

# Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17667

SAFAR 17, 1440 AH | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

**4** Kuwait Dive Team:  
Guardians of the sea



**37** Saudis trumpet \$56bn deals  
as investment summit ends



**47** FIFA chief Infantino heading  
for trouble over pet projects



**NEW YORK:** Law enforcement officials gather near the scene where another package bomb was found early yesterday morning at Robert De Niro's Tribeca Grill restaurant. — AFP

## De Niro, Biden latest bomb targets; Trump slams media

See Page 15

## Local

## The rain debate



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Every year the rain comes and the scenario repeats itself with the same complaints. This week saw heavy rain in the Gulf region including Kuwait. On Monday, various parts of Kuwait witnessed heavy rainfall. People circulated videos of flooding on social networking sites. What causes these heavy rains? Is it climate change? Is the problem in the sewage system, and what should we do?

Yes, it is good to have rain, because rain is a blessing from Allah. But on the other hand, if we cannot deal with it properly, it can cause problems and even fatalities. Many vehicles can be damaged when the water level rises on the roads, and the result is that the people pay the price to repair the damage suffered. I think there is always a need to have a plan on what to do in these cases, even if it is rare or seasonal.

Scientists from the German Potsdam Institute in an interview with the Nature Climate Change journal said floods and heavy rains in many parts of the world in recent years and changes in temperature are a result of global warming. According to studies, the rate of climate variability in recent years has exceeded the normal limit. One of the reasons for these fluctuations is the rise in global temperatures caused by the burning of fossil fuels, factory gases and industrial activity.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we will continue to expect an increase in the average global temperature. We may see extreme changes, which could become more frequent in the case of high temperatures or heavy rainfall, or less frequent in the case of extreme cold.

It seems that our planet is currently experiencing a real impact due to climate change. It is known that everyone agrees on the existence of this phenomenon, but who is behind this climate change? Many climate scientists blame human activity. But, when we think about climate change, most of us think of environmental consequences such as heavy rainfall and high temperatures, because these elements affect people's daily lives.

Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time, adding great stress to our societies and the environment. It threatens food production, while rising sea levels lead to the risk of catastrophic floods. I believe that success requires the formulation of solutions. Arab governments must support funding to improve scientific research in this area and develop policies to protect people.

Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi, a pioneer of astronomy in Kuwait, recently said that winter in Kuwait will be wet and very cold. Schools should take this into consideration while receiving little children early in the morning. I think it is important that everyone understand the reasons that lead to climate change, but the most important thing is real and joint action to stop these changes, because heavy rain undoubtedly can cause damage to both property and people.

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



A black heron on Kuwait's shores. — Photo by Ghazy Qaffaf / KUNA

## Monster-in-law or angel-in-law?



JUST KIDDIN', SERIOUSLY

By Sahar Moussa

sahar@kuwaittimes.net

It's been a year now since I got married - and the comments that I hear the most are: You got married? Congratulations! So when is the good news? Anything on the way (with a suspicious smile)? When are you planning to have a baby? It's better to have babies quickly! These are half of the comments and pieces of advice I have heard since I got married regarding pregnancy and expecting.

The 'babies topic' opens with the closest member of your family - your mother. She will call and speak with you differently (now that you are married), eagerly wanting to pass her 20 years of marriage experience to you all at once. She tries to put ideas in your head that getting pregnant as soon as you tie the knot is a guaranteed way to keep your husband attached to you. In her opinion, (along with some of your girlfriends), the only way you can be sure that your husband will not cheat and leave you is by bringing a dozen children to tie him down!

Then the pressure accelerates with every married woman's nightmare - the parents-in-law; or to be more specific - the mother-in-law. According to some mothers-in-law, a wife is useless (even if her husband loves her) until she gets pregnant and delivers a child (preferably a boy) to carry the family's name, as if a woman is not complete until she delivers a child. Because newlywed women desperately want to please their mothers-in-law, they buckle under the pressure to get pregnant very fast.

Arabs in general have adopted this kind of mentality since forever, but it is also not so different in other cultures as well. In Kuwait, the majority of mothers have a lot of influence and power over their children's married lives. So either she will get the monster-in-law-award or angel-in-law award. I think I'm one of the 'lucky ones' and my mother-in-law is really an angel, but even this doesn't prevent her from popping the famous question every time she sees me with my husband: "So any good news yet?"

During the first two months of marriage, I developed a new smile which I named 'the cold smile' every time his parents told me, "We want to see your babies before we

die". This issue started to bother me so much because it extended to my friends at the gym, my colleagues at the office and everyone around me who knows I'm a newlywed. As if the only purpose of a woman when she gets married is to have children as quickly as possible! I do understand that some women were brought up to think this way, and their only purpose in life is to get married, have children and become housewives.

Don't get me wrong - I'm not judging these types of women and I do respect their decision if this was their dream or ambition. But there are other women (like me) who think that there is nothing wrong with women who choose not to get married or don't want to have children, or if they take their time to get married, either because they are not ready or because they haven't found the right person yet!

I got married really late - it took me forever to take this decision. And God knows I was pressured by society, family and people around me. But that didn't stop me to take all the time that I needed to take this big step and I don't regret it one bit - and the decision of bringing a baby will not be so different. The idea of getting pregnant as soon as you get married really creeps me out. I really don't understand why you want to bring a baby into this world in the very first year of marriage?!

In my opinion, the person you are married to is technically a stranger to you as you are a stranger to him. Even if you know each other for years, it is never like living together. You need at least a year to know each other's habits, routines, likes and dislikes. Even if you love the person you married, it will take time to adjust and tolerate each other's tempers and lifestyles.

I do understand that every mother's dream is to see her grandchildren, but I think it is totally a personal and private subject when it comes to making babies - me and my husband will try whenever we are ready, and not because society forces us to. Nowadays you really need to calculate each and every step before doing it, because bringing a baby to this world is a big responsibility. You have to make sure that you are financially, emotionally and physically ready before bringing a fragile human being to this world.

You have to think of their school fees, clothes, food and providing a healthy environment. Last but not least, it really annoys me when I hear this famous proverb, "with every child that you bring, prosperity comes with it". Well, it is not an offer - with every baby you will get a free gift! After all, it's a baby we are talking about, not a car!

# Kuwait Times

ESTABLISHED 1961  
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED



- Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**
- Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**
- Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait  
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621  
E: [info@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:info@kuwaittimes.net)

Local

# KUWAIT DIVE TEAM:

By Ramona Crasto

As the waves hit the shores of the beaches in Kuwait, a team of divers plunges into the sea to lift a sunken ship and remove debris. Fishermen often leave their fishing nets in the water without realizing the effect they have on marine life. These men and women who protect our ecosystem from being destroyed by pollution that we humans cause are the Kuwait Dive Team.

Established in 1986, the Kuwait Dive Team (KDT) has been trying to achieve three goals to make Kuwait's waters friendly to marine life, while also building a marine ecosystem: Rescue, Rehabilitation and Raising Awareness. "While rescuing and rehabilitating marine life is done by expert divers, the natural meeting point for a diver and a non-diver are the various environmental campaigns that are organized by our voluntary foundation," said Dr Dari Alhuwail, International Relations Officer of Kuwait Dive Team.



Rescue,  
Rehabilitation  
and Raising  
Awareness



## Local

## GUARDIANS OF THE SEA

**Coral reefs**

There are many coral reefs around the islands in Kuwait. These coral reefs need special care, so KTD, besides getting rid of tons of harmful waste, also moors buoys to protect these reefs. "Often certain areas of these naturally existing reefs are destroyed. To help them regrow, we at KTD install artificial reefs and monitor their growth continuously. These reefs need constant attention and supervision as fishermen habitually lower their anchors or get rid of their fishing nets around the reefs," Alhuwail said.

There is a lot of marine life near Kuwait that we are unaware of. Protecting these reefs is very important so that they don't face what the world's biggest coral reef - the Great Barrier Reef - is facing. Cleaning beaches regularly is very important - not only the shores, but also the debris that floats in the water, as many marine creatures get stuck or die due to suffocation or consumption.

**Awareness campaigns**

Every item has an underwater biodegradation half-life - cardboard boxes take two months while paper towels and newspapers take four and six weeks to degrade respectively. Hard plastic bottle caps take 400 years, while glass bottles take forever to break down.

In Kuwait, people often forget about the environment while they are busy working and making a life for themselves. So awareness campaigns and regional workshops are very important to let people know about the damage that is caused by a small piece of plastic that is left on the shores or thrown in the water. "We document our work and make it available on social media so that people can see it and use it for their research or become a part of this initiative," Alhuwail concluded.

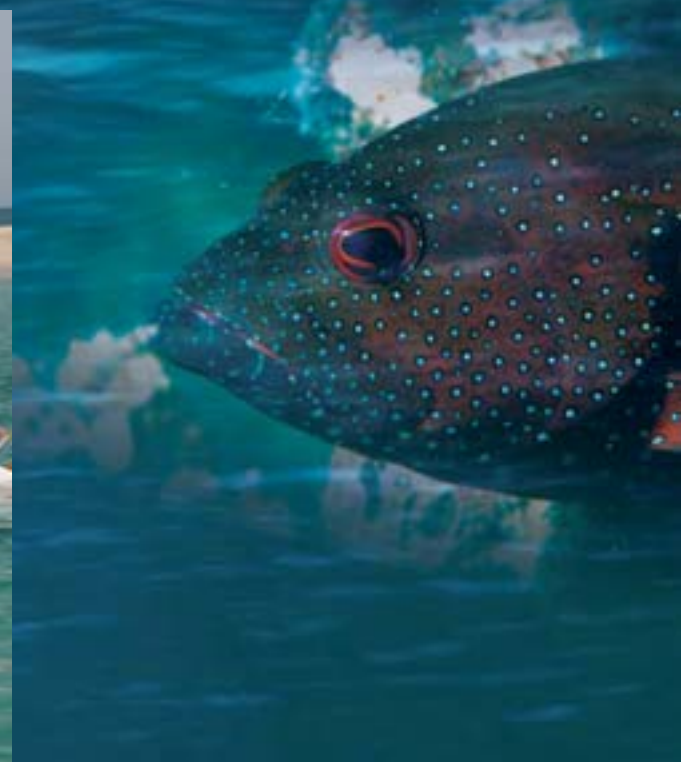
**MW6INY**

MW6INY was established in the summer of 2017 after Latifa Al-Wazzan attended a UNESCO training program on sustainable education. Being a teacher and instructor at Kuwait University who has an excessive interest in sustainability, Wazzan was nominated to attend the course. "After attending the course, I grew curious about how I could learn more and implement it here in Kuwait, which led me to attend an environment awareness sustainability workshop at Shaheed Park. At the workshop, they gave attendees the opportunity to submit a proposal on the matter, which would be sponsored through a grant. I submitted one, and that's how MW6INY started," Wazzan said.

"MW6INY strives to create change, make a difference and influence others through its work. Under the umbrella of the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF) which was established in 2011, Kuwait Dive Team along with MW6INY have been organizing trial beach cleanups where team leaders from various organizations are trained on how to organize and monitor beach cleanups, bearing in mind the importance of proper attire while being a part of such campaigns," she said.

"We recently held a beach cleanup for public school students, who along with their parents, participated over the weekend. Usually, schools take students on a trip; but this activity, which was not a part of the school requirement, inspired children to help save Earth from pollution and gave them a sense of the importance of such events," Wazzan explained.

On September 15, 2018, Kuwait for the first time officially participated in the World Cleanup Day which kick-started the Yistahil Watany (#yishatil\_w6any) campaign. The campaign ends with a nationwide beach cleanup on Nov 9, 2018 from 1 pm to 4.30 pm.



## Local

## Sexual harassment in Kuwait's public spaces



IN MY VIEW

By Faten Omar

local@kuwaittimes.com

Do the women of Kuwait need to carry weapons to defend themselves from sexual harassment nowadays? Has it gotten so bad that no one even thinks twice or bothers when a man feels free to harass a woman or try to touch her in a public place?

Not many people know how to take care of themselves when faced with such a situation. On a regular day to work by bus, a sleeping man with a backpack will sit behind you. It is a typical and unsuspecting scene, but the fact is that most women do not know that this man pretends to be asleep to get the chance to touch women with his hand that he hides under the backpack on his legs. It does not matter if he is sitting next to you or behind you - he will find a way to touch your body "accidentally". After all, he is tired and fell asleep!

When my car broke down, I took the bus from Kuwait City to Salmiya. Listening to music, I suddenly felt a hand on my waist. I thought it was my imagination, but I saw the hand reaching again from the backseat, trying to go through the small gap in the seat. I turned around and looked at him. He was peacefully sleeping, hiding his hands under his backpack as if nothing had happened. I looked at him and waited till he opened his eyes to check

if I had stopped looking. I felt so mad and frustrated when no one did anything when I started to scream at him. He panicked and begged me to not call the police. After a long fight about how shameless he was, I kicked him out of the bus.

No one helped; no one even tried to know what happened! When he tried to change his seat to sit behind another woman whom I warned, she did nothing! It seems her fear controlled her. Sometimes women want to do something but they can't. Sexual harassment takes place in every society on earth - and its costs are immeasurable. It degrades and terrorizes women, keeping them from going out and forcing them to measure the value of opportunities against the risk to their safety.

Ask any group of women if they've ever felt unsafe on public transportation, and the stories will flow. I hope my voice will reach all women. This incident did not happen only once - it will happen to you, your sister or your mother or your daughter, so be prepared to scream and not be ashamed of what people may think, because you are the victim and no one will offer help when you need it.

Unsafe transport not only causes women to change their modes of movement, but it also reduces how many trips they make. There are disheartening statistics about women's transportation safety around the world - it's a borderless problem. Don't be silent - take action even over the slightest inappropriate conduct towards you.



## THE DAILY LIFE OF A CAR MECHANIC

By Ben Garcia

Kuwait has no standards or government regulations setting the charges for any kind of auto repairs. Most dealerships and mechanics charge customers depending on the damage or the part they repair or replace. Some mechanics seize every opportunity to charge customers exorbitantly high prices. If you do not know what is wrong with your car, the more likely you are to be taken advantage of. Some auto mechanics deceive motorists by charging for parts which are not in fact changed. You are at the mercy of unscrupulous garages.

However, there are many good auto mechanics in Kuwait who charge customers fairly. Meet Mahmum, a Bangladeshi mechanic who runs a garage in Jleeb. He can detect problems accurately just by listening to the car and observing it. Mahmum specializes in repairing engines and mechanical failures. "I learned repairing and mechanical troubleshooting when I was 15 from my brother, who owned a small shop in Dhaka. I worked for him for two years. When I turned 18, I asked my uncle in Kuwait - who ran a garage - if he could find me work as a mechanic. So he hired me," he told Kuwait Times.

Heeding his aunt's pleas to return to Bangladesh for good, his uncle went back, leaving the care of his garage to Mahmum. "My uncle had made some money, so he gave in to the requests of his wife to come home to Bangladesh so they could start a family. They were married for five years but had no children. Now he has three kids and they



are happy. As for me, I am still young, and will get married maybe three years from now when I am 30," he said.

Mahmum now runs the auto repair shop, which is open seven days a week. "Every day I am here in the garage. I open and close the shop daily from 9 in the morning till 10 pm. I make sure we have ample business - I even work Fridays to earn money. I pay the rent of the shop and salaries of my two workers and two other part-timers on time. I also send money to my uncle as promised," he said.

Even though he owns and manages the garage, he always checks the work done by his employees. "The key to repeat business is to satisfy the customer," he said. "We have lots of competitors, but we differ from them with our service," he added. Mahmum said

his principle in life is to work hard and honestly, even if others don't. "Maybe I am blessed by Allah because I work very hard and I don't cheat customers. This is the principle I learned from my uncle when he left for good," he told Kuwait Times.

He advises customers to be more alert and discerning. "If you do not want to be cheated, ask for a receipt for every part changed in your car. Some mechanics will tell you they changed this and that part, but if there are no receipts, how can you be sure that they changed the problematic parts? So be very careful, as they do many things to con you," he warned. He also advises customers to go directly to the car dealerships as they have all resources to check the problems of the brands they deal in.

## The Kuwaiti rain songs of yore

Whenever rainfall was delayed in old Kuwait, adult Kuwaitis usually held the Istisqa prayer in various mosques, while young girls used to sing a traditional song known as 'Um Al-Ghaith' (Mother of the Rain), whose lyrics pleaded the mother of rain to make the rain fall, wet the shepherds' clothes and make grass grow for sheep to graze.

Kuwait heritage researcher Hussein Al-Qattan yesterday told KUNA that Um Al-Ghaith was one of the girls' seasonal games played before the rainy season. He added that girls usually made a doll of scrap wood and old clothes and carried it around from door to door while singing the Um Al-Ghaith song. Qattan added that each of the houses the girls passed used to give them a gift of bread, rice or sometimes money, if the tenants were rich enough.

Speaking of the same topic in his book 'Our Kuwaiti Folkloric Games', the late Kuwaiti artist Ayyoub Hussein said young girls usually did their part



on praying for rainfall by carrying the Um Al-Ghaith doll from door to door, singing its song.

Hussein also noted that young boys also had their own 'rain song', noting that whenever rain fell, boys used to cover their heads and go out in the rain singing 'Teg ya matar teg',

which went: "Fall, oh rain, our house is brand new and our rain drainage is made of steel...fall, fall, oh rain!". He added that even boys used to wander joyfully around from door to door singing this song to welcome the rain and pray to Allah to have mercy on his worshippers. — KUNA

# 1st



**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961

The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf



## Local

# Kuwait reiterates total support for Palestinian cause at UNSC

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait reiterated its support for all legal and peaceful steps taken by Palestine on national and international levels to consolidate its sovereignty over its lands and natural resources. This came in a speech delivered by the Second Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Hussain Al-Ibrahim at the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on Palestine and Syrian Golan.

Ibrahim called on the international community to put pressure on Israel and stand by Palestinian people in defending their just cause and legitimate rights and to end their long-term suffering. "How the State of Palestine can achieve sustainable development given Israeli practices in contravention of international law", he said.

He stressed that their plight will not end without implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions, noting that the Secretary-General report cites violations, which affect all aspects of populations under Israeli occupation. He stressed that Kuwait condemns all brutal Israeli practices and policies in the occupied territories and calls for an end to the long-running tragedy of the Palestinian people. He pointed out to the Kuwait's recent donation of nearly \$50 million to ease UNRWA's financial crisis. — KUNA

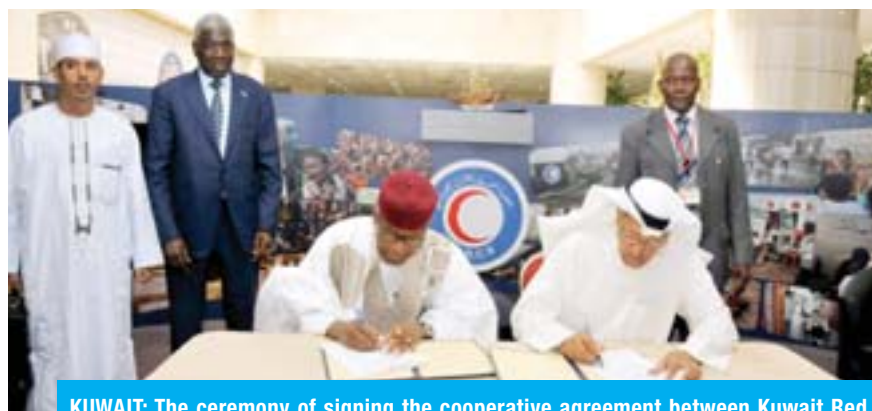


The Second Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Hussain Al-Ibrahim. — KUNA

## Kuwait, Niger sign humanitarian deal

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and Red Cross Society of Niger yesterday concluded a cooperative agreement to extend humanitarian aid to disaster-hit people, displaced persons and refugees in Niger. Speaking to KUNA following the signing ceremony, KRCS Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi said the deal marks a strong partnership to establish humanitarian values and goals.

It is part of the society's humanitarian activities, and reflects its willingness to work with other charities to help the needy and affected people, he added. Niger's Ambassador in Kuwait Abdu Bu Baker highly com-



KUWAIT: The ceremony of signing the cooperative agreement between Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and Red Cross Society of Niger. — KUNA

mended HH the Amir's directives aiming at highlighting Kuwait's international humanitarian and relief role. Speaking to KUNA, he said the KRCS always comes in the forefront of humanitarian societies that offer relief services to affected people worldwide.

On his part, President of the Red Cross Society of Niger Ali Bandiare stressed the

significance of this bilateral partnership between both societies, speaking highly of the level of their cooperation. He said his charity seeks to promote and bolster humanitarian relations and share expertise with the KRCS, pointing out bilateral cooperation for providing humanitarian aid to affected people in Niger. — KUNA

## Cooperation with Kuwait high: Huawei

**SHENZHEN:** Joe Kelly, Huawei's Vice President of International Media Affairs and Corporate Communications, highly praised the level of cooperation with Kuwaiti government and private sectors. Kelly's statement came during his meeting with a Kuwaiti media delegation headed by Kuwait News Agency's (KUNA) Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali at the Chinese company's headquarters here. The company visit is the last stop of the trip.

Kuwait is keenly aware of technological requirements to establish 'smart cities', especially after the recent visit made by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the world's most populous nation, which resulted in the signing of a number of agreements, Kelly pointed out.

He added that the company already is involved in many ventures in Kuwait, including the installation of 500 experimental poles operated by the '5G' technology for the country's three telecommunication providers. In Kuwait, on the third of this month, the state's National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SMEs) signed a MoU with Huawei, which aims to



SHENZHEN: Huawei's Vice President of International Media Affairs and Corporate Communications with KUNA Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali during the visit to Huawei headquarters. — KUNA

encourage and develop small and medium enterprises.

The agreements signed in China during His Highness's visit concerned the Silk City and Kuwaiti islands development projects, in addition to the Mubarak Al-Kabeer seaport project, proposed to be built in Boubyan Island northeast of Kuwait, as an initial starting point for smart cities' projects. — KUNA

## Kuwait slams lawless acts in Rakhine state

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait reiterated its stern condemnation of lawless acts committed in Rakhine state, reaffirming that the government of Myanmar must shoulder the responsibility of protecting civilians and refraining from the usage of disproportionate military force. This came in a speech at the Security Council late Wednesday by Acting Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN Counsellor Bader Al-Munayekh.

The Council session came to discuss the current state of affairs of the Rohingya minority.

"The briefing of the fact-finding mission endorses the international community's conclusions, as it precisely dovetails with what we have witnessed - and heard from eyewitnesses of these crimes - during our visit to Rakhine State." On April 24 this year, members of the Security Council arrived in the city of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to assess the tragic situation faced by more than 1.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

"My country did not call for this session to point fingers at the Government of Myanmar, but to reaffirm our principled stance of resolving conflicts through peaceful means and our belief in preventive diplomacy," he noted.

Kuwait, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Peru led the Security Council in the April 2018 field visit to Bangladesh and Myanmar. "The Government of Myanmar still needs to implement all steps and demands set by the Security Council, as well as recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, which both aim to deal with the root cause of the crisis, as well as end the hardship of the refugees," Munayekh pointed out.

"We have a firm belief; should authorities in Myanmar adopt an indiscriminate manner and perpetrators of crimes against humanity be brought to justice, that the Rohingya minority crisis root causes are to be eradicated." Kuwait, along with eight other member countries, called for holding the session. It was voted 'Yay' to be convened by nine members including Kuwait. Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Equatorial Guinea abstained, while Russia, China and Bolivia voted against the motion.

Latest statistics show that more than 887,000 Rohingya refugees have been displaced since August last year, as they joined some 300,000 other refugees who have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh. — KUNA



Acting Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN Counsellor Bader Al-Munayekh. — KUNA



## Local

# FM: Kuwait important center of UN activities

## Kuwait supports Saudi measures on Khashoggi

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said Kuwait has become an important and a regional center for the various activities of the United Nations, in line with its foreign policy and its responsibilities towards achieving sustainable development. He was speaking during a ceremony celebrating the 73rd anniversary of the UN and the 55th anniversary of its partnership with Kuwait in development and peace building on Wednesday at UN house in Mishref. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stressed the need of exerting more efforts with the UN to keep up with political, security, developmental, humanitarian and social challenges.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah confirmed Kuwait's support for Saudi Arabia on the issue of the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. He welcomed the decisions that have been taken on this issue. "The decisions of Saudi Arabia on this issue and the relevant measures taken by the kingdom reflect the concern for justice and the accountability of the respondents in this incident, so we support the brothers in the kingdom and denounce the unjust campaign and slander it is subjected to. The transparency of the kingdom is capable of deterring such attempts, as well as



**KUWAIT:** A celebration held to mark United Nations Day and the 55th anniversary of Kuwait's membership of the UN. — KUNA

offensive statements against it," he said.

"We welcome the Saudi-Turkish rapprochement and I think that things are moving in the right direction," he said, adding, "The historic and strategic partnership with the United Nations is aimed at contributing to peace and ending conflicts around the world." Jarallah pointed out that this partnership cooperation between Kuwait and UN has been demonstrated through Kuwait's growing role in supporting the United Nations through its various institutions, as well as Kuwait's role in the UN Security Council and its cooperation with the member states to con-

tribute to peace and development.

Jarallah stressed Kuwait's continued efforts to support the Yemeni people and alleviate their suffering. "Kuwait has committed itself this year to provide \$250 million in aid to the Yemeni people, as well as \$100 million provided earlier," he said. "Kuwait's record in the field of human rights is honorable and I'm optimistic about the National Bureau for Human Rights' efforts to defend the record of Kuwait in this field," he said. He noted that the officials of the ministry of foreign affairs held a meeting with the president of bureau Jassim Al-Mubarakhi on coordination in this area.

## Germany welcomes visitors from Kuwait

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The German National Tourist Office (GNTO) held a successful roadshow in partnership with Emirates airlines on Wednesday with the aim to promote Germany as a year-round travel destination and to highlight the latest tourism attractions for the upcoming winter season. The 4-day promotional tour concluded in Kuwait - one of Germany's key source markets within the GCC - after making stops in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The well-attended Business 2 Business event, which targeted key travel trade, media and other stakeholders, was hosted at the German Embassy in Kuwait, where German Ambassador Karl Bergner inaugurated the event with a welcome speech confirming the commitment to the local travel market. "Kuwaiti travelers are very welcome in Germany. Here they find a huge variety of destinations and top quality services. This is why so many Kuwaitis visit our beautiful country and return again and again. Be part of them," said Bergner.

Bergner noted that around 60,000 visas are issued every year at the German embassy in Kuwait. "This is the minimum number of visitors from Kuwait, as some visas are for seven years for multiple travels, and some Kuwaitis get a visa from other Schengen countries and travel to Germany. The number may be around 150,000," he told Kuwait Times.

The number of Kuwaiti students in Germany is small. "This is my current project to increase the number of Kuwaiti students in Germany. Many of them feel that the language is difficult, but if you speak English, you are almost there. The universities are the best in the world and are free, as students don't have to pay tuition fees, but they will receive high quality education," explained Bergner.

Regarding business exchange, he said German exports to Kuwait for 2017 were around €1.5 billion. "This figure makes us the largest business partner from the European Union to Kuwait. Kuwait's exports to Germany are much smaller as we don't import oil and gas from Kuwait. German ex-



**German Ambassador Karl Bergner**

ports include vehicles, chemical products, cosmetic, pharmaceutical products and others. We would like to increase business in the area of infrastructure and constructions. We hope to see more in engineering and consulting services too," he pointed out.

