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# Kuwait calls for joint military cooperation to face challenges

## US general urges Gulf unity to counter Iran

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti armed forces Lt Gen Mohammed Al-Khudher yesterday said the serious and continuous security challenges in the Middle East during the past few years demand military cooperation to face them. "Our meeting aims to strengthen our relationship and cooperation to achieve regional and international security and stability. We hope that this joint collaboration will lead to improve our military forces and defense unity to face present and future challenges," Khudher said during the opening session of a meeting of the Supreme Military Committee of GCC, Egyptian, Jordanian and US chiefs of staff.

Commander of the US Central Command (CENTCOM) General Joseph Votel noted that the Gulf region is full of vitality and opportunity, but also "threats to our common security". "I believe these regular meetings are very important for us to maintain close ties, open lines of communication, foster mutual understanding and advance our collaboration and cooperation," he pointed out. "Your contributions are crucial with regards to our efforts in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan and to the stability of the region as a whole. It is important to our common security challenges and developing real solutions to address them, specifically integrated air and missile defense, maritime security and counterterrorism," added Votel. Votel urged feuding Gulf states to put aside their differences and unite against Iranian efforts to "destabilize" the region.

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**KUWAIT:** Gulf, Egyptian, Jordanian and US military chiefs pose for photographers ahead of a meeting yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## MoI urges visit visa violators to leave Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** The interior ministry called on residents whose visit visas have expired to settle their residency issues and leave the country to avoid legal measures. The security information department of the ministry said in a press statement that this procedure prevents expatriates from being subjected to restrictions on the renewal of their residencies. It said violators will be prosecuted.

Meanwhile, a report in Al-Anbaa daily said latest statistics by the residency affairs department about the number of expats who have valid residency permits show there are 2,861,380 such expats - 2,017,084 males and 844,296 females. The statistics by the

Residency Affairs Department, headed by Maj Gen Abdullah Al-Hajeri, showed that the number of workers who have article 17 residency permits (who work in the government sector) is 107,887 - 68,577 males and 39,350 females.

As for those who work in the private sector, their number is 1,518,711 - 1,394,913 males and 123,798 females. The number of domestic helpers who have article 20 visas is 687,267 - 349,273 males and 337,994 females. Those who have family visas number 544,048 persons - 202,295 males and 341,753 female, and those who are self-sponsored (with article 24 residency permits) number 2,429 - 1,191 males and 1,238 females.

A security source estimated residency violators at more than 90,000, adding that the interior ministry is considering several options to reduce their numbers, adding one of the options is to carry out intensive campaigns to arrest them and take action against their sponsors, especially those who entered on visit visas and did not leave.

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## MoH grapples with MERS case, cholera reports, child's death

**KUWAIT:** The health ministry has taken all measures needed to ensure the safety of citizens and expats against Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), said the ministry's Undersecretary Mustafa Redha. The official's remarks were made at a press conference yesterday after reports were issued by a World Health Organization (WHO) body that a South Korean who arrived in his country from Kuwait was infected with the coronavirus. The ministry has raised the level of alert to contain any possible cases of the disease. The ministry's medical team also took samples from those who interacted with the patient, it said, adding that the samples were all negative.

The Yonhap news agency had reported that 10 people in



**KUWAIT:** Senior health ministry officials hold a press conference yesterday. — KUNA

South Korea who came into contact with the infected patient and showed symptoms of the disease tested negative. On Saturday, the 61-year-old man was diagnosed with the first case of MERS in South Korea in about three years after returning home from a business trip to Kuwait from Aug 16 to Sept 6.

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## Turkey nabs bomb suspect in Syrian regime heartland

**ISTANBUL:** The Turkish secret service staged an operation deep in the heartland of the Syrian regime of President Bashar Al-Assad to capture and bring back to Turkey the prime suspect in a 2013 bombing, officials said yesterday. Turkish citizen Yusuf Nazik, who is accused of planning a bombing in a Turkish border town in May 2013, was apprehended in an operation carried out by the National Intelligence Organization (MIT). He was captured in the Syrian city of Latakia - a stronghold of support for Assad that has never slipped from his control - and then brought to Turkey, the Anadolu news agency said.



Yusuf Nazik

More than 50 people were killed in the bombing - one of the deadliest in Turkey's modern history - in Reyhanli, on the border with Syria in the southern Turkish province of Hatay. Ankara at the time blamed the attack on the regime of Assad and allied groups. The Syrian government rejected the charges. Anadolu published a video of Nazik, dressed in a tracksuit top and jeans and standing by a Turkish flag, giving what it described as a "confession", saying he was behind the attack and it had been ordered by the Syrian regime.

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## Trump's US loses role as Mideast peace mediator

**WASHINGTON:** Twenty-five years ago, then US president Bill Clinton looked on as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shook hands on the White House lawn, sealing the Oslo accords. And in 1979, Jimmy Carter hosted the leaders of Israel and Egypt at Camp David - another indelible moment in diplomatic history. Donald Trump can only dream of such a scene unfolding on his watch. Under the Republican leader, the United States is further away than ever from playing its traditional role as mediator in the long-simmering Middle East peace process.

## Apple unveils larger iPhones, smarter watch

**CUPERTINO, California:** Apple yesterday unveiled updated versions of its priciest iPhones along with a new smartwatch that allows users to take their own electrocardiograms, as the US tech giant looks to boost its momentum in a sputtering market. The California tech giant revealed its iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max, updating the top-of-the-line handsets released a year earlier. The new devices are aimed at maintaining Apple's share in the premium segment.

"We are going to take iPhone X to the next level," chief executive Tim Cook said at a media event at the company's headquarters in Cupertino, California. The new

phones have displays of 5.8 and 6.5 inches, boosting screen size while keeping a small-format handset, Apple vice president Phil Schiller said. The September event allows the company to unveil its latest offerings before the key holiday shopping season.

While the iPhone has made Apple the world's most valuable company, worth more than \$1 trillion, it has slipped to third place among smartphone makers as Chinese-based Huawei has grabbed the number two spot. Analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy said Apple had done enough "to keep its smartphone growth going until the competition responds".

Apple also introduced a fourth generation of Apple Watch with a major redesign - and a series of features designed to improve its performance as a medical and health device. The watch, sold in the United States from \$399 and up, will be available in stores on Sept 21.

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**CUPERTINO, California:** Phil Schiller, senior vice president of worldwide marketing at Apple Inc, speaks at an Apple event at the Steve Jobs Theater at Apple Park yesterday. — AFP

## Local

# Visit's positive results to create further cooperation between Kuwait, US: Sheikh Sabah

## Amir back home from US, thanks President Trump for hospitality

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to US President Donald Trump, thanking him for his hospitality during His Highness' official visit to Washington. His Highness also expressed his joy over his meeting with President Trump, where they discussed issues of mutual concern and bilateral ties. His Highness Sheikh Sabah noted that he was pleased with the positive results of the Washington visit, which he said would help create further cooperation between the two sides. He also underscored the strong and

“ Meetings to boost economic, investment cooperation ”

historic Kuwaiti-US relations, adding that both countries will cooperate in achieving and protecting international peace and security.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir affirmed the importance of the meetings held between Kuwaiti private sector representatives with their American counterparts to boost economic, investment and trade cooperation between the two sides. His Highness invited President Trump to visit Kuwait in the future, wishing him a long healthy life and further development for his country.

His Highness the Amir, accompanied by Deputy President of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the official delegation, had



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is greeted by His Highness President of the National Guard Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is greeted by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his arrival back in Kuwait. — Amiri Diwan photos

returned to Kuwait on Tuesday from the United States. His Highness the Amir was greeted by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness President of the National Guard Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Acting Speaker of

the National Assembly Essa Ahmed Al-Kandari and senior state officials. His Highness the Amir's delegation included Director of the Office of His Highness the Amir Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahd, Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammed Abdullah Abu-Al-Hassan, Head of the Protocol at the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Khalid Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Naser Al-Sabah

and Head of Media and Cultural Affairs at the Amiri Diwan, Yousuf Hamad Al-Roumi. Seeing His Highness off at the airport in Washington was Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mansour Al-Otaibi. — KUNA

## FM receives US president's special envoy

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday United States President Special Envoy to the Gulf and Former Commander of US Central Command Retired General Anthony Zinni accompanied by US Secretary of State Deputy Assistant to the Arabian Gulf and Near East Affairs Timothy Lenderking, along with the accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed bilateral ties and ways to strengthen strategic partnership in all fields. The two sides also tackled developments in the region and international arena, including issues of common concern. Sheikh Sabah praised ties between the two countries and the bilateral cooperation, which contributes to the development and prosperity in both countries.

The two US officials hailed Kuwait's exceptional role in preserving security and peace in the region and international arena, affirming their country's commitment to the stability and security of the State of Kuwait. The meeting was attended by senior ranking diplomats from both sides. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of Kuwait Airways Yousef Abdulhameed Al-Jassem and board members. — KUNA photos

## Crown Prince meets Kuwait Airways' board

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Chairman of Kuwait Airways Yousef Abdulhameed Al-Jassem and board members on the occasion of the formation of the new board.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Saud Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azam Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

## Amir sends cable of condolence to Shatti family

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of condolences to Al-Shatti family over the death of Amiri Diwan Undersecretary Ibrahim Al-Shatti. In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his deepest sorrow and grief over the loss of Al-Shatti and recalled his accomplishments and illustrious performance in serving his country, as well as his keenness and dedication during his tenure. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Al-Shatti family.

Shatti passed away on Tuesday at the age of 86 after nearly 51 years in office. Shatti was born in 1932 and got his bachelor degree in literature from Cairo University and master degree in economic studies from the British Durham University back in 1954. He joined the work at the Foreign Ministry in 1954, and in 1958, he became the Director of the Political Department and supervisor of the Foreign missions to London until 1960.

In 1967, Shatti joined the Amiri Diwan upon a request from the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to be the director of his office, he became the director of the Late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah office until 2006. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways from 1983 to 1989, a member of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) from late 1970s to the late 1980s, a member of Kuwait University Council from 1969 to 1979, and served as Chairman of Kuwait Geographical Society since 1972. He was the founder and Chairman of Khalidiya Cooperative Society from 1968 to 1972 and the founder and president of Kuwait's Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies in 1971.

The late Ibrahim Al-Shatti chaired the Board of Directors of the Petroleum Chemical Company from 1962 to 1972. He also served as Assistant Undersecretary for Radio, Television, Press and Publication at the Ministry of Guidance and Information in 1961 and joined the Department of Press and Publications in the same year. By losing Shatti, Kuwait has lost a cultural and historical figure who witnessed an important events in its contemporary history. — KUNA

## Arab FMs laud Kuwait's support to UNRWA

**CAIRO:** The council of Arab League has voiced its appreciation for Kuwait's role in supporting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem funds. This came on Tuesday at the conclusion of the 150th session of Arab League foreign ministers meeting held in Cairo.

The council stressed its rejection of attempts aiming to reduce or stop financial support for UNRWA through systematic Israeli campaigns. It warned against any decision taken by any country, including the United States, in this regard. The conferees expressed appreciation for efforts by member states hosting the Palestinian refugees and other members contributing to backing UNRWA, mainly Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar. They called on member states to implement resolutions of the 2017 Jordan summit on increasing the capital of Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem funds by \$500 million. The council condemned Israel's settlement activities on the occupied Palestinian land, including East Jerusalem. It reiterated that such illegal settlements violate international law, calling for implementing the resolutions of all Arab summits on ending the Israeli blockade, rebuilding the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah had met on Tuesday with Commissioner General for the UNRWA Pierre Krahenbuhl on the sideline of the 150th session of the Arab League



**CAIRO:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Commissioner General for the UNRWA Pierre Krahenbuhl. — KUNA

Ministerial Council meeting held in Cairo. The efforts and humanitarian role of the UNRWA in alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian refugees were discussed during the meeting along with the difficulties faced by the agency. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled lauded the agency's efforts in providing all the needs of the Palestinian refugees in various fields. During the meeting, Krahenbuhl praised Kuwait for its historic role and support to the Palestinian refugees and to the UNRWA activities. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Fahad Al-Awadhi, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt Mohammad Al-Thuwaikh, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Saleh Al-Logani, and Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the League Ahmad Al-Bakr. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled meets with Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry, on the sidelines of the 150th session of Arab League foreign ministers meeting. — KUNA

Local

# Authority signs KD 99 million contracts to build transformers at housing projects

## PAI distributes 108 new sites for sand mining and dredging



KUWAIT: Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Jenan Boshherhi (right) speaks during a press conference yesterday to announce signing six contracts with a total value of KD 99 million. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Director of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Abdul Kareem Taqi (center) attends a press conference yesterday to announce distributing 108 new sites for sand mining and dredging.

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) signed six contracts yesterday with the total value of KD 99 million - four in Mutlaa, one in Sabah Al-Ahmad and one in Abdullah Al-Mubarak - to design, execute, install and maintain four main transformer stations. Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Jenan Boshherhi said both the PAHW and qualified companies are committed to building 20 residential buildings including 390 apartments within 730 days, in addition to public service facilities in West Abdullah

Al-Mubarak within the same period.

### Sand mining

Separately, Director of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Abdul Kareem Taqi yesterday announced distributing 108 new sites for sand mining and dredging. Speaking during a press conference held yesterday at PAI headquarters, Taqi said that 30 sites covering a total area of 5,347 sq m were being currently used and that the new ones will cover 4.27 million sq m. Taqi added that the first of the new sites will be in Mutlaa and that more sites will be later available in Wafra, West Kabd, Khairan, Maayem, Abraq and Sabriya, adding that

the new sites' allocation will be for three renewable years upon PAI's approval.

### Domestic helpers

The foreign ministry has praised efforts exerted by the domestic labor office owners' union in contacting Asian and African countries to hire domestic helpers, namely female ones, but the union stressed that opening new markets can only be done with support from both the foreign and interior ministries. Union Chairman Khaled Al-Dakhnan made the remarks during a meeting with the Assistant Foreign Minister for Consulate Affairs Sami Al-Hamad. Dakhnan stressed that the meeting was fruitful and

that the foreign ministry highly appreciates the union's efforts in reaching out to new sources for domestic helpers as well as working on resolving the problems with countries that had banned their citizens from working in Kuwait.

### Private veterinaries

The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) is currently working on allowing Kuwaiti vets to open their own private evening clinics and operate them, deputy director for animal resources affairs Ali Al-Qattan said. On another concern, Qattan said special chips had been tacked to livestock to identify

their actual owners, prevent theft, prevent wasting subsidized fodder and help identify owners in case of accidents.

### Offender detained

The public prosecution ordered the detention of a female citizen wanted for insulting a police officer on duty, said security sources, noting that the woman is facing charges of slandering a public servant on duty, unlawfully recording a video and threatening him. In a separate case, the court of misdemeanor yesterday overturned a verdict issued in absentia against six fishermen, fining them KD 500 each for shrimping during the ban, and acquitted them.

## MP Hajraf plans to grill commerce minister

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf said on Tuesday that he plans to file to grill Commerce and Industry Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan for alleged financial violations and benefitting from his post. The lawmaker charged that a company linked to Roudhan and his family called Seenar has won a contract with the ministry of commerce and industry which represents a big violation to the country's laws.

Hajraf said if the reported contract is proved, the minister must resign or he will be grilled in the national assembly and most likely face a vote of no-confidence. He said that his threat comes after a long time advising the minister to rectify all the violations and prevent awarding the contract to that company, but the minister refused to heed with the advice.

He also accused the minister of misleading lawmakers by providing false information to questions by parliament members, thus obstructing the functioning of the assembly. Hajraf also criticized the minister's handling of a state fund for supporting small and medium scale business ventures by Kuwaitis, saying the fund has failed to live up to expectations. In the meantime, MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday



Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf

day said he might file to grill Health Minister Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah if he fails to probe the death of a Kuwaiti girl yesterday while at hospital as her family has accused an expatriate doctor of responsibility. The ministry has already formed a probe committee to investigate the conditions of the death and the minister said he will take the necessary measures after the results of the probe.

Adasani said he will continue to monitor the developments of the investigation and if no action was taken, he will grill the minister. MP Nasser Al-Dossari meanwhile said the girl has reportedly died of an injection given by an expatriate female doctor and demanded an investigation into the allegations.

The lawmaker also demanded that authorities should not allow the doctor to leave the country before the probe is completed and legal actions are taken. He also demanded that a new law should be issued to toughen penalties against medical errors. — KUNA

### Two-on-one assault

A citizen lodged a complaint against two Syrian men for beating him in Amghara. Police arrested one of them, while the other was able to escape. The citizen said he was asking one of the men for his money, but the duo verbally insulted him and threw the money to the ground. An argument then escalated to a fight. The citizen submitted a medical report stating he suffered several injuries during the fight.

### Woman arrested for offensive tweet

Sentences implementation detectives sent a female citizen to prison to serve a jail sentence following a tweet in which she urged toppling the regime. She was found to have a criminal record and used to call interior ministry operations and insult the political leadership. Criminal detectives were tipped the wanted woman was in Egaila, so they moved in and arrested her.

### Yacht fire

Marine firemen put out a fire on a yacht near Souq Sharq Tuesday morning. One person was injured. The fire department received a call about a fire on the 36-foot yacht, so Shuwaikh fire station boats rushed to the burning vessel and used foam to put out the fire. The boat was tugged to the beach as investigations are being held to determine the cause of the fire.

### Drug dealer caught

Drugs Control General Department received a tip about a person selling drugs, so investigations were made and a warrant was obtained. The suspect was arrested in Sharq and confessed to his crimes. He said he delivered a large quantity of hashish to a second suspect in Dasma. The second suspect confessed and led officers to the vehicle where the drugs were kept, and 80 kg of hashish were found. The contraband was taken to concerned authorities.

## Three injured in Fahaheel Expressway accident

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A car accident took place on Fahaheel Expressway near Mishref yesterday, prompting firemen from the Mishref fire station to respond. According to eyewitnesses, a car was parked on the shoulder of the road when another vehicle came and slammed into it, injuring some people who were standing next to it. Three people who were injured - one in critical condition - were taken to hospital. Separately, smoke was noticed coming out of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, so firemen from the Sulaibkhat and Shuwaikh fire stations rushed to the scene. The smoke's source was the battery room, so fire retardant powder was used to put out the blaze, and no damage was reported.

### Harasser attacked

A citizen in his twenties rushed to a police station in Hawally seeking help against an individual who attacked him. Policemen were surprised by the youth parking his car in front of the station and rushing inside with the engine still running. A source said the youth told police that while he was flirting with a girl in front of a university, a man rammed his car from behind, then walked towards the youth, who was unable to drive away. The youth said the man damaged his car's tires and broke the windows with a screwdriver before he was able to escape. Police are investigating.

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## Local

# Registration for 4th KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs launched

## Startup businesses in e-media, technology sectors welcomed to register

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) and the Youth Empowerment Organization (Tmkeen) have announced the beginning of registration for the annual KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs. This is the fourth year that the two entities come together to organize this award, which focuses on entrepreneurial businesses in the e-media and technology sectors.

Young entrepreneurs aged 18-33 with existing businesses established for no longer than five years and licensed in Kuwait are invited to visit the Tmkeen website ([www.tmkeenkw.com](http://www.tmkeenkw.com)) to apply for the award. Registration is open until October 22.

Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said: "Since we began our collaboration with the Youth Empowerment Symposium in 2015, our goal has been to highlight the talent and creativity of Kuwait's ambitious young entrepreneurs. Through the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs, we continue to help young men and women to take their businesses to the next level by providing the services of the KIPCO Group companies and lending the expertise of its professionals."

The KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs offers the grand prize winner services from the KIPCO Group companies worth \$100,000, making it the largest entrepreneurship prize in terms of value in Kuwait. The services include a wide range

of financial, strategic and operational consultancy sessions, market studies, insurance coverage and advertising services. Burgan Bank, OSN, Gulf Insurance Group, KAMCO Investment Company and Marina FM are contributing their expertise and services to the prize. United Real Estate, Qurain Petrochemical Industries, United Networks and United Education are also supporting the award. In addition to this, the first place winner will be awarded \$15,000 in cash, while the second and third place winners will receive \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

Meanwhile, Ali Al-Ebrahim, CEO of Youth Empowerment Organization, said: "At Tmkeen, it is our mission to educate young people and to inspire them to become entrepreneurs, and thereby contribute to Kuwait's growing business sector. We are delighted to be partnering with KIPCO and its Group companies for the fourth year, as we work together to encourage young people to use their creativity to establish innovative small and medium enterprises."

Eligible applicants for the award will be asked to submit detailed information about their business's operational and financial performance. The first judging round will be held on October 29, where applicants will give a 5-7 minute presentation to a panel of business professionals from the KIPCO Group. Based on defined business criteria, the three applicants with the highest scores



**KUWAIT:** Ali Al-Ebrahim, CEO of Youth Empowerment Organization (left) and Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director attend the press conference.

will be eligible to give a final presentation of 7-10 minutes at the KIPCO Tmkeen Award Startup Battle on November 5, and the official judging panel will select the

winners. The winner of the grand prize will be announced during the Youth Empowerment Symposium on November 6.

## 'Green and Clean Environment' Expo kicks off October 2

**KUWAIT:** In emphasis of the close relation between environment and all forms of sustainable development in Kuwait, and under auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works Hosam Al-Roumi is set to inaugurate the 'Green and Clean Environment Forum and Exhibition' on October 2, 2018.

Speaking on the occasion, head of the organizing committee and the General Manager of Leaders Group Nabila Al-Anjari said that the two-day expo would be held under the supervision of the Environment Public Authority (EPA), adding that its goal is to promote the significance of all forms of sustainable environment, while urging concerned authorities to combine efforts to achieve that goal.

"This issue must be a priority for the public at this particular time when development plans are being processed to achieve HH the Amir's vision for Kuwait 2035," Anjari underlined.

Further, Anjari explained that aside to EPA, participants would include the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Kuwait Municipality, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Kuwait Investors Society in addition to major sponsoring companies such as KGL and LIMAK.

Anjari also noted that participants would showcase their latest equipment, programs and services that help maintain the environment as 'green and clean'. She also said that the forum would discuss four major issues: state departments and environmental pollution, Kuwait and green economy, the environment's law and environmental awareness and the role of the private sector in environment protection.



**Nabila Al-Anjari**

## 32nd round of GCC Documents, Studies Centers kicks off

**KUWAIT:** The 32nd session of the GCC Documents and Studies Centers, which is hosted by the Kuwait Research and Studies Center (KRCS), kicked off in Kuwait yesterday. Head of the Kuwaiti Research and Studies Center Dr Abdullah Al-Ghunaim confirmed in an opening speech that the meeting proves, over more than three decades, the unity of the history of this region and the compatibility of its cultural components.

Ghunaim said that "we strive to preserve the heritage of this region of documents and manuscripts," adding that "we sought to spread awareness among

citizens about the importance of documents, which are evidence of history. He said that the growth of this archive has become a scientific reference for many researchers and "a material which added to our history details that were not known and corrected some of the errors that came in some documents and foreign sources on which the researchers relied."

Secretary-General of the GCC Documents and Studies Centers Dr Fahd Al-Samari stressed in a similar speech the need to communicate with Gulf youth and activate the social networking sites of the Gulf countries. Samari pointed to the need to coordinate collection of historical materials and the delivery of information through social networking sites to young people to raise awareness of the importance of documents, which are the testimony of history, stressing the unity of history between the Gulf States. The General Secretariat of the GCC Documents and Studies Centers held its 31st session in Muscat in May 2017. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Head of the Kuwaiti Research and Studies Center Dr Abdullah Al-Ghunaim (left) and Secretary-General of the GCC Documents and Studies Centers Dr Fahd Al-Samari (center) attend the inauguration of the 32nd session of the GCC Documents and Studies Centers. —KUNA



Publications displayed at the event.



**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) concluded its summer training program for children of the bank's staff aged between 16 and 22 years. The trainees enrolled in training courses at CBK branches across Kuwait during July and August.

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Local

# Any military escalation in Idlib would result in humanitarian disaster: Kuwait

## Kuwait regrets unjustified absence of Houthis from Geneva talks

**NEW YORK:** Any military escalation in Idlib, Syria would result in humanitarian disaster, as women, elderly, children, and patients will pay the price of such action, Kuwait said. "As the international community witnessed the consequences of similar steps in the remaining parts of Syria, which were classified as escalation reduction areas," a Kuwaiti senior diplomat stated.

This came in Kuwait's speech before the United Nations' session on Syria held yesterday, delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi. Otaibi offered thanks to the Russian delegation for briefing the UN Security Council on the Astana summit's results which were held last Friday in Tehran, Iran, during which the participants discussed the situation in Syria, and especially in Idlib.

"The session coincided with the anniversary of the terrorist attacks that took place on the 11th of September 2001 that resulted in the death of thousands of innocent US nationals, and Kuwait renews its support and condolences to the families of the victims", he said. "We reassure our vow to work with our partners and allies to terminate terrorism that poses a great threat to international peace and security as well as our active role in the international alliance to terminate the so-called Islamic State (IS)," he said. He called on all involved parties to continue engaging

in dialogues in order to reach a peaceful solution for the situation in Idlib, he said.

He expressed his extreme concern regarding the latest reports issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), revealing the displacement of 30,000 Syrians from Idlib due to the latest developments. He renewed his call to the UN that in case a comprehensive military operation in Idlib, thus, the greatest humanitarian disaster with highest loss of people in the 21st century would definitely take place, he added. He renewed his support to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' statement on August 29 as he appealed to the Syrian government and all involved parties to exercise restraint as well as Astana summit members to find a peaceful solution to the situation in Idlib. He called for offering more time and care to diplomatic efforts to avoid further bloodshed, hoping that the meetings held by the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura in Geneva would contribute to finding solutions to save the lives of innocent civilians.

### Unjustified absence

Separately, Otaibi expressed Kuwait's regret over the unjustified absence of Houthi group from the Geneva consultations, despite all efforts to address hurdles to their participation. This came in a speech that Otaibi delivered



**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi delivers Kuwait's speech before the United Nations' session on Syria. — KUNA

during a Security Council session on the situation in Yemen. Otaibi urged the Security Council to assume its responsibilities to force Houthi Group to implement the UN resolutions to achieve security and stability of Yemen, stressing that priority must be given to the political solution based on the Gulf initiative, its executive mechanisms, the outcomes of the comprehensive national dialogue conference and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Members of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy have stated that they will allow the safe passage of aircraft carrying

Houthi representatives to Geneva in addition to halting military operations in Hodeidah, he added. "It is clear that the Houthi coup against Yemen's legitimate authorities was the root cause of the conflict," he said.

The Kuwaiti ambassador noted that the Special Envoy's efforts reflected the global desire for a political solution that will end the humanitarian suffering, as well as Houthi threats to international peace and security, including missile attacks against Saudi Arabia and threats to marine navigation. — KUNA

## Kuwait regrets unequal human rights: Ghunaim

**GENEVA:** Kuwait expressed regret that some views of the United Nations Human Rights Council were based on "the differentiation of civil and political rights from economic, social and cultural rights. This came in a statement Tuesday made by Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim at the 39th session of the United Nations Human Rights.



Jamal Al-Ghunaim

He affirmed Kuwait's deep belief in the universality and interdependence of human rights, and believed that civil and political rights were of equal importance to economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, especially in our time of economic globalization and inequality. Moreover,

Ambassador Ghunaim stressed rejection of attempts to use human rights to impose values that transcend the cultures and history of countries. He expressed Kuwait's concerns about the deterioration of the development process in some parts of the Middle East. He explained that Kuwait is concerned about the deterioration of the development process in some parts of the Middle East during a series of armed conflicts that endanger the lives of civilians. In the same context, Ambassador Al-Ghunaim said that Kuwait strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and its violations against the defenseless Palestinian people. — KUNA

## Kuwaitis urged to leave areas threatened by Hurricane Florence

**WASHINGTON:** The Kuwaiti embassy in Washington has advised Kuwaiti citizens in coastal areas threatened by Hurricane Florence to leave these areas if their stay is unnecessary. An embassy statement called on Kuwaiti citizens to take precautions and necessary measures to ensure their safety. The embassy added in the statement that in coordination with the technical offices, the embassy is making contingency plans to deal with the consequences of the hurricane on patients and students in those areas. The embassy stressed that while wishing security and safety for all, it stresses the need to follow the instructions and directives issued by the local American authorities to cope with these storms and ensure their safety.

In this regard, the Embassy urged citizens and students to continue communicating with it in case of any emergency on these following hotline numbers: Kuwait Embassy Emergency Number: +12022620758; Cultural Office Emergency Number: +12023642104; Ministry of Health Emergency Number: +12023202415; Military Office Emergency Number: +12028180666. — KUNA

## DGCA completes return of 2,266 passengers with cancelled flights

**KUWAIT:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced completing the return of 2,266 passengers to Kuwait, whose flights on Wataniya Airways were cancelled. The passengers returned from Istanbul, Trabzon, Beirut, Malaga, Athens, Baku, Sarajevo and Tbilisi. DGCA said in a press statement released yesterday. It added that there are other passengers who will return later to the country on different airlines. DGCA also noted that it had used 12 charter flights on Kuwait Airways and booked 445 hotel rooms, while also providing 272 commercial flight tickets. The directorate said that the number of passengers affected by the cancellation of flights totaled 2,266. Meanwhile, it noted that Wataniya Airways will be charged with all financial costs, adding that the directorate will take legal action to protect the rights of the state and the passengers. — KUNA

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## Cancer in Europe: More cases but fewer deaths

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WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH: A surfer catches a wave a day before the arrival of Hurricane Florence at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina yesterday. —AFP

# Monstrous Florence rumbles toward eastern US

## Residents told to 'get out now'; Hurricane takes aim at Carolinas

**WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH:** Highways clogged with people fleeing North and South Carolina yesterday as monstrous Category 4 Hurricane Florence rumbled toward the eastern US as the biggest storm there in decades. While many coastal residents heeded mandatory evacuation orders, others boarded up homes and businesses and chose to brave the storm, which is forecast to trigger severe flash flooding as it dumps as many as three feet of rain in some areas.

Life-threatening storm surges of up to a staggering 13 feet in some places were also forecast. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper warned that staying put would be a grave mistake and said people in evacuation zones "need to get out now." "This is not a storm that people need to ride out," Cooper told reporters. "This is a storm that is historic, maybe once in a lifetime."

Up to 1.7 million people in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia have been given voluntary or mandatory evacuation orders, according to emergency management officials, as the storm churned across the Atlantic Ocean towards the coast. The eastbound lanes of several major highways have been shut down to allow for a smooth flow of traffic inland. "We are already experiencing heavily impacted traffic on some of the evacuation routes," said Jeff Byard, the associate administrator for response and recovery at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Forecasters are predicting that Florence will make landfall in the Carolinas late Thursday or early Friday as a still powerful Category 3 hurricane. As of 5:00 am, Florence was a dan-

gerous Category 4 hurricane packing sustained winds of 130 miles per hour, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said. It was located 575 miles east-southeast of Cape Fear, North Carolina, and moving at 17 mph in a west-northwest direction. Briefing from the Oval Office, President Donald Trump urged people to heed orders to evacuate, saying "if you are asked to leave, get out." "This will be a storm that's going to be far larger than we have seen in perhaps decades," Trump said.

### 'Direct hit'

Speaking in the Oval Office alongside Trump, FEMA administrator Brock Long said Florence may be a "very devastating storm." "The power will be off for weeks," Long said. "You're going to be displaced from your home in coastal areas. There will be flooding in inland areas as well." Byard, the FEMA official, said "this storm is not going to be a glancing blow." "This storm is going to be a direct hit." "Hurricane Florence is the strongest storm to target the Carolinas and this part of our country in decades," Byard said. The NHC said Florence is expected to be an "extremely dangerous major hurricane" when it makes landfall in the Carolinas late Thursday or early Friday, bringing life-



threatening storm surge to coastal areas.

A state of emergency has been declared in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Washington amid concern over potential torrential rain and flooding. The last time the US capital declared a state of emergency was in January 2016 when a winter storm dubbed "Snowzilla" blanketed the capital region in knee-deep snow. In Charleston, South Carolina, some residents were making preparations to leave Tuesday while others planned to ride out the storm. Streets were quiet with schools and many offices and businesses closed. Michael Kennedy, an engineer at Boeing, said he planned to leave on Tuesday for his parents' home in Atlanta, Georgia.

But his partner, Emily Whisler, said she will remain behind at the university where she is a resident in the psychiatry program. "They told me to bring a pillow and blanket," Whisler said. "I'll be living there for a few days." Charleston, resident William Belli said he would not be among those joining the exodus. "Been through it!" Belli said, referring to Hurricane Hugo, which caused widespread damage in South Carolina in 1989. "Not worried in the least." Walking his dog along empty streets, Belli said he's well stocked with food and water. "I will enjoy the quiet," he said.

### 'Catastrophic damage'

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster on Monday ordered the mandatory evacuation of one million coastal residents. Schools in 26 of the state's 46 counties were ordered closed from Tuesday. Cooper, the governor of neighboring North Carolina, ordered an evacuation of the Outer Banks, barrier islands that are a popular tourist destination, and parts of coastal Dare County.

In Virginia, 245,000 coastal residents were ordered to evacuate including from the Eastern Shore, another popular beachfront destination. In neighboring Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan said his state was ready for potentially "historic and catastrophic rainfall, life-threatening flooding, and high winds." On the five-level Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale Florence is a Category 4, meaning it is capable of causing "catastrophic damage." By Saturday, total rainfall could accumulate to 20 inches (51 centimeters) — or even 30 inches in places in parts of the Carolinas and Virginia, the NHC said.

Fort AP Hill and Fort Bragg were selected as FEMA Incident Support and Federal Staging Area to assist in the response, the army said. The Virginia National Guard is planning to initially bring up to 1,500 soldiers and airmen to offer help in the state's response operations. Some 7,000 guard members are ready to mobilize in North Carolina, while 1,100 will be activated in South Carolina. At this height of the Atlantic hurricane season, Florence was being trailed on east-to-west paths by two other storms, Hurricane Helene and Tropical Storm Isaac, but neither packs the deadly punch of Florence. —AFP

**1.7 million given evacuation orders**

## 4 questions on Basra and Iraqi political stakes

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi faces calls to quit after deadly protests in southern Basra crushed his fledgling, and vital, alliance with a popular Shiite cleric. With the new parliament set to meet Saturday to swear in its speaker the political stakes are high, and experts say Abadi's position highlights Iraq's dilemma, caught between its two allies, bitter foes Iran and the United States. Here are four questions and answers to help unravel the intricacies of Iraqi politics.

### Why the political crisis?

After years of devastating war against jihadists, anger over rampant corruption, unemployment and decrepit public services boiled over last week into protests in oil-rich Basra, which left 12 dead. Late Friday demonstrators also set the Iranian consulate in Basra on fire, shouting "Iran out", referring to the city's influential neighbor. Amid the violence, Iraqi Shiite firebrand cleric, Moqtada Sadr, whose bloc won the May elections, distanced himself from his one-time ally Abadi, withdrawing from an alliance reached less than two weeks ago. On Saturday, a rival alliance of pro-Iranian former paramilitary fighters did a swift U-turn, vowing to now work with Sadr to form a new government to exclude Abadi. It accused the beleaguered prime minister of having "failed" to meet the demands of the protesters, who say the government has unfairly distributed the country's oil wealth.

### Is Abadi out?

Abadi's political group came third in the May 12 elections, and he had depended on the September 2 accord with Sadr's alliance and 14 other groups to create the largest force in the 329-seat legislature. The loss of Sadr's support could now cost Abadi his parliamentary majority, yet again delaying the formation of a new government. In another blow, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, the spiritual leader of Iraq's Shiite majority, hinted in a statement on Monday that he was opposed to Abadi staying in the post, saying he didn't want a new prime minister "who had already been in power". "It's the final blow to the American plan," said Qais al-Khazali, a leading member of the pro-Iran bloc, Asaib Ahl al-Haq. In the post since 2014, Abadi has been perceived as the preferred "candidate of the West" with the nomination of a prime minister long a tacit agreement between Iran and the United States.

### What happens next?

All eyes will be on Saturday's parliamentary session when it is set to elect its new speaker. The results of the vote will give a concrete indication of how the behind-the-scenes haggling is playing out. If the pro-Iran bloc appears to have gained the upper hand with the numbers to form a government, it will still have to find a candidate acceptable to all sides. Some experts say it may well look to a technocrat candidate so far not well-known publicly, as was the case for Abadi in 2014.

### Move towards Iran?

If the pro-Iran bloc does appear to be taking power, the unrest which swept Basra may well limit its margin of maneuver, experts said. Even though the two neighbors fought a bitter war in the 1980s, Iran is a key power broker in Iraq and many of the armed groups and political parties whose offices were torched in the unrest are known to be close to the Islamic



BASRA: Iraqis drive past a burned vehicle in a street in Basra. —AFP

republic. "This crisis has shown that in the Iraqi national consciousness, the country is far from having turned the page on the rivalry with Iran, and that the wounds which had only been patched up are quickly re-opened," said Karim Bitar, head of research at the Paris-based Institute for International and Strategic Affairs.

Since the defeat of Islamic State group jihadists who once captured a swathe of the country "there is a return of Iraqi national feeling and demands focused on living standards, the fight against corruption and bad governance," he said. During the 1980-1988 war "Basra was on the frontlines" and came under "a hail of Iranian shelling," recalled political analyst Essam Al-Fili, a university professor in Baghdad. Since the 2003 fall of dictator Saddam Hussein it has lived "under the tight control of Islamic parties heavily tied" to Iran. —AFP

## Europe accused of 'appeasing' Tehran

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday accused European leaders of "appeasing" Iran instead of confronting its militant activity. Netanyahu's remarks, made in a cabinet meeting, feed into his ongoing efforts to sway world leaders to join the United States in upping pressure on Israel's arch foe through sanctions. "The time has come for the world to unite in the fight against terrorist organizations. It is doing so to a certain extent against the Islamic State group, but it is not doing so against Iran," Netanyahu said. He accused European leaders of "appeasing" and "reconciling" with Iran.

In May, US President Donald Trump withdrew from a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, before re-imposing a first major round of unilateral sanctions on Tehran in August. Netanyahu had consistently called for the landmark 2015 accord to be altered or scrapped, saying it was too limited in scope and timeframe, and did nothing to stop Iran financing militant activities in the region. European powers are seeking to save the nuclear deal and have vowed to keep providing Iran with the economic benefits it received from the accord. —AFP

International

# Russia launches biggest ever war games in 'show of force'

## NATO calls drills a 'rehearsal for large-scale conflict'

**VLADIVOSTOK:** Russia launched Tuesday what it called its largest ever military drills, with hundreds of thousands of troops taking part along with Chinese soldiers in a show of force NATO condemned as a rehearsal for "large-scale conflict." President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend the games after hosting an economic forum in Russia's far eastern city Vladivostok where his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping is one of the prominent guests. The week-long war games dubbed "Vostok-2018" (East-2018) "have kicked off" in far eastern Russia, the defense ministry said.

Taking part in the drills are around 300,000 soldiers, 36,000 military vehicles, 80 ships and 1,000 aircraft, helicopters and drones. Some 3,500 Chinese troops will take part in the exercise. The defense ministry released video footage of military vehicles, planes, helicopters and ships getting into position for the initial stage of the drills. Putin praised Russia's increasingly close ties with China as he met Xi at the economic forum in Vladivostok on Tuesday. "We have trustworthy ties in political, security and defence spheres," the Russian leader said.

