepare to vote in Nov 6 midterm congressional polls, Trump is pushing for a head start in his race for reelection in two years. Traveling the country with raucous "Make America Great Again" rallies as often as four times a week, the president is galvanizing his fiercely loyal base in hopes of helping Republican candidates hold on to the House of Representatives and Senate, where they are expected to face a stiff challenge from opposition Democrats.

But the rallies - which feature literally the same music and many of the applause lines as during Trump's surprise 2016 presidential victory run - also mark the beginning of the 2020 campaign. Steve Bannon, Trump's former top adviser and right-wing guru, has called the midterms "President Trump's first re-elect". So even when Trump campaigns for local legislators,

the rallies are still mostly about him and what he sees as his historic accomplishments, ranging from stoking the world's "hottest economy" to expelling "bad people" at the Mexican border. "America," he tells crowds, over and over, "is winning like never before."

Another favorite topic: Democrat-bashing. He drew hoots of approval on Saturday in Elko, Nevada, when he described the opposition party as "an angry, ruthless, unhinged mob" that wants to raise taxes and "impose socialism on our country". A significant extra boost from the rally machine is the constant addition of on-the-ground volunteers and raising of money. With \$106 million of donations already in the 2020 war chest, Trump easily outstrips any current rivals. "100 percent," he replied when asked by Fox Business television if he wants that second term.

#### Disregarding the facts

Despite being a political newcomer, Trump has proven himself a formidable, if unorthodox - and many

would say dirty - fighter. His message, centered on jobs and patriotism, is potent. And his delivery is unique in American politics - combining playground behavior, like boasting and name-calling, with a sometimes brazen, even gleeful disregard of facts. The Democrats, believes Robert Erikson, a Columbia University politics professor, have no obvious solution. "Getting in the mud doesn't work very well, I don't think, and if there's somebody who can rise above it with their majestic stature I don't see who that can be," Erikson said.

Some, however, see the solution to this dilemma more clearly. Former first lady Michelle Obama once said that when Republicans "go low, we go high", but according to Eric Holder, who was Obama's attorney general, that mantra can now be safely ditched. "When they go low, we kick 'em," is his advice for the new era.

#### Catchy insults

Certainly Trump's wasting no time on the high ground, greeting each of his many potential chal-

lengers with fresh, often catchy insults. Leftwing independent Senator Bernie Sanders is "crazy Bernie". Hard-charging Senator Elizabeth Warren is "Pocahontas" for having claimed Native American heritage in her ancestry. Corey Booker, an ambitious black senator from New Jersey, "ran Newark, New Jersey, into the ground". And former vice president Joe Biden - who opinion polls say is best placed to recapture the white working class vote from Trump - comes in for extra mockery. "Crazy Joe Biden is trying to act like a tough guy. Actually, he is weak, both mentally and physically," Trump tweeted, predicting that in a punch-up Biden "would go down fast and hard, crying all the way".

But Erikson points out that neither side can take anything for granted. After all, two years is a long time, and a newcomer - like Trump or Barack Obama before him - can turn the status quo on its head. "At this stage exactly four years ago," Erikson recalls, "Trump wasn't even on the radar as a serious candidate." — AFP

## Congress won't name Gandhi as...

Continued from Page 1

It comes as the party struggles to hold together a so-called "grand alliance" ahead of not only next year's

national vote but a series of state elections this year. Modi, meanwhile, is being buffeted by a jobs crisis and farm distress. An opinion poll by TV channel Times Now predicted in August that nationally Congress would raise its seat count in the lower house of parliament next year to 78 from 44 in 2014. The BJP is projected to continue its lead over other parties, though its seat strength could fall to 227 from 282 at the last election. A party needs to win 272 seats for a simple-majority out of the 543 seats in fray. — Reuters

## Mars likely has enough oxygen...

Continued from Page 1

The gas played a critical role in the emergence of complex life, notable after the so-called Great Oxygenation Event some 2.35 billion years ago. But our planet also harbors microbes - at the bottom of the ocean, in boiling hot springs - that subsist in environments deprived of oxygen. "That's why - whenever we thought of life on Mars - we studied the potential for anaerobic life," Stamenkovic.

The new study began with the discovery by NASA's Curiosity Mars rover of manganese oxides, which are chemical compounds that can only be produced with a lot of oxygen. Curiosity, along with Mars orbiters, also established the presence of brine deposits, with notable

variations in the elements they contained. A high salt content allows for water to remain liquid - a necessary condition for oxygen to be dissolved - at much lower temperatures, making brines a happy place for microbes.

Depending on the region, season and time of day, temperatures on the Red Planet can vary between minus 195 and 20 degrees Celsius. The researchers devised a first model to describe how oxygen dissolves in salty water at temperatures below freezing. A second model estimated climate changes on Mars over the last 20 million years, and over the next 10 million years.

Taken together, the calculations showed which regions on the Red Planet are most likely to produce brine-based oxygen, data that could help determine the placement of future probes. "Oxygen concentrations [on Mars] are orders of magnitude" - several hundred times - "greater than needed by aerobic, or oxygen-breathing - microbes," the study concluded. "Our results do not imply that there is life on Mars," Stamenkovic cautioned. "But they show that the Martian habitability is affected by the potential of dissolved oxygen." — AFP

tion as it seeks to diversify and set the stage for new ventures and multi-billion dollar contracts. But the summit, nicknamed "Davos in the desert", has been overshadowed by growing global outrage over the murder of Khashoggi.

The chief executive of German industrial conglomerate Siemens Joe Kaeser was the latest among dozens of global executives to withdraw from the summit, hosted by the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund. "It's the cleanest decision but not the most courageous one," Kaeser wrote in a post on social network LinkedIn of his choice not to attend FII. "For now, the truth must be found and justice must be served."

But many Western firms have too much at stake to abandon the Arab world's biggest economy, and some are preparing to send lower-level executives to the summit. Senior investment bankers from HSBC and Credit Suisse are planning to attend the conference even though their chief executives have cancelled their attendance, Bloomberg News reported. Companies from China and Russia have shown little interest in withdrawing from the event, an organizer said. — Agencies

## Trump vows aid cuts as migrant...

Continued from Page 1

Senate and House of Representatives. "Remember the Midterms!" Trump wrote in Twitter posts decrying the caravan and attacking Democrats on immigration, as Republicans sought to energize their conservative political base.

Trump, who has taken a hard line toward illegal immigration since taking office last year, also wrote that he had alerted the US military and Border Patrol "that this is a National Emergency," though he did not say what actions he was planning. He also complained that Mexico's police and military "are unable to stop" the caravan.

UN spokesman Farhan Haq said it is estimated that the caravan includes more than 7,000 people, "many of whom intend to continue the march north" toward the United States. At least 5,000 migrants, mostly Honduran, massed late on Sunday in the Mexican city of Tapachula near the Guatemalan border, local police said. About another 1,000 migrants were walking toward them from Ciudad Hidalgo further south, according to a Reuters witness.