Recognizing the importance of the Kuwaiti market, Sigrid de Mazieres, Director for the Gulf countries at the German National Tourist Office (GNTO), an affiliate of the German National Tourist Board (GNTB), commented: "Kuwait offers huge potential for the German tourism industry, and we are delighted to showcase an impressive line-up of leading German tourism partners to the local travel trade industry in order to facilitate business and to inspire visitors to travel to our wonderful country."

Omar Al-Banna, Emirates Manager for Kuwait and Iraq said: "We are pleased to team up with the German National Tourist Office to further strengthen our partnership with them as well as showcase Germany to the travel trade in Kuwait, to make it a preferred destination for business and leisure travelers alike. Germany is a very important market for Emirates and we operate to four gateways including Frankfurt, Munich, Dusseldorf and Hamburg. Altogether, we serve Germany with 70 weekly flights."

Op-Ed

## The Best from America: Sixth Annual Discover America Week



**By Lawrence Silverman, US Ambassador to Kuwait**

**D**iscover America Week started here, in Kuwait, six years ago and it is now celebrated in several countries across the GCC. Over the next 14 days we will have 24 events promoting different aspects of the United States, including music, film, food, sports, automobiles, education, and tourism. There will be special offers at American restaurants and stores around town, live performances at several different venues from the US Air Force Central Command Band, a screening of the academy award winning film "Patton," and business seminars highlighting new areas for opportunity and partnership.

I am pleased to kick-off this sixth annual Discover America Week on Friday, Oct 26, with a fun run, and on Saturday with a bicycle ride, to promote healthy lifestyles. We will be highlighting US culture and business throughout the week. We will have seminars on how to sell to the US military bases in Kuwait and how to buy a US franchise. We will unveil two new 2019 US automobiles. Over two dozen US restaurants and stores will offer special promotions. These are just a few of the planned activities - something for everyone. These activities are a great opportunity to put a spotlight on the strong US-Kuwaiti friendship, and to explore areas that broaden and deepen our ties.

The US-Kuwait relationship is as strong as ever. During His Highness the Amir's visit to Washington last month, our countries signed several memoranda of cooperation, including one to collaborate on cybersecurity. Two private US firms signed agreements with the Government of Kuwait to support cloud computing efforts. His Highness also met with the CEOs of 15 leading US companies and invited them to participate in upcoming projects in support of Kuwait's National Development Plan (Vision 2035) that will enhance the country's infrastructure, healthcare, and education; reduce government bureaucracy; and improve business conditions in Kuwait. We are looking forward to the third US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue here in Kuwait, and to further strengthening a close-knit relationship that benefits both our peoples in very practical ways.

I encourage you to continue to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @USEmbassyQ8 and #DAGCC2018 to review the complete Discover America Week program, and participate in the events that interest you. I look forward to seeing you there!

## Local

# MoI finalizing processing of residency visas online

## Saleh visits site of massive blaze in Dajeej

### Ashour warns against harming panel members

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Saleh Ashour yesterday warned the oil ministry and other government agencies from taking "revenge" actions against members of a committee appointed to investigate allegations against the oil minister. The lawmaker said that following the grilling of Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi in May, the government formed a four-member committee headed by former oil executive Ismail Hussein to investigate the allegations in the grilling.

He said the committee prepared a comprehensive report on the issue within two months, adding that parts of the report were leaked in what appears to be a deliberate act, which raises many questions. Ashour said that it is abnormal to release parts of the report before showing it to the Council Of Ministers and the National Assembly. He said that some relatives of the committee members, especially its chairman, have been intimidated either by threatening to refer them to the public prosecution or by scrapping their contracts.

The lawmaker warned that it was totally unacceptable that government agencies take punitive actions against relatives of investigation committee members appointed by the government. He warned that the Assembly will have a strong reaction against the government and will hold Rasheedi and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh responsible for any such harm.

The committee report has confirmed allegations that some top oil executives were responsible for squandering public funds to the tune of KD 1.3 billion. Several lawmakers have already called on the oil minister and some senior oil executives to resign based on the outcome of the report, which confirmed some of the allegations.

Meanwhile, former MP Nasser Al-Duwailah was yesterday released by the public prosecution on KD 4,000 bail after interrogating him on charges of insulting Saudi Arabia on Twitter. Duwailah said on Twitter a few days ago that the foreign and interior ministries filed two cases against him for tweets deemed offensive to Saudi Arabia.

## Kuwait, Cambodia eye cooperation

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh yesterday met Cambodian officials on ways of propping up bilateral cooperation. During her two-day stay in Cambodia, the Kuwaiti minister held talks with Minister of Labor and Vocational Training Ith Sam Heng and discussed how to promote bilateral cooperative relations, Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires in Cambodia Dhaher Al-Khuraijij told KUNA by phone.

They also considered a possible signing of a memo of understanding (MoU) pertinent to the sending of Cambodian workers to Kuwait, he added. She then met Cambodian parliament speaker Heng Samrin, who strongly supported all steps aiming at using the help of Cambodian workers in Kuwait, he noted. — KUNA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The interior ministry's IT sector is currently working on a mega project that will help over 3 million expats residing in Kuwait renew their residency visas and those of their dependents online at the ministry's website without having to go to various immigration departments. The new service will also enable expats to issue family visit visas for parents, spouses and children, said informed sources, noting that all expats would have to do is upload the needed data and documents on the website, save them in the state's electronic archive and fill an application form.

"The only obstacle facing the project now is collecting the health insurance fees, which is currently done by a public services company," the sources remarked. The sources added that MoI's IT Director Maj Gen Ali Al-Muaili yesterday met health officials on the Cabinet's economic committee to discuss overcoming this problem. The sources said both sides agreed to have MoI set a program on its website to collect the fees online in collaboration with K-Net by the beginning of the new year, so that the project can become operational by mid-2019.

Separately, responding to a huge fire that broke out in Dajeej on Wednesday, Deputy PM and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh visited the scene to check on the safety of firemen and the damage caused by the fire.



**KUWAIT:** Deputy PM and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh visits the scene of a massive fire in Dajeej yesterday.

### KFSD attends EU meet

KFSD was recently represented by Maj Abdullah Al-Saleem, Kuwait's liaison officer at the EU Initiative for Centers of Excellence, at the initiative's meeting in Brussels. The meeting was dedicated to discussing the recommendations made in the previous meeting held in Kuwait.



The meeting of the GCC Health Council. — KUNA

## Kuwait voices satisfaction at GCC Health Council efforts

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait expressed satisfaction yesterday at tangible accomplishments that have been made by the GCC Health Council since more than four decades. The Kuwaiti stance was expressed by Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah, in a statement during the GCC health ministers' meeting. The minister expressed pride at concrete accomplishments that have been made since forming the GCC Health Council more than four decades ago. He expressed gratitude to former officials of the council for their contributions to boosting integration and coordination among the

GCC countries at the health level.

The minister thanked, in particular, strategists who had made preparations for the meeting, assembled necessary documents that were viewed by the relevant committees on diverse issues, such as common procedures to purchase medical supplies, central registration, screening of incoming expatriates and common initiatives.

Meanwhile, Abdulatif Al-Zayani, the GCC Secretary General, said in his statement that the meeting is aimed at boosting cooperation regarding a host of issues, such as following up on resolutions issued by the GCC Supreme Council on examining expatriate laborers, the executive law for providing similar health services for GCC citizens and procedures related to medicines' strategic reserves.

He added that the conferees will discuss unifying stances toward international health coalitions, common health measures at border exits, a study for unifying classification and registration for medical specialties. The agenda also includes implementing the supreme council resolutions in relation to meeting requirements by the World Health Organization..

He congratulated the Kuwaiti health minister on WHO's designation of Yarmouk area as a health town. — KUNA



Koreas remove guns from Cold War truce village

## Ethiopia appoints first female president

Page 13

Page 16



COLOMBO: A member of the Sri Lankan web journalist association holds a placard with the image of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi during a demonstration outside the Saudi Embassy in Colombo yesterday. —AFP

# CIA chief heard recording of Khashoggi killing

## Khashoggi's murder 'premeditated': Saudi Prosecutor

**ISTANBUL:** CIA director Gina Haspel heard an audio recording of the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi during her visit to Turkey this week, two sources said yesterday, the first indication Ankara has shared its key evidence. The killing of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and a critic of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has sparked global condemnation and mushroomed into a major crisis for the world's top oil exporter.

Saudi Arabia first denied any role in Khashoggi's disappearance before blaming his Oct. 2 death at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on a botched attempt to return him to the kingdom. Yesterday, Saudi state Ekhbariya TV quoted the Saudi public prosecutor as saying Khashoggi's murder was premeditated, and that prosecutors were interrogating suspects on the basis of information provided by a joint Saudi-Turkish task force. Turkey has dismissed Saudi efforts to blame rogue operatives and urged the kingdom to search from "top to bottom" for those responsible for the killing of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and critic of the Saudi leadership.

Haspel, who arrived in Turkey on Monday, listened to an audio recording of Khashoggi's killing during her visit, according to the sources, speaking on the condition they were not further identified. Representatives of the CIA declined to comment on Haspel's review of the recording. "We have shared with those who sought additional information some of the information and findings that the prosecutor has allowed us to share and that is legal to share," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters yesterday. He said Turkey had no intention of taking the case to an international court but would share information if an international inquiry were launched.

President Tayyip Erdogan has called Khashoggi's murder a "savage killing" and demanded Riyadh punish those responsible, no mat-

ter how highly placed. Prince Mohammed promised on Wednesday that the killers would be brought to justice, in his first public comments on the matter. He spoke hours after US President Donald Trump was quoted by the Wall Street Journal as saying that as Saudi Arabia's de facto

ruler, the crown prince bore ultimate responsibility for the operation that led to Khashoggi's death.

### Crown Prince vows to bring killers to justice

#### Defiant tone

The killing overshadowed a major business conference in Riyadh this week but Prince Mohammed, striking a defiant

tone, told international investors on Wednesday that the furore would not derail the kingdom's reform drive. "We will prove to the world that the two governments (Saudi and Turkish) are cooperating to punish any criminal, any culprit and at the end justice will prevail," he said

to applause. The crisis has strained Riyadh's critical relations with the West - revolving around Middle East security and oil supplies - and led dozens of Western officials, world bankers and company executives to shun the three-day conference. Riyadh's energy minister said it had signed \$56 billion of deals at the conference despite the partial boycott and that it expected the United States to remain a key business partner.

"The US will remain a key part of the Saudi economy because the interests that tie us are bigger than what is being weakened by the failed boycotting campaign of the conference," Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih told Saudi state TV. Britain, like the United States a major weapons supplier to the kingdom, has described Riyadh's explanations for the killing as lacking credibility. France has said it will consider sanctions against Saudi Arabia if its intelligence services find Riyadh was behind Khashoggi's death. For their part, the Trump administration and the US defense industry are scrambling to save the few actual deals in a much-touted \$110 billion arms package for Saudi Arabia.—Reuters

## International

# Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince jokes 'Hariri not kidnapped'

## After feeling betrayed, Trump holds cards on MBS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's crown prince joked about allegations that Lebanon's premier-designate Saad Hariri was detained in the kingdom last year, saying he hoped his current visit does not spark "abduction" rumors. Hariri "will be staying in the kingdom for two more days, so I hope there are no rumors of his abduction," Prince Mohammed bin Salman said while addressing the Future Investment Initiative forum in Riyadh. The prince burst out laughing and shook hands with a smiling Hariri, who sat next to him on stage, as the audience also erupted in laughter. Saudi Arabia has long been a key ally of Hariri, while Riyadh's regional foe Iran backs Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah.

But in November last year, Hariri announced he was stepping down in a televised address from the Saudi capital, causing observers to speculate he was being held against his will. After French mediation, he rescinded his resignation the following month, and Saudi Arabia has denied intimidating Hariri into quitting his post. Hariri was named premier for a third term in May after Lebanon's first parliamentary elections in nine years, but has since struggled to form a cabinet. Hariri, a dual Saudi citizen, has thrown his support behind Prince Mo-

ammedas he faces global outrage over the murder of Saudi journalist and government critic Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

### Feeling betrayed

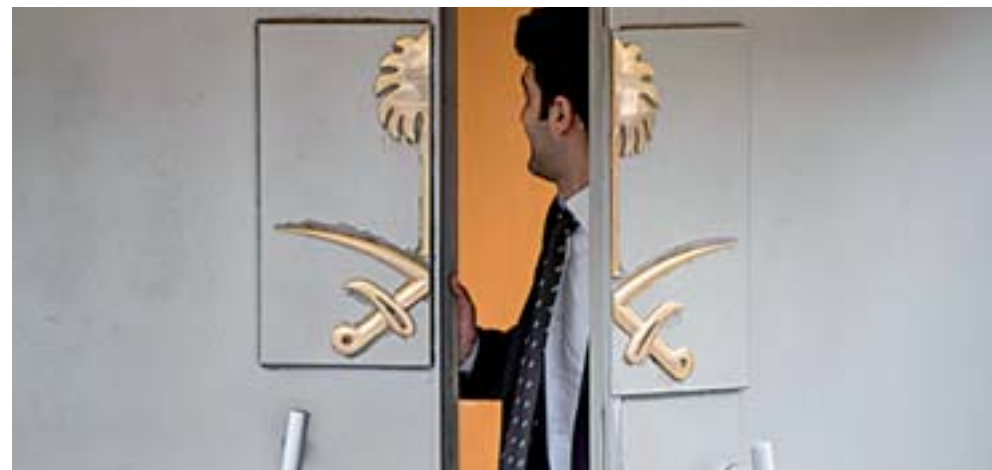
The killing of a journalist has abruptly transformed Saudi Arabia's crown prince from a partner to a liability in the eyes of Washington—which nonetheless now enjoys more leverage over the ambitious heir apparent. President Donald Trump had enthusiastically endorsed Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's consolidation of power, with the 33-year-old forging a close, chatty relationship with Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner.

But amid outrage after Saudi Arabia admitted that US-based journalist and palace critic Jamal Khashoggi was murdered inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate, the president has sounded betrayed and taken the initial step of restricting visas to Saudis involved in the killing. Trump, in an interview with *The Wall Street Journal* published Wednesday, insulated 82-year-old King Salman from blame but pointedly did not shield the crown prince, known by his initials MBS. "The crown prince—he's running things, and so



### Turkey leaking details about the murder

if anybody were going to be in, it would be him," Trump said. While defending arms sales to Saudi Arabia on business grounds, Trump said: "Don't forget, if it wasn't for us, it could very well be that Saudi Arabia wouldn't last very long."



ISTANBUL: An official stands at the door of Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul during ongoing investigations into the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. —AFP

### Reforming MBS?

Martin Indyk, a top Middle East policy-maker under former president Bill Clinton, said Trump had in effect tried to subcontract policy

in the region to Saudi Arabia and Israel as he lessens US commitments. But Indyk said Prince Mohammed had instead brought headaches for Washington—not only Khashoggi's killing but Yemen, where the United States is backing a Saudi-led bombing campaign against Houthi rebels allegedly supported by Riyadh's regional rival Iran. The United Nations describes Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 14 million people facing famine and about 10,000 people killed. —Agencies

## Qatar may benefit from Khashoggi fallout: Analysts

DOHA: Global diplomatic fallout from the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Saudi Arabia's Istanbul consulate may help Qatar in its political stand-off with the kingdom, experts said. The backlash may force Riyadh to ease sweeping sanctions imposed on Doha since the dispute erupted between the former Gulf allies in June 2017. The killing of Khashoggi — who was critical of the Saudi government and its blockade of Qatar — may convince sceptics that Doha's claims of Saudi "aggression" were justified, according to analysts. "I wouldn't be surprised if the Qataris could indirectly benefit from what's happening right now," said Dr. Andreas Krieg, of King's College London and former adviser to Qatar's military.

### Making concessions

For the past 16 months, regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia — the only country that shares a land border with Qatar — has led Arab allies in isolating the small, gas-rich emirate. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt froze all

diplomatic ties with Doha, accusing it of cosying up to Riyadh's regional rival Tehran and supporting radical Islamist groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood. Economic activity between the former allies has practically seized, while Qatari planes have been banned from using Saudi airspace and that of other countries. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain also banned their citizens from travelling to Qatar as part of the boycott. Doha, which denies the allegations of supporting militant groups and being too close to Iran, accuses its former allies of seeking regime change.

### 'US can exert leverage'

Qatar claims the boycotting nations have split families in the region and says its citizens have been prevented from undertaking the Muslim hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. "I think if the US government wants to end the Qatar crisis it can exert leverage over the Saudis as a bargaining chip in relation to Khashoggi's death," Kristian Ulrichsen, a fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute, told AFP. Others remain sceptical.

"It is too early to tell," said Noha Aboueldahab, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Center. "The Khashoggi case has damaged Saudi Arabia's reputation, particularly its so-called 'counter-terrorism' narrative", she said. But "at this point, the Qatar/Saudi stand-off remains quite low on the priorities list". —AFP

## Dissident YouTube star defiant after Khashoggi murder

LONDON: Saudi dissident satirist Ghanem Almasarir, whose social media mockery of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman gets millions of hits, told AFP he is undeterred by Jamal Khashoggi's murder. Speaking at a protest on Wednesday outside the Saudi embassy in London, Almasarir said Khashoggi's slaying had shown the wider world a darker side to the power wielded by Prince Mohammed. "If they are not held accountable, they will continue to do it," the 38-year-old said, adding that many Saudi dissidents living in Britain were "afraid right now to leave their houses".

Riyadh faces growing incredulity over its explanations about the killing of Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor and critic of Saudi policies. After he disappeared at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2, Saudi officials said he left unharmed. But on Friday they announced he had been killed inside in an altercation. World powers including Britain and France are demanding answers and US President Donald Trump has accused Saudi Arabia of lying about the murder.

Almasarir and a dozen activists hired an old-fashioned, open-top red London bus to

drive past the Saudi embassy for their demonstration, chanting "Where is the body of Jamal?" and accusing Prince Mohammed of being behind his murder. The bus was plastered in banners reading "Justice for Jamal", which the demonstrators then unfurled outside the security fence surrounding the plush 18th-century mansion in central London.

### 'They might kill us'

From self-imposed exile in Britain, the video-blogging political satirist, who regularly roasts the ruling Saudi royal family, has racked up more than 200 million views on YouTube. His outspoken anti-regime criticism has also earned him enemies. On August 31, just over a month before Khashoggi was killed, Almasarir said he was followed and beaten by two Saudi men. The scene-in which he was punched in broad daylight opposite London's Harrods emporium landmark—was captured on video. Khashoggi's death has caused such a wave of fear among exiles that some are now cautious of even visiting their country's overseas missions. Looking at the wrought iron gates of the Saudi embassy, Almasarir said he has no plans to step beyond them any time soon. "If we happen to walk inside, I think we will end up like what Jamal Khashoggi has suffered. "They might kill us and dismember our bodies," said the dissident, who has political asylum in Britain and said he has refused invitations to renew his Saudi passport at the embassy. —AFP

International

# Ethiopia appoints first female president

## As Ethiopia reforms, ethnic violence spreads

**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopia yesterday appointed a woman to the largely ceremonial position of president for the first time, further increasing female representation in the government of Africa's second most populous nation. In a unanimous vote, Ethiopian lawmakers picked career diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde, 68, to replace Mulatu Teshome who resigned in unclear circumstances. Ethiopia's reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed last week appointed a slimline 20-person cabinet in which half the posts are held by women. They include defense minister Aisha Mohammed and Muferiat Kamil who leads the newly-created Ministry of Peace, responsible for police and domestic intelligence agencies.

"If the current change in Ethiopia is headed equally by both men and women, it can sustain its momentum and realise a prosperous Ethiopia free of religious, ethnic and gender discrimination," Sahle-Work said yesterday. Sahle-Work, who was born in the capital Addis Ababa and attended university in France, has been Ethiopia's ambassador to France, Djibouti, Senegal and the regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Just prior to her appointment as president she was the UN's top official at the African Union. She is fluent in English and French as well as Amharic, Ethiopia's main language. As president she is expected to serve two six-year terms.

### Symbolism and influence

"Mulatu has shown us the way for change and hope, he has shown life continues before and after leaving power. I call on others to heed his example and be ready for change," said Sahle-Work in a speech

to parliament. Political power in Ethiopia is wielded by the prime minister with the president's role restricted to attending ceremonies and functions. Nevertheless, Sahle-Work's position carries important symbolic weight and social influence. "Government and opposition parties have to understand we are living in a common house and focus on things that unite us, not what divides us, to create a country and generation that will make all of us proud," she said.

"The absence of peace victimizes firstly women, so during my tenure I will emphasise women's roles in ensuring peace and the dividends of peace for women." Sahle-Work becomes Africa's only serving female head of state, albeit in a ceremonial role. A handful of African countries have in the recent past been led by female presidents with executive powers, including Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Liberia (2006-18) and Joyce Banda in Malawi (2012-14). Banda was elevated to the presidency following the death in office of Bingu wa Mutharika, while Sirleaf won two elections before standing down earlier this year at the end of her constitutionally mandated terms.

### Ethnic violence spreads

Two decades ago, Ethiopia's leaders took a gamble: give the country's many ethnicities their own autonomous regions in the hope greater prosperity would forge national unity. For a time it worked, but now simmering inter-communal disputes have erupted into bloodshed, with violence displacing 1.4 million people this year, the most globally, according to the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

The rise in violence contrasts sharply with the global praise for

Ethiopia's young, reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has forged peace with neighboring Eritrea, vowed to overhaul state companies and reached out to dissidents at home. Analysts see no single cause for the killing that has stretched from the countryside to the capital and left scores of Ethiopians dead.

But they say Abiy, who inherited a vast, ethnically diverse nation used to the iron-fisted rule of his predecessors, has his work cut out for him as he seeks to impose his leadership without tipping into authoritarianism. "My belief is that there will be no re-establishment of law and order without strong leadership," said long-time independent Ethiopia researcher Rene Lefort. He said the centralized decision-making behind the reforms has led to paralysis in the regions, creating fertile ground for discontent, violence and score-settling. Under Abiy, he said, "there is a deep power vacuum."

### Regional tension

The 1995 constitution, written by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) after it unseated the Derg military junta in 1991, puts ethnicity front and centre. Africa's second-most populous country is partitioned into nine regions with borders that follow ethnic lines. The constitution is one of few in the world to allow not only self-governance, but the option of secession. The intention was to address demands for local empowerment that the Derg tried to stifle, said Zemelak Ayele, director of the Centre for Federalism and Governance Studies at Addis Ababa University. "It was necessary to create an institutional mechanism so that peoples' culture was respected," he said.—Agencies



Kuwait Times

# Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:  
**+965 248 35 616 / 617**  
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
 ads@kuwaittimes.net  
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## ANNIVERSARY OFFERS

10 YEARS

### HUAWEI P smart

HUW-FIGO-LA1

FullView Dual Camera Android 8.0



HUAWEI Full-View Display

الآن 49 ريال قبل 63 ريال توفير 14 ريال

### SAMSUNG Galaxy Note8

SM-N950-Blk

LTE 64GB 6.3"



الآن 159 ريال قبل 199 ريال توفير 40 ريال

### iPhone 7Plus

IPH-7P-32GB

32GB 5.5" LTE



الآن 195 ريال قبل 239 ريال توفير 44 ريال



Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online [www.best.com.kw](http://www.best.com.kw) Free Delivery

# 1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 ( Bin Khalidn str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road)  
 • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya ( Behind police Station) • Fahsheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra ( Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

## International

# Domestic pressures behind Jordan move to reclaim land from Israel

## Jordan wants to take back two border areas

**AMMAN:** A decision by Jordan's King Abdullah II to reclaim territory leased to Israel for a quarter of a century was spurred by domestic pressures and the Arab nation's struggling economy, experts said. The move announced at the weekend risks sparking a crisis between the neighboring countries which signed an historic peace treaty in 1994, they warned.

King Abdullah said his country had notified Israel that it wants to take back two border areas: Baqura in the northern province of Irbid and Ghumar in the southern province of Aqaba. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would like to open negotiations with Jordan to keep the current arrangement in place. The Hashemite kingdom said it was willing to engage in talks but insisted on its right to reclaim the land. Israel occupied Jordanian territories including Ghumar in the Six-Day War of 1967 and seized Baqura when its forces infiltrated the kingdom in 1950.

During peace talks, Jordan agreed to lease the lands to Israel for a 25-year renewable period under annexes of the treaty that lay down a one-year notice period, with the kingdom retaining sovereignty. King Abdullah's announcement on Sunday came days before the end of this notice period. "The king had two choices: either risking a crisis with Israel, or risking protests and a worsening of the internal situation," said Oraib Rantawi, director of the Al-Quds Center for Political Studies in Amman. "Jordanians on the street are angry, especially over the economy, and they don't need new crises or disappointments," he said.

### 'Nationalist card'

Jordan, largely dependent on foreign aid and

devoid of natural resources, has been plagued by economic woes, with a jobless rate of 18.5 percent and around 20 percent of the population teetering on the brink of poverty as consumer prices rise. The king's announcement came after a series of demonstrations calling for the return of Baqura and Ghumar organized by lawmakers, political parties, trade unions and activists. The move was greeted with joy by many Jordanians. "The Jordanian people are happy with this courageous decision," said teacher Mohammed Hassan. Suad Yusef, a housewife, said it was an "historic moment". For Kirk H Sowell, an analyst for Utica Risk Services, the decision was "the least that King Abdullah can do to play the nationalist card".

"It is definitely directed at the domestic audience" in a country with "loads of internal socio-economic problems" but "few options in pushing back at Israel," Sowell said. Rantawi said that "going back on this decision is impossible" as it would be likely to destabilize the kingdom. In June, a parliamentary delegation from the opposition Islamist bloc Al-Islah visited Baqura, where Jordanians need permission to enter. The delegation was headed by Saleh al-Armuti, who said "the decision is that of the king, the people's government and the parliament and we strongly support and defend it". "We will go further by demanding the cancellation of all agreements signed with the Zionist enemy," he told AFP.

### 'Suicidal choice'

Opinion polls have repeatedly found that the peace treaty with Israel is overwhelmingly opposed by Jordanians, more than half of whom are of Palestinian origin. The Baqura zone



**GESHER, Israel:** A Picture taken from the Israeli side of the border fence in Naharayim also known as Baqura, shows Israeli tourists visiting the hill next to a Jordanian military outpost in the Jordan Valley in Northern Israel. — AFP

amounts to six square kilometers and Ghumar covers four square kilometers - land where Israeli farmers cultivate cereals, fruit and vegetables. Rantawi does not rule out the possibility that Israel will "impede the implementation of the Jordanian decision". "Jordan could face a political, economic and legal battle with Israel," he said.

"Netanyahu wants negotiations to extend the agreement, which would be a suicidal choice for

Jordan." Relations between the two countries have been tense since the killing of two Jordanians by an Israeli embassy security guard in Amman in July last year. But Sowell said he believes Israel does not have the legal means to challenge the Jordanian decision. "Israel has means of pushing back on Jordan, by cutting off the water, or not lobbying for Jordan in (the US) Congress as they normally do, but whether they should is a different question," he said.— AFP

## Displaced to the desert, Syrians struggle to eke out living

**BEIRUT:** In a desert camp along Syria's border with Jordan, nearly 50,000 displaced people struggle to eke out a living. There are no clinics, no nappies and little food-welcome to Rukban. "We've nicknamed it the camp of death," said Abu Nashwan, who has lived in Rukban with his family since escaping fighting in Homs province over three years ago. Conditions have deteriorated drastically since he and his family arrived, culminating earlier this month in the deaths of two babies within a 48-hour period. A girl of four months died of blood poisoning and dehydration, and a five-day-old boy lost his life to blood poisoning and severe malnutrition, said the United Nations' children agency, UNICEF.