Xi for his part said the two countries' "friendship is getting stronger all the time." The drills, which also include Mongolian soldiers, have been condemned by NATO as a rehearsal for "large-scale conflict." The military exercises come at a time of escalating tensions between Moscow and the West over accusations of Russian interference in western affairs and conflicts in Ukraine and Syria. The Russian army has compared the show of force to the USSR's 1981 war games that saw between 100,000 and 150,000 Warsaw Pact soldiers take part in "Zapad-81" (West-81) - the largest military exercises of the Soviet era.

But Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said these exercises are even larger. "Imagine 36,000 military vehicles moving at the same time: tanks, armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles - and all of this, of course, in conditions as close to a combat situation as possible," Shoigu said. The exercises will be held across



VLADIVOSTOK, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping taste pancakes while visiting "The Far East Street" exhibition on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. — AFP

nine training ranges and three seas: the Sea of Japan, the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk.

### 'Routine work'

The Russian army is rolling out all of its latest additions for the event: Iskander missiles that can carry nuclear warheads, T-80 and T-90 tanks and its recent Su-34 and Su-35 fighter planes. At sea, the Russian fleet is deploying several frigates equipped with Kalibr missiles that have been used in Syria. Yesterday will see games featuring anti-aircraft technology, while the main event will be on Thursday, the defense ministry told journalists covering the event in eastern Siberia and the Far East.

## Thousands of Russian, Chinese troops take part in military drills



NATO said that Vostok-2018 "demonstrates Russia's focus on exercising large-scale conflict." "It fits into a pattern we have seen over some time—a more assertive Russia, significantly increasing its defense budget and its military presence," the alliance's spokesman Dylan White said late August. Separately, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis downplayed the significance of China's participation. "I think that nations act out of their interests. I see little in the long term that aligns Russia and China," he said.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed western concerns on Tuesday. "These are very important drills but they are part of routine annual work to develop the armed forces," he told journalists. Peskov has earlier said Russia's "ability to defend itself in the current international situation which is often aggressive and unfriendly to our country is justified, essential and without alternative". — AFP

## Rockets target Libyan airport despite truce

**TRIPOLI:** The Libyan capital's only working airport has come under rocket fire just days after reopening following a UN-backed ceasefire between rival armed groups vying for influence in the oil-rich country. The Tuesday night attack underscored the fragility of the latest peace push in the North African nation, which has been beset by turmoil since the fall of dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility after at least three rockets hit the perimeter of Mitiga International Airport on the eastern outskirts of Tripoli without causing any casualties. Flights were diverted to Misrata, some 200 kilometers east of the capital, an airport source said. Mitiga airport had only reopened on Friday after it was forced to close for a week because of deadly clashes between rival militias in and around Tripoli.

The fighting has killed at least 63 people and wounded 159 others - mostly civilians - since August 27, dousing hopes of elections being held this year. A ceasefire announced on September 4 has largely been respected but witnesses reported brief clashes in the south of the capital on Tuesday night. Thousands of families have fled the violence to nearby towns or have had to seek shelter in other districts of Tripoli, authorities have said. Several rockets had already struck near the airport last month, forcing authorities to divert all flights to Misrata on that occasion too. A UN-brokered agreement signed in Morocco in December 2015 establishing a Government of National Accord (GNA) for Libya brought hopes of an easing of the chaos that followed the 2011 revolution. — AFP

## Destroyed Gaza airport symbolizes grounded peace hopes

**RAFAH:** The opening of the Palestinians' first airport, in the presence of US president Bill Clinton, was a symbol of the hopes for independence and peace kindled by the Oslo accords. But 25 years after Israeli and Palestinian leaders signed the first of the historic agreements on September 13, 1993, the airport in Gaza lies in tatters, along with Palestinian hopes for an independent state.

Today the concrete arrival halls remain in place, but much of the rest of the site is covered in piles of rubbish and rubble—the remnants of years of war and neglect. The runway, 60 meters wide, is scattered with refuse, dragged in by donkey cart from nearby refugee camps. Daifallah al-Akhras, the chief engineer of the airport, admitted he wept on a recent visit to the terminal. "We built the airport to be the first symbol of sovereignty," he said. "Now you don't see anything but destruction and ruin."

### 'Signs of freedom'

When the airport opened in late 1998 it was one of the most tangible symbols of the Oslo accords. Many saw the deals as paving the way to the creation of an independent Palestinian state, but their five-year transitional period expired without a resolution to the conflict. The airport was opened despite the assassination of the most senior Israeli signatory to Oslo, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, by a Jewish radical opposed to the agreements. By 1998 the accords were fraying, but Clinton, along with his wife Hillary, still attended the ceremony to inaugurate the Yasser Arafat International Airport. Built with funding from countries across the



RAFAH: Photo shows a view of the destroyed and deserted terminal of the Gaza Strip's former 'Yasser Arafat International Airport', in the Palestinian enclave's southern city of Rafah. — AFP

globe, it hosted the newly formed Palestinian Airlines and was able to handle hundreds of thousands of passengers a year, with many airlines opening up routes there. Officials said the airline had one Boeing 727, which could accommodate 145 passengers, and two smaller planes.

Israeli security forces had a limited presence to monitor passports and bags. Senior Palestinian official Nabil Shaath, who was there during Clinton's visit, said that for all involved, the airport and plans for a larger harbor in Gaza were major landmarks. "The airport and the harbour were not only signs of sovereignty, they were signs of freedom," he told AFP. "They were to free us from Israel's total control of everything that comes into Palestine, and everything that comes from Palestine. That's why to us they were very, very important." The planned expansion of the harbor never happened. — AFP

elsewhere. "Learning in your mother tongue is something all peoples have a right to in this region," says Danny Saliba, who teaches science in Syriac in the northeastern city of Qamishli. "But the problem is the recognition of this language."

"No universities — whether Syrian or foreign - recognize this curriculum or the diploma issued by the autonomous administration's education commission," he said. The dispute prompted Kurdish authorities last week to shut down 14 schools in the cities of Qamishli, Hasakeh, and Al-Malikiyeh that were supportive of teaching the state curriculum. Dozens of people took to Qamishli's streets in protest, waving the two-star Syrian government flag and chanting in support of President Bashar Al-Assad. But their demonstrations were in vain. On Monday, as students headed back to class across Kurdish-held territory, the schools remained shuttered.

Syria's Christian community made up about 10 percent of the country's pre-war population of 22 million people. Tens of thousands hail from the Syriac Orthodox and Syriac Catholic traditions. Their liturgies are in the ancient Aramaic language, which Jesus is thought to have spoken, and some even use it in their daily lives. Syrian Christians are broadly seen as having sided with Assad's regime, although some of the opposition's most prominent figureheads are Christian too. Ties are complicated in the northeast, where Syrians make up the largest Christian community. — AFP

## Kurds, Christians split over Syria's school curriculum

**QAMISHLI:** Kurdish authorities in Syria's diverse northeast are facing swelling anger from the area's Syriac Christians after shutting down more than a dozen schools run by the ancient minority. At the heart of the dispute is a debate over whether to use the new school curriculum championed by the Kurdish-led autonomous administration or stick to the accredited system used by Damascus. The schism reflects the broader fissures in the northeast between those supporting formal state institutions and those defending parallel bodies developed by the Kurds.

After regime forces withdrew from swathes of Syria's northeast early on in the seven-year war, Kurds began building up their own institutions in the area, including police forces and schools. They put an emphasis on minority rights, with Kurdish schools teaching all subjects in their own language and Syriac schools doing the same in their ancient tongue. But now, some Syriac Christians in Hasakeh province are insisting on using the accredited state curriculum over worries Kurdish diplomas will be considered invalid



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## International

# Social media have 1 hour to remove 'terror propaganda'

## EU's Juncker seeks 'new alliance' with Africa

**STRASBOURG:** The European Union yesterday proposed steps to force social networks and websites to remove terrorist propaganda within an hour of receiving the order from authorities, or companies like Facebook and Twitter could face massive fines. The legislation proposed by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker marks a toughening approach after Brussels had relied on internet firms to voluntarily remove such content. The internet has become a major tool for extremists carrying out attacks that have killed hundreds of people in European cities in recent years.

"Europeans rightly expect their Union to keep them safe," Juncker told the European Parliament in his annual state of the union speech. "This is why the Commission is today proposing new rules to get terrorist content off the web within one hour—the critical window in which the greatest damage is done." The EU's executive arm said that in January alone, nearly 7,000 new pieces of propaganda disseminated online from the Islamic State group, even as it has been driven out of most of its strongholds in Iraq and Syria. The commission proposal calls for a "legally binding one-hour deadline" for firms to remove terrorist content once national authorities order them to do so.

### Voluntary efforts 'not enough'

It defines the content as that which incites or advocates committing terror offences, promotes a terror group's activities or offers instructions for attacks. But it also provides for means of judicial redress in the event a content provider disagrees with an order. "Member States will

have to put in place effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties for not complying with orders to remove online terrorist content," the commission said. "In the event of systematic failures to remove such content following removal orders, a service provider could face financial penalties of up to four percent of its global turnover for the last business year."

The EU joined forces with US-based tech firms in 2016 to combat online extremism. Until now, Brussels had pushed for the industry to regulate itself, but EU officials

have for more than a year given mixed reviews to firms like Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft and Google's YouTube. "While we have made progress on removing terrorist content online through voluntary efforts, it has not been enough," EU Security Commissioner Julian King said in a statement. "We need to prevent it from being uploaded and, where it does appear,

ensure it is taken down as quickly as possible—before it can do serious damage."

## EU MPs approve copyright law in blow to big tech



### 'New alliance' with Africa

Meanwhile, European Commission head Jean Claude Juncker yesterday called for a "new alliance" with Africa that would create millions of jobs and include a free trade deal. His call came as European countries are struggling to find a united solution to slow the flow of African migrants crossing the Mediterranean, mainly to Spain and Italy, in search of a better life. "We should move the many trade agreements between Africa and the European Union towards a continent-to-continent free trade agreement,"



**STRASBOURG:** Members of the European Parliament take part in a voting session during a plenary session at the European Parliament yesterday in Strasbourg, eastern France. — AFP

Juncker told the European Parliament during his annual State of the Union speech.

A new economic partnership between the two continents "would create up to 10 million jobs in Africa in the next five years alone," he said. He said that the EU's relations with Africa must no longer be seen "from the sole perspective of development aid". "Africa does not need charity, it needs a balanced partnership and Europe needs

this partnership just as much," he said to MEPs. The message was also intended for African capitals where European governments are eager for tighter cooperation in encouraging migrants to stay at home.

Also, the European Parliament yesterday approved a controversial EU copyright law that hands more power to news and record companies against internet giants like Google and Facebook. — Agencies

### News in brief

#### Priests abused thousands

**BERLIN:** More than 3,600 children were sexually assaulted by Catholic priests in Germany over nearly seven decades, local media reported yesterday, citing a study commissioned by the German Bishops Conference. The damning report, which Cardinal Reinhard Marx is to present officially on September 25, deals another blow to the Church after clerical child abuse has been uncovered worldwide. According to the study, 1,670 clergymen in Germany committed some form of sexual attack against 3,677 minors between 1946 and 2014. Spiegel Online reported. Most of the victims were boys. More than half were 13 years old or younger at the time of the abuse, the study concluded after examining 38,000 documents from 27 German dioceses. The study also noted that some records had been "destroyed or manipulated", warning therefore that the scale of the abuse may be even greater. — AFP

#### Sweden charges doctor

**STOCKHOLM:** Swedish prosecutors yesterday charged a Spanish doctor with sexually abusing 52 child patients, including several counts of aggravated rape between 2015 and 2017. The 29-year-old is accused of having assaulted a total of 70 patients, including 18 adults, while working in several hospitals and health facilities in Sweden. Prosecutors claim the doctor, who has been held in custody since December 2017, had examined child patients' genitals in cases when it was "medically irrelevant". The children were aged between two and 12. In four of the cases, "the crime should be deemed aggravated by (the doctor's) recklessness against the child's young age and abuse of his position," prosecutors said in the charge sheet. The man, who denies the charges, is also accused of filming some of the assaults, and of possessing child pornography. — AFP

#### Hungarian jailed for life

**BUDAPEST:** A Hungarian man was sentenced to life in prison yesterday after a court found him guilty of detonating a bomb in Budapest in 2016 that seriously injured two police officers. The Metropolitan Court in Budapest convicted 24-year-old Laszlo Gergely P of attempted murder, misuse of explosive materials, and preparing an act of terrorism. According to the judge, the defendant—who must serve a minimum of 25 years behind bars and pay legal costs of 340,000 euros (\$390,000) — had no prior criminal record and acted alone in the September 24 explosion. Investigators had called the incident "an execution attempt" on two police officers who recovered from life-threatening injuries caused by the explosion but have both suffered permanent hearing damage. The pair had been on foot patrol in downtown Budapest when the homemade, shrapnel-packed device was detonated nearby by the defendant via remote control. — AFP

#### The Brexit rebellion

**LONDON:** Leading Brexit supporters yesterday denied reports they were maneuvering to remove Prime Minister Theresa May — while stepping up opposition to her plan to withdraw Britain from the EU. Up to 50 of May's Conservative MPs held a meeting late Tuesday at which they reportedly openly discussed how to unseat her, amid anger over her proposal to keep close trade ties with the European Union after Brexit. "There's a great deal of anxiety among colleagues in parliament," former Brexit minister Steve Baker, who chaired the meeting said. He said however he personally was no part of any leadership challenge, while another MP who attended said only five or six MPs openly discussed removing May. The meeting was held by European Research Group (ERG) of MPs, which is outlining alternatives to the prime minister's plan. — AFP

## 'President of the rich' Macron tackles poverty problem

**GRIGNY:** Emmanuel Macron may have declared war on poverty, but in the poorest towns of France there is little love lost for the ex-banker slammed by critics as a "president of the rich". Just south of the gleaming architectural treasures of Paris lies Grigny, a town emblematic of entrenched urban poverty in a country that spends more on social benefits than any other in Europe. The statistics on Grigny's massive housing estates, a jump-off point for newly-arrived immigrants from west Africa and elsewhere, make for grim reading.

Nearly 45 percent of the town's 30,000 residents live below the poverty line, surviving on less than 1,000 euros (\$1,150) a month. Unemployment is chronic and most teens drop out of high school before their final exams. Last year, a fire in one of the grim tower blocks of Grigny 2 — one of Europe's biggest housing complexes, with 17,000 residents — exposed the fact that slum landlords had crammed some 80 people into six squalid apartments. Another estate, Grande Borne, is notorious as the site of an attack on police in 2016 when youths firebombed officers in their car, badly burning two of them.

Situated 25 kilometers from central Paris, Grigny is the kind of place that shouts "no-go zone" to US President Donald Trump. But it is more drab than dangerous. Cafes and supermarkets are few and far between. The only stores doing a roaring trade in the dilapidated shopping centre are money transfer centers where migrants queue to send cash home. Towns like this will be on Macron's mind when he launches a highly anticipated plan Thursday to reduce the ranks of the poor in France, which have swelled by a million to nine million since the financial crisis a decade ago. A self-

## Top spy under spotlight amid rise of German far-right

**BERLIN:** Secret services typically work away from the limelight, but Germany's top domestic spy Hans-Georg Maassen has repeatedly crashed into the public eye, with his latest outing pitting him directly against Chancellor Angela Merkel. After anti-migrant protests rocked the eastern city of Chemnitz, Merkel firmly condemned a "hunt against foreigners" backed by videos circulating on social media. But Maassen, 55, in an interview with Germany's top-selling daily Bild last week, challenged the authenticity of at least one of the videos, sparking uproar. For critics, Maassen's claim played into the hands of the far-right and his attitude was viewed as symptomatic of a domestic intelligence service riddled with far-right sympathizers.

As pressure mounted on him to prove the video was a fake, Maassen denied questioning its authenticity and said his quarrel was with how the original poster on Twitter had oversold it as a "hunt against people" which he thought was intended to inflame tensions. He is due to be grilled by two parliamentary committees later, and the leader of the Social Democratic Party Andrea Nahles has suggested he should step down. The episode has also reopened uncomfortable questions over a service that for long has struggled to escape a lingering whiff of the far-right.

Maassen in August 2012 took over at the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) after his predecessor was forced to quit as it emerged the service had shredded files on suspects of the deadly neo-Nazi cell NSU. As BfV chief, Maassen leads an agency charged with collecting and evaluating information on efforts to harm the democratic order or which jeopardise Germany's interests. But among his key tasks following the NSU scandal was also to restore public confidence in an institution accused of being too lax with the far-right threat and too heavy-handed on extreme left activism.

Married to a linguist from Japan, Maassen was born in Moenchengladbach close to the Dutch border. He headed

described centrist, he has attracted criticism over his 16 months in power that his policies — including tax cuts for the wealthiest — have left the poor behind. France spent 57 billion euros on welfare in 2016 and Macron has expressed frustration at the "crazy amounts of dough" spent on benefits without producing results. The biggest problem, he argues, is "inequality of opportunity". "Depending on where you are born," he told lawmakers in July, "your fate is often sealed." His plan focuses on boosting social mobility and early intervention, by for example providing free school breakfasts for children living in poverty.

### 'Social apartheid'

In Grigny, even Macron critics like the Communist mayor Philippe Rio agree that local children need all the help they can get. Only 25 percent of students pass the high school exam that paves the way to university — far below the national average of 80 percent. Rio wrote to Macron after he was elected last year, pleading for financial aid for a suburb he says is the victim of "social apartheid". A few months later, 150 French mayors descended on Grigny to condemn cuts in government funding to municipalities that they said would hurt the poorest.

Rio expects few improvements from the poverty plan, coming from "a government whose very DNA is anti-solidarity". A large majority in Grigny voted for Macron in the second round of last year's presidential election, mainly to block his far-right rival Marine Le Pen. But residents feel he has done little to improve their lot. "At the time I was really pro-Macron. I voted for someone young, dynamic, charismatic — who promised things and made you want to do something," says mother-of-two Odile Kitenge, director of an association that helps women find work. These days Kitenge feels "disillusioned", saying the government has "clearly been abandoned" Grigny.

### Practical solutions

An energetic 29-year-old who wears two rings in her nose and her hair in a colorful head-wrap, Kitenge is the kind of self-starter that Macron champions. Born to



**PARIS:** French President Emmanuel Macron waits for the arrival of the Swiss president at the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. — AFP

Congolese parents who were rarely around — her mother was a cleaner and her father a security guard — she crashed out of school and dabbled in petty crime before straightening herself out and finishing her studies. She thinks practical help, like more spaces in the creche, would greatly boost employment in Grigny. Juliette Perchais, a French teacher at Grigny's worst-performing middle school, believes solving many of the town's deep-rooted problems would require radical change. Last year the 29-year-old crowdfunded a trip around the world, visiting innovative schools from Sweden to India. She came back brimming with ideas — but more aware than ever that France's teachers are woefully equipped to deal with kids whose parents juggle several low-paid jobs. Some parents struggle to communicate in French, let alone help with homework. Aside from inadequate teacher training, Perchais thinks Grigny's problem is one of disastrous urban planning that has left poor immigrants ghettoized. "It's not right that in our school we only have students with the same living standards and ethnic origins," she said. "It really feels like we've been locked away." — AFP

## Cancer in Europe: More cases but fewer deaths

**LONDON:** The number of cancer cases has continued to rise across Europe, however mortality rates from the disease have fallen, according to the World Health Organization's "European Health Report", published yesterday. Some 2.4 percent of people living in the 53 countries constituting the WHO's "Europe region" had cancer in 2014, a 50 percent increase since 2000, although the figure conceals significant disparities in cancer type and region.

In the Nordic countries of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland, the prevalence of cancer is twice as high at five percent, while it is only 1.8 percent in the 10 post-Soviet states that comprise the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), which includes Belarus, Georgia and Russia. The 2013 figure in the European Union was 2.8 percent, with a slightly higher prevalence for women (2.9 percent) than for men (2.7 percent).