In campaigning for Republican candidates last week, Trump highlighted the caravan issue. Trump traveled to Texas, a key border state, later yesterday to campaign for Republican US Senator Ted Cruz, who is seeking re-election. Since Trump became president last year, the United States has already moved to sharply decrease aid to Central America. In 2016, the United States provided some \$131.2 million in aid to Guatemala, \$98.3 million to Honduras, and \$67.9 million to El Salvador, according to US data. By next year, those sums were projected to fall to \$69.4 million for Guatemala, \$65.8 million for Honduras and \$45.7 million for El Salvador. The cuts amount to a reduction of almost 40 percent for the three nations.

Trump was not specific about further aid cuts. Trump also said, without providing evidence, that "Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners" are mixed in with the caravan, a claim immigration advocates disputed. Haq said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke with the presidents of Honduras and Guatemala over the weekend and that an "emergency team" of personnel representing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had been sent to southern Mexico.

Immigration advocacy groups said cutting US aid would be counterproductive to the goal of stemming a flow of migrants, noting that a key purpose of the assistance over the years has been to stabilize countries to make people less apt to leave. Writing in response to

Trump on Twitter, Democratic US Representative Don Beyer said: "Trump and the Republicans have controlled the White House and Congress for the past two years. Anytime he whines about immigration, just remember that they have no real solutions."

Seeking to escape violence and poverty in their home countries, the migrants - men, women and children - have defied threats by Trump that he will close the US-Mexico border if they advanced, as well as warnings from the Mexican government. Most of the migrants were expected to stay in Tapachula through yesterday, according to Mexican police at the scene. Police in riot gear shadowed the caravan's arrival along a southern highway but did not impede the migrants' journey.

The caravan was still a long way - more than 1,800 km - from the US border. Long before it reaches the US border, Mexico hopes to disperse the convoy using bureaucratic procedures, telling migrants to register with authorities in order to submit applications for asylum in Mexico. That process can last weeks, and migrants are supposed to stay where they register while applications are processed. If they violate those rules, they face deportation.

Army Lieutenant Colonel Jamie Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said that while National Guard troops are currently supporting the Department of Homeland Security on the border, the Pentagon had not been asked to provide additional support. There are currently 2,100 National Guard troops along the border in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, according to the Pentagon. White House and Border Patrol representatives did not immediately reply to requests for comment. Congress has not fully funded Trump's proposed wall along the US-Mexican border, which he has argued is needed to combat illegal immigration.

"No one is going to stop us, after all we've gone through," said 21-year-old Aaron Juarez, who was accompanied by his wife and baby and was walking with difficulty because of an injury. Honduran farmer Edwin Geovanni Enamorado said he was forced to leave his country because of intimidation by racketeering gangs. "We are tired, but very happy, we are united and strong," he said. Britany Hernandez added: "We have sunburn. We have blisters. But we got here. Our strength is greater than Trump's threats."

Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador called for fair treatment of the migrants. "We don't want them to face what [Mexicans] face when they need to look for work in the United States," he said on Twitter. Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales said more than 5,000 migrants had entered Guatemala from Honduras, but that some 2,000 had since returned home on a fleet of government-chartered buses. Morales and his Honduran counterpart Juan Orlando Hernandez said after meeting that the march was "violating the borders and the good faith of the states". — Agencies

## Khan says Pak 'desperate' for...

Continued from Page 1

"shocking" death of Khashoggi, a US resident and Washington Post columnist, after he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. "The Saudi government will have to come up with an answer... We wait for whatever the Saudi explanation is," he was quoted as saying. "We hope there is an explanation that satisfies people and those responsible are punished." Khan also called on Washington to abandon its push for new sanctions against Iran, Saudi Arabia's regional rival, saying the move could lead to wider conflict. "The last thing the Muslim world needs is another conflict. The Trump administration is moving towards one," he told the newspaper.

Starting today, the three-day Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh was meant to project the historically insular petro-state as a lucrative business destina-



Sports

# Dodgers seek first World Series crown since '88 against Red Sox

Red Sox, who has a \$240 million payroll, are unbeaten on the road in playoffs

**BOSTON:** A classic showdown between two of Major League Baseball's oldest clubs opens today when the Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers meet to open the 114th World Series. Boston will try to cap a team-record 108-win season with a championship trophy and capture a fourth in 15 seasons and ninth overall starting today at historic Fenway Park.

"It's huge to be able to continue the trend of winning," Boston outfielder Jackie Bradley Jr. said. "You want to be part of something great. Obviously we want to win it all. And we've got to win four more."

The Dodgers chase their first crown in 30 years and seventh overall after losing to Houston in last year's World Series, one win shy of a title. "We've got a tough series against the Red Sox coming up," said Dodgers outfielder Cody Bellinger. "We know how hard it is to make the World Series. To do it two years in a row is really special."

Red Sox star left-hander Chris Sale will pitch the opener despite being hospitalized a week ago with a stomach ailment. Sale went 12-4 with a 2.11 earned-run average this season. Dodgers southpaw Clayton Kershaw, hoping to shatter a history of underperforming in big games, is expected to pitch the opener despite throwing Saturday's last inning in a playoff win at Milwaukee.

It's baseball's first version of the Boston-LA rivalry made famous in NBA Lakers-Celtics 1980s title showdowns and it comes in Fenway Park, the oldest venue in the major leagues dating to 1912, half a century before Dodger Stadium.

The Dodgers, whose history dates to the 1880s and includes a move from Brooklyn to California 60 years ago, and Red Sox, in their 118th campaign, met in the 1916 World Series, which Boston won thanks in part to 13 scoreless innings pitched by legend Babe Ruth in a 2-1 Red Sox victory.

"I think it's great for baseball," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "Two storied franchises going head-to-head. It's going to be a great series."

**GRINDING OUT THE HITS**

The Red Sox, who had a \$240 million payroll, are unbeaten on the road in the playoffs, going 5-0 and outscoring foes 40-13. "Probably the best team in baseball," Dodgers slugger Yasiel Puig said. "They won the most games. But now they are going to have to face us." Boston boasts the two top batters in the major leagues in Mookie Betts, who averaged .346 with 32 home runs and 82 runs batted in, and J.D. Martinez, who averaged .330 with 43 homers and 130 runs batted in. "We take pride in grinding at-bats out," Martinez said. "These guys are great and so fun to be around. I couldn't be happier to go to the World Series with them." The Red Sox had the winningest major league season since 2001 and are a perfect 7-0 when scoring first in post-season games. "That's the best team in the game right now. We respect that. We know they are good," Dodgers closing relief pitcher Kenley Jansen said. "We all stuck together. We never quit. We have one goal and we fell short last year. We just have to play 27 outs and see how it goes."