Neither had been able to get the medical attention they needed, but their deaths focused in-

ternational attention on the dire situation in the vast, informal camp in southeastern Syria. Following a UN appeal, humanitarian aid will be delivered to Rukban in the coming days, coming from Damascus for the first time. Residents, contacted remotely because of the difficulty of reaching the camp, say they are making do with tents patched together from sheets, or mud huts that offer little protection from the harsh desert elements.

As winter approaches, the camp has no health facilities and to access a basic clinic, residents have to cross into Jordan—through a border that has been largely closed since 2016. The trickle of food available is usually smuggled in and sold at exorbitant prices—unaffordable for most displaced families whose savings dried up years ago. "People need everything: flour, sugar, rice, oil, tomatoes, preserves," said Abu Nashwan, speaking to AFP via a smartphone messaging app. Generators and solar panels provide power for a few hours a day, but most essentials are virtually non-existent. "Ninety-five percent of people don't have enough to buy bread," said Abu Nashwan, in his 50s.

### Displaced, deserted

Since Syria's war erupted in 2011, more than six million people have been internally displaced,

many living in camps and relying on humanitarian aid to survive. But international access to the tens of thousands of desperate people living Rukban is particularly complex. In 2016, the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group established a base at Al-Tanf, northeast of Rukban.

It created a 55-kilometre "de-confliction line" around the base, a sort of tripwire to keep rival Iran-backed forces away from the area. Rukban fell within that zone. That same year, Amman sealed its border near Rukban after an Islamic State suicide blast in Jordan that was apparently launched from the camp. And with aid agencies unable to reach Rukban from Damascus without regime permission, its residents were stranded. They have since received limited aid, with Jordan insisting essentials must be delivered from Damascus.

The UN has provided some aid by lifting it over the Jordanian border by crane, but the last such delivery was in January. "There are major food shortages and all the prices have doubled," said Mahmud Abu Salah, a 30-year-old teacher who fled IS-held territory to Rukban nearly three years ago. Finding diapers or milk for his infant daughter is a daily struggle. "Some people use strips of tissue instead of diapers. Some give their newborn water with sugar or tea as a food supplement," he said. Adults in Rukban eat whatever is available—some bread, rice or bulghur wheat.

But, Abu Salah said, "there are plenty of people who don't even have the means to buy that."

### 'Not even on earth'

Abu Salah is looking forward to the promised aid deliveries, but said they will not be enough. "Either the camp should be officially recognized by the UN, so humanitarian organizations and doctors can come in and hospitals can be built, or it should be relocated somewhere with better living conditions," he said. The lack of medical infrastructure in Rukban is of particular concern. "Residents have access to a UN-operated clinic... on the Jordanian side of the border," said David Swanson, spokesman for the UN's humanitarian coordination office, OCHA, in Amman.

But the clinic closes at 3:00 pm every day, and Swanson said the services are "very basic". More complex cases are referred to hospitals inside Jordan, but camp residents say referrals to better facilities are extremely rare. "There are no doctors," said Abdel Fattah Al-Khaled, who fled the ancient city of Palmyra three years ago and now runs a school in the camp. "Winter is coming and the catastrophe will only get bigger." Mohammad Al-Khalidi, 43 and also from Palmyra, said he fears the world has forgotten about Rukban. "It's like we don't even live on planet earth," he said.—AFP

# Authorities discover another wave of suspicious packages

## More bombs sent to US ex-Vice President, actor De Niro

WASHINGTON: Authorities discovered another wave of suspicious packages yesterday targeting high-profile Democrats and critics of US President Donald Trump as a manhunt intensified for a serial bomber less than two weeks ahead of elections. None of the nine devices went off and no injuries were reported, but some top Democrats called the threats a symptom of a coarsening brand of political rhetoric promoted by Trump, who also condemned the acts. A suspicious package addressed to former Vice President Joe Biden was found at a mail facility in New Castle County in Delaware, a federal law enforcement official told Reuters.

Actor Robert De Niro, who hurled an obscenity at Trump at the Tony Awards last June, was also targeted, the official said. At a Wisconsin rally Wednesday night Trump called attention to "how nice I'm behaving tonight!" but yesterday morning he attacked the media. "A very big part of the Anger we see today in our society is caused by the purposely false and inaccurate reporting of the Mainstream Media that I refer to as Fake News," Trump wrote. "It has gotten so bad and hateful that it is beyond description. Mainstream Media must clean up its act, FAST!"

All the people who were targeted are frequently maligned by right-wing critics, including former US President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Obama's Attorney General Eric Holder. Former CIA Director John Brennan, prominent Democratic Party donor George Soros and California Representative Maxine Waters, an outspoken critic of Trump, were also targets. The bomb packages were sent as the nation prepared for Nov. 6 elections that will decide whether Democrats take con-

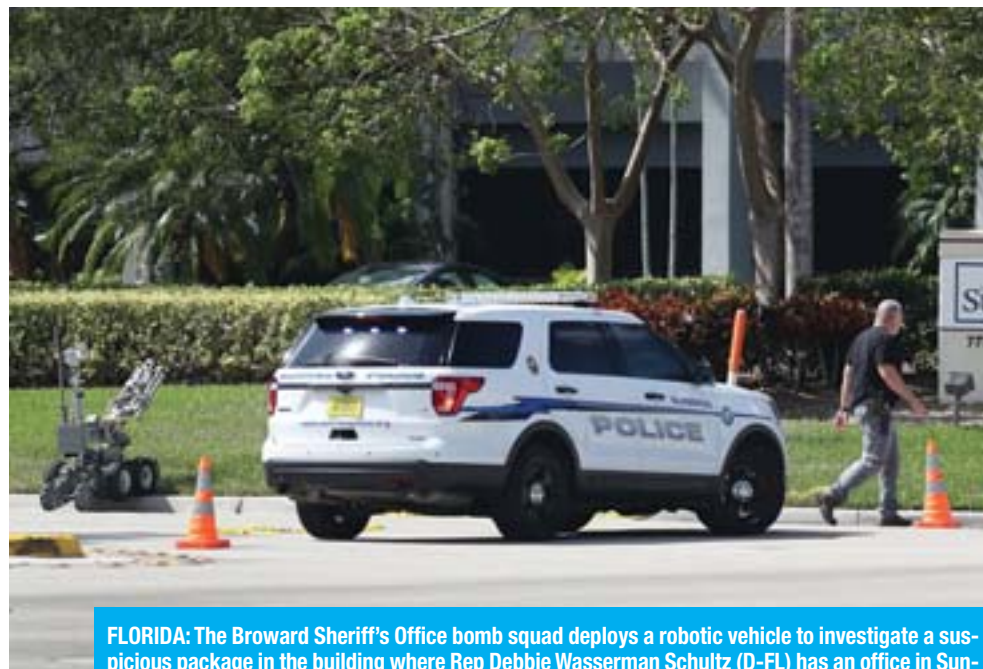
trol of one or both houses of Congress from Republicans and deny Trump the majority his party now holds in both chambers. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Several politicians, including US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, described it as an act of terrorism. "Someone is trying to intimidate. Someone is trying to quash voices in this country using violence," De Blasio said. "I am confident that we will find the perpetrator or perpetrators." The CNN bureau in New York received a package addressed to Brennan, who has appeared as a CNN analyst, leading police to evacuate the Time Warner building in a busy Manhattan neighborhood near Central Park. The package contained an envelope of white powder that experts were analyzing, New York City Police Commissioner James O'Neill said.

### 'Aggressive investigation'

Trump told the Wisconsin rally his government would conduct "an aggressive investigation." "Any acts or threats of political violence are an attack on our democracy itself," Trump said. "We want all sides to come together in peace and harmony." Last week, Trump, who joined other Republicans in accusing Democrats of encouraging "mob" tactics, heaped praise on a Montana congressman who assaulted a reporter in 2017.

At an event in Texas on Wednesday, Brennan faulted Trump for frequent inflammatory rhetoric. The first package, which turned up on Monday, was addressed to Soros, the billionaire financier and advocate of liberal, open-border values who is a frequent target of right-wing conspiracy theories. The parcel intended for Holder ended up rerouted to



FLORIDA: The Broward Sheriff's Office bomb squad deploys a robotic vehicle to investigate a suspicious package in the building where Rep Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) has an office in Sunrise, Florida. — AFP

the return address printed on all the packages - the Florida office of US Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a former chair of the Democratic National Committee, according to the FBI.

The FBI late Wednesday confirmed that two additional packages, similar in appearance to the others, were addressed to Waters. The other packages consisted of a manila envelope with a bubble-wrap

interior containing "potentially destructive devices." Each bore a computer-printed address label and six "Forever" postage stamps, the FBI said. Other officials said the devices contained in the envelopes were all similar to the one found in the mailbox of the Soros home and later detonated by police. At least one bomb was packed with shards of glass, one federal source said.— Reuters

## Viral video turns Brazilian police into politician

SAO PAULO: It took three gunshots to change Katia Sastre's life, turning the police officer first into a heroine and then one of the most successful politicians in Brazil's general election. Those three shots were what it took to kill an armed robber outside her daughter's school and turn Sastre's life upside down. She was praised by Sao Paulo's governor and having been fast-tracked into politics, Sastre received 264,000 votes as she was elected to Congress. Known locally as "mother police officer," Sastre was not shy in using the video of her dramatic shoot-out to promote herself in the election run-up.

"I shot and I would do it again. I'm brave," she said in a campaign video, dressed in her police uniform. In the video, an armed robber appears suddenly pointing a gun at a woman, but just as quickly, as others scream and run away, the off-duty Sastre pulls a weapon from her

handbag and shoots him, twice in the chest and once in the leg. The 21-year-old assailant died in a hospital. "I'm not happy about the death, which no one wants. But I am happy for having saved good people," the 42-year-old Sastre told AFP from her office in Suzano, a city in the Sao Paulo metropolitan area.

Sastre wasn't just some ordinary passer-by, though. She joined the military police two decades ago, following in the footsteps of her father, grandfather and great-grandfather, while her husband also works for the same force. Her moment of fame came on Mothers' Day in May, after which the video quickly went viral on social media. "When I left the police station after making a statement, people started ringing me and congratulating me as they'd seen the video," she recounts with a smile. Her actions proved popular not least because security and safety have been major campaign issues in Brazil, where 63,800 people were murdered last year alone. Sastre's phone didn't stop ringing and almost every political party made overtures hoping to cash in on her sudden fame, recognizing her instant marketability. She opted for the conservative Party of the Republic and became one of 35 armed forces candidates to earn seats in parliament, twice the number prior to the October 7 general election. —AFP

## Media cry foul over #MeToo 'cover-up'

LONDON: British media complained of being "gagged" by rich company bosses yesterday after a judge barred a major paper from publishing sexual harassment allegations against a leading businessman. The cries of injustice erupted after The Daily Telegraph devoted its front page Wednesday to a story headlined: "The British #MeToo scandal which cannot be revealed." The paper said the second-most senior judge in England issued a temporary injunction Tuesday against the publication of sexual harassment and racial abuse allegations by at least five employees against their boss.

The paper said the accused man had hired seven lawyers and spent nearly £500,000 (\$645,000, 565,000 euros) in legal fees to settle the complaints using non-disclosure agreements (NDAs). It followed up the story with another yesterday in which a woman identified only as a "well-known socialite" said she believed the same businessman slid a hand up her skirt at a function a decade ago. The mass-selling tabloid The Sun devoted three pages yesterday to the "Brit #MeToo gagging scandal" headlined "Gags to Riches". The

popular commuter newspaper called it a "MeToo cover-up" while The Times interviewed a former assistant to Harvey Weinstein who exposed the US film mogul's behavior despite signing an NDA. The case "highlights the weaponisation of NDAs and how they are being used unethically," former Weinstein assistant Zeldia Perkins told The Times. Non-disclosure agreements are signed by companies and their executives to prevent business secrets from leaking out. Their use has been a source of controversy and debate since the MeToo movement first gained momentum in the wake of the Weinstein allegations last year.

They were used by Weinstein and lawyers for US President Donald Trump with porn actress Stormy Daniels and at least one other woman. British Prime Minister Theresa May stressed in parliament Wednesday that NDAs "cannot stop people from whistleblowing". May was asked to take a stand on The Daily Telegraph case during a question-and-answer session with MPs during which several spoke up for the paper. The British premier said she could not weigh in on ongoing court hearings but vowed to "bring forward measures for consideration, for consultation to seek to improve the regulation around non-disclosure agreements". The Daily Telegraph said the government's new "consultation document" on NDAs will be published next week.—AFP

## International

# Koreas remove guns from the Cold War truce village

## Part of diplomatic thaw between the two foes

**SEOUL:** The two Koreas were removing the last remaining firearms and guard posts yesterday from a Cold War era truce village where armed soldiers have stared each other down for decades, Seoul's defense ministry said. The Joint Security Area—also known as the truce village of Panmunjom—has historically been both a flashpoint and a key location for diplomacy between the two Koreas ever since their split in 1953. It is the only spot along the tense, 250-kilometre (155-mile) frontier where soldiers from North Korea and the US-led United Nations Command stand face to face.

Today, all guards will be disarmed, ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said, part of a recent diplomatic thaw between the two foes that has gathered pace. "I am aware that it is going according to plan," Choi told reporters. Panmunjom was where the armistice that ended the bitter Korean War was signed. It was a designated neutral zone until the "axe murder incident" in 1976, when North Korean soldiers attacked a work party trying to chop down a tree inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), leaving two US army officers dead.

Once demilitarized, the JSA will be guarded by 35 unarmed personnel from each side and

"freedom of movement" will be allowed for visitors and tourists, according to a military pact signed between the two Koreas last month. South and North Korea—which are technically still at war—agreed to take measures to ease military tensions on their border at a meeting in Pyongyang last month between President Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong Un. The two sides finished removing landmines at the JSA—which has been increasingly used for talks between the two Koreas—last week as part of the deal.

The September summit was the third this year between the leaders, as a remarkable rapprochement takes hold on the peninsula. Moon has advocated engagement with the isolated North to nudge it toward denuclearization. The two Koreas and the UN Command, which is included as it retains jurisdiction over the southern half of the JSA, will conduct a joint verification until Saturday. The UNC chief, US general Vincent Brooks, told reporters in August that as UN commander he supported initiatives that could reduce military tensions. But he added that as commander of the combined US-South Korean forces—one of his other roles—he felt there was a "reasonable degree of risk" in Seoul's plans to dismantle guard posts near the DMZ.—AFP



**CHEORWON:** Members of South Korea's Defense Ministry recovery team work on recovering the remains of soldiers killed in the Korean War in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas in Cheorwon, 90 kilometers northeast of Seoul yesterday.—AFP

## Liberia's leader announces free tuition fees for undergraduates

**MONROVIA:** Liberian President George Weah, who overcame childhood poverty to become one of the world's top footballers, has abolished tuition fees for undergraduate students in the poor West African country's state universities. Speaking Wednesday on the campus of the University of Liberia in the name of "the Liberian people and my government", Weah declared "free tuition for all undergraduate students" at all the public universities. Weah said his decision arose after a meeting he had with the university administration.

"The students came in front of my office to complain that the administrators have increased the tuition in the school. I was not happy about that," said Weah, who took office in January. An administrator

informed him that the actual fee had not changed, but the fall of the Liberian dollar against the US one had led to a rise in the amount due in the local currency. Both currencies are legal tender in Liberia, which was founded by freed former American slaves. "I was shocked when I was told that every semester about 20,000 (would-be students) go through the registration process, (but) only 12,000 attend.

"Furthermore, about 5,000 of the 12,000 who are in attendance are depending on some form of financial aids or scholarship. The rest of the students do not attend due to the lack of financial aid," Weah added. Weah was elected late last year on a platform of fighting poverty and kickstarting an economy still affected by two civil wars between 1989 and 2003, as well as providing stability and growth. "The inability of our young people to continue their education is very troubling," he said on campus. Liberia has four state universities: the main University of Liberia, the Booker Washington Institute, Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law and the William Tubman University.—AFP

## 'Ongoing genocide' against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims

**UNITED NATIONS:** A genocide against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims is still continuing, UN investigators said Wednesday as they presented a report to the Security Council, calling for the issue to be referred to an international tribunal. Marzuki Darusman, chairman of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, said that beyond mass killings, the conflict included the ostracization of the population, prevention of births, and widespread displacement in camps. "It is an ongoing genocide," he told a press conference. "We consider the genocide intent can be reasonably inferred," he said as he presented the team's report to a United Nations Security Council meeting.

The 444-page report, first made public last month, called on the council to refer the issue to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, or to create an ad hoc tribunal, as was done with the former Yugoslavia. The explosive report said that Myanmar's top generals, including Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing, must be investigated and prosecuted for genocide in Rakhine state. Myanmar has rejected accusations that its military committed atrocities in the crackdown last year that forced 720,000 Rohingya to flee over the border to Bangladesh.

### 'Grossly disproportionate'

The conflict has also seen about 390 villages destroyed and 10,000 Rohingya killed, Darusman said. "The conditions are not in place for a safe, dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingyas in

Bangladesh" to Myanmar, he warned, adding any attempt would just risk more deaths. At the end of an October 10-20 visit to the country, the UN's Special Envoy to Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, said that accountability and "inclusive dialogue" were the two important pillars for national reconciliation.

"Credible fact-finding is the first step towards accountability," she said. The Myanmar government rejected the UN mission's findings, questioning its independence and pointing out that it had itself established an independent investigative commission made up of Asian diplomats. Darusman said however that Myanmar's internal inquiries have "proven to be ineffective failures" so far.

The Security Council meeting was called by Western powers but opposed by China and Russia, allies who have friendly ties with Myanmar's military and have regularly shielded the nation from criticism. Myanmar maintains that the violence in Rakhine was triggered by Rohingya extremists who attacked border posts in August 2017. The military has denied almost all accusations of genocide leveled against it, insisting that "clearance operations" were necessary to fight Rohingya militants. But the UN fact-finding mission said there were reasonable grounds to believe that the atrocities were committed with the intention of destroying the Rohingya.

It found that the military's tactics had been "consistently and grossly disproportionate to actual security threats", and that estimates that some 10,000 people were killed in the crackdown was likely a conservative figure. Myanmar's de facto leader Suu Kyi - once lionized by the international community as a democracy icon - has seen a sharp fall from grace following her refusal to speak out against the military. The UN mission has pointed out that her government's attempts to whitewash facts had worsened the situation for the embattled Rohingya.—AFP



## International

# China blasts Trump phone hack report as 'fake news'

## Beijing urges US president to switch to Chinese phone

**BEIJING:** Beijing yesterday dismissed a New York Times report that alleged Chinese intelligence eavesdropped on Donald Trump's cellphone calls as "fake news" and joked the US president should switch to a Chinese phone. The newspaper cited anonymous officials who said China and Russia had listened in to Trump's frequent phone calls with friends and allies made over his iPhone, using the information gleaned to shape interactions with the US. When asked about the report at a regular news

briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said "certain people in the US are sparing no efforts to win the best screenplay award at the Oscars".

Hua offered three recommendations to the US daily and the Trump administration. "First The New York Times should know if they publish this type of report it provides another piece of evidence of The New York Times making fake news," she said, using one of Trump's favorite tactics to disparage unflat-

tering articles. "Second if they are worried about Apple phones being listened in on, they should swap them with Huawei phones," Hua said, referring to one of China's largest telecommunications firms, which has been largely blocked from the US market over national security concerns.

Lastly, Hua recommended "they should stop using any modern communication equipment and cut off contact with the outside" if they want to ensure absolute security. Russia, too,

dismissed the eavesdropping allegations. "We already treat these sort of stories with a certain humor," said presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov. "We regret this newspaper unthinkingly publishes information which most likely indicates a decline in journalistic standards." The Times' report on Wednesday provided few details on how China and Russia were monitoring Trump's communications aside from noting the calls were intercepted as they travel through the US cellphone network. —AFP

## Israel warplanes strike Gaza after rocket fire

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli warplanes hit Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip yesterday in response to rocket fire from the territory into southern Israel, the army said. The fighter jets targeted a military compound in the northern Gaza Strip and a training facility and a munitions manufacturing and storage site in the south, it said in a statement.

Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas said there were no casualties in the strikes. An Israeli army spokeswoman said the raids were in response to a rocket fired from Gaza which caused no casualties or damage but which evaded Israel's Iron Dome defense system, triggering an inquiry. It was the first such fire from Gaza since October 17 when a rocket severely damaged a family home in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, prompting some 20 retaliatory air strikes and the temporary suspension of fuel deliveries to Gaza.

Hamas and its allies disavowed the recent rocket fire blaming fringe groups bent on sabotaging UN and Egyptian efforts to broker a long-term truce in return for a relaxation of Israel's crippling 11-year blockade of the impoverished territory. But Israel has vowed repeatedly to hold Hamas to blame for any rocket fire regardless of who launched it. "The Hamas terror organization is responsible for all



**GAZA:** Palestinian children drink from plastic bottles filled with water drawn from a cistern in a poor neighborhood in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. —AFP

events transpiring in the Gaza Strip and emanating from it," the army said yesterday. The latest flare-up comes after months of Palestinian protests along the Gaza border that have drawn a deadly response from Israeli troops.

The protesters have been demanding an end to Israel's blockade and the right of return to land now inside Israel, from which their families were expelled or fled during the 1948 war that accompanied its creation. More than 200 Pales-

tinians have been killed in the territory by Israeli fire since the protests began on March. One Israeli soldier has been killed in the border area over the same period. The air force on Wednesday struck a position in Gaza used by protesters to launch incendiary balloons into Israel, the military said. Palestinian fire kites and balloons have destroyed large areas of Israeli farmland causing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of crop losses. —AFP

ident Barham Saleh handed Abdel Mahdi the task of forming a new government, with several coalitions jockeying for preeminence.

A veteran of Iraqi politics and an economist by training, Abdel Mahdi, 76, is regarded as sufficiently independent to be able to assemble a government despite fractures in the ruling elites. The former oil minister has support from both Tehran and Washington, a necessary consensus in a country caught between two major allies, each the enemy of the other. Iraq has a proportional voting system designed to prevent a slide back into dictatorship following the 2003 ouster of late dictator Saddam Hussein.

The largely ceremonial role of president, now held by the 58-year-old Saleh, has been reserved for the Kurds since Iraq's first multi-party elections in 2005. Under the power-sharing deal, the post of prime minister is held by a Shi'ite, while the speaker

of parliament is Sunni Arab — a post filled last month by Mohammed al-Halbusi. The new government faces an immense task in rebuilding a country ravaged by three years of Islamic State occupation and fierce fighting. It will also have to deal with the scourges of corruption, power shortages, and decaying public services.

Among those given the green light yesterday are Thamer Abbas Ghabbane in the crucial ministry of oil - Iraq's only source of income. He previously held the portfolio in 2004 and 2005. In the finance seat is Fouad Hussein, who has close ties to the autonomous region of Kurdistan. Parliament will reconvene on November 6 to decide on the remaining ministries. For foreign affairs, Abdel Mahdi has proposed Mohammed Ali al-Hakim, a former ambassador to the UN, and for electricity, Louai Al-Khatib, a respected researcher in the energy field. —AFP

## Facebook removes 8.7 million sexual photos of children

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Facebook Inc said on Wednesday that company moderators during the last quarter removed 8.7 million user images of child nudity with the help of previously undisclosed software that automatically flags such photos. The machine learning tool rolled out over the last year identifies images that contain both nudity and a child, allowing increased enforcement of Facebook's ban on photos that show minors in a sexualized context.

A similar system also disclosed on Wednesday catches users engaged in "grooming," or befriending minors for sexual exploitation. Facebook's global head of safety Antigone Davis told Reuters in an interview that the "machine helps us prioritize" and "more efficiently queue" problematic content for the company's trained team of reviewers. The company is exploring applying the same technology to its Instagram app. Under pressure from regulators and lawmakers, Facebook has vowed to speed up removal of extremist and illicit material. Machine learning programs that sift through the billions of pieces of content users post each day are essential to its plan.

Machine learning is imperfect, and news agencies and advertisers are among those that have complained this year about Facebook's automated systems wrongly blocking their posts. Davis said the child safety systems would make mistakes but users could appeal. "We'd rather err on the side of caution with children," she said. Facebook's rules for years have banned even family photos of lightly clothed children uploaded with "good intentions," concerned about how others might abuse such images. Before the new software, Facebook relied on users or its adult nudity filters to catch child images. A separate system blocks child pornography that has previously been reported to authorities. —Reuters

## Iraq parliament okays ministers for new cabinet

**BAGHDAD:** The Iraqi parliament approved 14 new cabinet ministers yesterday proposed by prime minister-designate Adel Abdel Mahdi, even as key portfolios such as defense and interior affairs remained unassigned, an official said. A total of 220 lawmakers out of 329 elected in May to a deeply divided parliament, approved Abdel Mahdi's 14 picks, including for the ministries of foreign affairs, finances, and oil. After elections in May, new Pres-

## International

# NATO shows Russia military might in biggest exercises

## Alliance stands united despite seeds of doubt

**OSLO:** Norway hosts NATO's biggest exercises since the end of the Cold War, to remind Russia the Alliance stands united despite seeds of doubt planted by US President Donald Trump. Some 50,000 soldiers, 10,000 vehicles, 65 ships and 250 aircraft from 31 countries are taking part in Trident Juncture 18, which is aimed at training the Atlantic Alliance to defend a member state after an aggression. "In recent years, Europe's security environment has significantly deteriorated," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, of Norway, said.

"Trident Juncture sends a clear message to our nations and to any potential adversary. NATO does not seek confrontation but we stand ready to defend all Allies against any threat," he told reporters on Wednesday. While the "potential adversary" has not been officially identified, Russia is on everybody's minds. The country, which shares a 198-kilometre (123-mile) border with Norway in the Far North, has repeatedly flaunted its military strength in recent years. The Russian army has annexed Crimea, helped destabilize eastern Ukraine, beefed up its military capabilities in the Arctic, and conducted its biggest ever exercises in the Far East in September.



**'Anti-Russian' exercise**  
The Russian embassy in Oslo said it considered Trident Juncture an "anti-Russian" exercise. "Such activity ... comes across as provocative, even if you try to justify it as being of a purely defensive nature," it said. For months, Moscow has been annoyed by the growing Western military presence in the region. The United States and Britain have been increasing their deployments in Norway to accustom their troops to cold weather combat.

**Trident Juncture sends a clear message**  
Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, speaking in early October, condemned what she termed as NATO's "sabre-rattling", and vowed Moscow would take "retaliatory measures". "The main NATO countries are increasing their military presence in the region, near Russia's borders," she said. "Such irresponsible actions are bound to lead to a destabilization of the political situation in the North, to heighten tensions," she added. Tensions already flared on Saturday after Trump announced he was abandoning a Cold War-era nuclear treaty, a move which Russia warned could cripple global security. Accusing Russia of developing a new missile, the SSC-8, Trump threatened to increase the US nuclear weapons arsenal.