New breast cancer cases increased by 30 percent between 2000 and 2014, when 110 new cases were reported per every 100,000 women. The rise is constant throughout the region, with the Nordic countries recording the most new cases with 175 per 100,000 women in 2014. Although breast cancer has become more common, it has also been better treated. Death rates from the disease have steadily decreased in the region since the late 1990s, reaching 20 deaths per 100,000 women in 2015 (21.4 in the EU), compared to 23.8 in 2000 (26.8 in the EU). Cases of cervical cancer have varied from country to country over time. Rates declined slowly in the EU (12 per 100,000 women in 2014, a 12.5 percent fall since 2000), while steadily increasing in the CIS (17.8 per 100,000 in 2014, a 23 percent rise since 2000). Cervical cancer death rates have halved in the EU since the 1970s, with three deaths per 100,000 women in 2015. — AFP



**BERLIN:** Hans-Georg Maassen (left), President of the domestic intelligence service of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz, BfV), leaves after a hearing in front of a parliamentary control panel yesterday. — AFP

the interior ministry's counter-terrorism team before being appointed domestic spy chief. Recognizing that wars are increasingly waged in cyberspace, the former lawyer quickly boosted the BfV's digital armoury. He has also repeatedly warned against Russian cyber-espionage, including raising eyebrows when he told a parliamentary inquiry that he thought NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden was actually a Russian agent. But he came under intense pressure following the attack at a Berlin Christmas market in 2016 when Tunisian failed asylum applicant Anis Amri drove a truck into crowds. According to media reports, Maassen wrongly claimed his service had no agent in Amri's circles, even though it had a source at a mosque the Tunisian frequented.

But it is his handling of the AfD that has proved most controversial, particularly as he was known to share the far-right party's opposition to Merkel's decision in 2015 to keep Germany's borders open to asylum seekers. Despite repeated calls for the BfV to formerly place the AfD under surveillance, Maassen has refused to do so. A former AfD member has also accused him of having met repeatedly with the party's leaders to advise on how to avoid being placed under surveillance — an allegation Maassen and the far-right group have denied. — AFP



International

# Operation Tsukiji: Tokyo battles rats as the iconic market shuts

## Rat exterminators block pipe and sewer exits

**TOKYO:** The operation must be ruthless, thorough and silent. Without alerting the watchful enemy, a unit of highly trained Japanese agents will throw up a ring of steel to block any escape from the vast battleground. Despite being vastly outnumbered, the unit's chief commander is confident of total victory against the enemy army - tens of thousands of rats expected to scurry loose when the world-famous Tsukiji fish market closes next month.

The 23-hectare (57-acre) market near Tokyo's swanky Ginza district is home to "not thousands but tens of thousands" of rats, attracted by fish offcuts and the market's maze of sewers, according to Tatsuo Yabe, a rat expert. After a fabled 83-year history, the world's biggest fish market, which is also a huge tourist magnet for its pre-dawn tuna auctions, will move to a brand-new facility in Toyosu, about 2.3 kilometers (1.4 miles) away on the waterfront.

The moving operation is unprecedented. Some 900 businesses handling 480 kinds of seafood worth \$14 million daily - as well as 270 types of fruits and vegetables - will relocate over a period of five days. Thousands of trucks and forklifts will take part in the move, with tons of waste produced in the process - manna from heaven for the furry denizens of the sewers. "They will likely start moving en masse once they notice something unusual... The week after the market closes on October 10 will be the major battle," a Tokyo government official who commands the Tsukiji anti-rat operation told AFP.

To prevent a mass exodus from Tsukiji, Tokyo officials - helped by veteran rat exterminators - are busy blocking pipe and sewer exits and plugging holes in fences with corrugated sheets. Before the market is torn down, they will erect an impregnable three-metre (10-foot) steel wall around the site and slowly move in through the perimeter to "corner and catch" the rodents, said the operation's commander, who asked not to be named. In addition, they will instal 40,000 sticky sheets to catch rodents, along with traps and use 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of rat poison.

### 'It's frightening'

Restaurants and bar managers in the area surrounding

the market are on red alert for a possible influx of unwelcome rodent visitors. "It's frightening," said the owner of one restaurant in Ginza, one of Tokyo's most fancy dining and dining districts just a stone's throw from the market. "We heard rats scurrying around when an old theatre



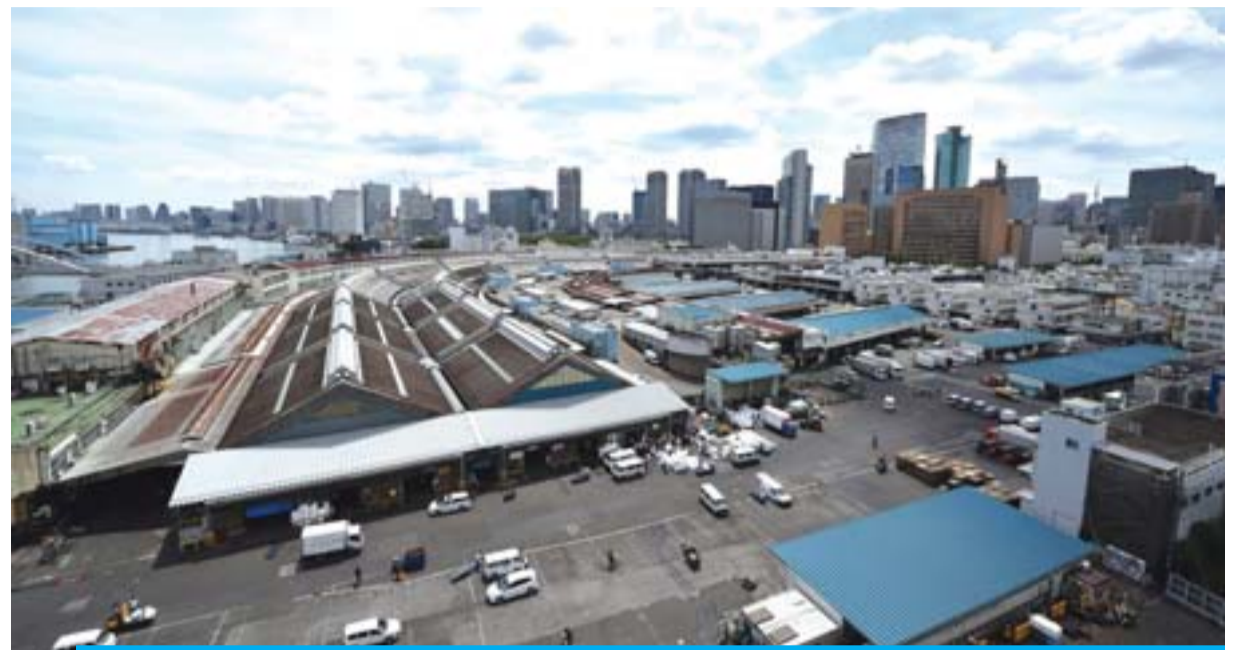
### Restaurants, bar managers on red alert

building was torn down in this neighborhood," said the 56-year-old restaurateur, who wished to remain anonymous.

"Some of our neighbors are even feeding stray cats now. That is how defensive we are getting," The Ginza Street Association, which brings together local businesses, even created a special anti-rat taskforce last year. Tokyo exterminator GP Corporation is telling clients in the area to keep their eyes peeled. "We are calling on them to stay vigilant and not even keep the doors open because sewer rats may come right in once the moving starts," said Kazuya Takahashi from the company.

### Hardly any food poisoning

Hiroyasu Ito, a veteran fish trader as old as the Tsukiji market itself, has known Tsukiji since the days when buyers and sellers communicated via telegram. Now chairman of the Seafood Wholesalers' Association, Ito is aware of the venerable market's issues. "We have many problems. Birds fly in, and many things like rats come in and out freely," he said about the open-air facility. But he stresses that the market has an impressive food hygiene record. In recent decades, market players have made the utmost san-



**TOKYO:** Photo shows a general view of Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market. After a fabled 83-year history, the world's biggest fish market, which is also a huge tourist magnet for its pre-dawn tuna auctions, will move to a brand-new facility in Toyosu, about 2.3 kilometers away on the waterfront. — AFP

itary efforts, with special inspectors in white jackets checking on food safety every day.

"We've hardly had any food poisoning incidents in this market. We are proud of it," Ito said. Nevertheless, he has high expectations for the new Toyosu facility, equipped with state-of-art refrigeration.

The gigantic complex stands on reclaimed land nearly twice as large as Tsukiji, and it is fully air-conditioned and prepared to welcome its new tenants. "The biggest difference is that Toyosu is an enclosed market, so all buying and selling will be done in this building," said Masataka Miyake, a Tokyo official preparing for the

new facility. Originally planned in 2016, Tsukiji's relocation has been postponed several times, held up by revelations of heavy soil contamination at Toyosu, a former gas plant. "I hope the new Toyosu brand will soon become a global household name," Miyake said, describing Tsukiji as "very popular and lively".

Doors and shutters at the new facility are sensor-controlled, and when they are open, air is blasted down from the ceiling-like an invisible screen. "The air curtain prevents the cool air from escaping outside," said Miyake, as well as fending off unwanted intruders like dust and bugs - and rats. — AFP

## India bishop to be questioned

**NEW DELHI:** Indian police yesterday summoned for questioning a bishop accused by a nun of raping her multiple times, following days of protests by other nuns and supporters. Bishop Franco Mullaackal, who has rejected the accusations, has been called for questioning in the southern state of Kerala on September 19, the Press Trust of India reported. The nun first accused Mullaackal in late June of raping her 13 times between 2014 and 2016, but police until now have stopped short of formally questioning him.

But pressure has been building on the authorities to investigate the claims. Over recent days five nuns - in a rare show of dissent within the Indian Church - and dozens of supporters have been protesting in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram. With media interest growing as well, the alleged victim has also approached the Vatican representative in India to press her case. Her letter, leaked to Indian media, said Mullaackal was "using political and

money power to bury the case". Mullaackal has called the whole scandal a conspiracy by those against the Church, and has won backing from his congregation at the Missionaries of Jesus Church. Kerala's High Court will be hearing the matter today, although the bishop was not expected to attend. A local politician, P C George, has meanwhile made waves by calling the nun "a prostitute".

"Twelve times she enjoyed it and the thirteenth time it is rape? Why didn't she complain the first time?" media reports quoted him as saying. Kerala is home to India's largest Christian population and one of the oldest in the world.

In July, two priests were arrested for allegedly raping and blackmailing a woman for over 20 years in the state. Sexual abuse by clergymen and the failure of senior Church officials to take action has been one of the biggest scandals facing the Catholic Church in recent years. Pope Francis issued a letter on sexual abuse to the Catholics around the world in August, expressing the Church's "shame and repentance". Christians - overwhelmingly Catholic - are the third-largest religious group in India. Around 80 percent of the country's 1.25 billion population is Hindu, followed by a sizeable Muslim minority. — AFP

## Japan's disasters highlight vulnerable infrastructure

**TOKYO:** Flooded runways, thousands of passengers stranded and a tanker smashing into an access bridge: last week's typhoon in Japan highlighted the vulnerability of Kansai Airport which serves a region with an economy bigger than Belgium's. Because of concerns about engine noise, Kansai-located in the bay of Osaka - is the world's first airport entirely situated on a huge man-made island, putting it at risk of flooding, tsunamis and typhoons.

Damage to the airport is seen having a dramatic knock-on effect on tourism and trade, as it handles 22 million international passengers per year and 5.3 trillion yen (\$47 billion) of Japan's exports - more than seven percent of the national total. "The Osaka region which was hit by the typhoon is about 10.9 percent of Japan's GDP. It's slightly larger than Belgium and about the same as Sweden," noted Kohei Iwahara, economist at Natixis Japan Securities.

"You have the ports affected, Kansai Airport malfunctioning and the question is: how long is it going to last?" asked the expert. One week after Typhoon Jebi ravaged western Japan, the airport is still not fully functional, with power not yet completely restored and access via the damaged bridge still not back to normal. It has operated fewer than 100 flights in total since last



**KOBE:** This file photo shows vehicles piled in a heap due to strong winds in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture after typhoon Jebi hit the west coast of Japan. — AFP

Tuesday's typhoon, a far cry from the 400 per day it usually runs in its round-the-clock operation. Kansai airport has been beset by setbacks from the beginning and has spent vast amounts on protection from the elements - such as high walls and waterproof barriers - which proved of limited value when the typhoon struck. According to Mizuho Securities, the typhoon and an earthquake in the more rural island of Hokkaido has increased the danger of a cut in Japan's GDP, which came in at 0.7 percent on-quarter in April-June.

The disasters cut supply lines and could result in a 0.2-percentage point dip in factory output in the third quarter, Mizuho said. The 6.6-magnitude Hokkaido quake knocked out the main thermal power plant, causing a total blackout for the three million households on the island and havoc for logistics. The plant will not be fully up and running

until at least November. Car giant Toyota for example was forced to stop production in the whole country because it was not being supplied with parts from its factory in Hokkaido.

Yoshihisa Inada, from the Osaka-based Asia Pacific Institute of Research, noted that more than one in three of Japan's 28 million foreign tourists passed through Kansai last year, en route to the popular destinations of Kyoto and Nara. "Companies can choose alternative airports (for exports) but the problem is tourism," he said. "If the situation at the airport continues for one month, the tourists can't come and the value added will disappear, so how do I make money? The damage is severe," he said. Typhoon Jebi was just the latest in a series of natural disasters to afflict western Japan - after a deadly earthquake in Osaka in June and flooding in July that killed more than 200. — AFP

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## For India's poorest, ID card difference between life, death

Prem Malhar says his 50-year-old father died of hunger a few months ago because he did not have the Indian government's Aadhaar identity card that would have given him access to subsidized food. At least 14 people have died of starvation in Jharkhand, the eastern Indian state where the Malhars live, activists say. They say the deaths have occurred since authorities cancelled old handwritten government ration cards last year and replaced them with the biometric Aadhaar card to weed out bogus beneficiaries.

Taramani Sahu, an activist with the Right to Food Campaign, blamed the Jharkhand government for delays in issuing the Aadhaar cards after one million old cards were cancelled. For some who depended on the rations for subsistence, the results were fatal, she said. In July, three sisters under the age of 10 died of hunger in New Delhi, the capital, sparking accusations of government apathy. The deaths were not linked to possession of the Aadhaar card, but there has been widespread outrage that people are dying of hunger in a country where, according to government and industry data, grains and produce worth 580 billion rupees (\$8 billion), or 40 percent of total output, go to waste every year.

Opposition parties have seized on the issue ahead of three big state elections this year and the national election in 2019, whittling into support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Modi's office did not respond to requests for comment on the starvation deaths. Nishikant Dubey, a BJP lawmaker and a member of a parliamentary panel on the Aadhaar policy, said linking the card to welfare programs was the best way to check siphoning off funds meant for the poor. On the deaths, he said: "The opposition is being irresponsible by blowing it out of proportion for political mileage."

Malhar, who lives in a hut made of twigs, leaves and mud in a hamlet near the town of Ramgarh, says he and his brother now have the Aadhaar cards, but are still not eligible for subsidized food because of what he called "bureaucratic ineptness". "My father died because he couldn't get his Aadhaar card during his lifetime and I'm not getting food because my Aadhaar card is not linked with the ration shop," said the 25-year-old, dressed in a red vest and tattered trousers.

Reuters spoke to three ration shop owners in the area who said they could not give subsidized food to those who did not have Aadhaar cards or failed the biometric identification process. They said the Malhars' cards were not linked to the system because that had to be done by another government department. In the state capital, Ranchi, Jharkhand's food minister Saryu Rai said he had ordered local officials to distribute subsidized food to the poor even if they didn't possess the Aadhaar card. But activists say those orders have not been transmitted to the shop level.

Rai told Reuters it was not clear that the deaths in Jharkhand had occurred because of starvation. Officials have previously said people had died because of illness, not lack of food. "There must be a system to know what constitutes starvation deaths and I welcome food activists to work with us on this," Rai said.

### Digitize economy

Officials in other states say they have eased rules that insist on Aadhaar. Still, activists claim that the decree has deprived some families of subsidized food in Rajasthan, a state that is also ruled by the BJP. Aadhaar is part of an ambitious effort to digitize India's economy, and almost all transactions with the government are dependent on the card, including banking, food subsidies and tax and other payments.

Among other things, the government says the use of Aadhaar will plug theft and leakages in the \$23.63 billion a year food welfare program that guarantees ultra-cheap rice and wheat to nearly two-thirds of India's 1.3 billion people. Nearly a third of the food meant for the poor gets stolen every year, with middlemen, traders and government employees colluding to sell the produce in the open market, economists estimate. The government says nearly 30 million fake and duplicate cards have been weeded out, saving about \$2.35 billion.

But in a vast nation where many of the people are uneducated and dirt poor, the Aadhaar system is far from foolproof. Some of the poor have not enrolled in the program, or their fingerprints do not match those on the database, the largest in the world. Others suffer because the identification system requires functioning electricity, an internet connection and operational servers, not always assured in interior India. — Reuters



## How Trump transformed US refugee program

On Jan 19, 2017, Aden Hassan's long wait to start a new life ended when he stepped off a plane in Columbus, Ohio, half a world away from the Kenyan refugee camp where he had lived for a decade. Years earlier in Mogadishu, Somalia, Hassan's father, a community organizer, was shot dead by the Islamist militants he opposed. A few years later, a younger brother and sister were killed by gunmen while walking home from school. After Hassan's mother survived an assassination attempt, she fled with her surviving children to neighboring Kenya.

The Midwestern winter chill could not dampen Hassan's hope, as he left the airport with his wife, their two young children and his brother, that Ohio would provide a security and stability the family had not known in years. All that remained was for his mother, her second husband, and Hassan's brother and sister to join them, which refugee officials assured him would happen soon. "When we landed at the airport, we felt we could start a new life," said Hassan, now 27. "We were very hopeful, very grateful."

The next day, Donald J Trump was sworn in as US president. Nineteen months later, Hassan's mother, Fatuma Diriye, a diabetic with heart problems, and his other relatives remain in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp. Although they were approved for resettlement in the United States at the same time Hassan was, their plans have been repeatedly delayed by the Trump administration's dismantling of longstanding US refugee policy. The State Department declined to comment on Diriye's case.

A week after his inauguration, Trump issued an executive order temporarily banning travel from several Muslim-majority countries and halting all refugee admissions. Since then, through procedural changes made largely out of public view, the administration has reshaped the US refugee program, slashing overall admissions and all but halting entry for some of the world's most persecuted people, including Syrians, Iraqis, Iranians and Somalis. This year, with a record high 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, the United States is on track to take in about 22,000 refugees, a quarter the number admitted in 2016, the last year of Barack Obama's presidency, and the fewest in four decades.

In interviews with Reuters, more than 20 current and former US officials described how the Trump administration has abandoned policies established over decades and embraced by Republican and Democratic administrations alike. The officials, most of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, say the administration has rejected internal findings that refugees could be admitted safely and with little expense. Two senior staff members who questioned the administration's policies were removed from their positions.

The administration has instituted opaque and complicated new security vetting procedures that have bogged down admissions and eliminated many candidates for resettlement who would previously have been accepted, many of the officials said. It has extended the strictest kind of vetting to women as well as men from 11 countries, mostly in the Middle East and Africa. And it has reduced by nearly two-thirds the number of officials conducting refugee interviews, reassigning about 100 of 155 interviewers to handle asylum screenings for people already in the country, including those who crossed the border illegally.

"They're just stuck," said Angie Plummer, executive director of Community Refugee and Immigration Services in Ohio, the group that welcomed Hassan and his family last year. "It's blocking people who absolutely would have been here two years ago." The Trump administration says the changes were necessary. "Security improvements in the refugee program made in recent years to mandate additional screening for refugee applicants undoubtedly makes Americans safer," said Katie Waldman, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security.