**MACHADO WILL BE BOOED**

Dodgers shortstop Manny Machado, obtained in a July trade with Baltimore, has a history with Boston fans after injuring Dustin Pedroia in a slide that led to an exchange of batters hit by pitchers on both teams. Controversial slides against Milwaukee made him a villain again this month.

"They are always going to boo the best," Machado said after getting jeers from Brewers fans. Dodgers manager Roberts was traded as a player from Los Angeles to the Red Sox in 2004, when he helped the



MILWAUKEE: File photo shows the Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate after defeating the Milwaukee Brewers in Game Seven to win the National League Championship Series at Miller Park on October 20, 2018 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

club win its first World Series title since 1918.

"I'm looking forward to going back to Fenway," Roberts said. "I have a lot of fond memories of the Red Sox and Fenway Park. To be wearing another uniform going in there playing for a World Series championship

is going to be special for me."

Red Sox manager Alex Cora, who could become only the fifth rookie manager to win a World Series, played with the Dodgers and later helped Boston to the 2007 Series title. — AFP

## Miyahara leads Japanese women's one-two at Skate America

**LOS ANGELES:** Satoko Miyahara won her second straight Skate America title on Sunday, repelling the challenge of compatriot Kaori Sakamoto who took silver at the first event of the 2018-19 ISU Figure Skating Grand Prix.

Miyahara became the first woman to win back-to-back titles at Skate America since South Korean Kim Yu-na in 2008-09. Miyahara, a two-time world championships medalist, had seized control of the event with a stellar short program on Saturday. She claimed the gold with a near flawless free skate that earned 145.85 points for a total of 219.71.

She had to pull out all the stops after Sakamoto, lying second after the short program, skated just before her and threw down a challenge with an accomplished free skate packed with jumps that earned 142.61 points and briefly moved her to the top of the standings.

But Sakamoto's total of 213.90 was, finally, enough only for her second straight Skate America silver. Bronze went to 16-year-old Russian Sofia Samodurova in her senior level Grand Prix debut. Third after the short program, Samodurova skated last-directly after Sakamoto and Miyahara, but produced a bravura performance that earned 134.29 points and put her on the podium with a total of 198.70.

Top US hope Bradie Tennell, fifth after a short program in which she botched a triple Lutz-triple loop



EVERETT: Silver medalist Kaori Sakamoto of Japan, left, poses for a photo with gold medalist Satoko Miyahara of Japan and bronze medalist Sofia Samodurova of Russia on day three of the 2018 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Skate America at Angel of the Winds Arena on Sunday in Everett. — AFP

combination, improved in the free skate, although her fourth place was only enough to bump her up to fourth place overall.

But US fans in Everett, Washington, had home winners to cheer on the final day of competition in Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, the reigning US champions and world runners-up who won the ice dance crown.

2015 and 2016, together with a Rio Olympic silver medal. Then came leaner times. In 2017, Ko endured her first year without an LPGA victory since joining the US-based tour in 2014. There was twice a change of coach and caddie.

But in April this year she snapped that barren spell, taking victory at the LPGA Mediheal Championship in California. She was a modest 17th in the world rankings going into Shanghai, where she finished in a seven-way tie for runner-up, two strokes behind the winner Danielle Kang of the United States.

"The things that happened when I was a teenager, I was very fortunate about," said Ko, who feels that the level of women's golf is getting higher every year. "Sometimes you can get too carried away by the things that happened or worry about what's in front of you. 'I can only focus on the now.'"

**'EMBRACE IT'**

Ko may have been in the public eye for six years now, but it is easy to forget that she is still barely into adulthood having already amassed career earnings of nearly \$10 million.

For anybody tempted to write her off as already past her best, she reminds that golf is a sport that lends itself to long careers.

"In golf, you are not just trying to play for tomorrow, you are trying to play for the next 10 years or so," said Ko, who was five when she first swung a club. "You've got to move on and improve the things that need to be worked on," added the Kiwi, who happily signed autographs with cake still smeared on her face after Taiwan's Hsu Wei-ling playfully rubbed it on her cheek.

Ko's mantra-formed after speaking to All Black rugby star Israel Dagg-is "just embrace it". It is not something she feels she did in the past, when success came so fast, so young. "Then I felt like there were a lot of high moments for me, a lot of things happened and I



Lydia Ko

was, 'Oh my... Wow!'

"Now if those things happened, maybe I would be able to embrace it a bit more." It is a message that she is keen to pass on to other young sports stars saddled with the same "phenom" title that she once carried on her teenage shoulders. "I would say embrace it and everything is a learning curve and a learning experience," she said. "I am always trying to learn." — AFP

## Hamilton waits for F1 title as Raikkonen wins US Grand Prix

**AUSTIN:** Lewis Hamilton was forced to wait for a fifth world title when he finished third at the US Grand Prix on Sunday as Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took a first victory in more than five years. Title rival Sebastian Vettel in another Ferrari was fourth meaning the championship race will probably be decided in Mexico next weekend instead.

Hamilton now leads Vettel by 70 points and with 75 remaining in the final three races he can clinch his fifth title by finishing seventh in Mexico, if Vettel wins. If Vettel fails to win, Hamilton will be champion. Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second on Sunday after starting in 18th place. "Congratulations to Kimi, and great job from Max too. This was the best we could do today, and it was great that we got to do some racing," said Hamilton who had started on pole position and was looking for a sixth win at the Circuit of the Americas.

Raikkonen, whose last win was at the 2013 Australian Grand Prix, was deadpan. "Obviously I'm much happier than finishing second. It's been a great weekend and the car has been pretty good all the time," said the 39-year-old Finn.

Raikkonen, who will leave Ferrari for Sauber at the end of the season, claimed the lead on the opening lap and rode his luck in a strategic and tactical race to claim the 21st victory of his career. It was his first win in 113 races, the longest period between wins in F1 history, breaking the previous record held by Italian Riccardo Patrese.

Raikkonen came home 1.3 seconds ahead of Verstappen with Hamilton finishing a further second adrift after failing to battle past the Dutchman in the final laps. Vettel recovered from an opening lap spin to keep his slender title hopes alive.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was fifth ahead of Nico Hulkenberg and his Renault team-mate Carlos Sainz. Esteban Ocon of Force India came home eighth ahead of Kevin Magnussen of Haas and Sergio Perez in the second Force India.

On a warm sunlit day, Hamilton made a clean getaway from pole, but was unable to resist Raikkonen's surge up the hill on the inside line into Turn One. The Finn claimed the lead, but delight on the Ferrari pit wall was quickly dimmed when Vettel, having attacked and passed Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo under braking spun at Turn 13 after the pair had clashed.

Vettel recovered and rejoined in 15th place, but his slim hopes of keeping alive his title challenge appeared reduced to near invisible. After the chaotic flurry of first lap action, which included several collisions further back in the field, the luckless Ricciardo retired again with an engine failure, parking his car at the start of the back straight.