**NORTH HOLLAND:** Dutch marine vessel Hr Ms Johan de Witt leaves the harbor of Den Helder in The Netherlands to take part in the NATO exercise Trident Juncture in Norway. — AFP

### Article 5 secured?

Despite concerns about Trump's commitment to the Alliance—particularly regarding the "Article 5" mutual defence clause—the US military is contributing the biggest contingent to Trident Juncture, with more than 14,000 troops, including an aircraft carrier. "We exercise in Norway but of course the lessons ... from Trident Juncture are also relevant for other countries," Stoltenberg said. On

Tuesday, four US soldiers were lightly injured when trucks delivering material were involved in a pile-up. In addition to NATO's 29 member countries, Norway's neighbors Sweden and Finland will join the exercises, which run through November 7. Two Russian and two Belarus military observers have been invited to watch the maneuvers. Stoltenberg said he hoped Russia would "avoid dangerous behavior". —AFP

## 'Europe or bust' migrants undeterred in Morocco

**TANGIERS:** For scores of African migrants, it's a case of "Europe or bust", no matter what Moroccan authorities throw at them in the way of detentions and being bussed hundreds of kilometers away. "I'll come back here even if they send me back 10 times!" insisted Achille, a 28-year-old from Cameroon determined to reach Spain across the sea from the city of Tangiers in northern Morocco. In late September, together with his wife and two-year-old child, Achille was about to board an inflatable boat bound for Spain when they were caught in a police raid.

After four days detained in the basement of a Tangiers police station, the family was transported with other migrants by bus to Tiznit, 800 kilometers to the south. Achille, who first made his way to Morocco in 2015 after a long and arduous journey, had previously been turned back to Casablanca. The same has happened to thousands of migrants since Moroccan authorities last summer turned the screws and launched a relocation campaign to

distance them from the north of the country or in some cases to fly them home. The authorities, listing 54,000 foiled attempts to cross to Europe between January and end of August, say the north is where human trafficking networks operate.

Despite alleged rights violations in the campaign being waged by Moroccan authorities, hundreds of migrants just keep returning to Tangiers unless they are repatriated. "Tangiers is my town, I will only leave it for Spain," said Achille, circled by a dozen fellow Cameroonians squatting in an out-of-the-way lot dotted with trees, some of them killing time laying down on mattresses, others watching out for police. "We're living like animals here," said 35-year-old Wilfred. "These people around me are like my brothers. Today they're Africans, tomorrow they'll be Europeans."

### At mercy of 'taxi mafia'

Wilfred had it better than most the last time he was arrested: he was bussed to Casablanca, 380 kilometres away, because "those who pay are sent less far off". He had already been deported to Tiznit and across the border to Algeria. An anti-racist foreigners' support group, GADEM, in mid-October condemned what it termed Morocco's "discriminatory" policies towards migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. Around 6,500 of them were deported between July and start of September, including 121 minors, 17 babies and 12 pregnant women, it said. Sub-Saharan African mi-

grants are being held at Tangiers police stations "outside any judicial framework", GADEM said. Authorities have launched an inquiry into the deaths of two young Malians, including a youth of 16, during a transfer operation in early March.

The relocations are defended by the authorities as aimed at distancing and protecting migrants from the gangs of smugglers in northern Morocco. Ali, 20, knows full well that he can be caught any time but will keep trying to reach Europe. "Only the weak give up," he whispered. "I'm sure I will be able to reach Spain one day, and it's that hope that gives me the strength to battle on." Even the return to Tangiers has its obstacles, such as bus firms in Casablanca refusing to sell tickets to migrants and leaving them at the mercy of a "taxi mafia", according to migrants questioned by AFP.

The main point of return is the city's Boukhalef district, which has a sizeable community of sub-Saharan Africans, many of them waiting to jump on a ramshackle boat for a perilous crossing to Europe. Morocco, which nationals of many African states can visit without visas, has become a major gateway for sub-Saharan migrants into Europe. More than 47,000 migrants have made it north to Spain since the start of 2018, including about 5,000 by land from two Spanish enclaves bordering Morocco, according to the International Organization for Migration. It says 362 migrants have died out at sea or gone missing this year. —AFP

## French court rules Sarkozy should be tried over funding

**PARIS:** A French appeals court ruled yesterday that former president Nicolas Sarkozy should answer charges of illicit financing of his failed 2012 election campaign, the latest in a string of legal proceedings likely to see him face trial. Sarkozy, 63, will appeal the decision before France's court of final appeal, his lawyers said. It is one of several legal inquiries which have dogged the rightwing politician since he left office in 2012.

In upholding last year's decision by a judge to put Sarkozy on trial, the appeals court in Paris rejected arguments from his legal team seeking to avoid the potentially embarrassing public ordeal of a trial. If convicted, he could face up to a year in prison if found guilty. Prosecutors claim Sarkozy spent nearly 43 million euros (\$51 million) on his lavish re-election bid—almost double the legal limit of 22.5 million euros—using fake invoices. Sarkozy has angrily denounced the charges, saying he was unaware of the fraud by executives at public relations firm Bygmalion, who are also amongst a total of 13 people likely to face trial.

Others caught up in the case include accountants and former officials of the conservative UMP party. Sarkozy's defense team had also argued that France's Constitutional Council had already sanctioned the ex-president for campaign overspending in 2013. But that ruling concerned just 364,000 euros of overspending, and came before revelations of the "Bygmalion affair" and fake billings. —AFP

# Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)

A member of the Canadian circus troop 'Le Cirque du Soleil' performs during the show 'Totem' in Paris. — AFP

**'We've got the power!' In DRC, rap moves to take on rumba**

See Page 20

## Lifestyle | Feature



Belgium singer and artist Baloji is seen during the shooting of one of his video-clips.



A Congolese hip-hop enthusiast is seen inside Kinshasound, one of Kinshasa's few local recording studios.

An actor wearing a costume is seen during the shooting of one of Belgium singer and artist Baloji's video-clips in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. — AFP photos

# 'We've got the power!' In DRC, rap moves to take on rumba



Belgium singer and artist Baloji is seen directing during the shooting of one of his video-clips.



Belgium singer and artist Baloji watches one of his actors wearing a costume made of condoms, during the shooting of one of his video-clips.

It is a conflict at once cultural, generational and political: rap music in DR Congo is staging a frontal assault on rumba, accusing its ageing stars of only singing of love and other banalities. DRC's growing army of rappers say their urban lyrics reflect a gritty realism edged with angst as one of Africa's biggest and most unstable nations heads towards a troubled presidential election. At the back of a courtyard in Bandal, a popular and trendy district of the capital Kinshasa, a DJ called DDT has opened Kinshasound, a recording studio which is about the size of a toilet.

At the mixing deck, beat maker Kratos is playing around with a mix of ethnic rhythms caught somewhere between the big sounds of the Bronx and the driving drumbeats of Afrobeat or Afro-Trap. This tiny studio has attracted rap artists like Sista Becky, Alesh and Magneto, who electrified the crowds at last month's Red One urban music festival in Kinshasa. But Kinshasound has also attracted other visitors—among them officials responsible for music and events at the national censorship board who shut it down in August, DDT explains. It was eventually reopened after a series of negotiations, which involved handing over some cash. And their complaint? That DDT was producing "obscene songs which were an offence to common decency" and violated a law on censorship dating back to 1996.

### 'The boss got no heart'

"I asked them which (lyrics were problematic) and they didn't know what to tell me," DDT said—although he himself has a pretty good idea. "We are basically putting out a lot of popular songs," he says, referring to one track released late last year by Alesh called "Mokonzi o'a Motema Mabe"—which means "The boss got no heart" with a chorus that includes the phrase: "Stealing is not good".

The track came out as the Democratic Republic of Congo was in the grip of a political crisis over the contentious rule of President Joseph Kabila. He refused to step down at the end of his mandate and repeatedly delayed the elections—although a date has now been set for a vote on December 23. For the censors, the track went too far and they banned it, although only for a time.

### 'Making your brain dance'

"They're afraid that urban music will change things," DDT explains. "The old rumba stars sing about love most of the time, but for us, it's mostly about social matters, like needy youngsters in the street, the lack of electricity, about illness, about the current political system, about things that aren't working." Rap's subversive rise has shaken things up for the rumba scene, which has long been regarded as DR Congo's national music and which has had ties to the ruling classes since the country won independence from Belgium in 1960.

One of its most celebrated hits, "Independence Cha Cha", which was written by singer Le Grande Kalle to celebrate the nation's newly-acquired freedom, remains widely recognised as one of the best-known examples of Congolese rumba. Widely respected for the genius of Grande Kalle and his L'African Jazz band and fellow founding fathers Tabu Ley Rochereau and TPOK Jazz as well as extraordinary vocals of the late Papa Wemba, rumba underwent something of a revival after the millennium.

During that decade, several beer companies sponsored stars like Werrason and JB MPiana, and the genre continued its commercial trend with "libanga"—in which the artist drops the name of an influential sponsor into a song in the hope of earning a fistful of dollars. "I am a dissonant note in the country of rumba. Ok, rumba is fine but in the end, it's too much: I love you, I love you, I love you..." says rapper Lexxus Legal. An emblematic figure

## Lifestyle | Features



A young Congolese woman is seen inside a popular bar.



A Congolese hip-hop enthusiast sings inside Kinshasound, one of Kinshasa's few local recording studios.



A Congolese producer DDT (right) is seen inside Kinshasound, one of Kinshasa's few local recording studios.

within Congolese hip-hop, he has made a name for himself with music that "makes your brain dance."

### 'We have the power'

Like Smockey, a hip-hop artist and political activist in Burkina Faso or Uganda's singer-turned-politician Bobbi Wine, Lexxus Legal has long been engaged in political activism, and is running as an independent candidate in December's legislative elections. "When President Kabila addresses the nation, the word 'culture' has never passed his lips, not even once," he rails. "We no longer have the right to switch off. The words should be about us, we've

got the power!" But in the world of music, like in politics, the boundaries are sometimes blurred.

These days, rap's "rebels" are more likely to come from the nicer neighbourhoods of Kinshasa like Gombe or MaCampagne than from the slums of Masina or Selembao. And some of them even have a job. On the other hand, the country's most established rumba artist, Koffi Olomide, 63, recently took everyone by surprise by getting political. He lashed out at the voting machines which have sparked widespread controversy in the run-up to the election. Lauded by the government, the machines have been rejected by the opposition as open to abuse and fraud. — AFP



Actors perform in the streets.

## Music an Oasis for Guardiola

'Don't Look Back In Anger' by Manchester band Oasis has become the city's anthem since last year's terror attack, and is one that has had a powerful impact on Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. The 47-year-old Spaniard's wife and daughters escaped unharmed from the bombing at the Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena in May last year which left 22 dead. Guardiola said in a wide-ranging interview—topics included his thoughts on the refugee crisis—that he and his family sing it in unison when they go out together.

"I like that, after what happened in Manchester at the arena, now it is a song for the people, you know?" Guardiola told the BBC website. "Like in the video when everyone is in silence and one woman starts to sing the song and everybody sings, that is a moment, it was so touching for my family and for myself." Guardiola admits the song "puts me in the best of myself when I listen—it's a masterpiece". On the night of the attack, Guardiola and his son did not attend the concert, but endured some nervous moments when they could not contact the rest of the family. "At the end we were lucky," he said. "Many people suffered, and we were lucky. Life is like this. We were in a better position than many unfortunate ones."

### 'It's about humanity'

Guardiola lists five other songs which resonate with him—two from his beloved Catalonia, including the 1970 song Fiesta by Joan Manuel Serrat. "I was not a guy who went to a lot of parties. At 13 years old I was going to Barcelona's academy," he said. "In the summer, when school was finished, everyone would go to the Sant Joan party and it's a song that reminds me a lot of my little town of Santpedor when I was young." Guardiola also named Elton John's 'Your Song' and 'Ole Blue Eyes', as well as Frank Sinatra's 'New York New York', where the Spaniard spent time during the sabbatical that followed his hugely successful spell in charge of Barcelona. "Sinatra was a fighter; he had work ethic, not just the talent," he said.

Guardiola reveals he, too, had to fight when he was in New York, to learn German ahead of taking up the head coaching role at Bayern Munich. "It is so complicated to learn," said Guardiola. "Three or four hours a day in the morning with the grammar, after two months I thought: I'm going to call and break the contract. "It is so complicated even for German kids to learn. Can you imagine for a 41-year-old man? "But I am stubborn." Guardiola's colleagues—save perhaps Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp—are renowned for not being too aware of what is going on in the outside world, but it is not an accusation one can level at the Spaniard.

He has strong thoughts on the refugee crisis, drawing a parallel with the Spanish Civil War and how doors abroad that were opened to those who fled it are now closed. "All around the Mediterranean people are dying and the governments in Italy, Spain, it is not allowed for the people to rescue the people who are dying," he said. "I don't know what kind of society we are going to do because it's not about the law, it's about humanity. "If there are people dying and heroes going in with open arms to rescue them, and the governments don't let them do that, it's because we are going really, really bad." — AFP

# Show me the money: Wealth-flaunting meme goes viral in China

Chinese social media users have seized on a viral meme in which people are pictured literally rolling in their own wealth, spawning a range of cheeky counter-posts poking fun at the country's nouveau riche. Posts related to the aptly-named Wealth-Flaunting Challenge on China's popular Weibo platform had been viewed more than 2.3 billion times, drawing more than a million comments. In the meme, which originated in Russia, social media users post pictures of themselves falling face-down to the pavement as they exit their cars, the ground strewn with their cash, credit cards, jewelry, designer bags and shoes, and other luxury items and electronics.

Decades of skyrocketing economic growth have given China the most dollar billionaires of any country in the world with 620, according to Shanghai-based magazine publisher Hurun Report, and many of China's newly wealthy are not shy about showing off their luxury cars and accoutrements. But the meme has inspired a wealth of parodies in China, with people seeing it as a golden opportunity to mock the rich.

In one, a man labeled as a "hard-working" staff member is shown on the ground in front of what appears to be an office building surrounded by an array of cleaning supplies, brooms and mops. Even government agencies have joined the party, providing a propaganda bonanza. Shanghai's fire department showed personnel splayed on the ground next to fire trucks and surrounded by firefighting equipment, while the Hubei province police department depicted a gun-toting officer standing next to his vehicle over four men on the ground in civilian clothes, representing "evil forces". And companies have seized on the frenzy to advertise their goods. A woman who works for a subsidiary of China National Gold Group posed belly down with her feet up on an luxurious armchair and bullions strewn around her.

## 'Out of their mind?'

Other tongue-in-cheek posts include a woman surrounded by an array of lipsticks with her feet resting on a white sofa, or a man on the ground with six cats. "Everyone has something he or she thinks is the most valuable or what he or she cares about the most. To me, it's my cats," said Li Dong, 33, the cat owner who joined the challenge on Weibo in mid-October. "It's an exaggerated way of expression. I think it's fun so I showed my cats off," Li told AFP. Much of the online reaction to the wave of postings dismissed them as a waste of time compared to the altruistic objectives of the previous "Ice Bucket Challenge", which went global.

"Are these people out of their mind? How empty must their life be so that they are figuring out different ways to prove their existence," said one posting on Weibo. Others, however, were more positive about posts by university students and young workers using the meme to present academic and professional accomplishments. "It's disheartening to see young people being impacted by the pursuit of money and power. I support the young people who are hard-working. That's where the country's hope lies!" read one post on Weibo.



This handout photo posted on July 30, 2018 and released to AFP by "djsmash" yesterday shows the first "falling stars challenge" posted by Russian DJ and music producer Andrey Shirman, known as DJ Smash, showing him sprawled face down at the foot of the gangway of a private jet. — AFP

## Russian socialites

The first "falling stars challenge" was posted on Instagram by Russian DJ and music producer Andrey Shirman, known as DJ Smash, on July 30, showing him in tracksuit bottoms and a T-shirt sprawled face down at the foot of the gangway of a private jet. It was quickly followed by similar posts from a succession of high-profile models and socialites—most wearing swimwear or short shorts—photographed stretched out near private jets and luxury yachts. Their posts garnered tens of thousands of likes.—AFP

One famous contributor was Ksenia Sobchak, former TV star and 2018 presidential candidate, who in mid-August put up a photo of herself in a swimsuit falling down the stairs of what appears to be a yacht. Criticism of this public flaunting of wealth has been muted in Russia, with commentators suggesting the whole fad was just a bit of summer fun. Like in China, as the #fallingstars2018 hashtag gained momentum, Russians started putting up parodies. One shows a young woman falling off a deckchair in a bikini; in another, a man is face down in front of a couch with his head on a fashion magazine.—AFP

## SENTOV: UKRAINIAN FILM DIRECTOR BLOCKED BY POLITICS



In this file photo Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov listens to the verdict at a military court in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don. — AFP

Oleg Sentsov's career as a film director was on the rise when Russia's annexation of his native Crimea abruptly changed the course of his life. Since 2015 he has been languishing in a far northern Russian jail after he was convicted by a Russian court of planning arson attacks in the annexed peninsula. Yesterday, the European Parliament awarded Sentsov its prestigious Sakharov human rights prize. In May the 42-year-old announced a hunger strike, demanding that Russia free all Ukrainian political prisoners, and was kept alive by a drip. But he called off the protest this month, after 145 days, to avoid being force-fed after extracting no concessions from authorities. He had lost some 20 kilograms (44 pounds) and his cousin said Sentsov's life remains in danger because of the damage to his health.

Sentsov made his first film "Gamer" in 2011, writing, directing and producing it himself on a budget of just \$20,000 raised from his job running a gaming centre in the Crimean city of Simferopol. It was shown at the Rotterdam Film Festival in 2012 as well as several other European festivals. At the time of his arrest in 2014, he was preparing to make a new film, "Nosorog," or "Rhino" with financing from a German film fund. He was also an opposition activist and member of the protest group AutoMaidan. It held protests against Ukraine's Russia-backed president Viktor Yanukovich, and took part in the Maidan popular uprising in Kiev over the winter of 2013-2014, which culminated in Yanukovich's ousting.

## 'Show trial'

Sentsov was convicted in 2015 by a Russian military court of carrying out arson attacks on pro-Kremlin party offices in Crimea and plotting further attacks, including blowing up a Lenin statue in Simferopol. His trial alongside co-defendant Alexander Kolchenko prompted condemnation from Western countries and Kiev, with Amnesty International likening it to "Stalinist-era show trials." In his final statement in court, he quoted Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov's cult novel "The Master and Margarita."

He recounted how Pontius Pilate, the biblical figure who is a character in Bulgakov's novel, comes to realise that cowardice is the "greatest sin." "I agree with him. Cowardice is the most important, the most terrible sin on Earth," Sentsov said. Supporters say Russia wanted to make an example of him with a particularly harsh sentence. Celebrities including Spanish film director Pedro Almodovar and Hollywood actor Johnny Depp have called for Sentsov's release, as have Western governments led by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Sentsov has two children including a son who has autism. His mother begged Russian President Vladimir Putin in a letter sent this summer: "Do not destroy his life and that of his loved ones. We are waiting for him at home." —AFP



An art work by artist Sornchai Phongsa, titled 'Alien capital', at the inaugural Bangkok Art Biennale in Bangkok, Thailand. — Reuters photos



An installation by artist Imhathai Suwatthanasilp, titled 'No More Sewing Machine', at the inaugural Bangkok Art Biennale.

# Migrants, sex workers take pride of place in Bangkok art festival

Sex workers and migrant laborers feature prominently in an art festival in Bangkok, which features local and international artists tackling issues that the artistic director says are otherwise ignored in the city. The inaugural Bangkok Art Biennale (BAB), which runs until February, features 75 exhibits in 20 venues that include the city's ancient temples, luxury hotels and malls. For the theme, Beyond Bliss, several artists chose social and environmental issues, said Apinan Poshyananda, the artistic director. "These are often collateral in our pursuit of bliss," he said. "This is why we decided to turn the entire city into a giant venue, so we could make it accessible to everyone, get everyone to think about it," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

One of those issues is migrant workers, who number more than 3 million in Thailand, according to the International Organization for Migration. Rights groups say there are many more, working largely in risky, low-paid jobs such as construction and in the fishing and seafood industries, where abuse is common. A

large bamboo sculpture by Sornchai Phongsa - who is the son of illegal migrant workers from Myanmar - is titled Alien Capital, and was built by illegal migrant workers. "The work is a comment on how Bangkok thrives on migrant workers, yet the workers themselves are invisible and silent," said Poshyananda. "This work gives them a voice."

Firoz Mahmud also addresses migration with his stylized photographs of Bangladeshis in large green glasses seeing a better life in Thailand. Thai artist Imhathai Suwatthanasilp's "No More Sewing Machine" installation features parts of sewing machines wrapped in the hair of sex workers in the northern city of Chiang Mai. "It ridicules society's notion that sex workers can be rehabilitated by teaching them sewing," said Poshyananda.

### 'Why must that be the only option?'

Another Thai artist, Chumpon Apisuk, tackles the stigma that sex workers face, with a 10-minute video featuring female and transgender sex workers in Chiang Mai talking about their

dreams. Pueng, who works in a massage parlor, says she would like to build a home for her family and have her own grocery shop. Apo, a bar girl, says she dream of owning an airline, because "it looks good, and people will see me as a smart woman". The video seeks to "build up confidence of sex workers, and is a way for them to voice their pride," said Chumpon. Thailand has more than 123,530 sex workers, according to a 2014 report by the UN agency for HIV/AIDS.

Although prostitution is illegal, it is tolerated, with visitors to the country seeking out its go-go bars and "soapy" massages as much as its white-sand beaches and gilded Buddhist temples. "The sex industry is a big business that brings in tourists, and helps the workers support their families," said Poshyananda. "Yet we stigmatize them and dehumanize them. Perhaps this will open our eyes to their lives and their dreams." — Reuters



An art work by Bangladeshi artist Firoz Mahmud, titled 'Migrational Craving'.



An art work by Bangladeshi artist Firoz Mahmud, titled 'Migrational Craving'.

## Lifestyle | Fashion



# REVAMPED **SAO PAULO FASHION WEEK** HIGHLIGHTS NEW FORMAT, NEW BRANDS

Sao Paulo's 46th Fashion Week, Latin America's most important fashion show, is underway this week featuring a new venue, a new format, and the debut of four new labels. This year's theme is titled "Tran[sp]osicion" (Modification). Novelties included workshops, presentations and panel discussions. Lilly Sarti, the fashion brand run by sisters Lilly and Renata Sarti, opened the event on Sunday at a runway in downtown Sao Paulo. The Sarti sisters' "Heritage" collection offered a view of a winter encompassed by color, but with few patterns.

Oversized garments with fringed edges dominated the chilly opening night, while stripes and animal print mingled with earth tones, blues, burgundy, black and white in looks that emphasized a cinched-in silhouette. Familiar names to the Brazilian fashion festival such as Osklen and Reinaldo Lourenco made an appearance Monday and Tuesday at a warehouse in the city's western industrial part.

## Call for tolerance

Just as in previous Sao Paulo Fashion Weeks, Brazilian designer Ronaldo Fraga stood out with a runway show that offered much more than just clothes and the latest trends. This time Fraga displayed a collection he said is a reflection on intolerance—strongly influenced by the Israel-Palestine conflict he observed during a 2017 trip to Tel Aviv. "We're turning out to be an extremely intolerant society. Intolerant of differences and of minorities. In this show, I wanted to talk about that," Fraga told reporters. At the end of the show, Fraga's runway moved to center around a large banquet table with models and invited spectators sitting around it. He once again presented a diverse line-up of models, reflecting the reality of the city of Sao Paulo. The austere collection heavily featured blue embroidery work with minimal patterns.

## Four fashion line debuts

First-time presenters Piet, Cacete Company, Torino and Bobstore arrived in full force for their Sao Paulo debuts. Torino launched Monday with an urban runway full of blue, green, black and white. The star of the show was Brazilian actress Deborah Secco, who showed off her new short haircut. Cacete Company, which is set to display its designs on Friday, promises a collection inspired by the "subversive pornographic culture" of the 1990s.

Also on Friday, Piet will present "Montana," a collection that takes its cues from sporty hiking and outdoors-wear looks. And Bobstore plans to show off its Georgia O'Keefe-inspired collection Wednesday. Sao Paulo Fashion Week, which will have offered a total of 31 shows by its end, closes Friday. — AFP



Models present creations by Ronaldo Fraga during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AFP photos

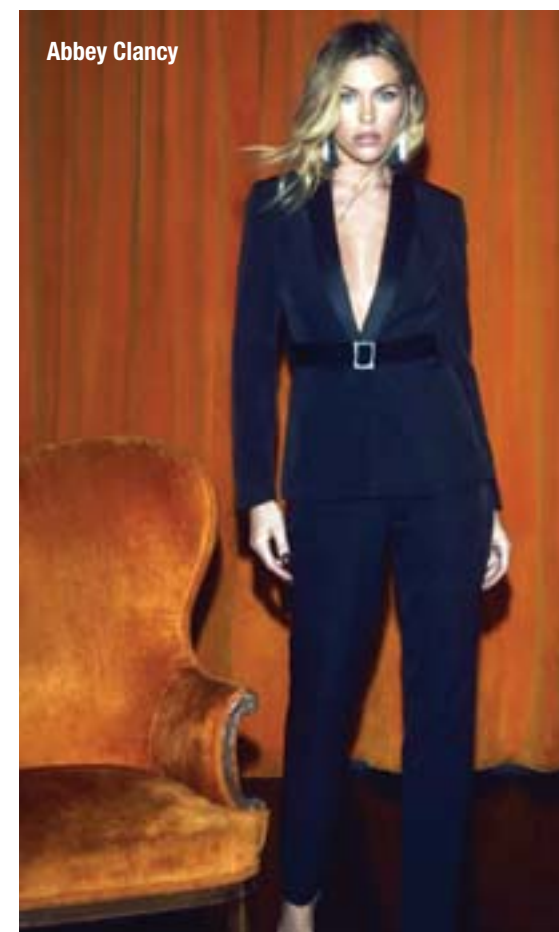




## Clancy uses Castor oil on her eyelashes

Abbey Clancy uses Castor oil on her eyelashes. The 32-year-old model's eyelashes were "ruined" by individual extensions and after turning to the oil, they are now "growing like wildfire". Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I tell you what I have been doing which really works is castor oil on your eyelids. It's amazing because I had the individual lashes and it ruins your eyelashes so someone said rub the castor oil on it and they're literally growing like wildfire. It definitely works so that's a nice tip." The 'Britain's Next Top Model' star has recently launched a fashion line with Lipsy London and the new collection promises a hoard of "go-to party dresses", which Abbey has put her personal stamp on.

She added: "I think it is party season coming up - all the Christmas parties and New Year and you know Lipsy is renowned for being the go-to party dress I think. So I just wanted to put a bit of my personal style and my stamp on that and I think it's come out really well. "I'd go for something sparkly, something fun. I've got a cute little silver stripy sequin mini that's cute or the gold pencil dress that I just think is amazing and just makes your figure look great. Then Christmas day looks - maybe one of the big chunky look cardis or the chunky knit roll neck with a nice pair of the jeans or faux leather pants. "I love the tux suit because I think for me that's a wardrobe staple to have a tailored suit. I love the faux fur coat I think it's just easy you can put it with a beautiful sequin ball gown or with a pair of trainers and it looks really cool." Abbey Clancy x Lipsy available now at [www.next.co.uk/lipsy](http://www.next.co.uk/lipsy) and all Lipsy stores.



Models present creations by Bobstore during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



# How to pack for any **festival**

**P**reparing for a festival this year? Don't panic: from practicalities to planet-friendly tips, we've got it covered. To ensure you've accounted for wading in mud, crippling hangovers and entertaining little ones (delete as appropriate), we've put together a potted guide to festival necessities, whatever the weather, budget and company involved.

## To camp or not to camp

First off, read what not to take with you on the festival's website - this can be anything from aerosols to paper lanterns to gazebo tents. If you're camping, leave behind that expensive tent if you're expecting lots of footfall and partying around your pitch. And whatever your tent size, double the number of people it suggests it accommodates - you'll always need more space.