In addition to far lower admissions overall, the type of refugee admitted has changed under Trump, a Reuters analysis of government data shows. The percentage who are Muslim is now a third what it was two years ago; the percentage who are Europeans has tripled. The shift has led to striking imbalances. Refugees admitted to the United States from the small European country of Moldova, for example, now outnumber those from Syria by three to one, although the number of Syrian refugees worldwide outnumbers the total population of Moldova. Somalis like Hassan and his family now have little chance of getting in. As of Sept. 10, 251 Somali refugees have been resettled in America this year, a 97 percent drop

from the 8,300 admitted by this point in 2016.

### A predictable path

When Hassan and his family started the refugee process, the path was grueling and lengthy, but largely straightforward. Granted refugee status by the United Nations in 2008, Hassan and his family were assigned to the United States for resettlement in 2016. Family members were then interviewed by US refugee officers to establish whether they faced a serious threat if they returned to Somalia. They then had to undergo rigorous security checks put into place after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. Because of his age, gender and country of origin, Hassan was subjected to extra vetting.

After Hassan's family all passed the checks, they were told they would be sent to Ohio in two groups, one traveling first and the second soon after. Trump's January travel ban disrupted that plan. In addition to suspending travel from some majority-Muslim countries and all refugee admissions, the order capped the maximum number of refugees in 2017 at 50,000, less than half the number Obama had set a few months earlier.

Courts eventually barred implementation of the order. The administration replaced it with a less comprehensive version in March of 2017, followed by additional temporary restrictions on some nationalities. Today, no country's refugees are under an official ban, but several nationalities are nevertheless almost entirely blocked. Syrian refugees, for example, were singled out in the first executive order as "detrimental" to the nation's interests. In the 10 months since the ban lapsed, only 27 Syrian refugees have been

puted that assessment. "The further 90-day review was proposed for absolutely no other reason than to ensure a risk-based approach to the security enhancements," she said. The 11 countries - Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen - had been identified as potential threats as far back as the early 2000s, and their refugees had long been subject to more rigorous screening. But previous administrations still admitted refugees from those countries. Between 2002 and 2016, they accounted for 36 percent of US refugees.

Since the end of the 90-day review, when admissions of refugees from the 11 nations were supposed to continue with additional screening, refugees from the countries have made up fewer than two percent of admissions. Through Sept. 10, 564 refugees from the countries have been admitted since the start of the fiscal year in October, a 98 percent decrease over the same period in 2016, when nearly 34,000 refugees from the 11 countries came to America. Fatuma Diriye, who cannot read or write, does not follow the details of US policymaking. Her son, who does, realized the new procedures posed huge obstacles for his mother. "I lost a lot of hope that I had before," he said.

### Backlog

Diriye had cleared all the security screening required in 2016, but now she must undergo an additional advanced check known as a Security Advisory Opinion. That type of vetting previously was required just for men from the 11 targeted countries. The online portal that tracks Diriye's case now says her security status is "in process", but she doesn't know what that means. When the refugee group assisting the family inquired about Diriye's status last month, they were told only that her case is "on hold pending further review".

One primary source of the long delays, five current or former officials told Reuters, is the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which shares responsibility with other intelligence agencies for Security Advisory Opinions, the extra background checks now required of most refugees from the 11 countries. In May, the State Department limited requests for the advanced checks to 500 per month globally, according to a State Department memo reviewed by Reuters. The memo cited an increasing "backlog" as the reason for the limit, without mentioning the FBI.

The cap has effectively kept a large portion of refugees from the 11 countries from progressing beyond the first stages of the refugee process. Asked about its role in the vetting process, an FBI spokeswoman said the agency's "primary focus is to protect the United States from national security and criminal threats". A State Department spokesman said improvements in the refugee vetting process have "had a direct impact on how quickly security checks can be conducted."

### 'A horrible, horrible misstep'

Some Pentagon officials have expressed alarm to the White House and other agencies about how the new screening measures are affecting one category of refugees: Iraqis who helped the United States in battle. These Pentagon officials say such admissions provide a lifeline to people who risked their lives assisting the United States. As of Sept 7, just 48 Iraqi refugees with US affiliations had been admitted this fiscal year, according to State Department data. More than 3,000 were admitted last year and about 5,100 in 2016.

During a White House meeting last month, FBI officials revealed that their screening had turned up suspicious information on 87 of 88 US-affiliated Iraqis who recently underwent background checks, a far higher hit rate than in the past, according to two officials with knowledge of the meeting. But it is unclear even to people inside the government how the FBI's processes have changed, they said. The FBI spokeswoman declined to give information on vetting processes, saying only that the agency "takes the necessary time to thoroughly review all the information available."

One Iraqi interpreter, who worked for the US Army for years and was approved for refugee status, described the obstacles he has faced since Trump took office. His account, provided on condition of anonymity, was confirmed by records from a court case against the administration in which he is a plaintiff and by two US veterans who worked with him. After being targeted by militants opposed to the US in Iraq, the man fled to Egypt in 2014 and applied for refugee status. In late 2016, he was accepted. — Reuters

## Refugees from Moldova now outnumber those from Syria 3 to 1

resettled in the United States. By contrast, the United Nations counted 6.3 million Syrian refugees as of 2017, by far the single largest nationality of refugees.

Current and former US officials say the new policies have been driven by a small core of top administration officials, including White House senior advisor Stephen Miller; Gene Hamilton, a former advisor at the Department of Homeland Security; and John Kelly, former secretary of Homeland Security and now White House chief of staff. Hamilton, now at the Department of Justice, declined to comment through a spokesman. The White House did not respond to requests for comment. Provided with a detailed description of Reuters' reporting, White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said that "the administration is committed to a fair and responsible refugee policy that maximizes the reach and effectiveness of our global humanitarian assistance." He added that "America is now safer."

The remaking of the refugee program began with a full examination of screening procedures, something called for in the travel ban. Conducted in the summer and fall of 2017, the review concluded that refugees from all countries could safely be allowed to enter with some tightening of vetting, according to seven current or former US officials who helped formulate or were briefed on the findings.

White House staff, including Miller and Kelly, were not happy with that conclusion, said one current and two former officials. In particular, the White House wanted to continue barring refugees from Somalia, Hassan's home country, for reasons that were unclear, the two former officials and a second current official said. That posed a problem: The working group had found no evidence that Somali refugees presented a unique threat.

Homeland Security officials proposed that when admissions were resumed, the government would conduct a further 90-day review of refugees from 11 countries, including Somalia. During that time, refugees from the countries would remain effectively blocked. Some members of the working group felt the additional review - which directly affected thousands of refugees - was unnecessary, designed solely to satisfy White House officials.

Waldman, the Homeland Security spokeswoman, dis-

# Business

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**12** NBK Capital debuts trading service via mobile in US stocks and options



**13** Al-Sayer and Lexus unveil all-new 2019 Lexus ES



**14** Al-Sayer celebrates 'Outstanding Customer Service Award for 2017'



HANOI: Southeast Asian leaders (left to right) Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, Laos Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Prajin Juntong attends a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum on ASEAN at the National Convention Center in Hanoi yesterday. —AFP

## Protectionism threatens global growth: China

### China VP cautions 'individual countries' against isolationism

HANOI: China warned yesterday that protectionism threatens global growth and cautioned "individual countries" against isolationism, in a veiled reference to the deepening trade spat between Washington and Beijing that is being closely watched across Asia.

The comments from China's vice premier come as the world's top two economic powers edged closer to an all-out trade war after imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on billions of dollars of imports.

Tensions between the UN and China were heightened last week when US President Donald Trump threatened to hit all China's exports to the US worth more than \$500 billion as he doubles down on the "America First" agenda he says aims to protect jobs and industries from overseas competition.

But without directly naming Trump or the United States, Vice Premier Hu Chunhua warned against countries going it alone and upending the globalized trading system.

"Some individual countries' protectionist and unilateral measures are gravely undermining the rules-based multilat-

eral trading regime, posing a most serious hazard to the world economy," Hu said at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Hanoi.

"Self-isolation will lead nowhere and only openness for all represents the right way forward," he added. The trade row has dominated discussions at the WEF where Southeast Asian leaders have made the case for fewer trade barriers as America retreats from the region under Trump, who has decried trade deficits in the region.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) "is working with like-minded partners to strengthen the rules-based international system," Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said.

"It underpins growth and stability, but is under pressure," he said. The trade tussle between Washington and Beijing is being closely watched across Southeast Asia where some export-focused economies may be set to gain from the fallout. Rising labor costs in China have already precipitated a push into countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia, where Adidas shoes, H&M T-shirts and Samsung phones are made on the

cheap. But the trade rumble has accelerated that process, with several Chinese firms turning to the region to produce items from bike parts to mattresses in a bid to avoid US tariffs. "ASEAN countries don't want to count their chickens before they hatch," Fred Burke, managing partner at Baker McKenzie in Vietnam, told AFP. "But I think they see it on a net basis as a gain for them because it means shifting manufacturing into Southeast Asia that was... (earlier) in China."

#### Protectionist woes

Although there could be a short-term boon to Southeast Asia, some analysts warn the long-term may be less rosy. The region is "very export-driven... so any shift toward more trade barriers... is not good", Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific chief economist at IHS Markit, told AFP.

ASEAN trade increased by a value of nearly \$1 trillion between 2007 and 2014 and the bloc had a collective GDP of \$2.76 trillion last year after an enthusiastic embrace of trade liberalisation—a marked contrast to Trump's policies.

In one of his first post-election moves, the US president

pulled out of the sprawling 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), calling the trade pact a job killer.

The current edition of the WEF, which closes today, is officially focused on how economies should adapt to so-called "disruptive technologies" such as automation and artificial intelligence that threaten to cull jobs in emerging economies. Several regional leaders have joined the forum, including Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Cambodia's newly re-elected strongman Prime Minister Hun Sen and Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi is under intense global scrutiny over the Rohingya crisis and is scheduled to speak at the forum today. Last week's the International Criminal Court ruled it has jurisdiction to investigate the forced deportation of 700,000 Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar's military as a possible crime against humanity.

Myanmar has also faced international censure over the decision to jail two Reuters journalists for seven years under a draconian state secrets law for their coverage of a Rohingya massacre. —AFP

### London loses top spot to New York in financial survey

LONDON: New York has overtaken London as the world's most attractive financial center, a survey said yesterday, as Britain's decision to leave the EU prompts banks to shift jobs out of the city to keep access to Europe's single market.

Brexit poses the biggest challenge to the City of London's finance industry since the 2007-2009 global crisis, since it might mean banks and insurers lose access to the European Union, the world's biggest trading bloc. New York took first place, followed by London, Hong Kong and Singapore in the Z/Yen global financial centers index, which ranks 100 centers on factors such as infrastructure and access to quality staff.

London's score fell by eight points from six months ago, the biggest decline among the top contenders. The survey's authors said this reflected the uncertainty around Britain's EU departure on March 29 next year. "We are getting closer and closer to exit day and we still don't know whether London will be able to trade with all the other European financial centers," Mark Yeandle, the co-creator of the index, told

Reuters. "The fear of losing business to other centers is driving the slight decline and people are concerned about London's competitiveness."

Since Britain voted in 2016 to leave the EU, some of the world's most powerful finance companies have begun moving staff from London to countries that will remain in the bloc to preserve the existing cross-border flow of trading.

#### Brexit exodus?

Financial services firms, which account for about 12 percent of Britain's economic output and pay more tax than any other industry, potentially have a lot to lose from the end of unfettered access to the EU. Around 5,000 roles are expected to be shifted from London or created in the EU due to Brexit by March, a Reuters study published earlier this year found. The head of the City of London predicted in July that 3,500 to 12,000 financial jobs would go because of Brexit in the short-term and more might disappear later. Asian competitors are closing in, with Hong Kong only three points behind London, the survey found.

Many London executives have warned that the biggest threats to London are not from other European centres but from global competitors such as New York and Hong Kong. The rankings, which are based on nearly 2,500 respondents working in the industry, provide a twice-yearly guide to



NEW YORK: A vehicle from electric car maker NIO sits outside the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) yesterday. The Shanghai-based electric car company opened for trading at \$6 per share. —AFP

the relative performance of financial centers globally.

The number of banks saying they plan to set up new EU subsidiaries after Brexit has picked up in the past year. Most major US, British and Japanese banks said they would build up operations in Frankfurt, Paris or Dublin. Other European centers moved up in the global rankings. Zurich rose to ninth place from 16th six months ago and

Frankfurt to 10th from 20th, while Amsterdam climbed to 35th place from 50th. "London and New York have long vied for the top spot of this index and the uncertainty around the future shape of Brexit is likely to be a factor in their latest switch in positions," said Miles Celic, chief executive of the lobbying group TheCityUK. "In a competitive world we cannot afford complacency." —Reuters

### WEF: Tech to cost SE Asia millions of jobs, doom 'factory model'

HANOI: Automation will soon make millions of low-skilled jobs—from cashiers and machine operators to waiters and drivers—redundant across Southeast Asia, experts said yesterday, warning the region to upskill fast or face huge employment problems.

The topic was center-stage at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Hanoi, where warnings abounded that countries including Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand where manufacturing has driven GDP and employed millions would be among the worst affected.

In stark comments, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc told the forum technology could spell doom for the "Asian factory model" of growth that has driven his country for recent years.

While richer economies such as Japan and Singapore have embraced so-called "disruptive technologies", poorer manufacturing hubs are not yet equipped to adapt to rapid change driven by automation. But they may soon have no choice. —AFP

Business

# NBK Capital debuts trading service via mobile in US stocks and options

## Mobile app available to all smart devices provided with fingerprint safety technology

**KUWAIT:** Stemming from its commitment to offering up-to-date services, NBK Capital has for the first time launched a smart electronic application for trading in US Stock Exchange for equity sale and purchase and trading in options contracts.

Through this innovative application, which has been developed using the latest technology in the field, NBK Capital offers a direct interactive experience through trading in the US stock market, access to trading accounts, knowledge of market trends and response to customer inquiries through a team of specialized brokers to help clients trade easily and enjoy many other features.

The new electronic application provided by NBK Capital is easy to use as the customer can access it using fingerprint technology which is the safest. Flexibility comes in line with this application as it executes sell and buy orders, keeps an eye on equity prices and provides news updates of the US market. It simply serves all categories of investors in a way that reflects the professional and vast expertise behind the design to satisfy different customer segments' needs.

Tarek Al-Shehab, Head of Trading at NBK Capital, said that: "The launch of the trading service in US stocks and options via a smart electronic application is a new addition to the business platform of NBK Capital, which is considered a technological leap for its ease of use allowing high levels of accuracy and follow-up thanks to a dedicated team that strives to provide these services at high level of accuracy".

He added that: "The new application is available to all client segments of Kuwait whether citizens or foreigners. The minimum account opening balance is \$25,000

through all Kuwaiti banks, as well as special features that will be available to NBK customers, who can transfer funds instantly from their own personal accounts along many other features".

Al-Shehab commented as saying: "NBK Capital has a specialist team that follows trading climate in the US market and provides information retrieval service to customers who need to take the appropriate investment decisions".

"The client who wants to invest may visit the APP Store on iPhone or Google Play for Android devices and search for NBK Capital-International application then follows easy steps to enter his data and basic information by responding to a number of questions that have been developed to identify the customer. The process will then request that the client transfers the amount required to start trading in accordance with the instructions and frameworks in place.

NBK Capital has 13 years of experience in providing trading services. It offers integrated trading services that include fully separate accounts and assets recorded on behalf of the client, executing transactions at the best fair prices, easy transfer of funds between bank account and trading account, electronic trading supported by a team of specialized brokers which are available during US and pre and post market trading hours, the possibility of trading a variety of assets, and the possibility of trading in US dollar, euro, pound sterling, Swiss franc, Japanese yen and other major currencies, in addition to instant account evaluations. Customer can complete their transactions with an Investor Relations Manager who is responsible for the service through NBK branches.



## Korea jobless rate hits highest since global financial crisis

**SEOUL:** South Korea's unemployment rate hit an eight-year high in August as mandatory minimum wages rose, adding to economic policy frustrations and political challenges for President Moon Jae-in whose approval rating is now at its lowest since inauguration.

The unemployment rate rose to 4.2 percent in August from 3.8 percent in July in seasonally adjusted terms as the number of unemployed rose by 134,000 people from a year earlier.

This was the labor market's worst performance since January 2010, when the economy was still reeling from the global financial crisis, when 10,000 jobs were lost. Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon said yesterday the government will need to adjust its wage policies, signalling some future soft-peddaling in the drive to

raise minimum wages. "The government will discuss slowing the speed of minimum wage hikes with the ruling party and the presidential office," Kim Dong-yeon told a policy meeting in Seoul, adding he did not expect a short-term recovery in the job market. Experts say the uproar over jobs could also cost Moon considerable political capital as he pursues closer ties with Pyongyang, as any good news from an inter-Korean summit may not be enough to offset public discontent over the lack of jobs and soaring housing prices.

More than 60 percent of respondents in a Gallup Korea survey criticized Moon's handling of the economy, including his 'inability to improve the livelihoods of ordinary citizens' and 'minimum wage increases'. The jobs report showed the labor-intensive retail and accommodation sector, which lost 202,000 jobs in August from a year earlier, was the hardest hit.

A total 105,000 jobs were lost from manufacturing industries, the report said. However, the agriculture, construction and transport sectors saw a rise in the number of employed, partly offsetting the rise in the number of workers laid off.

The overall number of employed people rose by just 3,000 - also the worst since January 2010. — Reuters

## Ryanair defiant as German pilots and crew walk out

**BERLIN:** Irish budget carrier Ryanair was defiant yesterday as dozens of flights were disrupted in a walkout by German pilots and cabin crew, the latest flare-up in a bitter Europe-wide battle for better pay and conditions. The airline would not "roll over" in the face of the strike affecting thousands of passengers, chief executive Michael O'Leary told reporters in London, adding that the industrial action had been "unsuccessful".

Some 150 out of 400 scheduled Ryanair flights to and from Germany were cancelled because of the walkout, which the firm slammed as "unnecessary", adding that it may have to close some bases and slash jobs if the stoppages drag on.

Germany's Cockpit pilots' federation and the Verdi service workers' union called the 24-hour strike, which started at 03:00 am (0100 GMT), after they said talks with Ryanair management were deadlocked. "We hope that this strike shows a significant effect, that the company realizes the employees won't accept rotten working conditions and bad pay any longer," said Verdi spokesman Andreas Splanemann at a demo by cabin crew at Berlin's Schoenefeld airport.

But with affected passengers largely warned off in advance, there were few stranded travellers to see the workers with their placards reading "no rights, no flights". The strike comes as Ryanair is already bracing for a mass coordinated walkout by cabin crew in Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Union leaders are expected to announce details of the stoppage in Brussels today.

They have vowed to stage "the biggest strike action the company has ever seen". Ryanair has been clashing with worker representatives ever since it took the unprecedented step last year to start recognizing trade unions in a bid to avert widespread Christmas strikes. Last month, Ryanair pilots in five European countries including Germany held their first-ever simultaneous walkout, causing some 400 flight cancellations and travel chaos for 55,000 passengers.



Michael O'Leary

**Job threats**  
33-year-old Ryanair has however struck some labor agreements since then, reaching its first-ever union deal with Italian pilots in late August. In Ireland, pilots voted to accept an agreement on improved working conditions last week.

The breakthrough prompted Ryanair to back down from an earlier threat that it would move several aircraft and 300 jobs from Ireland to Poland. The Cockpit and Verdi unions, which represent some 400 Germany-based Ryanair pilots and 1,000 flight personnel, condemned the airline's attempt to squeeze them with a similar threat.

"This is how Ryanair deals with its employees: putting pressure on them, scaring them and threatening job losses," Cockpit's vice president Markus Wahl told AFP. "We are not making a threat," Ryanair's chief marketing officer Kenny Jacobs told a Frankfurt press conference Tuesday. "If you have ongoing strikes, that's the economic impact."