A Virtual Safety Car was signalled. Unexpectedly, Ferrari did not call in Vettel and it was Hamilton who was the first of the leaders to come in for new tyres on lap 11. A few rapid laps later, Hamilton passed his team-mate who eased over to him a clear run at Turn One in pursuit of Raikkonen.

By lap 20, Raikkonen was struggling to resist Hamilton who closed within a tenth of a second, but he held him at bay until he pitted on lap 22. This left Hamilton leading before Verstappen pitted for super-softs, a move that enabled him to jump ahead of Bottas, when the Finn came in a lap later. — AFP

## Golf 'phenomenon' Ko keen to move on from teenage wonder years

**SHANGHAI:** Lydia Ko made global sporting headlines in 2012 when as a bespectacled 15-year-old amateur she triumphed at the Canadian Women's Open, becoming the youngest winner of an LPGA Tour event.

But spectators in Shanghai, where she finished tied second in the inaugural Buick LPGA event on Sunday, could have been forgiven for failing to recognise the Seoul-born New Zealander. Now 21 and with the glasses long-since ditched in favour of contact lenses, Ko has dyed her hair blond and by her own admission lost weight over the past year.

Is the new look-she first sported the striking hair colour two weeks ago-an attempt to break with the past? "If I keep comparing myself to when I was player of the year or I was doing this, that or other things, it makes it so much harder," the good-natured Ko told AFP in Shanghai.

"Rather than say, 'Hey, oh my god, I did this then, I'm just not up to that standard'... I'm just trying to play the best golf I can currently and I think that's a better mindset to put myself in." Ko's stunning win in Canada was the start of a run that saw her surge to number one in the world at 17, the youngest to do so in men's or women's golf.

In 2014, Ko was named by Time magazine as one of its 100 most influential people, and majors followed in



## Sports

# Kings spoil Westbrook debut, Nuggets hold off Warriors

## Harris scores 23 points to help host Los Angeles defeat Houston

### NBA results/standings

Cleveland 111, Atlanta 133; LA Clippers 115, Houston 112; Denver 100, Golden State 98; Oklahoma City 120, Sacramento 131.

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	PCT	W	L	GB
Milwaukee	100.0	2	2	-
Detroit	100.0	2	2	0
Toronto	100.0	3	3	0.5
Boston	66.7	3	2	0.5
Charlotte	66.7	3	2	0.5
Indiana	66.7	3	2	0.5
Philadelphia	66.7	3	2	0.5
New York	33.3	3	1	1.5
Orlando	33.3	3	1	1.5
Brooklyn	33.3	3	1	1.5
Miami	33.3	3	1	1.5
Atlanta	33.3	3	1	1.5
Washington	0.0	2	0	2
Chicago	0.0	2	0	2
Cleveland	0.0	3	0	2.5

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

New Orleans	100.0	2	2	-
Portland	100.0	2	2	0
Denver	100.0	3	3	0.5
LA Clippers	66.7	3	2	0.5
Golden State	66.7	3	2	0.5
Phoenix	50.0	2	1	1
Utah	50.0	2	1	1
San Antonio	50.0	2	1	1
Memphis	50.0	2	1	1
Dallas	50.0	2	1	1
Minnesota	33.3	3	1	1.5
Houston	33.3	3	1	1.5
Sacramento	33.3	3	1	1.5
LA Lakers	0.0	2	0	2
Oklahoma City	0.0	3	0	2.5

**OKLAHOMA:** Yogi Ferrell stole the ball from Russell Westbrook and scored a buzzer-beating layup at the end of the first half, capping a flurry that helped the Sacramento Kings build a double-digit lead en route to a 131-120 victory over the host Oklahoma City Thunder on Sunday night. Ferrell's hoop capped a personal five-point burst in the final 10.3 seconds of the second period and a 15-4 Sacramento run to finish the half. The surge gave the Kings a lead they never relinquished on their way to snapping a season-opening, two-game losing streak. Westbrook, making his season debut following offseason knee surgery, had 32 points for the Thunder (0-3). Oklahoma City was playing its home opener following road losses against Golden State and the Los Angeles Clippers. Sacramento's Iman Shumpert finished with a team-high 26 points while De'Aaron Fox contributed 22 points and 10 assists. Paul George had 29 points for the Thunder, who got 10 points and 14 boards from Steven Adams.

#### NUGGETS 100, WARRIORS 98

Gary Harris scored 28 points, Juancho Hernangomez blocked Damian Jones' last-second layup, and host Denver beat Golden State to improve to a Western Conference-best 3-0. Nikola Jokic had 23 points and 11 rebounds for Denver, which won despite missing 18 free throws and shooting 6-for-32 from the 3-point arc. Stephen Curry scored 30 points and Kevin Durant had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Warriors, who rallied from 13 down but couldn't force overtime. The defending NBA champions had won their previous two game this season.

#### CLIPPERS 115, ROCKETS 112

Tobias Harris scored 23 points and Danilo Gallinari added 20 to help host Los Angeles defeat Houston. Montrezl Harrell recorded 17 points and 10 rebounds as the Clippers won their second straight game since losing their season opener. Lou Williams and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 12 points apiece for Los Angeles, which made all 26 of its free-throw attempts.



**OKLAHOMA CITY:** Willie Cauley-Stein #00 of the Sacramento Kings shoots the ball against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Sunday at Chesapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. — AFP

James Harden had 31 points and 14 assists but missed a tying 3-pointer at the buzzer as the Rockets lost for the second time in three games. Rockets played without point guard Chris Paul, who served the first of a two-game suspension for his role in Saturday's scrap with the Los Angeles Lakers.

#### HAWKS 133, CAVALIERS 111

Rookie Trae Young scored a career-high 35 points to help Atlanta prevail at Cleveland for its first win of

the season. The win also marked the first victory in three attempts for first-year Atlanta coach Lloyd Pierce. Atlanta, which had lost 15 of its past 19 games against Cleveland, broke a three-game losing streak to the Cavs. Cleveland fell to 0-3 on the season. Young was 13-for-23 from the field, hitting 6 of 14 3-point attempts, and had 11 assists. Kent Bazemore added 23 points for the Hawks. Jordan Clarkson paced Cleveland with 19 points while Kevin Love contributed 16 points and 17 rebounds. — Reuters

## Home of Malaysian cricket under closure threat

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's top cricket stadium, which has hosted some of the game's greats, may have to be abandoned after a property developer decided to turf out the sport's local governing body, an official said yesterday. The Kinrara Oval, which was built in 2003 and has hosted one-day internationals featuring India, Australia and the West Indies, and Under-19 World Cup games, sits on a plot of prime land west of the capital Kuala Lumpur. But the Malaysian Cricket Association's lease has expired and they have been told to leave by the end of the month to make way for a new development, according to the group's secretary Mohammed Iqbal Ali Kassim Ali. "It will be a sad day if we lose the Kinrara Oval," he told AFP of the ground on which the legendary Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar scored a sparkling unbeaten 141 against the West Indies in an ODI in September 2006.