Not a fan of pitching up? Consider city-based weekend festi-

vals, such as Field Day in London, Sydney Festival or Movement Detroit, USA, as well as those such as Ultra Music Festival held across the globe, from Shanghai to Lima. If glamping, take note of what the festival provides so you can rock up and relax. Whatever you opt for, check to see if there are amenities near to the site or if you'll have to take more stuff with you.

## The bare necessities

After you've checked and double-checked that you've got your festival ticket, ID, cash and debit card, pack solar chargers so you can charge on the go instead of queuing to top up on-site and missing your fave band or losing your friends. If camping, always take a mallet, use folded clothes as a pillow and invest in a good mummy bag and fold-up camping chairs. If you're taking an airbed, buy a battery-powered pump so you don't wear yourself

out first thing. And stock up on reusable bags like organic cotton bags for carrying merch or food and drink.

Then come the things you think you won't need but probably will: gaffer tape (it fixes anything), lighter, torch, clothes pegs, ear plugs and eye mask. Make sure you take enough cash, too, and store money in various places such as a hidden money-holder in case of disasters.

## Food and drink

Conscious of the cost of festival food all day, every day? Pack the bare minimum of cooking supplies: small saucepan, spatula, cutlery, plates and bowls, multi-tool or firm knife, tin opener, washing up tools, waste bags and reusable bottles. Most festival sites aren't keen on gas or meth stoves, so opt for multi-fuel or solid gas. Go for long-lasting veggies such as broccoli, kale and

## Lifestyle | Travel

Friday, October 26, 2018

potatoes, tinned goods like fish, beans and chopped tomatoes, plus non-perishable foods such as dried fruit and nuts, tofu, cous-cous and pasta, rice cakes and even dried meat.

Be responsible and leave no trace. At many festivals, you can use the same cup at different bars - check this out and stock up on reusable cups if it applies. Consider taking bamboo utensils, stainless steel straws and food containers - To-Go Ware are great for compact eco utensils. And when it comes to hangovers, ginger tea can ease nausea and grapefruit juice boosts sugar levels. Bananas and coconut water are the ultimate fixes, though - full to the brim with antioxidants and nutrients.

**Keep it clean**

Chances are, you're prepared to get messy, but you'll still want a minimal wash kit. Hand sanitizer, baby wipes, toilet paper (without the roll) and a wash bowl can work wonders for day-to-day care. Pack light with shower essentials - take a slither from your soap bar, or there's Pits & Bits for all-in-one festival wash kits. Save the travel-size purchases by filling reusable eco-friendly containers such as silicone containers.

Then, the little tips: take one small mirror with you, make sure to invest in Sun Protection Factor (SPF) products, and for those with long hair, always keep a hairband on your wrist. For women, menstruation cups like Mooncup or Lunette can be reused and last longer.

**For the kids**

Pack Calpol or similar. You could also consider purchasing a portable toilet such as Boginabag. Collapsible bottles are a great shout, too, if your bag of kiddy essentials is about to burst. On top of the regular holiday kit, poncho towels are winners for drying littluns off after getting dirty, kids' onesies are perfect for the evening and cool sunhats and child-size ear protectors are essential.

For fun, choose things that kids will keep playing with when the sun goes down or in a crowded field - think glowsticks, festival make-up kits, disposable cameras and mini binoculars. For when their feet ache? Go for carriers such as Ergobaby, folding camping stools, portable cushioned beds for the younger ones like Sleepy-head or even a Radio Flyer. To ensure a good night's sleep amid the noise, get some scent spray such as Long Barn and a good quality miniature sleeping bag.

**Beg or borrow**

The key things you can rely on at a festival are: a) the sheer number of people around you in the great outdoors and b) the willingness to share, so make use of it! Allocate different jobs between you and your fellow festival-goers beforehand so you don't end up with five mallets and one air-pump. And don't fret if you can't pack camping chairs in your car or fit a cool-box on your back. Friendly neighbours or festival staff can always lend a helping hand.

**Dress-up, glitter and more**

Stand unique flags at your pitch so that you can find your way back to it. But perhaps leave the sumo suit at home if you're tight for space. With or without a dress-up theme, go for lightweight finds like printed leggings, face paint and glitter, headbands, wigs and masks. And you should be able to squeeze in compact games such as Dobble, Bananagrams and Storycubes, or there's the conversation-starter Twister (without its packaging), which can double-up as a somewhat less practical camp mat.-(www.lonelyplanet.com)



# At the water's edge: Nine scenic coastal ruins





For eons, invading armies, explorers and voyagers have crossed oceans to reach new shores, while islands and peninsulas have provided solitude and strategic locations to monks, traders and jailers, giving the world's coastlines a fascinating range of windblown edifices. Think seaside holidays lack history and culture? These coastal ruins - mysterious, ancient and wild - blow that idea right out of the water.

#### Essaouira, Morocco

Essaouira has long attracted streams of artists, film-makers and travelers to match the camel trains that once bore gold and salt from Timbuktu; Orson Welles' *Othello* (1951) featured the Unesco-listed walled medina's wave-lashed ramparts, as did *Game of Thrones*.

The popular local story that the fort subsiding into the beach inspired Jimi Hendrix's *Castles Made of Sand* is more apocryphal, but nonetheless, the whitewashed medina and dramatic seafront battlements make Essaouira a bewitching combination of Moroccan and European architecture.

#### Skellig Michael, Ireland

Boats only attempt the choppy 12km crossing from tiny Portmagee in County Kerry to Skellig Michael, the larger of the two Skellig Islands, between April and October. En route you'll pass wild birds wheeling above the jagged outcrop of Little Skellig, home to the world's second-largest gannet colony. Then it's time to disembark and climb the precipitous staircase to Skellig Michael's stone beehive cells, constructed by the monks who lived here between the 6th and 12th centuries AD.

There's still a strong sense of the extremes of

devotion that led the ancient clerics to create this remote and wind-battered Irish cousin of Normandy's Mont St Michel and St Michael's Mount in Cornwall - a mystique that saw it feature as Luke Skywalker's Jedi temple in the latest *Star Wars* films. Eco tours are available in addition to those that disembark on the island, or there's the Skellig Experience on the relatively mild Valentia Island.

#### Kalekoy, Turkey

The name of this Mediterranean fishing koy (village), only accessible by boat or along the Lycian Way footpath, refers to the crusader kale (castle) overlooking its tumbledown cottages, home to the ancient world's tiniest theatre. But to discover a Turkish Atlantis, follow the lanes down to the harbor, where two Lycian house tombs rise dramatically from the dazzling turquoise shallows. They're relics of ancient Simena, the batik sehir (sunken city) submerged by a series of 2nd-century AD earthquakes; hop in a boat or sea kayak to see building foundations, staircases and shattered amphorae disappearing into the blue depths alongside Kekova island. You can reach the area on a tour from Kas.

#### Acropolis of Lindos, Greece

This is one of two stunning classical acropolises - fortified upper cities - dating back well over 2000 years on Rhodes, the largest of Greece's 15 Dodecanese islands in the southern Aegean. Climb the steep path to the lofty site, which lords over Lindos' sugar-cube houses and turquoise bay like a medieval castle thanks to its battlements constructed by the crusading Knights of St John, who took the island from the Byzantine Empire in the 14th century.



## Lifestyle | Travel



The ruins within include a Temple to Athena Lindia ('Athena of Lindos' - a reference to the uniquely fireless form of worship practiced by the Greek goddess' followers here) and a Hellenistic stoa with 20 dazzling white columns. From here, there are stirring views of the maritime realm that attracted adventurers such as Odysseus and Alexander the Great.

#### Eilean Donan Castle, Scotland

Standing on an island where three great sea lochs meet, on the coastal road to Skye, Eilean Donan has featured in films from *Highlander* (1986) to the Pierce Brosnan Bond, *The World Is Not Enough* (1999). It was pounded for three days by a fleet of English frigates, before being blown up using a magazine of 343 gunpowder barrels, because Spanish troops were garrisoned here while supporting the short-lived Jacobite rising of 1719.

Fortunately, the sturdy structure was not completely obliterated, and was returned to its former glory in the early 20th century. You can cross the stone-arched bridge to tour the dramatic pile, which was recently named Scotland's 'Best Heritage Tourism Experience', and see artifacts includ-

ing a sword used at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

#### Port Arthur, Australia

At the extremity of the peninsulas and islands clumped southeast of Hobart, on the last sheltered bay before you cross the Tasman Sea to New Zealand's distant South Island, lies Port Arthur - an abandoned 19th-century penitentiary. Hardened criminals who reoffended on arrival in Australia were incarcerated within these thick Victorian walls, reached from mainland Tasmania across Eaglehawk Neck, a slither of land patrolled by guard dogs and sharks in the surrounding waters.

At the penal settlement's peak in the 1840s, over 3500 convicts were put to work logging and shipbuilding, and you can learn their stories on lantern-lit ghost tours of the darkened site. More than 1000 people died here during Port Arthur's half-century of operation, giving the guides many tales of unexplained events and eerie incidents that have spooked everyone from colonial soldiers to today's visitors.

#### Ostia Antica, Italy

Ostia ('mouth') was the harbor for Ancient



Rome, set at the mouth of the Tiber. Founded around the 4th century BC, it survived sacking by pirates and civil wars to become a major port with a population of 100,000, before the decline of the Roman Empire set in and it was ransacked again.

River silting means the site now lies on the Tiber's final alluvial bend before it meets the Tyrrhenian Sea, and this build-up saved many of the ruins by immersing them in muck. Major excavations took place under Mussolini for a world fair that never happened and the spread-out site now makes an excellent day trip from Rome, with highlights including the Terme di Nettuno (Baths of Neptune) and the amphitheatre. Look out for the mosaics in the Piazzale delle Corporazioni, which housed Ostia's merchant guilds, and the fresco menu in the thermopolium (cafe).

#### Tulum, Mexico

This fortified Mayan port city overlooking the Caribbean had reached the height of its success when the Spanish conquistadors sailed past in 1518, noting its multi-colored buildings and ceremonial fire. Thanks to its sturdy, 3m- to 5m-high walls, Tulum (its name means 'wall' in Yucatán Mayan)

survived the Spanish arrival by almost a century and has remained popular with pilgrims and travelers. Iguanas dart over the weathered stones of several ruined temples and buildings, the most impressive of which is El Castillo (the Castle) with its grand staircase and plumed serpent carvings. Also look out for the two-storey Templo de las Pinturas, featuring columns, relief carvings and colored murals, and the Templo del Dios del Viento (Temple of the Wind God).

#### Chersonesus, Crimea

Nicknamed the 'Ukrainian Pompeii', Chersonesus (which means 'peninsula') was an ancient Greek colony established 2500 years ago on the Crimean Peninsula. It has Roman, Byzantine and Greek ruins, including a basilica pictured on Ukrainian banknotes - all atmospherically overlooked by a Russian Orthodox cathedral. Following Russia's widely condemned annexation of this chunk of Ukrainian territory in 2014, visiting the disputed peninsula presents logistical challenges and ethical dilemmas. Nonetheless, it is still possible to visit this Pompeii on the Black Sea for a glimpse of how people lived two millennia ago.—(www.lonelyplanet.com)



## Comic

### Word Search

#### Friendship

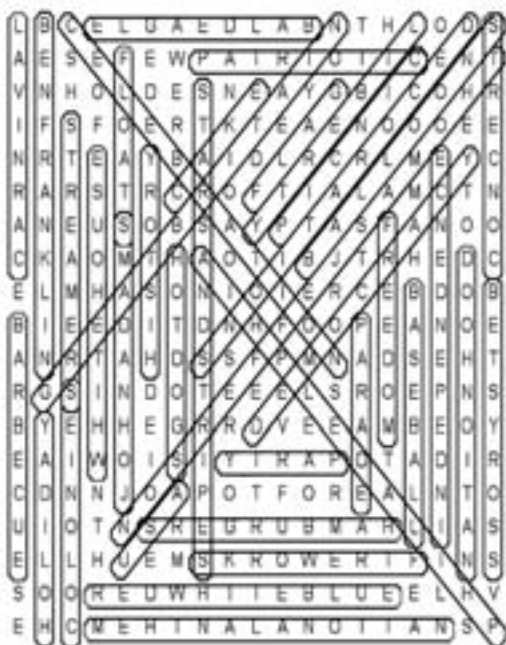
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word related to friendship.

DCBCCAMDKCOFASR  
NEOOAONYOIRGSDY  
ETYNEEMMTINEIHL  
IAFFLVRPEINSTML  
RMRIAAINAENAHAA  
FMIDDMDTSPNPIFIE  
LOEEBLIORMIFFRP  
RONUIPLTYOEOAFT  
IRDNECASYPHNSA  
GDELOYALTYSPURR  
YSGOODTIMESRUIO  
SCHUMHONESTYFSV  
ECNATNIAUQCAUEA  
YHTAPMESSENDNOF

- |              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| ACQUAINTANCE | COMPANION    | HONESTY    |
| AFFECTION    | COMRADE      | KINSHIP    |
| AFFINITY     | CONFIDE      | LEND       |
| ALLY         | EMPATHY      | LOYALTY    |
| AMIGO        | FAVOR        | PAL        |
| AMITY        | FONDNESS     | ROOMMATE   |
| BOYFRIEND    | FRIENDLINESS | SHARE      |
| BUDDY        | FUN          | SUPPORTIVE |
| CHUM         | GIRLFRIEND   | SYMPATHY   |
| CLOSENESS    | GOOD TIMES   | TRUST      |

### Yesterday's Solution

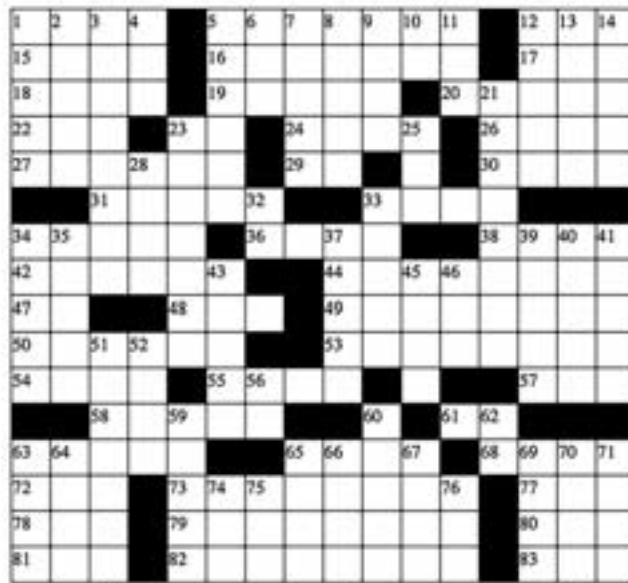
#### Fourth Of July



- |              |               |                 |                   |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BALD EAGLE   | CONCERTS      | HOLIDAY         | PATRIOTIC         |
| BALLOONS     | DECORATIONS   | HOT DOGS        | PHILADELPHIA      |
| BARBECUE     | DEMOCRACY     | INDEPENDENCE    | PICNIC            |
| BASEBALL     | FIREWORKS     | JOHN ADAMS      | RED WHITE BLUE    |
| SEN FRANKLIN | FLAG          | LIBERTY         | STARS AND STRIPES |
| BETSY ROSS   | FLOATS        | NATIONAL ANTHEM | STREAMERS         |
| CAKE         | FREEDOM       | NATIONHOOD      | THOMAS JEFFERSON  |
| CARNIVAL     | GREAT BRITAIN | PARADE          | USA               |
| CELEBRATION  | HAMBURGERS    | PARTY           | WHITE HOUSE       |
| COLONIES     | HISTORY       |                 |                   |

The hidden quote is: THOSE WHO DENY FREEDOM TO OTHERS, DESERVE IT NOT FOR THEMSELVES

### Crossword 2044



#### ACROSS

- Fill to satisfaction.
- The dry dusty pulp that remains after juice is extracted from sugar cane or similar plants.
- A fluorocarbon with chlorine.
- A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
- Kauri pine.
- A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
- Colloquial American term for a town.
- A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- The principal evil jinni in Islamic mythology.
- A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
- The face of a timepiece.
- On or toward the lee.
- An analgesic for mild pain.
- The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
- An aromatic ointment used in antiquity.
- English monk and scholar (672-735).
- Lighted up by or as by fire or flame.
- An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
- Any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted.
- A nation in northern North America.
- Resoluteness by virtue of being unyielding and inflexible.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
- A small faint constellation in the southern hemisphere near Musca and Triangulum Australe.
- The selling of something purchased.
- Become globular.
- (informal) Exceptionally good.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- A branch of the Tai languages.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Without civilizing influences.
- A conspicuous disparity or difference as between two figures.
- (Irish) The sea personified.
- Sorghums of China and Manchuria having small white or brown grains (used for fodder, fuel and thatching).
- The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
- A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- A wooded plateau in the Champagne-Ardenne region of France.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.

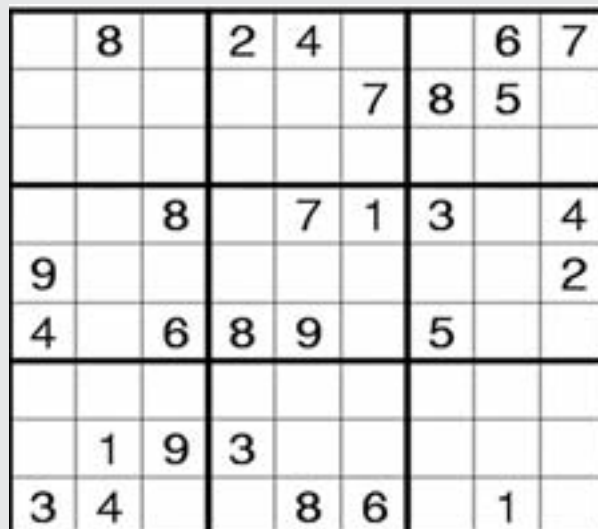
#### DOWN

- A shoe carved from a single block of wood.
- (medicine) Having or experiencing a rapid onset and short but severe course.
- An enzyme that acts on fibrinogen in blood causing it to clot.
- A graphical record of electrical activity of the brain.
- Capital and largest city of Iraq.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Spanish architect who was a leading exponent of art nouveau in Europe (1852-1926).
- (nautical) Of an anchor.
- One of the two main branches of orthodox Islam.
- A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.
- The compass point midway between east and southeast.
- South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
- Someone who travels by air.
- Covered or protected with or as if with a case.
- Wild pigeon of western North America.
- Of or relating to a creed.
- A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
- (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- The audible part of a transmitted signal.
- (a dated Britishism) A serious difficulty with which one is suddenly faced.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- Cause annoyance in.
- A device (trade name Aqua-Lung) that lets divers breathe under water.
- United States writer whose best-known novel was based on his experiences as an attendant in a mental hospital (born in 1935).
- Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
- A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.
- One millionth of a gram.
- A town in northern Egypt.
- American novelist (1909-1955).
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
- Any of various thermoplastic resins used to make things.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- In bed.
- (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
- Water falling in drops from vapor condensed in the atmosphere.
- European twining plant whose flowers are used chiefly to flavor malt liquors.
- A city in northern India.
- Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- (British) A linear measure of 16.5 feet.
- System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.

### Yesterday's Solution



### Daily SuDoku



### Yesterday's Solution



## TV Listings



00:10 Anti-Social  
02:10 Acts Of Vengeance  
03:45 Lost & Found  
05:30 Surrogates  
07:10 Deep Rising  
09:10 Acts Of Vengeance  
10:45 Pitch Black  
12:40 Starship Troopers: Traitor Of Mars  
14:20 Kung Fu Yoga  
16:15 Stealth  
18:20 Sudden Death  
20:15 Hell Or High Water  
22:00 Crossing Point  
23:35 The Bad Batch

03:20 It Takes A Killer  
03:45 The First 48  
04:30 Crimes That Shook Australia  
05:15 Homicide Hunter  
06:00 999 Killer On The Line  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:20 The First 48  
08:05 Cold Case Files  
08:50 Homicide Hunter  
09:35 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
10:30 999 Killer On The Line  
11:25 Crimes That Shook Britain  
12:20 Cold Case Files  
13:15 It Takes A Killer  
13:45 It Takes A Killer  
14:10 The First 48  
15:05 Crimes That Shook Australia  
16:00 Homicide Hunter  
17:00 It Takes A Killer  
20:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
22:00 It Takes A Killer  
22:30 It Takes A Killer  
23:00 The First 48



00:45 North Woods Law  
01:40 Alaska Monsters  
02:35 Adrift: 47 Days With Sharks  
03:25 Whale Wars  
04:15 North Woods Law  
05:02 Mutant Planet  
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
06:36 Animal Battlegrounds  
07:00 Animal Battlegrounds  
07:25 Rugged Justice  
08:15 Animal Cops Houston  
09:10 Whale Wars  
10:05 North Woods Law  
11:00 Mutant Planet  
11:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
12:50 Adrift: 47 Days With Sharks  
13:45 Animal Precinct  
14:40 North Woods Law  
15:35 Alaska Monsters  
16:30 Rugged Justice  
17:25 Animal Cops Houston  
18:20 Best Bites: 25 Greatest Shark Moments  
19:15 Extinct Or Alive  
20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
21:05 Wildest Indochina  
22:00 Alaska Monsters  
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
23:50 Extinct Or Alive

00:05 Tosh.0  
00:30 Key And Peele  
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
01:20 Another Period  
01:45 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central  
02:10 Tosh.0  
02:35 Key And Peele  
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
03:25 Tosh.0  
03:50 Tosh.0  
04:15 Sweat Inc.  
05:05 House Of Food  
05:55 Workaholics  
06:25 Workaholics  
06:50 Workaholics  
07:15 Lip Sync Battle UK  
07:40 Lip Sync Battle UK  
08:05 Lip Sync Battle  
08:30 Lip Sync Battle  
08:55 Sweat Inc.  
09:45 The Dude Perfect Show  
10:10 The Dude Perfect Show  
10:35 House Of Food  
11:25 Lip Sync Battle  
11:50 Lip Sync Battle  
12:15 Friends  
12:40 Friends  
13:05 Friends  
13:30 Kroll Show  
13:55 Kroll Show  
14:20 Impractical Jokers  
14:45 Impractical Jokers  
15:10 Workaholics  
15:35 Workaholics  
16:00 Workaholics  
16:30 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
16:55 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
17:20 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
17:45 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
18:10 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
18:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood  
19:00 Lip Sync Battle  
19:25 Lip Sync Battle  
19:50 Friends  
20:12 Friends  
20:35 Friends  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Steve Rannazzisi: Breaking Dad  
22:25 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
22:50 Tosh.0  
23:15 Tosh.0  
23:40 Nate Bargatze: Full Time Magic

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



00:45 Evil Stepmothers  
01:40 Evil Lives Here  
02:35 Broken Trust  
03:30 Murder Comes To Town  
04:25 Bad Blood  
05:20 The Perfect Murder  
06:10 I Almost Got Away With It  
07:00 California Investigator  
07:25 Betrayed  
08:15 Disappeared  
09:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen  
10:05 The Perfect Murder  
11:00 Murder Calls  
11:55 Betrayed  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:45 Bad Blood  
14:40 The Perfect Murder  
15:35 Murder Comes To Town  
16:30 Betrayed  
17:25 Disappeared  
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
19:15 Bad Blood  
20:10 The Perfect Murder  
21:05 Evil Online  
22:00 Murder Among Friends  
22:55 Murder By Numbers  
23:50 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion



00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse Dad  
03:20 Hank Zipzer  
03:45 Alex & Co.  
04:10 Alex & Co.  
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:25 Binny And The Ghost  
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks  
06:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
06:25 Raven's Home  
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
06:55 Tangled  
07:20 Bunk'd  
07:45 K.C. Undercover  
08:10 Bizaardvark

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



00:10 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
00:15 Zou  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:00 PJ Masks  
01:25 PJ Masks  
01:50 The Hive  
02:00 Zou  
02:15 Zou  
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 The Hive  
03:30 The Hive  
03:40 Zou  
03:55 Zou  
04:10 Zou  
04:25 The Hive  
04:35 The Hive  
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:35 The Hive  
05:45 PJ Masks  
06:00 PJ Masks  
06:15 PJ Masks  
06:30 PJ Masks  
07:00 Muppet Babies  
07:20 Puppy Dog Pals  
07:35 PJ Masks  
07:55 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
08:10 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
08:29 Vampirina  
08:45 Vampirina  
09:00 Sofia The First  
09:30 Elena Of Avalor  
10:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
10:20 Puppy Dog Pals  
10:40 Puppy Dog Pals  
11:00 Muppet Babies  
11:20 Paprika  
11:30 Paprika  
11:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
12:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
12:40 PJ Masks  
13:00 PJ Masks  
13:20 PJ Masks  
13:40 Paprika  
13:50 Paprika  
14:00 Claude

14:20 Claude  
14:35 PJ Masks  
14:40 Trulli Tales  
14:55 Trulli Tales  
15:10 Paprika  
15:20 Paprika  
15:30 Vampirina  
15:50 Vampirina  
16:05 Vampirina  
16:25 Muppet Babies  
16:40 Paprika  
16:50 Paprika  
17:00 Claude  
17:15 Claude  
17:31 Puppy Dog Pals  
17:46 Puppy Dog Pals  
18:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
18:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
18:30 Vampirina  
18:45 Vampirina  
19:00 PJ Masks  
19:15 PJ Masks  
19:30 The Lion Guard  
20:00 Sofia The First  
20:25 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
20:30 Elena Of Avalor  
21:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
21:15 Puppy Dog Pals  
21:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
21:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
22:01 Vampirina  
22:20 Vampirina  
22:40 PJ Masks  
22:55 PJ Masks  
23:15 The Lion Guard  
23:45 Sofia The First



00:15 Street Outlaws  
01:05 Cooper's Treasure  
01:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
02:35 Megaquake: Hour That Shook Japan  
03:20 Street Outlaws  
04:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
04:50 Dirty Jobs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 Backyard Oil  
06:23 Beetle Crisis  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 How Do They Do It?  
07:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
08:20 Backyard Oil  
08:45 Beetle Crisis  
09:10 Dirty Jobs  
09:55 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
10:45 Dirty Jobs  
11:30 Street Outlaws  
12:20 Backyard Oil  
12:43 Beetle Crisis  
13:05 Storage Hunters  
13:30 How Do They Do It?  
13:55 Dirty Jobs  
14:40 Street Outlaws  
15:30 Cooper's Treasure  
16:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
17:05 Megaquake: Hour That Shook Japan  
17:50 Abandoned Engineering  
18:40 Impossible Engineering  
19:25 Street Outlaws  
20:15 Street Outlaws  
21:00 Diesel Brothers  
21:50 Street Outlaws: No Prep Kings  
23:30 Gold Rush



00:05 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
00:30 Boyster  
00:55 Boyster  
01:20 Counterfeit Cat  
01:45 Counterfeit Cat  
02:10 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
02:35 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
03:00 Boyster  
03:20 Boyster  
03:45 Dude That's My Ghost  
04:10 Dude That's My Ghost  
04:35 Counterfeit Cat

05:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
05:29 Marvel's Avengers Assemble  
06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
06:29 Big Hero 6 The Series  
07:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
07:29 Big City Greens  
08:00 Phineas And Ferb: Star Wars  
09:00 Disney 11  
09:29 Disney 11  
10:00 Kickin' It  
10:29 Kickin' It  
11:00 Disney 11  
11:30 Disney 11  
12:00 Lab Rats  
12:29 Lab Rats  
13:00 Phineas And Ferb  
13:29 Furiki Wheels  
14:00 Disney 11  
14:29 Phineas And Ferb The Movie  
16:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
16:29 Supa Strikas  
17:00 Big City Greens  
17:29 Right Now Kapow  
18:00 Disney 11  
18:29 Lab Rats  
19:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
19:29 Kickin' It  
20:00 Milo Murphy's Law - Missing Milo  
21:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
21:29 Star Wars Rebels  
22:00 Phineas And Ferb  
22:50 Dude That's My Ghost  
23:40 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja



00:05 Model Squad  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 Botched  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 So Cosmos  
06:55 E! News Middle East  
07:10 So Cosmos  
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop  
09:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
12:00 E! News Middle East  
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
13:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:00 E! News Middle East  
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Model Squad  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Ashlee+evan  
22:00 Life Of Kylie  
22:30 Life Of Kylie  
23:00 E! News Middle East  
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Don't Tell The Bride  
03:25 This Time Next Year  
04:20 Cannonball  
05:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
06:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
07:10 Don't Tell The Bride  
08:05 This Time Next Year  
09:00 Cannonball  
09:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
10:55 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
11:50 Don't Tell The Bride  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Emmerdale  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
15:10 Don't Tell The Bride  
16:00 The Voice Kids 2017  
17:15 The Voice Kids 2017  
18:25 Culinary Genius USA  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:15 Emmerdale  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 Don't Tell The Bride  
21:00 The Voice Kids 2017



00:10 Friday Night Dinner  
00:35 Mum  
01:05 Back  
01:30 Holby City  
02:25 Friday Night Dinner  
02:50 Mum  
03:20 Death In Paradise  
04:20 Father Brown  
05:10 Bad Move  
05:35 Bad Move  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Holby City  
08:00 Casualty  
08:50 Father Brown  
09:40 Death In Paradise  
10:40 Casualty  
11:30 Casualty  
12:25 Holby City  
13:20 Father Brown  
14:10 Death In Paradise  
15:05 Casualty  
16:00 Doctors  
16:30 Doctors  
17:00 Doctors  
17:30 Doctors  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
19:20 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
20:10 Line Of Duty  
21:15 Ordeal By Innocence  
22:10 The Last Post  
23:10 Father Brown



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



00:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
01:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
01:55 The Killing Season  
02:50 It Takes A Killer



## Stars



### Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself at odds with those around you today. You could encounter obstacles and other bumps in the road that slow your progress and cause you to have to sit back and reevaluate your choices and decisions. You may find you feel you are being deceived or misled by someone who has authority over you. You may feel as if the actions you are being asked to take in the workplace go against your values. This is a time to sit back and watch, rather than speak and a time to put deep thought into your decisions before you act. This may leave you in a disapproving mood and your day overall could bring a level of frustration that leaves you feeling defeated. Chin up, Aries, things will be back to normal soon.



### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Make time for a loved one today. This doesn't have to take hours of time or big-time spending. Write a note. Make a phone call. Take a single long-stem flower. Don't scoff at double consequences. You may find your thoughtfulness enriches your life as much as theirs, Taurus. Sometimes the smallest of gestures mean the most to others. You are in a position to touch the lives of others and make a difference. Take advantage of this.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Make sure to spend some time outdoors today. This is a day the beauty of creation will be filled with special meaning for you. It seems everything may take on a more special meaning in your life now. A positive attitude and an open mind seem to take you far in this world. You have both. When you choose to be happy, you will be happy. You have an attitude that no one nor anything can steal your joy. This is the answer. This is the way to face your day and conquer the world.



### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There are times when you look in the mirror and you really like what you see. Today is the day for that. You may not only like what you see but you truly like who you are. Your better qualities are shining through today. You may find you have a special bond today with an older person in your life. You are able to enjoy spending some time with this person and even see them as a mentor. This is a great time for socializing with friends and sharing experiences. This could be a very enlightening time for you.



### Leo (July 23-August 22)

Whether a surprise is good or bad today depends on how you choose to look at life. You can always choose to look at things with a positive attitude. Assume things will turn out in your favor and make them happen. Hard work and determination have always been two of the great qualities you possess. You are able to make anything you attempt to do look easy. Others are often envious of your talent. Be sure and keep your workday stress free today. You can use humor to accomplish this, Leo. You are known for that great sense of humor.



### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you could choose a super power today it would be the ability to make yourself invisible. Enough is enough. When you are strong and independent with a kind heart, it seems like the weak and needy seem to be drawn to you. There are times when you need to learn to say no. Today is one of those days. You may find hiding in a dark movie theater would be a great escape for you today. Go to the movies, or curl up with a book. Just take some time to relax and rejuvenate.



### Libra (September 23-October 22)

No one likes to be stood up. This may be the action you take that puts strain on your relationship with friends. Though you would love nothing more than to be out with friends socializing and have some fun, your more responsible side knows where your priorities lie and are unable to go through with plans you have made. Your mind is sharp, and you find yourself very productive which is the reward you need to make up for having to miss out and play adult today. You may find your experience leaves you with a great sense of sympathy for those close to you.



### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find yourself in an "all or nothing" situation. There is no turning back from this one. When the opportunity presents itself, you will have to make a decision to go full steam ahead or run. Once you commit to this path, know that it is a one way street. Focus on your family and do what is best for them. This risk will bring great reward. Give it all you've got. You know in your heart, you've got this!



### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You must have stumbled upon a four leaf clover. Luck is the word of the day. Making plans, making decisions, or working your way through any problems, seem to be very easy for you today. It may seem as if everything works in your favor and falls right into place. You feel like a huge success. You refuse to let anyone nor anything steal your joy today. Expect some good advice from one of your elders today. This is a person you have much respect for. Enjoy this day, Sagittarius. It will be wonderful.



### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have made smart decisions along the way. You know you are only as strong as your weakest link. You have chosen to surround yourself with a great support system. Your circle of friends may be small, but quality, rather than quantity is what matters. The same applies to the co-workers/employees you have on your team. You are destined to be a success. You seem to have your heart set on bringing something or someone new into your world. Make your choices wisely and you will reap great reward from this decision.



### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are ambitious, secure and responsible. All these qualities seem to combine to help you excel in any area you apply yourself. You are strong willed and have a desire to conquer the world and all that comes your way. You are taking time to reflect on any of your past short comings. This time of reflection is a guiding light for you now and will prevent you from repeating any of your past mistakes. Knowledge is power and the wisdom you have gained from past experience has you on the right track. You may feel as though you are on this journey alone. Not much support is felt from your peers. Do not worry. You will find this to be a very profitable time.



### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Resist the urge to act on just a hunch. This could lead to big trouble if you do not take the time to do research and find out all of the facts. Acting with research on this one could leave you in quite a mess. You had rather be safe than sorry. You may find yourself in a situation you could be in over your head before you even realize it. If it seems to good to be true, it usually is. That is the case with something you will face today. You may feel a great desire for travel and adventure. If you stop and take time to think about this, it is really not a great time in your life right now, Pisces. Sit back and take a deep breath and try to slow down a bit.

## Country Codes

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

## Health

# Central African Republic encounters monkeypox

**ZOMEA KAKA:** In a remote southwestern pocket of the Central African Republic, doctor Patrick Karume and his small team are on the jungle frontline to quarantine a rare outbreak of monkeypox. From a makeshift base in Zomea Kaka village, they trek 30 kilometers across muddy tracks to Bagandou, where a dozen children appear to have developed rashes characteristic of the virus which in rare cases can be fatal.

Monkeypox virus, first identified in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1970, has symptoms similar to human smallpox, if less severe. In May, the virus became a "public health threat", according to local CAR authorities. It was the latest outbreak detected in CAR since 2013, according to World Health Organisation advisor Augustin Diebert. Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) dispatched an emergency team to set up in Zomea Kaka after three

cases of the virus were identified. Already they have quarantined nine people, most of them children.

"Monkeypox may be endemic to this area," Karume said, pulling off muddied boots after another trek out of their MSF base. Before entering the "red zone" quarantine area cordoned off with a fence, everyone dons the required gear - rubber boots, disposable overalls, masks and goggles. Nearby a few meters away, their patients sit on benches eating breakfast. Some show traces of the virus on their faces. For some, crusts have discolored parts of their skin. Peeling is a sign of healing.

"It's a self-limiting virus, we just treat the symptoms and administer antibiotics and prevent infections," Karume said. "We used to think it was transmitted by monkeys, but it is more by rodents. Secondary transmis-

sion is through an infected person." "If nothing is done it can lead to complications," he said, adding that one patient lost an eye because of an edema.

### Medical detective

A graduate in epidemiology, the doctor does not just treat patients but attempts to trace their steps to see where they travelled and who they contacted to check on other possible cases. It not only helps halt the spread, but allows him to understand this little-studied disease. "This here is my champion, my miracle worker," Karume said, smiling under his mask in front of a young Bagandou boy who has developed no symptoms unlike the rest of his family.

"If he tests positive for monkeypox, it means he has some sort of immunity," he said. A blood sample is to be sent to the capital for testing. Not far from the health

centre, the team's joint coordinator prepares everything for the day's return expedition to Bagandou to take samples from a dozen suspected cases detected the day before. The driver of the 4X4 vehicle steers onto what passes as a track winding through the vegetation.

When the team arrives in a village, some worried residents often think the MSF vehicles are there to respond to Ebola, the disease that ravaged parts of West Africa. Informing communities beforehand is key to allaying fears. Arriving in Bagandou, adults welcome the MSF team. Only a few children move away, frightened by the memory of the sting of the last vaccination campaign conducted by the NGO in this area. But back in the CAR capital Bangui, Bagandou's blood samples turn out to be negative. It seems the virus is not ready to reveal its secrets yet to Karume.—AFP

## CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

### DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM

Consultant Pediatrician

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

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

### DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED

Consultant of General Surgery  
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery



#### Academic Certificates – Training

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

#### Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building



### Dr. Husain Alenezi

-Board Certified Urologist.  
-Endourology Society-Approved Fellowship In Endourology And Robotic Surgery At Western University, Ontario, Canada.

#### Expert in diagnosing and treating:

- 1- Urinary Stones (Kidney, Ureter & Bladder) By Endoscopy & Laser
- 2- Prostate Cancer And Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- 3- Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms In Males And Females
- 4- Tumors And Malignancies Of The Urinary Tract (Kidney, Adrenals, Ureter, Bladder And Testes)
- 5- Male Factor Infertility And Varicoceles (Microscopic Surgery)
- 6- Erectile Dysfunction

Contact Taiba Hospital: 1808088

94449452

Twitter: @DrHusain\_Urol

## To advertise on this Page



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102

or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617

or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

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

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

**Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122**  
@Malhajry

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

**ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES:**

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

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

- ◆ Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- ◆ Laser Treatments.
- ◆ Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- ◆ Body & Face Contouring.
- ◆ Injectable Fillers & Botox.

**RENOVA BEAUTY & BEYOND**

SHARL, Ahmad Alshar (L), Building 14, Floor 11.  
Tel: (+965) 22060777  
@DrBuhaimed, @Renovab, @Ahmadshar  
Email: drbuhaimed@beautyandbeyond.com.kw

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

**Specialized in:**

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

**alsalam.int.hospital**  
Telephone: 1830003 Ext: 2400

**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**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.

**alsalam.int.hospital**  
Telephone: 1830003

**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

**daralshifa**  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com  
Tele: 1802 555

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

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

**daralshifa**  
Tele: 1802 555

**IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC**

**American Board Certified in General Surgery**  
**Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)**  
**Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation**  
**Member of many prestigious surgical societies.**

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ 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

**Global Medical Center Welcomes**  
**Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader**  
Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

**Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar**  
**Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.**  
Telephone: 1871111  
@globalmedcenter  
www.globalmed-center.com

# Kuwait Times Classifieds

Kuwait Times  
Established 1961

Friday, October 26, 2018

Kuwait Times  
Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

## Airlines

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

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with light to moderate variable wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy with light south westerly wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 24/10/2018 1200 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	32 °C	25 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31 °C	22 °C			
ABDALY	32 °C	21 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHERA	33 °C	23 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	31 °C	25 °C			
SALMIYAH	31 °C	26 °C			
AHMADI	30 °C	26 °C			
NUWAISIB	32 °C	25 °C			
WAFRA	32 °C	21 °C			
SALMY	32 °C	19 °C			

### 4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/25	Partly cloudy	34 °C	22 °C	SW-SE	12 - 32 km/h
Friday	10/26	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on	37 °C	24 °C	S-SE	15 - 45 km/h
Saturday	10/27	A significant decrease in temperature and cloudy with a chance for rain that might be	32 °C	25 °C	NW-NE	15 - 45 km/h
Sunday	10/28	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	28 °C	23 °C	NE-VRB	10 - 42 km/h

### TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:36
Sunrise	05:56
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:44
Sunset	17:08
Isha	18:27

### RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	31 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	58 %
MAX. Wind	SE 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	1.96mm

### LOST

SYED OSAMA SHAH a pass out of class 12th who studied under CBSE Boards lost his 12th original mark sheet over a month ago whose registration no. is 9105266. If found please return it back by contacting this number: 65664793 / 97777168 (C 5431)

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart. Available 25 of November, Contact 94418396 or 69972330  
24-10-2018

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

### ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation farwaniya block 4, near big jamiya. Available already, please call 97512782  
26-7-2018

### EMERGENCY

112

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

# Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

**39** Threats to eurozone fail to change ECB's course



**40** Smartphones emerge as bright spot for Indian manufacturing



**41** After 'historic' quarter, Tesla looks to Europe, China



## Saudis trumpet \$56 bln deals

US to stay key part of Saudi economy despite boycott



RIYADH: A handout picture shows Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, left, Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, 2nd left, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, center, and the UAE Vice-President and Emir of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, third right, attending a session of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in the Saudi capital Riyadh.—AFP

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said it signed \$56 billion of deals at an investment conference this week and expected the United States to remain a key business partner despite a partial boycott of the event over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Over two dozen top officials and executives from the United States and Europe, including US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and chief executives of big banks, cancelled their participation in the conference over the killing of Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

There was concern that, temporarily at least, commercial ties with the West could be damaged as the blow to Riyadh's reputation and the risk of economic sanctions over the Khashoggi affair made it harder to enter new deals. Still, the three-day Future Investment Initiative conference drew hundreds of businessmen and government officials from around the world to a palatial venue in Riyadh, aiming to attract foreign capital to support Saudi economic reforms.

"There were more than 25 deals signed worth \$56 billion," Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih

told state television yesterday, adding that US companies accounted for most of those contracts. He added: "The US will remain a key part of the Saudi economy because the interests that tie us are bigger than what is being weakened by the failed boycotting campaign of the conference." Saudi Arabia at first denied any involvement in Khashoggi's death but a Saudi official eventually attributed it to a botched attempt to return him to the kingdom. Turkey has dismissed Saudi efforts to blame rogue operatives and urged Riyadh to search "top to bottom" for those responsible.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told international investors at the conference that the furor over the killing would not derail the kingdom's economic and social reform drive. In protest at the Khashoggi case, British billionaire Richard Branson suspended discussions with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which hosted the conference, over a planned \$1 billion investment in his group's space ventures.

On Wednesday, New York City's chief pension fund official urged financial market index providers

to reconsider decisions to add Saudi Arabia to their emerging markets products—decisions that are expected to attract at least \$15 billion of foreign funds into the country next year. However, Saudi officials mounted a business-as-usual campaign at the conference, and many of the big Western banks whose top executives boycotted the event sent sizeable teams of lower-ranking executives to Riyadh. The teams met Saudi officials on the sidelines of the conference, bankers said.

Few senior executives from China and Japan announced they were withdrawing from the event, putting pressure on the Western firms to maintain a presence or risk losing business. A senior European banker at the conference said that while the Saudi image among some international bond investors had been damaged, investment patterns would probably return to normal in a couple months. "Business has a short memory," he said.

Although many European countries have voiced concern over the Khashoggi case, they are wary of taking further action because they do not want to jeopardize billions of dollars in defense

contracts with Saudi Arabia, several diplomats in the Gulf told Reuters. Germany is so far alone in halting arms sales to the world's largest oil exporter. Other European countries have largely limited their reaction to calling for those responsible to be held accountable. Britain said on Wednesday it was joining the United States in revoking visas of people said to be involved.

### Deals

State oil firm Saudi Aramco said it had signed deals with 15 international partners worth more than \$34 billion at the conference. The firms included U.S. oil field services giants Schlumberger, Halliburton and Baker Hughes. There were also deals to bring foreign investment and technology into Saudi Arabia's education, health care and housing construction industries. Some of the deals were memorandums of understanding which may never progress to the stage of firm contracts, and other deals had already been planned for months, so there was a strong element of public relations in the \$56 billion total.—Reuters

## Business

# Wall Street looks to break slump, Europe halts rot

## MSCI ex-Japan down over 18 pct for year

**LONDON:** European and US futures markets attempted a rebound yesterday after Wall Street's worst day since 2011 and heavy losses in Asia gave global stocks another boot towards their worst month since the financial crisis. Germany's DAX hit a near two-year low and London's FTSE and Paris's CAC 40 both brushed 1 1/2-year lows early on, but a semblance of stability was emerging.

The pan-European STOXX 600 was just about in positive territory after a 3.7 percent overnight drubbing for Tokyo's Nikkei and US futures were up 0.7-1.3 percent as Wall Street looked to snap a six-day run of falls. Currency dealers were also unwinding Swiss franc and Japanese yen safety trades and Italian and Spanish bonds held their ground as Mario Draghi reiterated the European Central Bank's plans to carefully remove its stimulus.

"Uncertainties relating to protectionism, vulnerabilities in emerging markets and financial market volatility remain prominent," Draghi said at the ECB's post-meeting news conference. "Significant monetary policy stimulus is still needed," he said. But there was also an important summary. "Is this (turbulence) enough to change our baseline scenario? No", adding too

that he expected an agreement between Italy and Brussels on Rome's disputed budget plans.

Investors have become increasingly nervous about lofty stock prices, faster interest rate hikes in the United States, Italy and an Sino-US trade war that threatens to hurt world growth. Almost 60 percent of the 2,767 stocks in MSCI's global equity index are now in bear-market territory—down 20 percent or more from their most recent peaks. There has also been growing concerns about overspending by Italy's new populist coalition.

More woes in Asia overnight had seen the global wipeout on the MSCI World since January near \$7 trillion. Pan Asia-Pacific shares skidded more than 2 percent while Japan's Nikkei tumbled as much as 4 percent to a six-month low. The one relief was that Chinese shares managed to close in the

black after dropping as much as 2.5 percent at one point. Fresh government support measures had failed to ease worries about high leverage and the tariff war with the United States.

"If you're a company and you're in charge of a capex budget, there is so much uncertainty about the next few years in terms of a trade war, in terms of Brexit," said Jim McCafferty, head of equity research, Asia ex-Japan at Nomura.



**NEW YORK:** Traders work the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. —AFP

### Talking Turkey

Europe's stabilization was aided by results from Swiss bank UBS and engineering giant ABB which helped take the edge off jitters caused this week by a gloomy tariffs warning from the US behemoth Caterpillar. Wall Street futures were also up between 1 percent for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones and as much as 1.7 percent for the Nasdaq. Wednesday's after-hours results from Microsoft and strong advertising revenues from Twitter brought some timely cheer to tech stocks.

Google-parent Alphabet and Amazon were both up more than 2.2 percent ahead of their results later too, while wider economy watchers were reassured as the number of Americans receiving benefits fell to a more than a 45-year low. The ECB's "steady as she goes" message came after weak euro zone economic data this week added to angst over world growth, and a surprising slump in U.S. home sales, which suggested rising mortgage rates were sapping demand for housing. —Reuters

## Microsoft quarterly profit soars on cloud services

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Microsoft on Wednesday said its profit in the recently ended quarter soared on the back of revenue from services hosted in the internet cloud and its career-focused social network LinkedIn. The Redmond, Washington based technology giant reported net income of \$8.8 billion on revenue of \$29.1 billion in the quarter that ended on September 30, up 34 percent and 19 percent respectively from the same period a year earlier.

Shares were up 1.6 percent to \$104 in after-market trades that followed release of the earnings figures for the first quarter of its fiscal year. "We are off to a great start in fiscal 2019, a result of our innovation and the trust customers are placing in us to power their digital transformation," Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella said in a release. "We're excited to help our customers build the digital capability they need to thrive and grow."

Nadella has led a transformation at Microsoft from a company focused on software installed on machines in homes and businesses to making money from services hosted on the internet and available from a broad array of devices regardless of who makes them. "Our record results for Q1 reflect our commitment to long-term strategic investments and consistent



**HELSINKI, Finland:** This file photo shows Microsoft's Finnish headquarters in Espoo. —AFP

execution to drive revenue growth and operating margin expansion," said chief financial officer Amy Hood.

"We see continued demand for our cloud offerings, reflected in our commercial cloud revenue of \$8.5 billion, up 47 percent year-over-year." Money taken in by a productivity and business processes unit rose to \$9.8 billion, including strong growth in cloud-based Office productivity products aimed at consumers and companies, according to Microsoft. LinkedIn revenue grew 33 percent in the quarter,

with the career-oriented networking service boasting record levels of engagement by users.

Microsoft's cloud platform Azure, which performs computing and storage for companies at online data centers, saw revenue grow 76 percent. Azure is part of a Microsoft "Intelligent Cloud" division that, overall, reported revenue up 24 percent to \$8.6 billion. "Microsoft just delivered an eye-popping cloud beat and a performance that speaks to a secular cloud story which is still in the early innings of playing out," Wedbush analysts said in a note. —AFP

## Saudi Aramco ready for IPO

**RIYADH:** Saudi oil giant Aramco is "absolutely ready" for its long-awaited IPO but several regulatory procedures remain, the kingdom's economy minister told the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh yesterday. After reports that the initial public offering had been scrapped, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said early this month that it will go ahead in late 2020 or at the start of 2021, two years later than expected.

Saudi Arabia plans to sell up to five percent of the world's largest energy firm and hopes to raise up to \$100 billion. The crown prince denied that the kingdom had halted the plan after a media report said that financial advisors working on it had been disbanded. "In terms of readiness, the company is absolutely ready to the best of global standards," Economy and Planning Minister Mohammed al-Tuwaijri told the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference. —AFP

## Business

# Threats to eurozone fail to change ECB's course

## ECB sticks to stimulus exit despite uncertainties

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** The European Central Bank defied a gloomy outlook yesterday, sticking to its course of removing massive crisis-fighting stimulus from the eurozone economy but keeping some support to growth and inflation in place. Policymakers confirmed their plan to end "quantitative easing" (QE) or mass bond-buying at the end of December, but will keep interest rates at historic lows until late next year.

Eyes will now turn to ECB President Mario Draghi's 2:30 pm press conference, where the Italian economist will update journalists on his view of the risks pressing the 19-nation eurozone. Multiplying signals of turbulence range from an intra-EU row over Italy's budget to increasing risk of a no-deal Brexit, trade tensions with the United States, turmoil in emerging markets, rising oil prices and jumpy economic indicators.

A major upset could threaten growth in the eurozone—and the ECB's years-long quest for its goal of inflation steady at just below 2.0 percent. The official account of September's governing council meeting showed some members felt "a case could also be made for characterizing the risks to activity as now being tilted to the downside".

While Draghi last month declared positive and negative risks "broadly balanced", enough of his colleagues may by now have been swayed to a gloomier view. "Against this backdrop, Mr. Draghi is likely to stress that while the ECB is sticking to its plans for now, it remains

flexible," analyst Jennifer McKeown of Capital Economics said.

### Inching out of stimulus

Draghi acknowledged last month that some threats "have become more prominent recently". But he told European Parliament lawmakers he was confident of hitting ECB forecasts showing 1.7 percent average price growth between 2018 and 2020. Analyst McKeown pointed out that "events since the ECB's last meeting might have



### Interest rates at historic lows

led it to reassess the downside risks to (economic) growth, but not necessarily inflation", which is influenced by longer-term factors such as wage increases.

Policymakers' confidence for inflation has prompted gradual steps towards ending QE purchases of government and corporate bonds. Launched in March 2015, the scheme is designed to pump cash through the financial system to firms and households, powering growth and, in turn, inflation. After slowly reducing QE pur-

chases, the ECB most recently halved bond-buying to 15 billion euros per month between October and December, when it is slated to end.

chases, the ECB most recently halved bond-buying to 15 billion euros per month between October and December, when it is slated to end.

Meanwhile, the central bank will keep credit flowing by leaving interest rates at historic lows "at least through the summer of 2019" and possibly beyond—leaving it well behind the US Federal Reserve, which is gradually raising rates. And some of the easy-money effect of QE will be preserved as the ECB reinvests the proceeds from its 2.5-trillion-euro stock of bonds. Journalists will likely press Draghi for details of the reinvestment program, which could have political repercussions in highly-indebted countries such as Italy.

### Slow-burning threats

The slow-burning nature of many threats to growth means QE may end before any of them materialize. A US-EU trade row over tariffs Washington imposed on metals imports and threatened on cars has been on ice since July, although American officials are displaying growing impatience. Meanwhile, economists see little risk of Italy running out of buyers for its debt, even though Rome has ignored a credit rating downgrade from Moody's on Friday.

But confrontation remains on the agenda after Brussels requested the Italians present a revised budget within three weeks, the first-ever move of its kind against an EU government. As for Brexit, while European leaders last week blew through another deadline to reach a deal,



Mario Draghi

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** In this file photo Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), addresses the media during a press conference following the meeting of the Governing Council in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. —AFP

there is still time before the UK's departure date of March 29. Nor are weakening indicators of eurozone expansion-like an October slump in the eurozone-wide purchasing managers' index (PMI), a forward-looking signal on economic activity—so drastic that they should undermine inflation expectations.

"It would definitely need a severe growth accident, an escalation of the Italian crisis or trade tensions with tangible consequences on financial markets before the ECB would change its course," ING Diba bank economist Carsten Brzeski said. —AFP

## Argentine lawmakers approve austerity budget

**BUENOS AIRES:** The lower house of Argentina's Congress approved yesterday an unpopular austerity budget designed to meet the requirements of a \$57-billion IMF bailout. The vote came in the early morning after 14 hours of debate and a day of unrest that saw police fire tear gas at people throwing rocks outside the legislature building to protest the 2019 blueprint's bitter cocktail of tax increases and spending cuts.

The vote tally was 138 in favor to 103 against, with eight abstentions. The draft now goes to the Senate for final approval. Unions and the leftist opposition have criticized center-right President Mauricio Macri's economic program of sweeping spending cuts to meet the deficit-reduction requirements of the IMF loan. The bailout is supposed to help Argentina recover from an economic crisis in which the peso has lost half its value this year, inflation is forecast to finish the year at 40 percent and the econ-

omy is expected to shrink by 2.6 percent.

"We are in a crisis and the government must take responsibility. Social problems and the recession oblige us to pass the law," ruling Cambiemos party lawmaker Mario Negri said in a speech after the budget passed. "To have no budget would be a defeat for the country," he added. Macri has pledged cuts of \$10 billion in health, education, science, transportation, public works and culture.

"No to the IMF budget. Don't cut our future!" shouted demonstrators outside Congress while, inside the chamber, tempers ran high as lawmakers jostled and traded insults ahead of the vote. "In Argentina, austerity programs always end up in a crisis. Why do they think the Titanic is not going to sink this time?" lawmaker Agustin Rossi of the center-left Front for Victory party of former president Cristina Kirchner said after the vote.