**'190,000 euros a year'**  
The no-frills airline boasts lower costs per passenger than its competitors and is eyeing profits of around 1.25 billion euros (\$1.45 billion) this year. But staff have long complained that they earn less than counterparts at rival airlines. Another key gripe of workers based in countries other than Ireland is the fact that Ryanair employs them under Irish legislation.  
They say this creates huge insecurity for them, blocking their access to state benefits in their country. Unions also want the airline to give contractors the same work conditions as staff employees. Ryanair counters that it has already offered significant pay increases and steadier contracts. It said German pilots can make "up to 190,000 euros a year". — AFP

## NBK INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC UPDATE

### Global trade dispute in focus amid efforts for NAFTA deal

**KUWAIT:** Global trade remained at the forefront of the economic agenda over the past month, with the further ratcheting up of tensions between the US and China joined by attempts to reshape the tripartite NAFTA agreement. US President Trump was due to announce tariff increases on a further \$200 billion in imports from China following the end of a consultation period in early-September, with retaliation from China likely. Meanwhile, although the US and Mexico agreed a bilateral trade pact, President Trump said that without concessions, "Canada will be out" and threatened to terminate the existing deal.

There is also heightened concern about stability across emerging markets, with economic crises in Turkey and Argentina triggering sharp currency sell-offs and the latter forced to raise interest rates to 60 percent. A combination of trade war worries, a strong US dollar and contagion fears also pressured currencies in India, Indonesia and South Africa.

#### US data

Despite some domestic political rumbling and continuing trade war fears, the domestic economic news flow in the US has remained consistently upbeat over the past month. Annualized GDP growth for 2Q18 was even revised up to 4.2 percent from an already strong 4.1 percent, led by robust (albeit slightly downgraded from the previous estimate) growth of 3.8 percent in consumer spending. The consensus view is that economic growth will moderate to around 3 percent in the third quarter, but the dispersion around this forecast is considerable, with some analysts looking for another 4 percent+ figure given the continued strength of recent high frequency data.

The consumer sector - more than two-thirds of the economy - is forging ahead, buoyed by low unemployment, tax cuts, the rising stock market and with little sign as yet of fallout from either higher interest rates or trade war fears. Indeed consumer confidence in August reached its highest since the dotcom fever of October 2000, jobs growth has ticked up again in recent months after decelerating last year and unemployment stood at 3.9 percent in July, close to May's 18-year low of 3.8 percent. Consumer spending in July rose 5.2 percent y/y (in cash terms) versus 4.6 percent in IH18, pointing to a strong start to the third quarter.

Businesses, meanwhile, are also reporting strong growth, despite a slight softening in ISM and PMI activity survey readings for July (in both manufacturing and service sectors) and the flash August PMI. Firms are reporting rising cost and price pressures not just due to tariff effects but also increasingly skills and materials shortages. Nevertheless after-tax profits surged 16 percent y/y in 2Q18, helped by

course by the cut in corporation tax to 21 percent from January. The Federal Reserve is overwhelmingly expected to increase interest rates by 25bps for the third time this year at its 25-26 September policy meeting, which would put its target rate at 2.00-2.25 percent. The chances of a further hike in December however are more even, with futures market pricing in a 71 percent probability. Minutes from the central bank's previous meeting showed that officials, although concerned about overheating, remain committed to only gradual policy tightening partly due to uncertainty over what constitutes a "neutral" level for interest rates - possibly in the range of 2.5-3.0 percent - but also that the spread between long and short rates is approaching negative levels that has in the past foretold an economic downturn. Moreover, price pressures have been relatively contained, with core inflation edging up to 2.0 percent in July and in line with the bank's target.

Economic growth for 2Q in the Eurozone, meanwhile, was revised up to 0.4 percent q/q from 0.3 percent before (annualized 1.5 percent, see chart 3), thanks to stronger growth in Germany. This eased fears of a sharper downturn - growth was at 0.7 percent through most of last year - but survey evidence shows that confidence particularly in the important export sector is being hit by weak demand and concern over tariffs. The manufacturing PMI for example eased to 54.6 in August, the lowest since November 2016. There is also particular concern over prospects in Italy, where slow growth, high debt and political turmoil has seen government bond yields surge and Fitch attach a negative outlook to its current BBB credit rating.

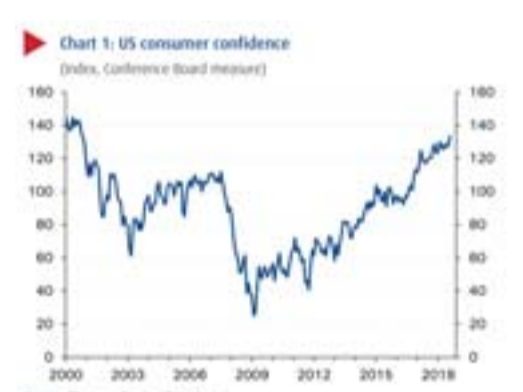
The European Central Bank remains optimistic that the economic recovery is on a solid footing, but in the minutes of its latest policy meeting confirmed that it would maintain a cautious approach to removing monetary stimulus, with interest rates on hold until at least 2H19. Although headline inflation stood at 2 percent y/y in August, core inflation was a much weaker 1.0 percent. The bank argues that decent economic growth and recent signs of higher wage deals will help inflation converge back towards its "close to but below" 2 percent target over the medium term.

#### Japanese growth rebounds in Q2

GDP rebounded and expanded by a better-than-expected annualized 1.9 percent in 2Q18, a significant improvement from the 0.9 percent contraction in 1Q18, as stronger consumer spending (which accounts for about 60 percent of GDP) and healthy corporate investment offset ongoing weakness in export growth. Despite the strong rebound, downside risks to growth persist. Indeed preliminary estimates of growth in Japan are typically volatile and a revision is due in mid-September. Global trade woes are expected to continue to hamper export growth in at least the near-to-medium term.

#### China faces headwinds

Despite escalating trade tensions with the US, Chinese export growth stood in July at 12.2 percent y/y, thanks in part to a weaker yuan. But other indicators have pointed to downward pressure on the economy, as the effects of government efforts to temper risky lending and debt are compounded by the



deterioration in trade relations. Industrial production growth held steady at 6.0 percent y/y in July, while growth in fixed asset investments eased to 5.4 percent. Meanwhile the Caixin/Markit manufacturing PMI data (which focuses on small-to-medium sized firms) fell to a 14-month low of 50.6 in August on the back of a decline in export orders.

The government announced a spate of fiscal measures to bolster economic activity, including tax cuts for research and development, speeding up special bond sales aimed at increasing government infrastructure spending and also urged local governments to spend unused funds. Economic growth slowed to 6.7 percent in 2Q with the government targeting 6.5 percent for 2018 overall.

#### Oil prices rebound

Brent crude oil prices rebounded in August, climbing 4.3 percent m/m to \$77.4/bbl. Price rises have been driven by signs that the physical market is tightening and despite fears about the impact on global growth of deteriorating US-China trade relations. Global demand has been robust, while global supplies have been affected by outages in the North Sea and falling production in Libya, Venezuela and Iran. Iran's exports were thought to have plummeted by at least 600,000 b/d, or 28 percent in August amid the start of US financial sanctions on Iran. With further energy-specific sanctions due in November, it is possible that more Iranian barrels will be withdrawn from the market. This has motivated a flurry of upward oil price revisions by analysts, with the consensus now averaging around \$72 for both this year and 2019.

#### Gulf region quiet

Major economic developments in the GCC region were sparse amid the usual summer lull, although the rise in oil prices has improved near-term fiscal performance and prompted some more optimism over the growth outlook. August PMI index readings for Saudi Arabia and the UAE, at 55.1 and 55.0 respectively, were in line with solid conditions in the non-oil economy. Meanwhile it was reported that the Saudi Aramco IPO had been suspended or at least delayed until conditions were more "optimum". Aramco was also reported to be in the process of acquiring the Public Investment Fund's (PIF) 70 percent stake (worth \$70 billion) in Saudi petrochemicals producer SABIC. The PIF itself also secured its first commercial bank loan, of \$1 billion, to finance its activities.

## EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
<b>Europe</b>			
British Pound	0.384889	0.398789	
Czech Korune	0.005624	0.014924	
Danish Krone	0.042925	0.047925	
Euro	0.342902	0.356602	
Georgian Lari	0.115668	0.116668	
Hungarian	0.000987	0.001177	
Norwegian Krone	0.031880	0.037080	
Romanian Leu	0.058688	0.075538	
Russian ruble	0.004332	0.004332	
Slovakia	0.009069	0.019069	
Swedish Krona	0.029459	0.034459	
Swiss Franc	0.306487	0.317487	
<b>Australasia</b>			
Australian Dollar	0.207469	0.219469	
New Zealand Dollar	0.191543	0.201043	
<b>America</b>			
Canadian Dollar	0.224853	0.233853	
US Dollars	0.299650	0.304950	
US Dollars Mint	0.300150	0.304950	
<b>Asia</b>			
Bangladesh Taka	0.002992	0.003793	
Chinese Yuan	0.042903	0.046403	
Indian Rupee	0.036606	0.039356	
Hong Kong Dollar	0.003741	0.0045213	
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022	
Japanese Yen	0.002652	0.002832	
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273	
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070095	0.076095	
Nepalese Rupee	0.002626	0.002966	
Pakistan Rupee	0.001957	0.002727	
Philippine Peso	0.005550	0.005850	
Singapore Dollar	0.214474	0.224474	
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001520	0.002100	
Taiwan	0.009723	0.009903	
Thai Baht	0.008926	0.009476	
<b>Arab</b>			
Bahraini Dinar	0.790707	0.807207	
Egyptian Pound	0.014344	0.020062	
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085	
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000260	
Jordanian Dinar	0.424119	0.433119	
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000	
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250	
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022438	0.046438	
Omani Riyal	0.782643	0.788323	
Qatar Riyal	0.079143	0.084083	
Saudi Riyal	0.079143	0.081213	
Syrian Pound	0.001288	0.001508	
Tunisian Dinar	0.105000	0.113000	
Turkish Lira	0.041566	0.053066	
UAE Dirhams	0.081275	0.082975	
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067	

Business

# Al-Sayer and Lexus unveil all-new 2019 Lexus ES

Remarkable innovation and breathtaking elegance like never before



KUWAIT: Chairman Faisal Bader Al-Sayer and CEO Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer with other officials during the unveiling of the all-new Lexus ES by Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons (MNSS) and Lexus at Al-Sayer Ballroom at Ardiya yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons (MNSS), a subsidiary of Al-Sayer Holding and Lexus have unveiled the all-new ES, the most innovative and advanced new generation Lexus flagship.

The launch event held at Al-Sayer Ballroom at Ardiya was attended by Faisal Bader Al-Sayer, Chairman, Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO, Bengt Schultz, Chief Operating Officer, Mahmoud Abou Zahr, Lexus Business Director MNSS, Yukihiro Kito, ES Deputy Chief Engineer Lexus International, Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative and Naomichi Hirose, Manager from Representative Office in Dubai along with distinguished members from the press and media.

Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer said, "I express our sincere gratitude to our customers for choosing Lexus, we always value their exceptional support. Lexus cars are a complete range of luxury sedans and sport-utility cars. It is continuing to focus being a luxury lifestyle brand and continues to evolve with an increased emphasis on technology, performance, art, fashion - to offer experience amazing".

After nearly three decades of unprecedented success in the luxury segment, Lexus is forging a new, more ambitious path as it unveils the all-new 2019 Lexus ES. Long known for its unparalleled comfort, refinement, and luxury appointments, the all-new Lexus ES builds on its strengths with an all-new platform that allows for a more dynamic exterior design and even better driving performance.

"From the product side, Lexus new design global strategy was a major success in Kuwait and the region. Additionally, the new technologies that had been introduced into the Lexus model lineup had given our customers a new feeling for the driving dynamics that had even surpassed the previous Lexus records. The quietness which was a great feature for Lexus is even better. The interior design had hit a cord with our customers because they think it has taken Lexus to a new frontier of luxury and a feeling of serenity," commented Mahmoud Abou Zahr.

**Comfort and quietness**

The engineering team, led by chief engineer Yasuhiro Sakakibara, had one clear goal when it came to the ES: "Transform its image." That meant further sharpening a sedan, known primarily for comfort and quietness, and adding class-leading handling and power that you can feel and hear.

According to Sakakibara, the all-new Lexus ES has been built to deliver a fundamentally higher level of performance than any of its predecessors. He revealed: "With every new generation of the ES, the team works towards exceeding our customers' needs and expectations. The all-new 2019 Lexus ES embodies our vision of developing a model that blends key elements of design and performance in a way that would deliver a higher level of enjoyment for its drivers and passengers. We knew this ES had to feel responsive and easy to drive, no matter what kind of road it was on. That can only be achieved with a solid foundation."

That foundation is the newly developed GA-K platform. It is an exceptionally rigid front-wheel-drive chassis made from several grades of high-strength steel. The GA-K platform also incorporates far more structural adhesives than the previous ES platform, as well as laser screw welding - a construction method shared with the LS sedan, which is used in 120 locations throughout the GA-K platform to further solidify the already robust structure. Additional measures were used to improve front-end stiffness, including a strut tower brace, multiple reinforcement panels for the strut towers themselves, and new radiator



support braces.

Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "We are thrilled to

announce the launch of the all-new Lexus ES in the Middle East to complement the phenomenal success of the model and also to pave the way for a futuristic driving experience in the region. Building on the distinctive characteristics of the ES, such as the unparalleled ride comfort and quietness, refinement, and luxury appointments, the Lexus engineers challenged their craftsmanship to sculpt the exciting, all-new sedan."

Miyamoto added: "Delivering on our promise to develop vehicles that offer amazing experiences and exceed the



leading hybrid electric model enables customers to contribute to a sustainable future while enjoying increased driving satisfaction and engagement provided by its advanced technologies and cabin quietness, as well as its acceleration smoothness, especially when starting off.

The second addition is the all-new 2019 Lexus ES F SPORT model, which further enhances the driving excitement so that drivers can enjoy a sense of oneness with the car, born of its ability to respond immediately to driving enthusiasts' intentions in various situations. In addition to a thrilling exterior that highlights its bold and aggressive personality, the all-new Lexus ES F SPORT features numerous upgrades such as a retuned suspension, 19-inch wheels

- New dynamic capabilities reflected through a new emotional design
- New platform for greatest-ever agility and comfort on the new ES
- New eight-speed automatic transmission
- All-new electrified hybrid ES 300h model: the most fuel-efficient luxury vehicle without a plug
- First-ever F SPORT model in the ES lineup
- Comprehensive Lexus Safety System+ for unmatched protection

expectations of customers, we have introduced two new models in the ES lineup, including the ES 300h, an electrified hybrid model, and an F SPORT model. I would like to thank our customers in the region for inspiring us to push the boundaries of creativity, craftsmanship, and innovation."

**Class-leading hybrid model**

One of two major additions to the all-new Lexus ES lineup includes the ES 300h, an electrified hybrid model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and two electric motors. The class-

and tires, and unique aluminum interior trim that gives the machine a more dynamic look and feel.

The introduction of the all-new 2019 Lexus ES continues the expression of the brand's design direction and commitment towards crafting vehicles with heightened excitement, emotion, and passion, expanding that vision of the brand's future to a broader audience.

Complementing the all-new Lexus ES emotional design is a thrilling drive personality imbued by three powertrain options.



The ES 350 is powered by a 3.5-liter V6 engine that is designed to deliver commanding acceleration along with an invigorating sound.

In addition, an electrified hybrid powertrain was developed for the all-new ES. This third powertrain option combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and two electric motors, producing 176 hp and 22.5 kg-m of torque and 118 hp and 20.6 kg-m of torque, respectively, delivering a combined system output of 215 hp. The class-leading hybrid electric model ES 300h can be driven entirely by either electrical power with zero-fuel consumption and carbon emissions, or with a combination of a petrol engine and two electric motors, depending on the vehicle's speed and customer's driving behavior. The batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain are automatically charged by either the petrol engine or when braking and decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. Furthermore, the ES 300h electrified hybrid model features a host of advanced technologies, yet drives like any other conventional car and does not require special fuel.

**Exquisite interior**

Completing the all-new Lexus ES' distinct personality is its exquisite interior that invites the driver and passengers to enjoy a range of advanced features offering a refined cabin experience. These include an

enhanced in-vehicle 12.3-inch multimedia display, a 7-inch color multi-information display (MID), a wireless charging system for smartphones, an LED ambient illumination, the Lexus Climate Concierge with a 3-zone independent temperature control system, a 17-speaker Mark Levinson sound system, multi-adjustable power and ventilated front seats, power reclining rear seats, a rear armrest with multi-operation panel, and a hands-free power trunk lid.

Available in 12 distinctive exterior colors, the all-new Lexus ES allows customers to express their individuality with two exclusive colors for the F SPORT version. Two newly-developed exterior colors, Ice Ecu Mica Metallic and Sunlight Green Mica Metallic, further evoke the luxurious and glamorous atmosphere. On the other hand, the interior comes in a total of five color schemes, with two new schemes called Rich Cream and Chateau, and an exclusive scheme for the F SPORT. There are five available ornamentations depending on the grade, with three new designs, including Bamboo, Shimamoku Black, and a Dynamic pattern called "3D Film," along with one exclusive design for the F SPORT. Furthermore, the all-new model has been rearmored with four new wheel designs: a 17-inch wheel, two 18-inch wheels - with one wheel developed to reduce weight, enhance rigidity, and suppress noise generated by the tires - and a 19-inch wheel that is exclusive for the F SPORT.



## Business

# Al-Sayer celebrates 'Outstanding Customer Service Award for 2017'

## Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Group Service and Parts earns award from TMC



Al-Sayer Board of Directors, family members and top management



Faisal Bader Al-Sayer handing over a memento to Makato Takahashi



Lexus Service Team with the Decade Award



Toyota Group Parts Division with the Decade Award

**KUWAIT:** In recognition of the Group's Service and Spare Parts team commitment towards customer care, Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) has bestowed Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer and Sons (MNSS) a subsidiary of ALSAYER Holding with Outstanding Customer Service Award as part of their Customer Service Excellence Program (CSEA).

Winning the Outstanding Customer Service Award for 2017 marked Group's achievement for the 10th consecutive year and qualified MNSS to receive the decade award. Only six countries have won this coveted award including Canada, Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong year in 2016, Kuwait and Brunei for the year 2017.

With the aim of providing always better service, to become the most admired dealer in town, distributors across the globe are continuously implementing various activities which are being evaluated through the CSEA program by TMC. The award program expresses the appreciation for distributors' outstanding activities to enhance overall customer service competency.

The awards ceremony and the celebration event held at ALSAYER Ballroom Ardiya, was attended by delegation from Toyota Motor Corporation Makoto Takahashi Executive General Manager, Hidekuni Yahara Group Manager, Yoshiyuki Koike General Manager Bahrain Representative Office, ALSAYER Holding Board of Directors Faisal Bader Al-Sayer Chairman, Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO, Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer Board Member, Bengt Schultz COO, Ibrahim Al-Fouzan Business Director Toyota Group Service Division,

Mahmoud Abou Zahr Business Director Lexus, Desmond Lew Business Director Parts, Accessories and Group Logistics along with employees from Toyota Group Service and Parts and Lexus. Delivering the key note address Faisal Bader Al-Sayer said, "The award reflects our primary goal of delivering the best customer care in the industry to all our valued customers. In the past, we have focused on providing a superb service in all that we do; we must keep doing this with even more emphasis on Customer Care which is, and always needs to be, our major point of differentiation."