"It is a world class, iconic pitch. We want the ground to remain the home of Malaysian cricket." The association has mounted a campaign to try to save the oval, and the International Cricket Council (ICC) at the weekend threw its weight behind the effort.

"Cricket in Malaysia is flourishing with the number of players in all age groups growing... and we are hopeful a sustainable solution can be found," David Richardson, the ICC chief executive said in a statement.



**KUALA LUMPUR:** The general view shows Malaysia's cricket stadium, Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Malaysia's top cricket stadium, which has hosted some of the game's greats, may have to be abandoned after a property developer decided to turf out the sport's local governing body, an official said yesterday. — AFP

"The ICC will continue to support Malaysia Cricket and hopes the Kinrara Oval will remain an international cricket venue." The Pakistan women's team are currently playing Australia's women in a one-day international series at the stadium.

It is not clear what the property company that owns the land plans to build on the site, which is surrounded by residential developments. The cricket association

met with the sports minister last week to press their case and Iqbal said he has also written to Prime minister Mahathir Mohamad.

"We have been engaging with the developer for a long, long time," he said. "We had hoped it could be resolved behind close doors." While cricket is growing fast in Malaysia, it remains less popular than other sports, such as badminton and football. — AFP

## New Davis Cup to look to next generation of tennis talent

**MADRID:** The Davis Cup can succeed even without the likes of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal as the reformed tournament will target a new generation of tennis stars, the International Tennis Federation's chief operating officer has said.

Gerard Pique, the Barcelona defender and president of Kosmos, who are promoting an updated version of the 118-year-old competition, was optimistic last week when asked about the participation of Nadal, Federer and Novak Djokovic.

There were also caveats, however, that all seem likely to materialise. Pique said Djokovic would play if there was no conflict with the ATP, who are yet to back down over plans to hold their own World Team Cup in January.

Nadal's involvement apparently relies on his fitness but the 32-year-old's body is at its most vulnerable at the end of the season. He has withdrawn from six of the last 14 ATP Finals due to physical issues.

For Federer, Pique insisted the "door remains open" but the Swiss is the least likely of the three to take part, given how selectively he manages his schedule these days. It leaves the ITF, who run the Davis Cup, looking beyond the sport's most celebrated male trio, and ahead to the next generation.

"That's one of things we want to do," said ITF chief operating officer Kelly Fairweather. — AFP

## Herath to retire after first Test against England

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's left-arm bowler Rangana Herath is retiring earlier than expected and will bid farewell after next month's opening Test against England in Galle, the cricket board announced yesterday.

Herath, 40, was expected to bow out at the conclusion of England's three-Test tour, but he will now call it quits from international cricket at the same ground where he made his Test debut against Australia in 1999.

"We respect and support Rangana's decision even though his retirement will be a big loss for Sri Lanka Cricket," the Sri Lankan board said. "We wish to thank him for the invaluable contribution he has made."

Herath has played 92 Tests, taking 430 wickets-making him Sri Lanka's second most prolific bowler behind Muttiah Muralitharan, who holds the all-time world record of 800. His last ODI appearance was in Wellington against England in March 2015. The first Test against England starts on November 6. — AFP



**Rangana Herath**

## England, Australia boards dismiss spot-fixing allegations

**LONDON:** Allegations of spot-fixing by English cricketers have been dismissed by the England and Wales Cricket Board's Integrity Team and Cricket Australia. The Al Jazeera television network said it had uncovered evidence of corruption in international cricket, including "a small group" of England players in seven matches between 2010 and 2012.

Unnamed Australia and Pakistan players were also accused by the broadcaster in a documentary broadcast on Sunday. "Whilst the limited information we have been given by Al Jazeera is poorly prepared and lacks clarity and corroboration, it has been properly assessed," the ECB said in a statement.

"Analysis of this by the ECB Integrity Team has cast no doubt on the integrity or behaviour of any England player, current or former. "The ECB takes its responsibilities on anti-corruption and preserving the integrity of cricket very seriously.

"The materials we have been given have been referred to the ICC's Anti-Corruption unit and we will continue to work with them, as is the correct procedure for protecting the game." Spot-fixing occurs when players agree to manipulate part of a match by, for example, bowling a wide on a particular delivery or ensuring a particular run rate.

The corruption does not usually affect the overall outcome of the match but gamblers in the know can use the information to beat the betting market. Cricket Australia's outgoing chief executive James Sutherland said it took "a zero-tolerance approach" to any attempts to compromise the integrity of the game. The CA integrity unit had reviewed the claims, he added in a statement. "Our team have not identified any issues of corruption by any current or former player," he said. "The materials we have been given have been referred to the ICC's Anti-Corruption unit and we will continue to work with them in order to ensure the integrity of the game.

"We urge Al Jazeera to provide all un-edited materials and any other evidence to the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit." The Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) were even more forthright, with their chief executive Alistair Nicholson saying players had had enough of "unsupported accusations".

"The players are sick and tired of being subject to accusations without the proper evidence to substantiate it," he added. The International Cricket Council has previously hit out at Al Jazeera for failing to share unedited footage from their investigations into corruption in cricket.

"We will again take the contents of the programme and any allegations it may make seriously and will investigate fully," said Alex Marshall, the general manager of the global governing body's anti-corruption unit. "The investigation into these allegations has already commenced and will run alongside a number of other live unrelated investigations. When considering the claims, we will work with professional independent betting analysts. "As with the first programme we have, and will continue to ask for the cooperation of the broadcaster." — Reuters



Sports

# Lopetegui on the brink as Madrid seek morale-boosting win over Plzen

## Lopetegui has been charged with papering over the cracks

MADRID: Real Madrid's players may have offered a show of public support to Julen Lopetegui but fail to win at home against Viktoria Plzen today and their words will mean very little. "Julen has the backing of the entire team," Sergio Ramos said after Madrid's 2-1 loss to Levante on Saturday, their fourth defeat in five games and third in a row. "We are with him to the death," said Marcelo. Three months into the season, there are few obvious alternatives if the club's president Florentino Perez decides to wield the axe. Santiago Solari, coach of Castilla, Real Madrid's B team, could take charge in the short-term but the troubled search for a suitable coach in the summer would not appear much smoother now.

Mauricio Pochettino, Jurgen Klopp and Max Allegri would all be near-impossible to sign mid-season, while Joachim Low is still attached to Germany. Antonio Conte is out of work but there is an issue with the Italian's style of play, not to mention any legal wranglings around his compensation package with Chelsea. Arsene Wenger would be fascinating but high-risk.

For Lopetegui to call off the search, victory is surely essential at the Santiago Bernabeu against Plzen, the Czech team that have only won two Champions League matches in their history.

Then avoiding defeat to Barcelona, who will be without the injured Lionel Messi, could buy him a trio of theoretically kinder fixtures against Melilla in the Copa del Rey, Real Valladolid in the league and Plzen again in the Czech Republic. Win those, and the outlook might look more rosy.