Street protests have reflected growing public anger after Macri slashed civil service jobs as part of a bid to cut Argentina's fiscal deficit and tame inflation at the IMF's behest. The budget deficit was 3.9 percent of GDP last year. The government aims to get it down to 2.7 percent in 2018 and zero by the end of next year. To halt the collapse of the peso back in April, Macri's government reached a bailout deal with the IMF, with which Argentina had practically severed relations after defaulting on its foreign debt in 2001. —AFP

## Pakistan PM seeks funds as IMF bailout looms

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China next week, authorities said yesterday, as the former cricketer mounts a desperate search for funds to prop up the nation's dire finances. The confirmation of Khan's first visit to China as premier comes days after Pakistan secured \$6 billion dollars in funding from Saudi Arabia to help stave off a widening balance of payment crisis.

Khan said in a televised address Wednesday that he was working to nail down Saudi-style financing packages from two additional, unnamed countries to reduce the size of a potential loan from the International Monetary Fund. The foreign affairs ministry said Khan would meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang on the November 2-5 trip which will take in Beijing and the commercial hub of Shanghai.

"The visit will provide an opportunity for the two countries to review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations with special refer-

ence to CPEC," foreign ministry spokesman Muhammad Faisal told AFP, referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. CPEC is a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project aimed at building energy and transport links connecting the western Chinese region of Xinjiang with the Arabian Sea via Pakistan.

However, given Pakistan's deteriorating finances, in recent months there have been concerns that portions of the ambitious agreement may have to be scaled down. Analysts said Khan will be pushing for financial assistance from Beijing during the visit. "Pakistan would certainly like China to play its role in supporting our balance of payments and this is going to be one major subject of discussions," said economist Salman Shah. "China has been providing financial support to Pakistan in difficult times and this will not be something new if they come forward this time also."

Since taking power in August, Khan has sought loans from "friendly" countries like Saudi Arabia, vowed to recover funds stolen by corrupt officials, and embarked on a series of populist austerity drives to raise cash. Pakistan has gone to the IMF repeatedly since the late 1980s. The last time was in 2013, when Islamabad got a \$6.6 billion loan to tackle a similar crisis. —AFP

## Business

# Smartphones emerge as bright spot for Indian manufacturing

## Modi's vow to create new jobs stutters on many fronts

**NOIDA, India:** Smartphone-maker Lava is a small player in India's booming mobile communications industry, but it has become a poster child for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious effort to make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing. Just a few years ago, Lava imported cheap phones from China. Now it builds its own devices at two factories on the outskirts of New Delhi that employ about 3,500 people, and expansion plans are in the works.

Modi's vow to create tens of millions of new jobs has stuttered on many fronts, but domestic smartphone production has emerged as a bright spot for Asia's third-largest economy. Along with local firms such as Lava, global smartphone giants including Samsung, Oppo and Xiaomi are expanding rapidly in India, and starting to bring along components suppliers while driving contract manufacturers like Foxconn to ramp up.

More than 120 new manufacturing units have created about 450,000 jobs in the mobile phone industry over the past four years, according to the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association, thanks largely to the 'Make In India' campaign and a phased plan featuring stiff duties on imported devices and parts. That growth has made India the world's second-biggest mobile phone maker and positioned it for further growth as trade tensions and rising costs hobble China's world-

leading electronics manufacturing sector.

"India has an opportunity to become a major player in the global supply chain because we have a very strong domestic economy," Vikas Agarwal, the India head of Chinese smartphone maker OnePlus, told Reuters. The country still needs to encourage the production of high-value components as well as research and development, Agarwal added, "but at least we are off to a very good start." The Indian industry's emergence is especially visible in Noida, where Lava is based. Once a suburb for tech outsourcing firms, Noida is now bursting with companies making everything from headphones and chargers to high-end smartphones.

Sanjeev Agarwal, Lava's head of manufacturing, says local production is helping it reduce costs and build high-quality devices that can sell for less than \$150. Much of the company's product design is still done in China, Agarwal said, but the company plans to bring that work to India over the next few years. The local presence allows quicker innovation, he said, as well as lower, tariff-free costs.

Lava has some big neighbors in Noida. Samsung this year opened what it said was the world's biggest mobile phone plant there. The South Korean giant last year said it will spend 49.2 billion rupees to expand capacity at the plant over three years. Not far from Samsung's factory, China's Oppo, one of India's

### China plus one strategy

more of them. This isn't going to happen overnight. We need to be realistic about the speed at which the business is going to turn around." Sorrell, the world's most famous advertising boss, built WPP from a two-man office in central London into the world's most powerful advertising company offering creative work, media buying, public relations, consultancy and data analytics.

The group outperformed for years, helped by Sorrell's ability to buy companies and win pitches, but growth disappeared at the start of 2017 due to competition from consultancies and tech groups Facebook and Google, which enable clients to cut out the middle men and place ads directly. Clients have also complained that WPP, in 112 countries, is too unwieldy, forcing them to deal with multiple agencies within the group to get one service. Some clients are also taking marketing work in-house to save costs. Analysts said it was impossible to say if Sorrell's departure had had an effect on recent contract losses, but they noted the pressures had been building before he left in April over an allegation of personal misconduct, which he denied. "The challenges we've seen in the third quarter reinforce our determination to take more radical action and to move more decisively," Read said. He will set out a new strategy in December. —Reuters



NOIDA, India: A worker tests a Lava mobile handset at its manufacturing plant in Noida, India. —Reuters

top smartphone players, is building a massive plant too. It is expected to open soon.

### Alternative to China

Modi's so-called phased manufacturing plan, introduced in 2016, aims to take advantage of India's huge domestic smartphone market to promote local production. India has more than a billion wireless subscribers, and about 380 million of them do not yet have a smartphone. The manufacturing plan includes import duties not only on phones, but also on acces-

sories such as phone chargers, batteries and headphones, as well as components including pre-assembled printed circuit boards. Xiaomi, which competes with Samsung for the top spot in India's smartphone market, makes many of its phones using Foxconn's plants in southern India, with a total of six facilities producing its devices. Just as important, Xiaomi said this year that it wants its component suppliers to set up shop in India too, a move that could bring as much as \$2.5 billion of investment and create as many as 50,000 jobs. —Reuters

## WPP shares plunge as ad group falls behind in post-Sorrell era

**LONDON:** WPP lost a fifth of its market value yesterday after problems at its New York and London creative agencies forced it to cut sales and profit forecasts, showing the scale of the task facing its new boss after the acrimonious exit of founder Martin Sorrell. Mark Read, a softly-spoken veteran of the world's biggest advertising group, said turning around WPP would take time as he sells assets, halts acquisitions and brings in new talent at its storied agencies.

The third-quarter results wiped 2.8 billion pounds off WPP's market value, and were all the more startling as they came after solid updates from peers Omnicom, IPG and Publicis, showing the problems are specific to the British group. The results showed the high-margin and previously strong media units that buy ad space and plan campaigns are struggling.

"We need to have stronger creative agencies," Read said. "We do have good people, we need

## Anti-money-laundering body gives Iran until Feb to complete reforms

**PARIS:** The international group that monitors money-laundering worldwide said Iran had until February to complete reforms that would bring it into line with global norms or face consequences. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force said after a meeting of its members that it was disappointed that Tehran had failed to act on nine out of 10 of its guidelines despite pledges to make the grade. It had previously set a deadline of October to compete all 10 reforms.

"We expect Iran to move swiftly to implement the commitments that it undertook at a high level so long ago," said Marshall Billingslea, the US assistant Treasury Secretary for terrorist financing, after chairing an FATF meeting.

"In line with that, we expect that it will have adopted all of these measures by February. If by February 2019 Iran has not yet done so, then we will take further steps," he said.

In the meantime, the FATF said it had decided to continue suspending countermeasures, which can go as far as limiting or even banning transactions with a country. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said he welcomed the decision to extend the deadline to February, the state news agency IRNA reported. He also criticized the US chairmanship of FATF, saying it was an attempt to bring Iran back on to the international money-laundering blacklist, without elaborating.

Iran's parliament approved some new measures against funding terrorism earlier this month under pressure to adopt international standards. But FATF said that it could only consider fully enacted legislation. Members of FATF had already given Tehran until this month to bring its laws against money-laundering and funding of terrorism up to its guidelines.

Otherwise, Iran risked being returned to a blacklist of non-compliant countries that makes foreign investors and banks reluctant to deal with it.

Britain, France and Germany are trying to keep some financial channels open to Iran after the United States pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal in May and re-imposed sanctions. Analysts say that inclusion on the FATF's blacklist could effectively make that all but impossible. —Reuters



## Business

# After 'historic' quarter, Tesla looks to Europe, China

## Musk calms fears about his behavior, company debt

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Electric car maker Tesla on Wednesday reported an "historic" quarterly profit driven by demand for its mass market Model 3, as the company looks beyond its US home base to Europe and China. Tesla chief executive Elon Musk said he expects the company to stay profitable from this point forward, and appeared to calm fears about his behavior, company debt, and snags ramping up production line efficiency.

Musk said he expected Tesla to make even more Model 3 vehicles in the current quarter, and to begin delivering the cars in Europe and China early next year. "I am incredibly excited about what lies ahead," Musk said in an earnings call with analysts. Tesla said net income reached \$311.5 million on revenue that more than doubled year-on-year to \$6.8 billion in the quarter that ended September 30.

The earnings beat Wall Street expectations that Tesla would take in less money in the quarter and log another loss. Shares in the company leapt 9.8 percent to \$316.80 in after-market trades that followed release of the earnings figures for its fiscal third quarter. For the same period a year ago the company reported a loss of \$619 million.

"Q3 2018 was a truly historic quarter for Tesla," said the flamboyant Musk, who also heads SpaceX. "Model 3 was the best-selling car in the US in terms of revenue and the 5th best-selling car in terms of volume." Tesla's assembly line produced an average of 4,300 cars weekly in the quarter, nearing a goal set a while back by Musk. Tesla has also improved efficiency, ramping up the gross margin on Model 3 vehicles to more than 20 percent, according to Musk. He ex-

pressed confidence that Tesla would remain profitable, despite using cash to pay off notes.

### Trading up big

"Model 3 is attracting customers of both premium and non-premium brands, making it a truly mainstream product," Musk said, adding that the company's "earnings profile has flipped dramatically." The vast majority of cars traded in by Model 3 buyers are non-premium models priced new at less than \$35,000. "For many people, it is the most expensive car they ever bought," Musk said. "They are demonstrating they are willing to spend more money for a Tesla."

Model 3 cars start about \$50,000, despite a Tesla goal of making an electric car priced for the masses. Musk said his aim is to get the Model 3 price down to \$35,000, with production cost of less than \$30,000. "That is our goal, and that is what we are pushing very hard to achieve."

### Ride-share rival

Tesla is also hard at work on a computer chip that will dramatically increase self-driving capabilities in its cars. Musk envisioned a day when Tesla owners would be able to make their autonomous cars part of a ride-sharing fleet run by the company. "I know for sure Tesla will operate its own ride-hailing service," Musk said. "It will compete directly with Uber and Lyft obviously, and have ability for customers to add or subtract cars to the fleet at will."

Tesla would likely take a percentage of revenue brought in by people's cars in the ride-share fleet, according to Musk. He assured analysts that Tesla was not starving new vehicle development

items, profits amounted to \$163 million.

Twitter said the drop in its user count was a direct result of efforts to improve the "health" of its platform by removing fake and abusive accounts. "We're achieving meaningful progress in our efforts to make Twitter a healthier and valuable everyday service," said chief executive Jack Dorsey. "We're doing a better job detecting and removing spammy and suspicious accounts at sign-up... This quarter's strong results prove we can prioritize the long-term health of Twitter while growing the number of people who participate in public conversation."

Twitter has managed to swing into profit over the past few quarters after years of losses, but it has struggled to grow its user base beyond a core of celebrities, journalists and political figures. But it has sought to expand its appeal with new services including live video. Twitter claims its estimate of daily users, which it says reflects engagement, was up nine percent in the past quarter but offers no specific numbers.

Advertising, which makes up the bulk of Twitter revenues, grew 29 percent over the past year to \$650 million, according to the earnings report. Twitter said it had 67 monthly active users in the US in the quarter, and 259 million internationally. —AFP



**WASHINGTON:** This file photo shows the Tesla logo is seen outside of their showroom in Washington, DC. —AFP

to feed profitability. Tesla has made significant progress on a Model Y, with a prototype set for production, and is continuing to develop an electric semi truck as well as a new roadster model, according to Musk. Tesla executives expect to begin delivering Model 3 cars in Europe in the first quarter of next year, and in China by the second quarter.

Production will initially take place in California,

but Tesla is "moving rapidly" to get production going in China and wants to have that going next year, according to Musk. "We will also have a factory in Europe long term, because it is pretty silly to make cars in California and ship them to Europe," Musk said. Tesla shares got a boost earlier this week when a high-profile stock short-seller shifted gears to say the electric car maker is "destroying the competition." —AFP

## Twitter tops earnings estimates, lifting shares

**WASHINGTON:** Twitter reported yesterday stronger-than-expected profits and revenues in the third quarter, igniting a strong rally in shares of the key social network. The San Francisco group delivered a \$789 million profit, including one-time gains, compared to a net loss of \$21 million in the previous year, as revenues grew 29 percent to \$758 million. Twitter shares rallied 13.6 percent in premarket trade following the results, as the markets overlooked a dip in the number of users of the short-messaging service.

Average monthly active users totaled 326 million, down from 335 million in the previous quarter. The company said the drop came from efforts to weed out fake and inauthentic accounts. The recently enacted privacy rules in the European Union also had an effect. The record profit included one-time gains from tax and asset valuation adjustments. Excluding those

## China says hard to understand US skipping import fair

**BEIJING:** China finds it "hard to understand" why the United States is not sending senior government officials to a major import expo in Shanghai next month, the foreign ministry said yesterday. The world's two biggest economies are locked in an escalating tariff row, with President Donald Trump having railed against China for what he sees as intellectual property theft, entry barriers to US business and a gaping US trade deficit.

Set to run from Nov 5 to Nov 10, the China International Import Expo will bring together thousands of foreign and Chinese companies, aiming to boost imports, allay foreign concern about China's trade practices and show readiness to narrow trade gaps. But

the United States does not plan to send senior government officials to the fair, a US embassy spokesman said on Wednesday, urging China to end what he called harmful and unfair trade practices.

Speaking at a daily news briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that it was the right of the United States to send whoever they wanted, adding: "The United States, on the one hand, asks China to open its markets to U.S. products and services, yet on the other hand, the United States is not willing to send anyone to come when we open the door and invite people from all over." "This way of speaking and acting, I think everyone will believe, as I do, is extremely contradictory and hard to understand," she said.

The import fair shows that China is willing to open its doors to other countries and share the benefits of Chinese development, Hua added. More 130 countries and 2,800 companies have decided to take part, including 180 US companies such as Microsoft Corp, Disney and Intel Corp, she said. —Reuters

## Sports

# England's Lozowski appeals against South Africa ban

## Lozowski banned for dangerous play at a ruck during Saracens' European Champions Cup

**LONDON:** Saracens and England centre Alex Lozowski has appealed against a reviewed two-week ban that is set to rule him out of England's opening November international against South Africa. Lozowski was banned by an independent disciplinary committee after being cited for dangerous play at a ruck during Saracens' European Champions Cup victory over Glasgow earlier this month.

Officials initially ruled the 25-year-old would miss last weekend's Champions Cup tie and the Premiership Cup match against Leicester tomorrow before becoming available on October 29. The Premiership Cup, as opposed to England's top division Premiership, is designed mainly as a tournament for emerging players but one for which Lozowski was eligible.

Nevertheless, following Lozowski's call-up to the England squad for the November internationals and their ongoing training camp in Portugal, European Professional Club Rugby's independent disciplinary review adjusted the

matches that would be covered by the suspension on the grounds he was unlikely to play in the Premiership Cup fixture in any event.

"The player is appealing against the initial finding that the alleged act of foul play warranted a red card, and against a subsequent review of the sanction which found that his period of suspension should be extended," EPCR said in a statement issued yesterday.

But there was a fresh complication yesterday when EPCR said it had appealed against the independent disciplinary committee's decision to dismiss a second citing complaint against Lozowski arising from the Glasgow match.

Lozowski was also cited for an alleged dangerous tackle on Glasgow full-back Ruaridh Jackson, but the committee decided that incident did not warrant a red card and dismissed the complaint. Both appeals will be heard in London today.

England face the Springboks at Twickenham on November 3. — AFP



Alex Lozowski

## Former Armstrong team manager, doctor get lifetime cycling bans

**TORONTO:** Lance Armstrong's former cycling team manager Johan Bruyneel was banned from cycling for life on Wednesday after a successful appeal by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The 54-year-old Belgian was initially banned for 10 years in 2014 by the American Arbitration Association North American Court of Arbitration for Sport (AAA) for helping orchestrate an elaborate doping programme that helped Armstrong to seven Tour de France titles.

In its ruling, CAS also said doctor Pedro Celaya was handed a lifetime ban while trainer Jose "Pepe" Marti had his period of ineligibility increased to 15 years from eight. The trio all worked for Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team (USPS), which changed its name to Discovery Channel after a change of sponsors in 2005, and opted for arbitration when the charges were originally leveled against them in June 2012.

Armstrong was stripped of his Tour de France titles and given a lifetime ban in 2012, finally admitting his use of banned substances in an interview with Oprah Winfrey in January 2013. The AAA had said the ban given to Bruyneel, who is often described as Armstrong's right-hand man, was "appropriate" but CAS said he was at the heart of the system and deserved more.

"If a lifetime ban is a possible sanction, as it is, the Panel sees no reason why it should not be imposed in this case for Mr. Bruyneel's active involvement in widespread, systemic doping in the sport of cycling spanning many years," CAS said in its ruling.

Bruyneel acknowledged in an open letter sent to cycling websites that "mistakes have been made", but that he still felt USADA did not have the jurisdiction to bring charges against him. "I want to stress that I acknowledge and fully accept that a lot of mistakes have been made in the past," he wrote on [www.cyclingnews.com](http://www.cyclingnews.com). "There are a lot of things I wish I could have done differently, and there are certain actions I now deeply regret.

"The period I lived through, both as a cyclist and as a team director, was very different than it is today. "I would simply like to



Johan Bruyneel (r) with Lance Armstrong.

observe that we were all children of our era, facing the pitfalls and temptations that were part of the culture at the time. "We didn't always make the best choices."

### ADHERENCE TO 'OMERTA'

Celaya was the team's doctor from 1997 to 1999 and then again from 2004, and CAS said he was a willing and indispensable participant in the system which required medical supervision. He also did not appear contrite when he testified before the panel.

"Quite the contrary, he continued to maintain his innocence," said CAS. "As far as the Panel is aware, he is the only remaining member of the corrupt world of cycling during those many years to respect the 'omerta'.

"His attitude offers a serious threat to a future of clean cycling and sport generally." Marti chose not to testify, but CAS there was no previous evidence from which it could infer contrition or any change of heart by the trainer. WADA Director General Olivier Niggli welcomed the decision. "It is the result of a long process, which was resisted at every turn by these men, who by their actions did a great deal of damage to their sport," Niggli said in a statement emailed to Reuters. — Reuters

## WADA governance group recommends independent president

**MOSCOW:** With angry athletes demanding an overhaul of the World Anti-Doping Agency following the decision to reinstate Russia's anti-doping authority (RUSADA), a governance working group has made several recommendations, including the introduction of an independent president.

The WADA governance group, comprising representatives of athletes, National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) and independent experts, was formed last year to study the running of the agency, which has faced increasing criticism after the lifting of the Russia ban.

Tempers flared last month when WADA, against the wishes of many athletes groups and anti-doping campaigners, voted to reinstate RUSADA without the agency having met all the criteria laid out in a Roadmap to Compliance.

RUSADA was suspended in November 2015 after an independent WADA report, carried out by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren, outlined evidence of state-backed, systematic doping and cover-ups in Russian sport.

Athletes and NADOs such as the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) have argued WADA's links to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which pays half of the agency's funding and makes up half its membership, represent a clear conflict of interest and have sought greater independence and transparency.

In recommendations published on Wednesday, the Working Group said WADA should move to an independent president and vice-president with no links to the sports movement or governments. Currently the WADA presidency rotates between a representative from the Olympic movement and a government official. Presidents can serve a maximum of two three-year terms. — Reuters

# Stephen Curry explodes for 51 points against the Wizards

## Wizards' Morris fined for tugging on Seth Curry's shorts

**OAKLAND:** Stephen Curry had 11 three-pointers en route to a 51-point performance as the Golden State Warriors throttled the Washington Wizards 144-122 on Wednesday. The two-time NBA MVP Curry moved into fifth on the league's all-time three point scoring list and heard chants of "MVP, MVP" from the Warriors' faithful.

"He was, I don't even know how to describe what I witnessed tonight, amazing, video-game stuff," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "Nobody has ever done what he is doing."

Curry, who played just three quarters against the Wizards on Wednesday, drained his 11th three from 32 feet late in the third quarter. "To have a night like tonight where everything is clicking, I just want to embrace it," said Curry, who now has 2,162 career threes. "I put a lot of work in over the summer and I got a great group of guys that I get to go to work with every night."

"I am just playing with confidence and playing within myself." It marked his sixth career 50-point game and he finished just three shy of his career high when he scored 54 points against New York in 2013.

Curry shot 15-for-24 from the field, 11-for-16 from beyond the arc and 10-for-10 from the free throw line. He chipped in five rebounds and three assists in 32 minutes of action. "The last three in the first quarter was probably the funniest thing I've experienced on the court," Curry said.

"Two guys on our team are yelling at the time,

from the time I was at the free throw line: 'Don't pass it. Don't pass it. You better shoot it.' "That's going through my head while I'm dribbling down. That's kind of all the motivation you need just to launch it. Thankfully it went in."

Kevin Durant added 30 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Draymond Green added 12 assists to help two-time defending champions finish with 37 total assists. "It was a joy to be on the same court with that. That was sick," Durant said of Curry.

Curry has scored 30 or more points in four of his first five games to start the 2018-19 season for the Warriors who have won four consecutive games against the Wizards. "It's just one of those nights you just have so much fun playing the game," Curry said. "Taking some dare shots and trying to sustain that for as long as I'm out there on the floor."

Curry's third three of the night in the first quarter moved him past Jamal Crawford (2,153) for fifth place. The Warriors (4-1) have defeated the Wizards (1-3) for the 14th time in their last 16 matchups.

Bradley Beal finished with 23 points while Kelly Oubre came off the bench to score 17 points in the loss.

Meanwhile, The NBA fined Markieff Morris \$15,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct on Wednesday after the Washington Wizards forward twice gave a tug on the shorts of Portland's



**OAKLAND:** Kevin Durant #35 of the Golden State Warriors dunks the ball on Jason Smith #14 of the Washington Wizards at ORACLE Arena on Wednesday in Oakland, California. —AFP

Seth Curry.

Morris wasn't even in the game at the time of the incident, on the final play of regulation in the Wizards' 125-124 overtime triumph over the Trail Blazers on Monday.

Curry was in the corner of the three-point arc with his team in possession of the ball when Morris—standing near the Wizards' bench, reached out and pulled on the back of his shorts not once but twice. —AFP

## Hamilton faces nerve-wracking world title showdown

**MEXICO CITY:** Lewis Hamilton faces a nerve-wracking scrap in Mexico's power-sapping altitude this weekend before completing the apparent formality of claiming his fifth Formula One world title.

Just a week after a bruising defeat in Texas, where a resurgent Ferrari out-performed them at the United States Grand Prix, Hamilton and Mercedes have licked their wounds in readiness for an even more challenging contest.

"We have a battle on our hands," admitted Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff. "But it provides us with an opportunity to learn and come back stronger."

That view is shared by 33-year-old Briton Hamilton, and the entire Mercedes team, as they seek to recover enough lost performance to retain both the drivers' and constructors' championships.

"We will have to keep pushing to win both (team and driver's) titles," said Wolff. "The United States Grand Prix confirmed what we said before the race - this year's championship fight is far from over."

Given that Hamilton has won six of the last eight races and has a 70-point lead over fellow four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari with three races remaining, it outcome may look inevitable. Mercedes lead Ferrari by 66 in the teams' title race.

On paper, Hamilton requires only five points to draw level with the legendary five-time champion Juan Manuel Fangio in the record books with five world championships, leaving only Michael Schumacher, on seven, to catch.



**AUSTIN:** Third placed Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain and Mercedes GP celebrates on the podium during the United States Formula One Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas on October 21, 2018 in Austin. —AFP

For Mercedes to seal a fifth consecutive team title, they must outscore Ferrari by 20 — a more difficult task that will be complicated by the likely speed and belligerence of the Red Bull team.

Max Verstappen won last year's race at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, where the thin air at 2,200 metres (7,200 feet) above sea level reduces engine effectiveness and places a greater premium on a car's aerodynamic performance.

His Red Bull team-mate Daniel Ricciardo, so angry last weekend that he punched a hole in a wall after being forced into retirement, will be determined to secure a final victory before he leaves the team for Renault next season. —AFP

## Embattled USA Gymnastics names 'safe sport' director

**LOS ANGELES:** USA Gymnastics, still reeling in the wake of the Larry Nassar scandal, named a new director of safe sport education and training on Wednesday. Child advocate Shelba Waldron will assume her duties in November, charged with "developing and implementing all aspects of USA Gymnastics' safe sport educational programs and training services", USA Gymnastics board member Julie Springwater said in a statement.

"She will be instrumental in our efforts to create a culture and environment where members feel comfortable speaking up and are fully trained in effective safe sport practices."

Waldron has worked before with youth development agencies to create safer environments for children, helping youngsters and those around them recognize the signs of sexual abuse, bullying and other forms of abuse.

"My first task will be to spend time listening and getting to know the USA Gymnastics community—the athletes, club owners, coaches, parents, judges and administrators from around the country—so I can develop a safe-sport educational and training program that works for the community as a whole," Waldron said. —AFP

## Sports

# Babar, Wasim propel Pakistan to biggest T20 win over Australia

## Finch said the defeat was embarrassing

**ABU DHABI:** Opener Babar Azam struck an unbeaten 68 while spinner Imad Wasim capped a return to international cricket with three wickets as Pakistan crushed Australia by 66 runs in Wednesday's opening T20 match in Abu Dhabi.

Azam hit five fours and a six in his 55-ball innings as Pakistan made 155-8 before Wasim (3-20) ripped apart Australia's top order as they slumped to 89 all out—their joint-third lowest T20 score—at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

The win gave Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the three-match series and also their biggest T20 victory over Australia, improving upon the 45-run win they achieved in Harare in July. Only twice have Australia scored fewer runs in a T20 international, making just 79 against England at Southampton in 2005 and 86 in a defeat by India at Dhaka four years ago.

Left-arm spinner Wasim, playing his first match for Pakistan since October last year, bowled both Australian openers, Aaron Finch (nought) and D'Arcy Short (four), in the first over of their innings.

Medium pacer Faheem Ashraf, who finished with 2-10, then dismissed Glenn Maxwell (two) and Chris Lynn (14) to further derail the Australians. Ben McDermott was run out without scoring before Wasim came back into the attack to dismiss Alex Carey for one, leaving Australia in tatters at 22-6.

Only a fighting knock of 34 from Nathan Coulter-Nile, the last man out, ensured Australia didn't succumb to their lowest T20 total. Paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi finished with 2-23 while Hasan Ali and Shadab Khan took a wicket each.

Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed praised an allround performance. "Our bowling attack is good, so we try to put some runs on the board and back ourselves to defend," said Sarfraz. "Babar Azam and Hafeez batted beautifully and when we bowl we always try to take wickets when we have the ball in our hands."

Finch said the defeat was embarrassing. "It's pretty embarrassing, to be fair," said Finch. "I think we were a little bit one-dimensional while batting, but that's a learning experience and I would say Pakistan have got a lot of variety in their bowling."