During the awards ceremony Makoto Takahashi Executive General Manager handed over Outstanding Customer Service Award and Decade of Excellence plaque to Chairman Faisal Bader Al-Sayer and Board of Directors accompanied by Ibrahim Al-Fouzan Business Director Toyota Group Service Division, Mahmoud Abou Zahr Business Director Lexus Division and Desmond Lew Business Director Group Parts Division.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer said, "On this occasion I extend our sincere gratitude to Toyota Motor Corporation for their valuable support to MNSS over the past six decades. This award represents our excellent performance

in customer service. This wonderful result could not have been realized by the warm and continued patronage of our valued customers, efficient leadership as well as strong and consistent team work towards building a true culture of customer care." "I thank TMC and our Top management for extending their great support to provide best customer service. I also thank each employee for their commitment and hard work that has always been a key factor for our excellent customer service and achievement of this great award," said Ibrahim Al-Fouzan.

Desmond Lew commented "ALSAYER is always passionate to deliver outstanding customer service, treating employees and customers like family. It has been the unwavering contribution of Parts along with the Service team that has led to this milestone". ALSAYER's Mission Statement calls for us

to be the "Best in the Business" across several dimensions. When the Company was originally set up in 1954, the Mission Statement was that it would only sell the best products from around the world and support them with outstanding service. Whilst the Mission Statement words have changed over time, the philosophy remains the same as it was 64 years ago.

"We will continue to drive innovative solutions to further strengthen Toyota and Lexus after sales operations at the same time raise the bar even higher in terms of benchmark customer care practices" added Bengt Schultz. For the Group innovative customer service solutions is about finding new ways of pleasing customers, going forward each year is an opportunity building on previous years of achievements in outstanding customer service.

## Warba Bank to hold Al-Sunbula weekly draw

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, will be organizing its 33rd weekly draw for Al-Sunbula Account today (Thursday) at 11 am in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the bank officials.

Al-Sunbula Account is the perfect choice for all customers who wish to save money and achieve steady returns while simultaneously have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. Due to the high traffic on this account, for its offerings of unparalleled opportunities, Warba Bank has worked on enhancing Al-Sunbula account to provide customers with more benefits. Such enhancements include increasing the number of winners and the frequency of the draws.

Now, on every Thursday the Bank holds draws for 5 weekly winners of KD 1,000 each. In addition, the Bank continues its monthly draws held on the first Thursday of every month, with cash prizes of KD 30,000 divided amongst 4 winners: two winners getting KD 10,000 each, and two winners getting KD 5,000 each.

Thus, the new development of Al-Sunbula account has increased the total number of winners to 24, and the total amount of prizes to 50,000 KD instead of 30,000 KD. As for the chances for winning, each customer is eligible to enter the draw against each KD 10. It is noteworthy, that Warba Bank has recently launched the Al-Sunbula Fixed Deposit, which provides depositors with high returns of up to 3 percent, as well as getting monthly chances to win in Al-Sunbula Account draws.

Furthermore, Warba Bank has launched its latest Customer Onboarding solution, in line with its ambitious five-year strategy that enables non-Warba Bank customers to request opening Al-Sunbula account in an easy electronic manner through the Bank's website without having to visit any of the Bank's branches, by following 5 simple steps that might take up to 5 minutes. New customers will be able to request opening the account at anytime, anywhere, and the Bank will receive, process and pass the new application for approval through whole new and unique electronic system used to implement this service. Warba Staff will then contact the customer to determine the appropriate time to visit the branch to get required signatures, verify the customer's identity, deliver his/her debit card, and activate the account.

## AUB holds training course for finance dept staff at MoF

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) recently announced their organization of a training course for a group of finance department staff at the Ministry of Defense. The course covered an overview of the bank's work and its digital banking services, an explanation on the

nature of business of the Treasury Department and Corporate Banking management. In addition, the course included an explanation on Islamic banking transactions, the legal aspects of letters of guarantee, commercial financing operations as well as some practical applications that helped the trainees to refine their understanding.

The training course was held at the Bank's headquarters and lasted for two days. It was attended by 20 staff members from the finance department from the Ministry of Defense, who praised the organization of the seminar and the rich content presented and expressed their pleasure in interacting with AUB's trainers. Commenting on the success of this

training course, Naqeeb Amin, AUB's General Manager of Human Resources confirmed that the training courses organized by the Bank for the employees of various institutions and entities in Kuwait come as part of the Bank's commitment to its social responsibilities, especially those related to the support of national manpower and the continuous efforts to strengthen their professional capabilities in a way that enables them to contribute effectively to the overall development plan of the country. In addition, this also reflects AUB's interest and keenness to strengthen its well established relationship with the most important sectors and institutions.



## Chinese hotpot chain Haidilao eyes nearly \$1 billion IPO

**BEIJING:** China's premier hotpot chain Haidilao International is hoping to raise almost \$1 billion in an initial public offering in Hong Kong, according to an prospectus made public yesterday. The Sichuan hotpot

operator is known for its good customer service—a rarity in China—with queuing diners provided with snacks, tea, and even manicures.

The legion of customers also enjoy live shows during their meals put on by Haidilao staff. For those who do not finish their meals, they can return uneaten meat. Haidilao aims to sell 424.5 million shares for between HK\$14.80 and HK\$17.80 each, which could raise as much as \$963 million. But it could face headwinds as Hong Kong's stock market struggles—it fell into a bear market on Tuesday after dropping more than 20 percent from its record high set in January. The restaurant operator said it would use proceeds from the offering to push its global expansion, repay loans and improve food safety-related technology. The chain has had problems in the area

before, with a Beijing outlet under fire last year over allegations of a rat-infested kitchen and dirty dishes.

Zhang Yong, 47, founded the chain in 1994 after years working in a tractor factory in southwest Sichuan province. Zhang earned 14 million yuan (\$2 million) stewarding the company last year, the prospectus shows. The chain has kept to its roots and boiling chili pepper-laden water to cook the frozen meat remains a fan favorite.

It has expanded rapidly, adding more than 30 restaurants per year since 2015. Revenue has also jumped, with its 341 restaurants earning 647 million yuan on sales of 7.3 billion yuan for the six months ending in June. The company is expected to price its IPO on Tuesday with trading to start on September 26. — AFP

Technology

# 'Best Al-Yousufi Electronics' opens showroom at the Boulevard Mall

One of the largest and most modern electronics showrooms in Kuwait



**KUWAIT:** Easa Husain Al-Yousufi & Sons Co recently opened a new Best Al-Yousufi Electronics showroom at the Boulevard Mall - Salmiya. It is one of the largest and most modern electronics showrooms in Kuwait, being the thirteenth outlet in Best Electronics chain in Kuwait. The event was attended by company owners and corporate managers, prominent figures and guests, interested customers, media workers and the press.

The company announced that the opening of its new showroom at the Boulevard Mall is part of its strategy aimed at meeting its customers' needs to provide the best services and shopping facilities. Best Al-Yousufi Electronics Co, by expanding the number of its show-

rooms open to the public, with this showroom' being number 13, seeks to enhance its service level and make them available to the largest possible customer base. Al-Yousufi opened the first location of Best Al-Yousufi Electronics Showroom in Hawally on September 29, 2009. Best Al-Yousufi Electronics also plans to join forces with other international brands for its future showrooms.

To celebrate the new showroom opening, Best Al-Yousufi Electronics threw in a special opening festivity at the Boulevard Mall to all its guests and customers and launched special offers and excellent prices deals for new products. The welcome speech was presented

by General Manager of the Electronics group, Mr Wael Deeb, who said that this new showroom comes as part of the company expansion policy to please all clients in, also promised of more new showrooms in the coming future.

The opening ceremony also featured musical performances and a variety of entertainments in a distinctive atmosphere where the audience expressed their happiness. Easa Husain Al-Yousufi & Sons Co, through its retail network has undoubtedly emerged as the preferred partner for a number of internationally renowned brands, making it the natural choice for international companies wishing to put their products in the Kuwaiti market.



## Building and securing 5G networks of tomorrow

**DUBAI:** While 5G brings the promise of new revenue opportunities for service providers, new infrastructure and use cases will open up new risks. The security of the SP network infrastructure, their business, and their customers will require a holistic approach says Ali Amer, Managing Director, Global Service Provider Sales, Cisco Middle East and Africa.

Every new generation of carrier technologies has brought forward new business and consumer use cases. The release of 3G rolled in wireless mobile data communication, while the release of 4G brought in IP wireless data communication. Both combined have made commerce, video, gaming, social media, an every-day routine on smartphones and mobile phones.

In essence 3G and 4G networks enabled mobile broadband for business and consumers. As part of this growth: the world is now mobile: there is huge growth in network access; digitization has become a reality leading to emergence of Internet of Things (IoT); and cloud is now mainstream. 5G is an enabler for new set of possibilities and capabilities. The growing 5G momentum promises new revenue opportunities for service providers. To pursue these new untapped opportunities, they will need to ramp up their network capabilities to support future 5G services.

As we move closer towards mainstream 5G adoption, mobile networks are increasingly expected to handle more data-intensive applications and deliver low-latency connectivity to more devices. The roll out of 5G networks provides an opportunity for service providers to gain benefits from next generation cycles in the data center, networks, mobility, in a multi-vendor environment. Significant changes such as personalized networks are now possible through slicing and other granular functions.

Simultaneously, 5G is about service providers being able to exploit new enterprise use cases and new revenue streams. In parallel, new transient network surfaces raise additional challenges of security and country regulations.

Some of the new use cases that 5G will cater to include: autonomous transport, augmented and virtual reality, smart city traffic management, rapid response services, robotics in manufacturing, healthcare and fitness, smart grids and utilities, smart offices, smart homes, industrial automation, machine to

machine communications, 3D video and high definition screens, working and play in cloud, amongst others.

Other use case categories include: 5G Enhanced Mobile broadband offers high speed and dense broadband connectivity to users. With performance of Gigabit speeds, 5G is an alternative to fixed line connectivity services. To support enhanced mobile broadband use cases, the mobile core must support high density performance, scalability and security.

Ultra-reliable low latency communications focuses on mission critical services such as virtual reality, tele-surgery, healthcare, intelligent transportation, industry automation, manufacturing robotics, and factory automation. Previously delivered through a wired connection, 5G is now an alternative for these use cases.

### Network slicing technology

For millions of sensors and thousands of cars, all on the edge of the network, Massive IoT can support the number of scalable connections required. Service providers can use network slicing technology, to deliver network as a service for businesses. 5G will bridge wireless and wireline networks, forcing a major network architectural change from radio access to core. This requires transition to cloud native applications, monitoring and managing an end-to-end network, including radio access networks and packet core. It also combines and leverages the capability of a variable bandwidth network with mixed and flexible access. On the flip side, this enhanced flexibility increases the surface vulnerable to threats.

Securing 5G networks requires complete visibility of the stack managing a use case and controls to take remedial action. Contrary to traditional carrier networks, 5G networks require visibility from the edge to the cloud platform, to the application, across the extended network, to the end point. Securing the 5G network then requires comparison to the normal baseline behavior and alerts for any deviation. The key functional aspect being to be able to measure the network, so that it can be managed.

Continuous aggregation of near real-time network data allows analyses of the workflow through a security controller. Based on predefined security policy, remedial action and controls can be triggered. Inbuilt machine learning capability, monitors the remedial actions and its ability to counter threats, as an iterative loop for further improvement and action at a later stage.

Day zero attacks, are typically where the signature and fingerprint of the threat actor, exploiting an unknown vulnerability, are seen for the first time. These can be detected by variation from the baseline behavior of the network, cloud and applications. Remedial action is then initiated by the



Ali Amer

security controller to identify, isolate, and control the threat.

Day one attacks, are previously identified threats, where a series of counter attacks have already been developed and can be initiated with predictable results. Applying these types of responses in a closed loop process, where both the controller remediation and its results can be monitored and recorded, can help in improving future responses.

### Usage of encryption

Another way of securing 5G networks is the advanced usage of encryption. Half of all Internet traffic today is encrypted and this is expected to increase. Machine learning can be used to build analytics from encrypted Internet traffic increasing the visibility of threats as close to the threat as possible. This reduces the possibility of collateral damage inside the 5G network.

New tools for increasing visibility inside 5G networks include application level probes and path computation elements. An application probe is an automated cell that travels across the network and benchmarks the application performance at various network points.

A path computation element, feeds network characteristics at every point of the network into a near real-time database to simulate functioning of a network. As an example, remedial responses to a DDos attack are first simulated using the near real-time network database to assess the impact before initiation.

The nature of the 5G network creates a widely distributed data center and an expanded attack surface. Such a topology is susceptible to lateral attacks and threats. This can be countered by segmenting the network - right from the edge, across gateways, applications, wireless and wireline networks, backhaul networks and so on. Segment routing is an important tool in network segmentation. By investing time and money in securing their 5G networks, service providers can be better assured of a predictable return on investment.

## Samsung launches Galaxy Watch in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** Samsung Gulf Electronics yesterday introduced the new Samsung Galaxy Watch in Kuwait. The Galaxy Watch brings the best of the Samsung's Galaxy ecosystem with long-lasting battery life, wellness capabilities and a timeless and personalized design. Galaxy Watch helps users accomplish more with new stress and sleep monitoring capabilities, in addition to offering a more robust line up of style options including three new watch faces in Silver, Midnight Black and Rose Gold, and new customizable watch band colors. "Samsung continues to keep innovation at its core and the new fashionable Samsung Galaxy Watch has taken wearables to a whole new level where customers can make a personalized style statement with a diverse range of choices." Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT & Mobile (IM) Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics. "More than a high-tech device, the fashionable Galaxy Watch has been designed to complement your taste and help you live your best life. The new Galaxy Watch will let users express their personal style, accomplish a variety of daily tasks whilst enjoying a seamless connection with the world."

### Stay connected - no matter where your day takes you

Galaxy Watch's improved battery life of up to 80+ hours eliminates the need for daily charging and helps consumers keep up with their busy week. With a longer battery life, untethering from their smartphone has never been easier; The Galaxy Watch's offer for a true stand-alone experience across devices through messaging, calls, mapping and music. Users can also start and end their day with morning and evening briefings to help stay on top of reminders, weather and their latest schedule.

### Live a balanced life

Designed with wellness in mind, Galaxy Watch offers a true holistic health experience with its new stress management tracker, which automatically detects high levels of stress and offers breathing exercises to help keep users centered and focused. In addition, a new advanced sleep tracker monitors all levels of sleep, including REM cycles, to help users adjust sleeping habits and get the rest they need to take on their day.

With sleep and stress under control, Galaxy Watch also helps users achieve other health and wellness goals, including fitness. Galaxy Watch adds 21 new indoor exercises, tracking a total of 39 workouts that allow consumers to customize and change up their routines.



Because balanced nutrition is as important as exercise, Galaxy Watch makes it easier than ever with intuitive calorie tracking and personalized alerts.

### Faunt a stylish and timeless design

Galaxy Watch caters to more sizes and styles with a silver, 46mm version and 42mm option in black or rose gold. Users can customize Galaxy Watch even more with a selection of watch faces and straps. Galaxy Watch carries the legacy of Samsung's smartwatches with its trademark circular, rotating bezel while embracing the digital look with Always On Display, in addition to improved usability. For the first time, Galaxy Watch features analog watch ticks and hourly chimes, and a depth effect that casts shadows defining every detail on the watch face for a traditional look and feel. In addition, Galaxy Watch's certified military-level durability with Corning(r) Gorilla(r) Glass DX+ and industry-leading water resistance with a 5 ATM rating allows for long-lasting use, no matter the environment.

### Experience the best of Samsung's Galaxy Ecosystem

Galaxy Watch brings users all the benefits from the Galaxy Ecosystem creating a seamless experience with Samsung Health, Samsung Flow, Samsung Knox, Samsung Pay, Bixby and with partnerships like Under Armour. Samsung makes music and multimedia control even easier on Galaxy Watch in addition to keeping information secure with Samsung Knox and easily unlocking PCs or tablets using Samsung Flow. Galaxy Watch will be available starting September 6th, 2018 across all major retailers and Samsung Brand Stores in Kuwait. The Galaxy Watch is available in Black-Silver (46 mm) at KWD 99.90, and in Midnight Black and Rose Gold (42mm) at KWD 94.90.



# CLINIC PAGE



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

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

**مستشفى دار الشفاء  
Dar Al Shifa Hospital  
Tele:1802 555**

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

**Specialized in:**

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

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**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 Eurpean Laryngological Society

**Specialized in:**

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

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**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 appendicectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant

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

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

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

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

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

**Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad**  
Surgery Department  
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

daralshifa  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

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

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

**Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368**

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

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

**Academic Certificates - Training**

- ◆ 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



What's On

# KSTC participates in the Second Digital Culture Forum on local success stories



Kuwait College of Science and Technology, represented by its president, Prof Khalid Al-Begain, participated in the Second Digital Culture Forum, which highlights in particular the successful local stories in the field of technology organized by the Department of Public Relations and Marketing under the direction of Mr Ibrahim Bader Al-Mutawa, held at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Also, the retail sector, which seeks to adopt all the ideas of modern technology and apply them within their institutions in a framework that includes the best service for citizens and customers alike. In collaboration with Gartner, the world leader in technology group support, as well as collaborating with Rasmah Hemet, one of the Group's advanced technology programs, to present a specialized forum presenting innovative tools and strategies for the second global digital leadership titled "Excellence in Shaping the Future of Customer Experience Using Artificial Intelligence". While reviewing the local success stories that promote the building of a practical vision to achieve the new Kuwait under the motto of accelerating the development of Kuwait.

Professor Khalid Al-Begain joined the keynote

speakers in the seminar. He stressed that technology today has become the right hand for all daily practices and actions, especially in the educational and practical fields; whether in government or private sectors. He pointed out that the world of technology is growing at a very rapid pace, and we must stay in touch with all means of technology, and ways to use it with all the technical changes that occur every day, we start to apply technology in various fields and address the traditional and modern methods. He concluded by saying that the success of the modern development method comes from the bright minds that innovate in solving problems using modern technology to overcome the difficulties, and provide comfort for generations yet to come.

The Kuwait Industrial Intelligence website was launched [www.kuwait.ai](http://www.kuwait.ai), and this aims at presenting the models and experiences of Kuwaiti applications using artificial intelligence, and gathering specialists for exchange and cooperation in this field. This is the second ceremony of the second digital recognition of digital leaders for the year 2018 with the participation of the following:



• Leading Institutions in Artificial Intelligence: Kuwait College of Science and Technology, Boubyan Bank, Public Authority for Civil Information.

• Future indicators: Zain Telecommunications Company, One Global Company

• Individuals: Majbel Al-Qattan

• 2018 Person of the Commander Digital: Qusay Al-Shatti

## OSN scores 226 noms across 55 shows for 70th Emmy awards

OSN, the region's leading entertainment network, has seen an impressive 226 nominations for 55 of its shows at this year's star-studded 70th Primetime Emmy Awards and OSN has full live and exclusive coverage from the red carpet through to the golden statuettes. OSN's shows dominate the 2018 Emmy shortlist

across the board including the hotly contested Lead Actress in Drama Series, Supporting Actor and Actress in Drama Series, Drama Series amongst others.

Top OSN shows vying for awards on the night include 'Game of Thrones', 'Westworld', 'Saturday Night Live', 'The Handmaid's Tale', 'The Daily Show with Trevor Noah' and 'Lip Synch Battle'. Not just this, factual series like Jane and Genius: Picasso too have marked their place in this year's nominations.

With the full nominations of this year's awards announced in July, the wait is nearly over. There's plenty of pre-ceremony excitement and viewers can catch all the red carpet glamour and gossip with E!'s Live from the Red Carpet: The 2018 Primetime Emmy Awards hosted by Giuliana Rancic. Tune in from 1am (KSA) on Tuesday 18 September to

watch it as it happens, or catch one of the prime time repeats on the same day, at 3.15pm, 5.15pm, and 9pm (KSA).

For our Arabic entertainment fans, OSN's magazine show 'The Road to the Emmys' with presenter Habiba Basyoni, will also be in the throng of the red carpet press pit, bringing live interviews and commentary from LA to a studio panel back in Dubai, getting Arabic audiences geared up for the glittering event. Join Habiba and the team from 2.10am (KSA) on Tuesday 18 September on OSN Ya Hala Al Oula HD. TV's biggest awards ceremony itself, live from Los Angeles, gets underway exclusively on OSN Series HD First, on Tuesday 18 September at 3am (KSA), with a prime-time repeat at 7pm (KSA). Attached is the full list of OSN series nominated at the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards this year.