Amid the sprawl of disapproving headlines on Sunday, Diario AS ran an online poll: who is more guilty, the club's coach or president? Just over 80,000 replies were credited - almost 17,000 more than had attended the Santiago Bernabeu the day before - and 86 per cent of them answered Perez.

There were whistles after the loss to Levante and a

scattering of swinging white handkerchiefs too. But the atmosphere was marked more by deflation than disgust. At the end, as his players hunched on their knees, Lopetegui stood on the touchline, staring into space.

Lopetegui is on the brink - he may well not make the Clasico on Sunday - but there is a sense this "mega crisis", as termed by Barcelona's Mundo Deportivo, has been a long-time coming. In July, days after Cristiano Ronaldo had left for Juventus, Perez defended his recruitment strategy, saying: "Madrid is strengthening its search for young players that will become the next great players of the sport."

By the end of the summer, they had signed Vinicius, the 18-year-old striker from Flamengo, Alvaro Odriozola, a 22-year-old right back from Real Sociedad, and Mariano Diaz, who returned after a decent season with Lyon. Only Thibaut Courtois could be considered a star, and he was joining a club that already had UEFA's goalkeeper of the season.

One theory goes that Perez is keeping the treasury full in preparation for a fresh tilt for Neymar next summer. It might explain too why a move for Eden Hazard has never been pushed through.

In the meantime, Zinedine Zidane and now, Lopetegui, have been charged with papering over the cracks. Zidane managed it, spectacularly, by winning in Europe, although if Michael Oliver had not puffed his whistle for a borderline 98th-minute penalty against Juventus, Madrid would have been out in the last 16. In La Liga, they finished 17 points behind Barcelona.

Three Champions League titles in a row is no fluke, just as two interventions from the Video Assistant Referee were not the sole reason Madrid lost at home to Levante for the first time in 11 years.

Defensive mistakes, panicky finishing and stodgy build-up all reflected badly on Lopetegui, who made matters worse by leaving Gareth Bale and Karim



MADRID: Real Madrid's Spanish coach Julen Lopetegui (C) attends a training session at the Valdebebas training ground in Madrid yesterday on the eve of the UEFA Champions' League football match Real Madrid CF against FC Viktoria Plzen. —AFP

Benzema on the bench. Both endured fitness issues over the international break but were excellent in the second half. By then, it was too late.

"I believe in this team more than ever," Lopetegui said. Only one of the last six Madrid coaches to preside over

three consecutive defeats was not sacked afterwards. That was Bernd Schuster, whose team had put their feet up after winning the title in 2008. Lopetegui has far less credit in the bank. Perez's period of austerity is coming home to roost. — AFP

## English teen stars Sancho, Nelson shine in Germany

BERLIN: They may be struggling with the language, but when it comes to playing football in Germany, English teenagers Jadon Sancho and Reiss Nelson are making themselves perfectly understood.

The 18-year-olds have both seized their chances in the Bundesliga and are expected to play key roles in the Champions League this week. Sancho joined Borussia Dortmund in August 2017, rejecting a contract extension at Manchester City, while Nelson is on loan at Hoffenheim from Arsenal.

Both admit playing in a foreign country presents particular challenges, not least the German language. Sancho conducts his interviews in English but admits he's "working on my German" while Nelson has the advantage of having a German father.

"I've settled in well and I'm enjoying it. My dad is German too, from near Munich, so I knew what to expect and I'm learning the language with an app-it's going well," explained Nelson.

He has plenty of family support in his new surroundings-his mother, sister and brother all temporarily moved to Germany to help him settle in. "Sinsheim is a little village where everyone loves football," he told the Daily Mail recently.

Fresh from winning his first cap for England, Sancho opened the scoring for German league leaders Dortmund in Saturday's 4-0 thrashing of Stuttgart. Sancho should keep his place against Atletico Madrid for Wednesday's Group A showdown in the Champions League, but was quick to acknowledge the first-team opportunities Dortmund give him.

"Honestly, them giving me opportunities at such a young age, I just have to thank the club and all my family that have been behind me from the start," Sancho told Sky. "I am really happy to be part of this team and just have to keep working hard in training."

Sancho has dazzled with six assists and two goals in the Bundesliga, forging a potent partnership with Germany star Marco Reus.

### ATLETICO TEST

Not to be outdone, Nelson netted with a volley, then claimed a superb second goal from a tight angle in Hoffenheim's 3-1 win at Nuremberg on Saturday. His performance suggests he will also play against Lyon today. His Bundesliga brace capped a brilliant week for Nelson, who also scored with a free-kick for England



DORTMUND: In this file photo taken on October 3, 2018 Dortmund's English midfielder Jadon Sancho chases the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group A football match BVB Borussia Dortmund v AS Monaco in Dortmund, western Germany. English teenagers Jadon Sancho and Reiss Nelson are set to showcase in Europe this week what the Premier League is missing after dazzling for their German clubs over the weekend. — AFP

Under-21s against Scotland after netting as a sub in a 7-0 thrashing of Andorra.

The first-team exposure Sancho and Nelson are enjoying is payback for the gamble they took on the Bundesliga. Sancho recently extended his Dortmund contract until 2022, which has no release clause.

"It's going to be a big game for us," said Sancho before the Atletico clash with both Dortmund and Madrid having won their first two games. "We'll give it our best." Nelson and Sancho are just the latest English imports to German football after Ademola Lookman, 21, spent last season at RB Leipzig and Reece Oxford, 19, was at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

In previous generations, the likes of Kevin Keegan, Owen Hargreaves, Mark Hughes, Paul Lambert and Tony Woodcock all enjoyed successful spells for British players in Germany. Nelson has four goals in four Bundesliga appearances having signed a five-year deal with Arsenal before heading on loan to Hoffenheim.

"A loan wasn't always my first option, but when I heard the Bundesliga and Hoffenheim was an option for me and working with the manager (Julian Nagelsmann) there, it was something I wanted to do,"

Real return would interest him at Old Trafford yesterday, highlighting that he signed an extended contract just this year till 2020. "No, I'm happy here. I'm happy to see my contract out to the very last day of that contract and I would like to stay after my contract ends," said Mourinho. "All I'm thinking about is Manchester United."

Ronaldo is returning to Old Trafford for just the second time since he left United to join Madrid for a world record fee in 2009. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner made his name in Manchester, but showed no mercy on his last visit when he and Mourinho teamed up to dump United out of the Champions League in 2013.

And Mourinho is well aware of the challenge he faces in setting up a defence that has conceded 16 times in the Premier League already this season to stop the top scorer in the Champions League for the past six seasons. "He is one of the best players of all time," added Mourinho. "It's as simple as that."

After winning seven straight Italian titles, Juventus splashed 112 million euros (\$129 million) on a 33-year-old Ronaldo to take them one step further in Europe and deliver a first Champions League title for 23 years.