Earlier, Pakistan were lifted by Azam and Mohammad Hafeez (39) as they added 73 for the second wicket in quick time. But once Hafeez fell in the 14th over, Pakistan lost six wickets for just 28 runs with Sarfraz, Ashraf and Wasim falling without scoring while Shadab made just one.

It was left to Azam to keep one end intact during his sixth T20 half-century while Hasan used the long handle effectively, hitting two boundaries and a six in a handy 17 off eight balls to help add 41 in the last five overs.



**ABU DHABI:** In this picture taken on October 24, 2018, Pakistan cricketer Hasan Ali takes a catch to dismiss Australian cricketer Adam Zampa during the first Twenty20 cricket match between Australia and Pakistan at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. —AFP

Billy Stanlake (3-21) and Andre Tye (3-24) were the successful Australia bowlers. The sec-

ond and third T20 internationals will be played in Dubai today and Sunday. —AFP

## Bangladesh call uncapped pacer for Zimbabwe Test

**CHITTAGONG:** Bangladesh yesterday included uncapped fast bowler Khaled Ahmed in their 15-man squad for the two-Test series against Zimbabwe starting November 3 in Sylhet. The hosts, who were thrashed in their last Test series in the West Indies in July, made five changes in the absence of injured all-rounder Shakib al Hasan and batsman Tamim Iqbal.

Khaled, 26, was selected along with batsman Mohammad Mithun, spinner Nazmul Islam and all-rounder Ariful Haque, who is yet to make his Test debut. Fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman also returned to the Test team after missing out on the West Indies series due to an ankle injury.

Fast bowlers Rubel Hossain, Kamrul Islam and wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan made way for the newcomers. "We have selected the best available

squad because this series is important for us," chief selector Minhajul Abedin told reporters in Chittagong.

Khaled excelled during Bangladesh A team's tour of Ireland in August, picking up 10 wickets in a five-match one-day series. The fast bowler celebrated his call-up to the Test team with his maiden 10-wicket haul in a domestic first-class game yesterday.

"We have been nursing him for quite some time in our high performance unit. He is the quickest of our bowlers," said Minhajul. Mahmudullah Riyad will lead the side in absence of regular Test skipper Shakib.

The second Test will be held in Dhaka from November 11-15. Bangladesh have won just 10 of their 108 Tests since acquiring full status in 2000. They have failed to score 200 runs in any of their last six innings.

**Squad:** Mahmudullah Riyad (Capt), Imrul Kayes, Liton Das, Mominul Haque, Nazmul Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim, Ariful Haque, Mehidy Hasan, Taijul Islam, Abu Jayed, Shafiqul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Mohammad Mithun, Khaled Ahmed, Nazmul Islam. —AFP

## India call up pace duo Kumar, Bumrah for ODIs

**NEW DELHI:** Indian selectors yesterday picked pacemen Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar for the remaining three one-day internationals against the West Indies. Fast bowler Mohammed Shami, who was included for the first two matches, has been left out for the rest of the five-match series which the hosts lead 1-0.

The second game on Wednesday ended in a

## Australia reappoints chairman ahead of ball-tamper findings

**SYDNEY:** Cricket Australia reappointed its controversial chairman David Peever yesterday, before the release of two reviews prompted by a ball-tampering scandal that sullied the sport's reputation during his tenure.

Peever, a polarising figure criticised for his handling of a bitter 2017 pay dispute, is one of the few senior executives left standing at the organisation after this year's ball-tampering fiasco. The scandal involved Australian players using sandpaper to alter the flight of the ball in a Test match against

thrilling tie in Visakhapatnam after the Indians scored 321-6 off their 50 overs, riding on a record unbeaten 157 by skipper Virat Kohli. Kohli, 29, became the quickest batsman ever to reach 10,000 ODI runs on his way to a second successive century. The third one-dayer will be played in the western city of Pune on Saturday followed by games in Mumbai (October 29) and Thiruvananthapuram (November 1). The West Indies lost the preceding two-Test series with India 2-0.

Indian squad for the last three ODIs against the West Indies: Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Rishabh Pant, M.S. Dhoni (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Umesh Yadav, K.L. Rahul, Manish Pandey. —AFP

South Africa last March. Coach Darren Lehmann quit in the wake of the uproar and then-captain Steve Smith, deputy David Warner and batsman Cameron Bancroft were banned from the game. Cricket Australia said Wednesday that team performance boss Pat Howard will step down next year.

Meanwhile, outgoing Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland is being formally replaced on Thursday by insider Kevin Roberts—the lead negotiator during last year's acrimonious pay talks.

Peever's re-election came as the governing body reported a return to profit, boosted by a massive six-year television and digital rights contract. Australian cricket's governing body reported a surplus of Aus\$8.3 million (US\$5.9 million) for the year ending June 30, after incurring a deficit of Aus\$50.8 million in the previous 12 months. —AFP

Sports

# Leafs stay perfect on road with a 4-2 win over Jets

## Panthers beat Islanders on Hoffmans OT goal

**TORONTO:** The Toronto Maple Leafs continued their early season road dominance on Wednesday, collecting a 4-2 win over the Winnipeg Jets to improve to a perfect 5-0-0 in away games this season. John Tavares scored his seventh goal of the season, converting a pass from Mitchell Marner at the 8:28 mark of the third period after Marner had driven toward Winnipeg's net. Tavares' goal was an important momentum changer, as the Jets had scored twice earlier in the period to narrow Toronto's lead to a single goal. Kasperii Kapanen, Nazem Kadri and Tyler Ennis also scored for the Leafs. The goal was Ennis' first of the season and first in a Maple Leafs jersey after playing for the Minnesota Wild last season. The Jets suffered their first regulation loss on home ice this season, dropping to 5-1-1 in their own arena.

**PANTHERS 3, ISLANDERS 2 (OT)**  
Mike Hoffman scored a power play goal 33 seconds into overtime to cap a late comeback by Florida, which overcame a two-goal deficit in the third period to edge host New York. Aleksander Barkov set up the winning goal by winning a faceoff against Valtteri Filppula deep in the Islanders zone. The puck bounced to Keith Yandle, who passed to Hoffman, whose shot sailed past Islanders goalie Robin Lehner with two seconds left on a power play generated when Mathew Barzal was whistled for interference with 1:25 left in regulation. Frank Vatrano and Evgenii Dadonov scored in the first 11 minutes of the



**NEW YORK:** Jared McCann #90 of the Florida Panthers skates against the New York Islanders at the Barclays Center on October 24, 2018 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. The Panthers defeated the Islanders 3-2 in overtime. —AFP

third period for the Panthers, who earned their first non-shootout win of the season. Goalie James Reimer made 20 saves.

time in team history after losing all four meetings between the teams last season, getting outscored 19-10.

**CANUCKS 3, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2 (SO)**  
Markus Granlund scored in the fourth round of a shootout to give Vancouver a victory over Vegas in Las Vegas. Granlund came down the slot and fired a wrist shot past Marc-Andre Fleury's stick side and inside the left post to give the Canucks a fifth win in their last seven games. Bo Horvat scored both regulation goals for Vancouver. The Canucks defeated the Golden Knights for the first

**LIGHTNING 1, AVALANCHE 0**  
Nikita Kucherov scored on the power play early in the third period, Andrei Vasilevskiy had 22 saves, and Tampa Bay beat Colorado in Denver. Steven Stamkos had an assist for the Lightning, who have earned at least a point in six consecutive games. Semyon Varlamov stopped 23 shots for Colorado, which had its three-game winning streak snapped. — Reuters

### NHL Standings

Eastern Conference							Western Conference						
Atlantic Division							Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Toronto	7	3	0	38	32	14	Nashville	7	2	0	31	20	14
Tampa Bay	6	1	1	29	18	13	Colorado	6	2	2	33	21	14
Montreal	5	1	2	27	21	12	Winnipeg	6	3	1	31	28	13
Boston	5	2	2	31	24	12	Chicago	5	2	2	33	33	12
Buffalo	5	4	0	22	25	10	Minnesota	4	2	2	22	24	10
Ottawa	4	3	1	29	29	9	Dallas	4	4	0	23	23	8
Florida	2	3	3	26	32	7	St. Louis	2	3	3	25	29	7
Detroit	1	6	2	20	39	4	Pacific Division						
							Vancouver	6	4	0	30	31	12
							San Jose	5	3	1	31	25	11
							Anaheim	5	4	1	25	25	11
							Calgary	5	4	0	32	27	10
							Las Vegas	4	4	1	20	24	9
							Edmonton	3	3	1	18	25	7
							Arizona	3	5	0	15	18	6
							Los Angeles	2	6	1	17	32	5

**Metropolitan Division**

Carolina	5	3	1	29	26	11
Pittsburgh	4	1	2	26	25	10
Washington	4	2	2	34	30	10
New Jersey	4	2	0	22	14	8
Columbus	4	4	0	24	30	8
Philadelphia	4	5	0	31	37	8
NY Islanders	3	4	1	22	23	7
NY Rangers	3	5	1	24	30	7

**Note:** Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

## Colourful Warne joins MCC World Cricket committee

**LONDON:** Australian spin great Shane Warne said he had "plenty to offer" as he was appointed to the MCC's influential World Cricket committee, which suggests changes to the game's laws.

The 49-year-old replaces fellow Australian Rod Marsh, who stepped down after serving on the committee since 2012. "It is an honour to have been asked to be a member of the MCC World Cricket committee," Warne said in a statement.

"It is an extremely exciting time for cricket and I hope that I will have plenty to offer in discussion and debate. I look forward to contributing to the work of the committee." Warne has gained a reputation for his robust views. This week, he said Australia's Test team needed a "kick up the backside" after their series defeat to Pakistan.

As a player, he was the first bowler to reach 700 Test wickets and his final tally of 708, in 145 Tests from 1992 to 2007, is second on the all-time list. Committee chairman Mike Gatting, flummoxed by Warne's



Shane Warne

famous 'ball of the century' during the 1993 Ashes series, said he was delighted to have the Australian on board.

"Obviously his profile in the world game is as big as they come and with his extensive experience, I am sure he will offer great insights into many different facets of the game," Gatting said.

Recommendations of the committee, which meets twice a year, have resulted in innovations including day/night Test cricket and limiting the size of bats. At its last meeting in August, the committee raised the idea of using a "shot clock" to speed up play. — AFP

## Sri Lanka sacks booze supplier for England tour

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka Cricket yesterday sacked its food and beverage supplier for selling booze without a licence during England's tour of the island, sparking a mid-match raid by tax agents. The decision followed revelations that tax officers seized bottles of whisky and wine being served to England fans during the fifth one-day international match in Colombo.

The island's cricket board said its hospitality partner, Classic Destination, did not obtain the necessary licences to serve hard liquor at the ground. "As the firm has failed to act within the law... and bringing disrepute to Sri Lanka Cricket,

SLC decided to immediately terminate Classic Destination from delivering further hospitality services during the England tour," the board said in a statement yesterday.

There was no immediate comment from the company. It was not the first controversy of the series, with England fans complaining of being charged more than local fans for the same tickets.

Sri Lanka Cricket said entry fees were the same for foreign and local supporters. But its hospitality partner, Classic Destination, bundled food and drinks together with grandstand seats in packages selling for 20,500 rupees (\$120).

British media described the arrangement as a "rip off". England fans, known as the Barmy Army, asked Sri Lankan cricket authorities to lower charges but authorities said prices for the tickets was the same for all, so they could not be lowered. England has won the ODI series 3-1. A one-off T20 is due on Saturday. Three Test matches will begin November 6 with the final match due to end on November 27. — AFP

## Sports

# Red Sox pitcher Price making Dodgers pay in World Series

## Price, first Red Sox pitcher to throw six innings with five strikeouts

**BOSTON:** David Price went winless in his first 11 Major League Baseball playoff starts, staying confident in his abilities but unable to produce results at the most critical moments. But in one fabulous week, the 33-year-old American left-hander has tossed aside 11 seasons worth of frustration and delivered the Boston Red Sox two major post-season triumphs.

Price allowed only two runs on three hits with five strikeouts Wednesday in a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in game two of the World Series, giving the Red Sox a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven championship final.

Price snapped his 11-start playoff drought last week to beat Houston in the clinching game of the American League championship series. Against the Dodgers, he combined with three relievers to retire the last 16 batters in order and shake off years of doubt and criticism.

"It's huge," Price said. "This is the biggest stage in baseball. There's no other stage that's going to be bigger. "To be able to do that, it feels good, for sure. I'm pumped for myself, pumped for all my teammates and coaches for us to be two wins away."

Price became the first Red Sox pitcher to throw at least six innings with at least five strikeouts and not allow more than three hits in back-to-back playoff starts. "What he did

in Houston and what he did tonight, we needed it," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "He threw the ball extremely well. He pitched great in Houston and today he was amazing. He was pitching to the edges of the strike zone.

"This guy is a great pitcher. He has been one of the best pitchers in the big leagues for a while. I'm very proud of him, very happy for him. He deserves it. This guy works, he cares about his teammates."

The feeling is mutual, as designated hitter J.D. Martinez saw after his two-run single in the fifth inning gave Price the lead entering the sixth. "He was definitely pumped coming out," Martinez said. "He was out there battling his butt off and you have to tip your hat to him. These last two outings he has been unbelievable.

"I'm so happy for him and proud of him, going through all that criticism he has been getting to bounce back to do what he has been doing. He's a huge part of our team."

### 'I WAS INTO IT'

For all the importance of the games, Price tries to treat them as just another start. "I just tried to keep it the same as in every other game. Don't put any added pressure or anything of that nature. Just go out there and throw strikes and execute pitches," Price said before admitting his thrill.

18-year-old Sancho came off the bench to grab the other goals.

Spanish sports newspaper Marca were quick to dub the defeat "Disaster in Dortmund" for Atletico on their online edition. "We can't blame this on bad luck or anything," said Atletico captain Diego Godin.

"We started the second half well but in football you need to take your chances." "Top spot is looking difficult now with their goal difference, but we need to try and beat them at home," he added, with the teams to meet again in Madrid in a fortnight.

Dortmund were without in-form Spanish striker Paco Alcacer, who has scored seven times in just four Bundesliga games, with a leg injury, while Diego Costa returned to partner Antoine Griezmann up front for Atletico.

This was a typically tense European affair early on, played at a frantic pace between two strong teams eager to focus on attacking football with neither defence allowing many clear chances. With 35 minutes gone, Dortmund lost midfielder Thomas Delaney with a foot injury and the Dane was replaced by Mahmoud Dahoud, who played a hand in the opening goal.

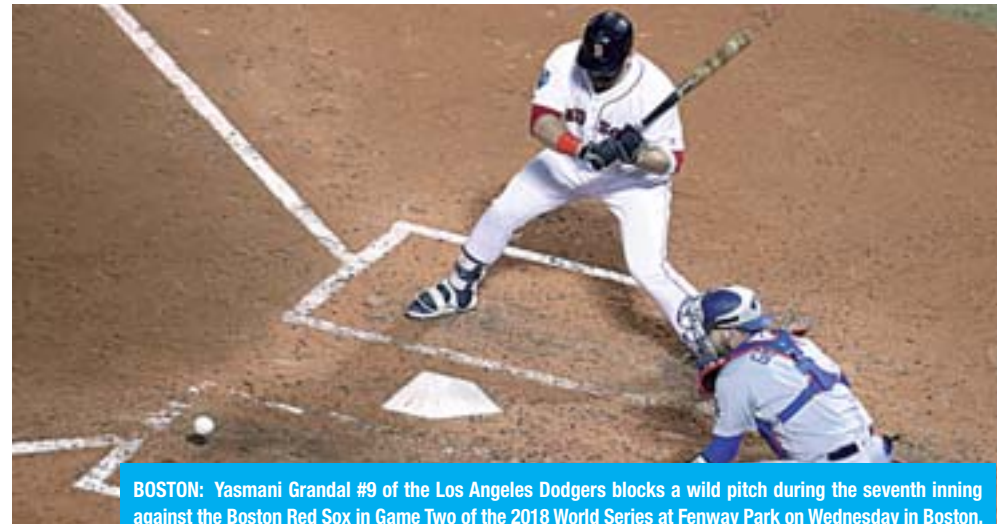
After a determined run by US midfielder Christian Pulisic, 20, Dahoud carried on the move, before the ball eventually fell to Witsel, whose shot took a big deflection before finding the net. Atletico boss Simeone brought on a fresh pair of legs in midfield for the second half, taking off Thomas Partey and bringing on Rodri. —AFP

## Dortmund thrash Atletico as Sancho scores first Champions League goal

**DORTMUND:** Borussia Dortmund stunned Atletico Madrid with a 4-0 thrashing on Wednesday to move to the verge of the Champions League knockout stage, as English teenager Jadon Sancho scored his first goal in the competition. It was the heaviest Champions League defeat ever suffered by Diego Simeone in seven years as Atletico head coach and put Dortmund top of Group A after both teams had previously beaten Club Brugge and Monaco.

"You couldn't have imagined that. Huge compliment to the team, because it is not every day that you score four goals against Atletico," said Dortmund captain Marco Reus. He singled out teenage defender Achraf Hakimi, on loan from Real Madrid, for special praise after he set up two of the goals in an outstanding display.

"Achraf is extremely important for us on the wing, he's quick and times his runs well into the box," added Reus. Axel Witsel gave Dortmund the lead at Signal Iduna Park when his first-half shot took a wicked deflection, before Raphael Guerreiro, who scored twice in the second period, and



**BOSTON:** Yasmani Grandal #9 of the Los Angeles Dodgers blocks a wild pitch during the seventh inning against the Boston Red Sox in Game Two of the 2018 World Series at Fenway Park on Wednesday in Boston, Massachusetts. —AFP

"It's the World Series. If you're not into it, you should probably go home. So I was into it." Cora removed him after six innings but liked how Price delivered the Red Sox deep enough into the game for relievers to finish the job. And he liked how he discussed strike zone issues with the umpire between innings.

"That's the first time I've seen the whole season where he went to the umpire after the

third out and let him know how he felt about the strike zone," Cora said. "You don't see that often. And when he did that, it was like, OK, cool. Even in the sixth inning, probably he was thinking he was going back in the seventh. He got the last out and there was a smile like I'm good, I'm in control. "But by that time the manager had decided to take him out of the game." —AFP

## Pliskova storms into WTA semis

**SINGAPORE:** Czech Karolina Pliskova stormed into the semi-finals yesterday after a convincing straight sets victory against compatriot Petra Kvitova, sending the former Wimbledon champion crashing out of the WTA Finals in Singapore. Pliskova became the first player into the final four after a 6-3, 6-4 triumph in 83 minutes. Winless Kvitova needed to win in straight sets to keep her campaign alive but struggled throughout to complete a disappointing first WTA Finals appearance since 2015.

The result puts pressure on reigning champion Caroline Wozniacki, who needs to defeat unbeaten Elina Svitolina in straight sets to keep her title defence alive. Former world number one Pliskova booked her spot in the semi-finals for the second straight year having also beaten Wozniacki earlier in the tournament. It was Pliskova's first victory over Kvitova after three straight losses.

"It was a huge victory for me," she told reporters after the game. "It meant a lot to get into the semi-finals after beating her, it's just special." Kvitova played down fatigue as a factor after a gruelling season. "I was really feeling well physically and mentally," she said. "I still had a lot of positive thoughts in the match to fight and turn it around but it didn't happen."

Kvitova's slump in Singapore continued, serving three double faults to be broken in the second game of the match and her confidence spiralled.



**SINGAPORE:** Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova hits a return against Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova during their singles match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore yesterday. —AFP

It was one-way traffic with Pliskova dominating off the baseline and picking off Kvitova's timid shots to rattle off the opening four games.

On the brink of elimination, Kvitova showed some fight by attacking Pliskova's powerful serve and breaking in the fifth game. But Pliskova regrouped to close it out in 41 minutes and eliminate Kvitova, who had 15 unforced errors in the first set.

With the pressure off, Kvitova went for her forehands and it paid off as she began hitting the lines. The 28-year-old broke in the second game and stormed to a 4-2 lead as it appeared a seventh straight match at the WTA Finals would go the distance. But Pliskova rediscovered her rhythm to win four straight games and book a berth into the semis. —AFP

# FIFA chief heading for trouble over pet projects

## UEFA boss Ceferin complains of FIFA's 'strange' behaviour

**KIGALI:** FIFA President Gianni Infantino is set to ignite new opposition today over his ambition to introduce two money-spinning pet projects—a revamped global club cup and a bold new international championship.

Infantino's Saudi-backed plans, which have already been harshly criticised, are on the agenda of today's meeting of FIFA's ruling council. It is unclear whether the council's 37 members will vote on the projects, giving world football's governing body authorisation to implement them.

But opponents are already sharpening the knives, deploring the proposed introduction of new competitions in an overcrowded football calendar while also targetting Infantino himself, accused of seeking to win votes ahead of his re-election bid in June next year. The World Leagues Forum, which groups professional football leagues, has expressed its strong opposition to the proposed Club World Cup format and the Global Nations League in the past.

This week the influential body addressed a letter to Infantino signed by English FA chief Richard Scudamore and his Bundesliga counterpart Christian Seifert among others demanding that no decision be taken in Kigali. It also lamented the lack of any consultation between FIFA and the leagues.

Forum members apparently accuse Infantino of going behind their backs directly to a few top

clubs to discuss the plans for the club competition while the European Clubs Association issued an appeal to FIFA several months ago, apparently unheeded, for talks.

UEFA boss Aleksander Ceferin has complained of FIFA's "strange" behaviour while UEFA, speaking via the powerful Professional Football Strategic Council (PFSC), issued a statement expressing concern about the whole process.

It said the PFSC "unanimously expressed serious reservations about the process surrounding the FIFA Club World Cup and Global Nations League proposals and in particular the hasty timing and lack of concrete information".

The 17-member PFSC is led by Ceferin and includes Nasser Al-Khelaifi, president of Paris Saint-Germain, and Ed Woodward, vice-chairman of Manchester United, two clubs who attended a meeting at which Infantino presented his plans to Europe's biggest clubs.

Ill feeling has reached a point where UEFA delegates may even stage a walkout if their views go unheeded at today's Council meeting, according to the New York Times this week.

Infantino is pushing to revamp the Club World Cup, boosting it from seven clubs to 24 in a four-year format, 12 of them European. Currently, the competition which elicits little interest outside of Latin America is played every year.

His other project is to launch a biennial

first overall draft pick Baker Mayfield. He is 1-3 as a starter and has completed 57.8 percent of his passes for 1,291 yards, with six touchdowns and five interceptions. He has been sacked 18 times. "If we come out with a win on Sunday, that is a huge division win," Mayfield said. "The Steelers are leading it right now. We like to think of it as these games count as two down the road. We need to take advantage of this opportunity and put ourselves in a good spot moving forward."

Cleveland has settled into an unsettling pattern of playing better in the second half. "We have not started fast enough ... and we are firing on all cylinders in the second half," Browns coach Hue Jackson said. "My whole thing there is if we can put it together—first half and second half—then maybe we will have a better chance of finishing some of these games and winning. I want to take a really good look at it, be very thorough through it, watch it all and see where I can help—infuse myself, I do plan on doing that, infuse myself to help and assist our offensive coaching staff."

The last part of Jackson's comment addressed concerns that he might usurp some of offensive coordinator Todd Haley's responsibilities after he said following Sunday's 26-23 loss at Tampa Bay that he would take an increased role in the offense. Jackson clarified that he is not taking over play-calling. While Cleveland was falling at Tampa, the Pittsburgh coaching staff spent its bye week reflecting and planning. "We spent some time focusing on us, what we've done schematically," coach Mike Tomlin said. —Reuters



ROME: File photo shows New President of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), Gabriele Gravina (R) poses with FIFA President, Gianni Infantino following the vote during the elective assembly of the FIGC on October 22, 2018 at the Hilton hotel of Rome's Fiumicino airport. —AFP

league tournament for nations, the Global Nations League, a sort of mini-World Cup with eight national teams competing. Infantino says he has an offer of \$25 billion over 12 years for the two competitions from a group of investors, which the Financial Times has identified as Soft-Bank from Japan, backed by Saudi Arabia among others.

That money, he promises, will be redistributed to clubs and continental football federations. Football historian Paul Dietschy told AFP the new club competition was clearly an attempt to pull the rug from under UEFA's highly lucrative Champions League. "The Champions League will survive," he said, but FIFA "will snatch away some of its income." —AFP

## Browns, Steelers looking to settle score after early tie

**PITTSBURGH:** Not a whole lot was settled when the Pittsburgh Steelers visited the Cleveland Browns on opening weekend. No one wins in a 21-21 tie. The teams meet again Sunday in Pittsburgh with a chance to better define their season series.

The Browns are 2-4 since Week 1, a feat considering they were winless last season, and the Steelers are 3-2 since and moved into first place in the AFC North while on a bye last week. Without a game last week, the Steelers' biggest story line revolved around running back Le'Veon Bell. Several reports indicated he might sign the team's franchise tag tender and report after being away all season, but that did not happen.

Pittsburgh has turned to second-year running back James Conner, who has been a tackle-breaking bull. In his past two games, Conner has 40 carries for 221 yards and four touchdowns. "I don't know if there are any limitations to James' game right now," Steelers offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner told ESPN. "He's been open to every position we put him in, concepts. Whether it's routes, concept protections, he has done a really nice job."

Since that first meeting, the Browns have switched quarterbacks, going to rookie and

## Barcelona triumph without Messi as Dortmund pummel Atletico 4-0

**PARIS:** Barcelona overcame the absence of an injured Lionel Messi to defeat Inter Milan 2-0 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Borussia Dortmund signalled their intent with a 4-0 demolition of Atletico Madrid.

Mohamed Salah scored twice as Liverpool strolled past Red Star Belgrade, but Paris Saint-Germain needed a superb stoppage-time equaliser from Angel Di Maria to rescue a point at home to Napoli.

Barca collected a third win from three Group B outings as Rafinha, filling in for Messi after the Argentine star fractured his arm at the weekend, volleyed in the opener on 32 minutes at Camp Nou.

Philippe Coutinho rattled the crossbar in the second half before Jordi Alba sealed the points seven minutes from time to leave Barca on the brink of a spot in the last 16. "We needed to step up given the absence of Leo," Ernesto Valverde said. "It was in the head of us all."

"We have a certain style, then Messi gives us

a touch of brilliance that is extraordinary. When he is not there we have to supply it in some other way," he added. Bundesliga leaders Dortmund, who were missing in-form striker Paco Alcacer, delivered the performance of the evening as they handed last season's Europa League winners Atletico their heaviest defeat under Diego Simeone.

Axel Witsel fired Dortmund ahead shortly before half-time at Signal Iduna Park, with substitute Raphael Guerreiro netting twice in the final quarter-hour either side of a goal by teenage England international Jadon Sancho.

Dortmund top Group A with a maximum nine points, although Atletico still remain favourites to progress alongside them after Thierry Henry's Monaco and Club Brugge drew 1-1 in the other game.

Moussa Sylla raised hopes of Monaco ending an 11-match winless streak by opening the scoring just after the half-hour mark in Belgium, but Wesley struck for Brugge to secure a point.

"We are a little less negative than at Strasbourg," said Henry, after a defeat by Strasbourg in his coaching bow on Saturday. "But a draw is a draw, it's not a victory."

At Anfield, Liverpool's front three of Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane were all on target as Jurgen Klopp's team swept Serbian champions Red Star aside 4-0. Firmino broke the deadlock on 20 minutes and Salah struck right before the interval. —AFP



SINGAPORE: Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova hits a return against Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova during their singles match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

# Pliskova storms into WTA semis

See Page 46