And Mourinho believes Italian champions are the favourites to win this year's competition. "For the last five

Nelson told The FA's website. "Julian's a great manager and he's got belief in young players so it's a good place for me to go and play. "It was hard to leave my boy-hood club Arsenal, but I know I have to put that on hold and go and play abroad to get some experience in Germany."

Nelson's arrival in Sinsheim coincided with the end of Germany winger Serge Gnabry's loan from Bayern Munich. "What he (Nelson) brings with his tempo and his one-on-one ability, we didn't have so much of that in the squad," said Nagelsmann.

"Reiss is a player whose qualities can be compared to those of Serge Gnabry, but just not so well developed." Nelson arrived in Hoffenheim with glowing references. Former Arsenal defender Martin Keown says Nelson has "the sort of touches you often see or associate with a Neymar or a real top player". After Sancho made the step up to the senior English team, Nelson hopes to follow as England manager Gareth Southgate is clearly keeping an eye on Germany.

"Gareth has made it clear that the pathway is there so if you're young and you're good, he'll give you a chance," said Nelson. "I'm trying to get in there and do my magic." — AFP

years or so they've been real contenders to win the title. They've been to a couple of finals, they've won Scudetti on the trot and they have a really special player, who makes a real difference as well. "As far as I'm concerned, Juventus are more than just a contender this season to win the Champions League."

Mourinho was encouraged by his side's second-half reaction in coming from behind in a 2-2 against Chelsea on Saturday, despite the disappointment of conceding a 96th-minute equaliser.

And Romelu Lukaku called on United to start games with the same intensity they have finished in recent weeks having also turned around a 2-0 deficit to beat Newcastle 3-2 before the international break.

"The first half we just started slow. No initiative on the ball and no movement," said the Belgian striker. "Then in the second half we did everything we said we wanted to do in the first half. We do it always in the second half and that's why we come back to get great results."

"But now the key is to start games how we start them in the second half, and maintain it as much as we can." Both sides have been dealt injury blows with Alexis Sanchez missing for United, while Juventus travelled without Sami Khedira and Mario Mandzukic. — AFP

Matches on TV	
(Local Timings)	
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
AEK Athens v Bayern Munich	19:55
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
BSC Young Boys v Valencia	19:55
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Ajax Amsterdam v SL Benfica	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Manchester United v Juventus FC	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Shakhtar Donetsk v Manchester City	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
AS Roma v SKA Moscow	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Real Madrid CF v FC Viktoria Plzen	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
TSG 1899 Hoffenheim v Olympique Lyonnais	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	

## Bolt 'offered cut-price deal' in Australia

SYDNEY: Australia's Central Coast Mariners have offered sprint superstar Usain Bolt a contract, reports said yesterday, but the club's coach said he knows nothing about it.

The eight-time Olympic champion has been on trial with the A-League side since arriving in August to fulfil his dream of becoming a professional footballer. He scored two goals in a pre-season friendly last week and on Thursday turned down a two-year, trial-free deal from cashed-up Maltese champions Valletta.

"I can confirm Usain has been offered a contract by Central Coast Mariners," the Jamaican's agent Ricky Simms told the BBC. The club had no immediate comment on Monday, but Sydney's Daily Telegraph said he had been offered only a fraction of the Aus\$3 million (US\$2.1 million) that his management had discussed months ago when the prospect of a trial was first mooted.

The newspaper said the potential deal put together in May-on the premise of Bolt passing a trial first-was based on Football Federation Australia contributing Aus\$750,000 and other sponsors also topping it up.

Mariners owner Mike Charlesworth had initially pledged Aus\$1.5 million, but the deal now offered to the sprinter was much less than this, it added. The 100m world-record holder, who retired from athletics last year, has previously tried out with clubs in Germany, South Africa and Norway.

The 32-year-old's form so far has been criticised by several pundits, but his two goals captured the imagination of the sporting public. Club coach Mike Mulvey said he had heard nothing of an offer, and cast doubt on whether Bolt, who likes to play up front, would make the grade given the quality of players he already has at his disposal.

"You have a look at our front line today and you wonder whether he could get into any of those positions. Wouldn't you?" Mulvey said after the team drew their opening A-League game of the season 1-1 away to Brisbane Roar on Sunday.

"I do appreciate how important this story is for the rest of the world. You're just talking about speculation. I don't know anything about what you're talking about and that's God's honest truth."

The Mariners boast Aston Villa striker Ross McCormack on their payroll, after the Scottish international agreed a season-long loan deal. They also have Tommy Oar, who has played 28 times for the Socceroos, along with Connor Pain, who cleverly scored their goal on Sunday. — AFP

## Mourinho bats off Real return to focus on stopping Ronaldo

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho gave short shrift when quizzed on the possibility of a sensational return to Real Madrid as he prepares for a reunion with one of his old pupils, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Juventus in the Champions League today.

A run of five games without a win has left Real boss Julen Lopetegui on the brink of the sack just four months after accepting the thankless task of replacing Zinedine Zidane at the Bernabeu after three straight Champions League titles. Mourinho's future at United is also in doubt with the Red Devils languishing in 10th in the Premier League, nine points off rivals Manchester City and Liverpool, just nine games into the new season.

However, the Portuguese batted away a series of questions from Spanish and Italian journalists on whether a



**25** Miyahara leads Japanese women's one-two at Skate America



**26** Herath to retire after first Test against England



**27** English teen stars Sancho, Nelson shine in Germany



## Panthers defeat champion Eagles 21-17

Mahomes tosses 4 TD passes as Chiefs blast Bengals



PHILADELPHIA: Quarterback Carson Wentz #11 of the Philadelphia Eagles is sacked by linebacker Luke Kuechly #59 of the Carolina Panthers during the fourth quarter at Lincoln Financial Field on Sunday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The play was reviewed. The Carolina Panthers won 21-17. — AFP

**PHILADELPHIA:** Cam Newton threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to tight end Greg Olsen with 1:22 remaining as the Carolina Panthers completed the biggest comeback in franchise history to defeat the host Philadelphia Eagles 21-17 on Sunday afternoon. The Panthers (4-2) were dominated for the first three quarters before scoring three touchdowns in a 9 1/2-minute span after punting on all their other possessions. They overcame a 17-0 deficit in the fourth quarter after never previously escaping more than a 10-point, fourth-quarter hole. Newton finished 25 of 39 for 269 yards and two touchdown passes in leading the comeback. Philadelphia's final possession ended at the Carolina 14-yard line on a failed fourth down. Carson Wentz threw two touchdown passes and directed the Eagles (3-4) on time-consuming drives that appeared to put them in ideal shape. Wentz completed 30 of 37 passes for 310 yards. He had a stretch when he completed a career-best 15 consecutive passes.

**RAMS 39, 49ERS 10**

Todd Gurley rushed for two touchdowns and caught a 12-yard pass for a third score, helping Los Angeles go 7-0 for the first time since 1985 with a romp over San Francisco in Santa Clara, Calif. Jared Goff threw two TD passes. Greg Zuerlein kicked three field goals, and the Los Angeles defense forced four San Francisco turnovers, leading the Rams to a road win in the California rivalry for the second consecutive season. Aaron Donald had four sacks and six tackles for loss. George Kittle led all receivers with 98 yards on five receptions and caught a 10-yard touchdown pass for San Francisco (1-6).

**SAINTS 24, RAVENS 23**

Drew Brees engineered two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, and Baltimore kicker Justin Tucker missed his first career extra point with 24 seconds left to allow visiting New Orleans to escape with a victory. Brees, who had not beaten the Ravens (4-3) in four previous games in his 18 NFL seasons, brought the Saints (5-1) back with consecutive touchdowns and drives. Brees completed 22 of 30 passes for 212 yards and two touchdowns, including the 500th of his career. Flacco hit John Brown for a 14-yard touchdown to make it 24-23 in the last minute. However, with just a

PAT needed to force overtime, Tucker pushed the kick wide right.

**PATRIOTS 38, BEARS 31**

Tom Brady tossed three touchdown passes, and New England held on at Chicago when the Bears' late Hail Mary attempt came up a yard short. Brady completed 25 of 36 passes for 277 yards with two touchdown passes to James White and one to Julian Edelman with one interception. New England (5-2) added two special teams touchdowns thanks to a 95-yard kickoff return by Cordarrelle Patterson and a 29-yard blocked punt return by Kyle Van Noy. Mitchell Trubisky completed 26 of 50 passes for 333 yards, two touchdowns and two picks for Chicago (3-3). Trubisky and Jordan Howard each rushed for a score, while Tarik Cohen and Trey Burton each hauled in touchdown passes.

**REDSKINS 20, COWBOYS 17**

Brett Maher's 52-yard field goal attempt hit the left upright as time expired, and Washington held on to beat visiting Dallas. Adrian Peterson rushed for 99 yards as the Redskins (4-2), who have won back-to-back games for the first time this season, increased their lead in the NFC East. Dak Prescott went in from a yard out with 1:37 left to pull Dallas within 20-17. After the Redskins' three-and-out, the Cowboys (3-4) drove to the Washington 29. Maher lined up for a 47-yard field goal, but a snap infraction pushed Dallas back 5 yards. Maher's ensuing kick hit the goal post.

**BUCCANEERS 26, BROWNS 23 (OT)**

After missing a chance to win the game in regulation when his 40-yard attempt sailed wide right as time expired, Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 59-yard field goal with 1:50 left in overtime to lift Tampa Bay over visiting Cleveland. The Buccaneers (3-3) won despite committing four turnovers and allowing a safety. The Browns (2-4-1) participated in their fourth overtime game of the season. Cleveland committed just one turnover, but it was costly as Jabrill Peppers fumbled a punt return in overtime to hand the ball back to the Buccaneers and Jameis Winston. The Bucs were able to gain only 7 yards in six plays, but that

was enough for Catanzaro to earn redemption with the game-winning kick.

**CHIEFS 45, BENGALS 10**

Patrick Mahomes authoritatively recovered from his first defeat as an NFL quarterback, passing for 358 yards and four touchdowns as Kansas City trounced visiting Cincinnati. Bouncing back from a last-second loss in prime time against New England, the Chiefs (6-1) built a 17-point halftime lead, scored on five of their first six possessions and totaled 551 yards. Kareem Hunt scored three touchdowns and finished with 86 yards rushing and five yards receiving on 20 total touches. A.J. Green had seven catches for 117 yards to lead the Bengals (4-3).

**LIONS 32, DOLPHINS 21**

Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes to tight end Michael Roberts as Detroit won at Miami. Rookie running back Kerryon Johnson also starred for Detroit (3-3), rushing 19 times for 158 yards. Matt Prater was perfect on four field-goal attempts, including a 50-yarder with two minutes left to ice the victory as the Lions won their second straight. Miami (4-3) was without starting quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who missed his second consecutive game due to a shoulder injury.

**TEXANS 20, JAGUARS 7**

Jadeveon Clowney posted a pair of sacks while Tyrann Mathieu recorded a late interception as Houston extended its winning streak to four games with a dominating defensive performance at Jacksonville. The Texans (4-3) took over sole possession of first place in the AFC South by limiting the Jaguars (3-4) to 259 total yards. Jacksonville dropped its third consecutive game, was held scoreless in the first half for a third straight week and benched quarterback Blake Bortles in the third quarter. Bortles fumbled twice on scrambling attempts, and the Texans converted both of his turnovers into 10 points. Cody Kessler completed 21 of 30 attempts for 156 yards in relief of Bortles, who went 6 for 12 for 61 yards. Kessler was sacked four times.

**CHARGERS 20, TITANS 19**

Philip Rivers tossed two long touchdown passes, and

quick-strike Los Angeles survived a late challenge by Tennessee for a tight victory at Wembley Stadium in London. Rivers found Tyrell Williams for a 75-yard touchdown on the Chargers' first play from scrimmage and fired a 55-yard TD to a wide-open Mike Williams on the third play of the second half. It was the fourth straight win for the Chargers (5-2) and the third straight loss for the Titans (3-4). Trailing by one with 31 seconds left, Tennessee scored and coach Mike Vrabel elected to go for a two-point conversion and the win. Mariota's pass to Tajae Sharpe was incomplete, but a defensive holding penalty gave him another shot. However, his pass to Taywan Taylor was tipped and fell incomplete.

**Vikings 37, Jets 17**

Kirk Cousins threw two touchdowns. Latavius Murray rushed for two more, and Minnesota defeated New York in East Rutherford, N.J. Cousins completed 25 of 40 passes for 241 yards. Murray gained 69 yards on 15 carries. Adam Thielen, the NFL's leading receiver, caught nine passes for 110 yards and a touchdown, becoming the first player in the Super Bowl era to open a season with seven consecutive 100-yard games. Dan Bailey made three of four field goal tries as Minnesota (4-2-1) collected its third straight victory. New York rookie Sam Darnold completed just 17 of 42 pass attempts for 206 yards. He threw a touchdown pass but was picked off three times for the Jets (3-4), who won their previous two games.

**COLTS 37, BILLS 5**

Andrew Luck threw four touchdown passes and Adam Vinatieri moved within five points of the NFL's all-time scoring record during Indianapolis' rout over visiting Buffalo. Marlon Mack rushed for a career-high 126 yards and a touchdown and added 33 yards and another score receiving for the Colts (2-5). Indianapolis, which scored 25 points off of five Buffalo turnovers, snapped a four-game losing streak and won at home for the first time this season. The Bills (2-5), who failed to score a touchdown for the third time this season, played most of the game without Pro Bowl running back LeSean McCoy, who was ruled out after getting upended and hitting his head on the turf running to the sideline on the opening drive. — Reuters