## Green Hands Environmental team at Shamia Youth Center

Green Hands Environmental Team had a pleasure to work in the Shamia Reserve at the Shamia Youth Center. The team learned practical lessons through working to achieve the goals of sustainable development and for

environmentally friendly and sustainable areas in Kuwait. Dr Samia Al Saidan, President of Green Hands Environmental Team thanked all the volunteers for their great contribution to this remarkable activity.



-FROM THE RED CAPES TO THE RED WEDDING, ALL ARE HEADED TO THE EMMYS RED CARPET-  
CATCH THE MOST EMMY-NOMINATED SHOWS ON OSN

<p><b>22</b> NOMINATIONS</p> <p>OUTSTANDING DRAMA SERIES</p> <p>BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR</p> <p>BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS</p> <p><b>GAME OF THRONES</b></p> <p>ONLY THREE PEOPLE KNOW HOW THE SHOW WILL END - GEORGE R. R. MARTIN, THE AUTHOR OF THIS FAMOUS BOOK SERIES, AND THE SHOWWRITERS, DAVID BENIOFF AND D.B. WEISS.</p>	<p><b>21</b> NOMINATIONS</p> <p>OUTSTANDING DRAMA SERIES</p> <p>BEST LEAD ACTOR</p> <p>BEST LEAD ACTRESS</p> <p><b>WESTWORLD</b></p> <p>TO HEIGHTEN THE CONFUSION AND SURPRISES IN THE SHOW, WESTWORLD PRODUCERS SHOT SEASON 2 OUT OF SEQUENCE AND DIDN'T REVEAL THE PLOT TWISTS TO THE CHARACTERS UNTIL THE VERY END.</p>	<p><b>21</b> NOMINATIONS</p> <p>OUTSTANDING COMEDY SERIES</p> <p>BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR</p> <p>BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS</p> <p><b>SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE</b></p> <p>LORNE MICHAELS, THE CREATOR AND EXCLUSIVE PRODUCER OF SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE IS THE MOST NOMINATED INDIVIDUAL IN THE HISTORY OF EMMYS WITH A TOTAL OF 82 NOMINATIONS.</p>	<p><b>20</b> NOMINATIONS</p> <p>OUTSTANDING DRAMA SERIES</p> <p>BEST LEAD ACTRESS</p> <p>BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR</p> <p><b>THE HANDMAID'S TALE</b></p> <p>MARGARET ATWOOD'S BOOK, THE HANDMAID'S TALE HAS BEEN ADAPTED FOR CINEMA, RADIO, THEATER, BALLET, OPERA, BUT HAS ONLY BECOME GLOBALLY SUCCESSFUL WITH THE TV SERIES.</p>
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## TIES announcement

You are cordially invited to another session of our series about the prophets and messengers of Allah (SWT) today, September 13th, at 7:00 pm. In this class, we will discuss the high minister's decision to imprison Yusuf (AS), despite the full conviction of his innocence and how he

was received by his fellow prison inmates, and their identity.

We will also examine the dreams of those inmates, how Yusuf (AS) interpreted them, and how he presented Islam to them. Finally, we will elicit from Yusuf's stay in prison some lessons on how to deal effectively with people of other faiths. Come and learn more about the life and times of Prophet Joseph (AS) in a relaxed, encouraging and supportive atmosphere.

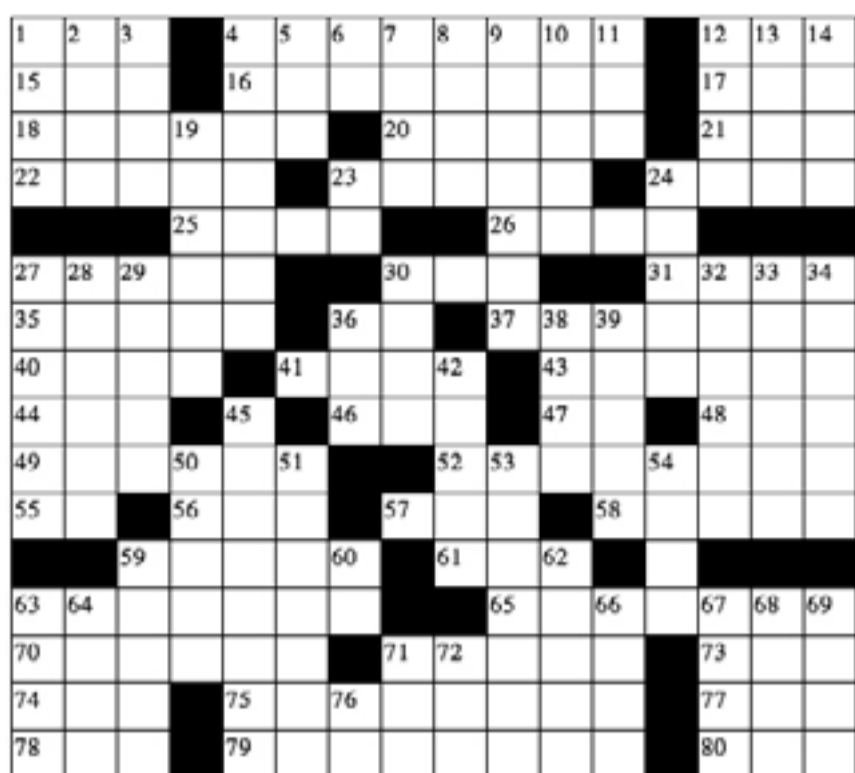
## PAAET institutes ready for the new academic year



PAAET director, Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf yesterday concluded inspecting PAAET institutes' readiness for the new academic year, 2018-2019. During his tour of various institutes, Al-Mudhaf met with the institutes' managers, their assistants and heads of departments. Al-Mudhaf was escorted by his deputy for training

affairs Engineer Tareq Al-Omairi, deputy director for financial and administrative affairs Engineer Hajraf Al-Hajraf, PR and media manager Fatima Al-Azmi, the public services manager Fenais Al-Ajmi and the engineering facilities and maintenance manager Fareed Al Awadhi.

CROSSWORD 2007



ACROSS

- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- (informal) Someone who is a detective.
- Not reflecting light.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- The craniometric point at the lowest point on the lower edge of the orbit.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls.
- A long pointed rod used as a weapon.
- The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
- The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
- (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cybose panicles of small white flowers and one-winged seeds.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- (archaic) Of persons.
- (Bible) The archangel who was the messenger of God.
- The month following May and preceding July.
- The length of a straight line passing through the center of a circle and connecting two points on the circumference.
- Somewhat ill or prone to illness.
- A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- Being one more than one.
- An artificial language that is a revision and simplification of Esperanto.
- A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).
- Cracks or fissures in the skin (especially around the mouth or anus).
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- Perennial herb of East India to Polynesia and Australia cultivated for its large edible root yielding Otaheite arrowroot starch.
- Become ground down or deteriorate.
- The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
- Scottish insurgent who led the resistance to Edward I.
- A republic in southeastern Europe.
- A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
- (informal) Roused to anger.
- (Irish) The sea personified.
- Mature fruiting body of an ascomycetous fungus.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- God of the earth.
- With no problems or difficulties.
- Failing to speak or communicate etc when expected to.

DOWN

- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- By bad luck.
- Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
- A belligerent grouch.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A unit of magnetic flux equal to 100,000,000 maxwells.
- One thousand grams.
- Indicating the most important performer or role.
- A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
- Genus of erect herbs of the Middle East having showy flowers.
- (used informally) Very small.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- (of farmland) Capable of being farmed productively.
- A colorless explosive liquid that is volatile and poisonous and foul-smelling.
- An oil port in southern Iraq.
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade names Acular and Toradol) that is administered only intramuscularly.
- An atom having a valence of one.
- The basic unit of money in China.
- A Japanese martial art employing principles similar to judo.
- Necessary for relief or supply.
- A monosaccharide sugar that contains the aldehyde group or is hemiacetal.
- Intentionally so written (used after a printed word or phrase).
- The capital of Western Samoa.
- Of a light grayish-brown color n.
- A dark region of considerable extent on the surface of the moon.
- A chain of coral and volcanic islands in Micronesia halfway between New Guinea and Japan.
- A domain in which something is dominant.
- Witty language used to convey insults or scorn.
- (Judaism) An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- A promotional statement (as found on the dust jackets of books).
- A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
- The sound of (the chanter of) a bagpipe v l.
- On or toward the lee.
- Forming viscous or glutinous threads.
- (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- To an excessive degree.
- The month following September and preceding November.
- A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.

Tuesday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

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



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself feeling emotionally detached from your surroundings. Ideas are what are important to you now. You may not have tolerance and find yourself distancing yourself from those who do not see things this way. You seem to be drawn to all that is unusual and a bit on the eccentric side. From the way you are beginning to think to the material possessions you wish to acquire, your taste is changing. You have a desire to travel and are focused on your relationships with friends and those who are in your social circle. Pay close attention to any red flags that seem to appear. Do not ignore these signs as they may be just the encouragement you need to take a detour and avoid some type of conflict or setback.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

If you have ever taken a gadget apart because you were curious of its inner components and what it makes it work, you may well relate to the mood today finds you in. Curiosity and a desire to discover who you really are and what drives you is really moving within you. You desire power and control, but your level of sensitivity helps you come to the realization that only love of self will get you to that point. You may find you are putting much focus on your sexual needs at this time. You could experience a deep closeness with someone you love today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may be feeling a strong desire for change, a need for something new and different. It may be time to throw out the old and start fresh. Let your creative side be your guide. Step above and beyond the boundaries you have allowed yourself to become so comfortable with and let your hair down. You may find those close to you are drawn to the new and different version of you and find great ease when communicating with them. This could be a great time to study and take some time to broaden your intellectual horizons. Reach out to a love one whether by a phone call or possibly a letter. You may find they are very open to what you have to say and old barriers between you have since dissolved.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This new cycle brings with it the opportunity to let go of denial on you have clung to for a long time. Looking at the truth will enable you to make sensible decisions that will clear the way for growth. If a method is not working discard it and find another way. You could feel like freeing yourself of the conventional thought that you need more things to be happy and fulfilled; you could unload many old items that are holding you back. Shedding old ways eliminates old, cumbersome energy that interferes with evolving of the mind and spirit. Open up for clear thinking. Keep your feet planted firmly upon the ground even if you feel like running away; you will see just how much you are needed by someone you care for tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

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

Wordsearch Puzzle

Breakfast

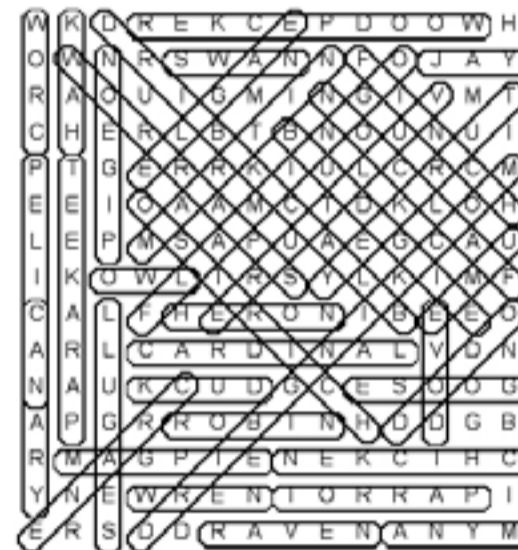
Find and circle all of the breakfast items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a popular breakfast drink.



- |            |               |           |          |
|------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| BACON      | EGGS          | JELLY     | ROLLS    |
| BAGELS     | FRUIT         | MARMALADE | SAUSAGES |
| BISCUITS   | GRANOLA       | MILK      | TEA      |
| BREAD      | HAM           | MUFFINS   | TOAST    |
| CEREAL     | HASH BROWNS   | OATMEAL   | WAFFLES  |
| COFFEE     | HONEY         | OMELETS   | YOGURT   |
| CROISSANTS | HOT CHOCOLATE | PANCAKES  |          |
| DOUGHNUTS  | JAM           | PORRIDGE  |          |

Tuesday's Solution

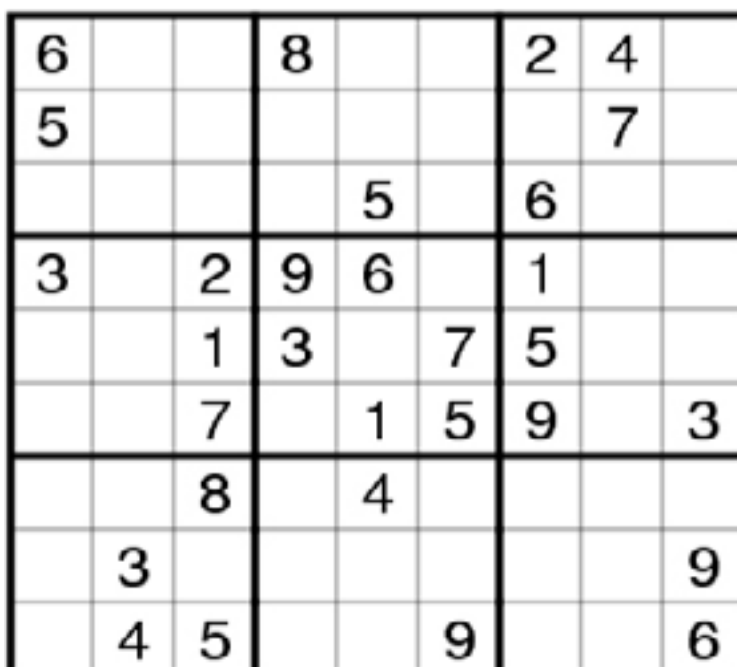
Birds



- |           |          |             |            |
|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| BLACKBIRD | EAGLE    | MARTIN      | ROBIN      |
| BUDGIE    | EMU      | MOCKINGBIRD | SEAGULL    |
| CANARY    | FALCON   | MYNA        | SPARROW    |
| CARDINAL  | FINCH    | OSTRICH     | SWAN       |
| CHICKEN   | FLAMINGO | OWL         | TURKEY     |
| CRANE     | GOOSE    | PARAKEET    | VULTURE    |
| CROW      | HAWK     | PARRROT     | WOODPECKER |
| DODO      | HERON    | PELLICAN    | WREN       |
| DOVE      | JAY      | PIGEON      |            |
| DUCK      | MAGPIE   | RAVEN       |            |

The hidden message is: HUMMINGBIRD

Tuesday's Solution



Tuesday's Solution



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018



People practice yoga as part of the 'La Parisienne' event in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris on September 8, 2018. — AFP

## Period pianos evoke sounds of Chopin at new contest

A rare collection of historic grand pianos emits the authentic but forgotten sounds that transport the audience at a celebrated new music competition in Poland back to the times of Frederic Chopin. Unlike their modern, glossy black, lacquered heirs, the instruments dating from the 19th century also boast rich brown hues of varnished wood. The makes and models include some of the favorites of the prolific 19th-century Polish-French pianist and romantic composer, who died in France aged 39 in 1849.

Now 30 pianists from around the globe, taking part in Poland's first International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments, can pick and choose from among the pianos. "They all date back to the 19th century and Chopin played on each of these models," Artur Szklener, director of the Warsaw-based Fryderyk Chopin Institute told AFP, referring to five grand pianos gracing the stage of the Warsaw Philharmonic among the special collection. "His favorite was the Pleyel, but we also have Erard, Buchholtz and other period pianos," he added, saying that they were borrowed from various collections, including his institute.

Unlike today's standardized grand pianos, models created during a period of technical innovation during the 19th century vary widely in their construction and quality of sound, giving each instrument its own individual personality. Depending on the model, the brand and year of manufacture, "it feels like you're listening to a lot of different sounds, lots of different pianos," said Claire Chevallier, a specialist in antique pianos and a jury member at the competition in Warsaw.

### 'Extremely demanding'

Chevallier said she wanted competitors to "be at one with what each instrument can offer" so they can express "very personal things, very adapted to the instrument and its quality of sound." "At the same time, there should be a little bit of novelty in the music of Chopin that is heard so often," she told AFP, as the competition got under way. The use of the historic pianos makes the event that runs from September 2-14 with a first prize of 15,000 euros (\$17,400) unlike any other in the world, according to the Chopin Institute. The competition is modeled on the venerable International Chopin Piano Competition, launched in Poland in 1927 and held every five years since 1955. Winning the prestigious event opens doors to international careers. But winning a competition with period pianos poses perhaps an even greater challenge to musicians accustomed to standardized modern instruments. "These instruments are



In this file photo Benjamin d'Anfray of France performs during the 1st International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw, Poland. — AFP photos

extremely demanding at the technical level, the level of listening and the level of managing the acoustics of the instrument, not to mention the acoustics of the room," according to Chevallier.

"They are unforgiving. For example, they have very uneven musical scales, while on a modern piano the transition



One of the pianos is pictured during the 1st International Chopin Competition.



A tuner prepares a piano during the 1st International Chopin Competition.

between scales goes totally unnoticed," she said, referring to octaval changes being much less fluid on antique pianos for technical reasons.

### 'Organic'

Like his competitors, French pianist Benjamin d'Anfray, 30, is well aware of this. "Every era has its own style of piano and its own technique, so we can't play these instruments in the same way that we play a large concert Steinway. "We can't be heavy-handed, we can't use the pedal in the same way, we focus more on the keyboard," he told AFP, after his first recitals on the Buchholtz and Pleyel models most favored by Chopin. "The Pleyels have exceptional singing qualities, that we've lost in our modern pianos. "When we play them we can be sucked into another world, we can have sound sensations and worlds of sound that are completely different," d'Anfray said.

Finding these revered pianos is by no means a simple task. "Very old pianos in good condition are very rare but when you find one, it's paradise," d'Anfray remarked, pleased that there are 20 period pianos available for the pianists to explore at the competition both on stage and in rehearsal rooms. According to Chevallier, there is also an ecological and social note to the event. "It's really organic, I mean we're recycling existing instruments and that could create an extraordinary market and a lot of work for many restorers and tuners." — AFP

## Robert Redford bids farewell to acting with throwback crime caper

Robert Redford attends the "The Old Man & The Gun" premiere during 2018 Toronto International Film Festival at The Elgin in Toronto, Canada. — AFP



Robert Redford bowed out on Monday from a 50-year acting career, calling what he has said will be his final movie "a wonderful film to go out on." The Toronto Film Festival audience erupted with applause after the screening of comedy caper "The Old Man & the Gun" in which Redford, 81, plays a charming, real-life bank robber who was caught 17 times during the course of a 60 year crime career but who managed to escape from jail every time. "I've always been attracted with the idea of outlaws since I was a kid and I played that out in my work a lot, so this just followed suit," the "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" star said. "It's just an upbeat film. It's a true story. It's a wonderful film to go out on," he said.

Redford said last month that he would retire from acting after the release of "The Old Man & the Gun". He has said he wants to spend more time on art - his first love - and plans to continue directing. Movies like "All the President's Men," "The Sting" and "Out of Africa" turned Redford into one of the biggest stars of the 1970s and 1980s but despite winning a directing Oscar for "Ordinary People" in 1980, he has never won an Academy Award for acting.

Director David Lowery said "The Old Man & the Gun" was "a spiritual successor" to the movies that made Redford a star and that he shot the movie in the style of 1970s crime films. Asked to sum up Redford's appeal, Lowery said that the actor's voice and face on camera had a quality that "can captivate you like nothing else." "He has it and very few people do," Lowery said. "The Old Man & the Gun," which also stars Sissy Spacek, Danny Glover and Casey Affleck, opens in US movie theaters on Sept 28. — Reuters

## US rights group wades into yoga pants school dress code row

Yoga pants and leggings have become a staple in the wardrobes of many Americans-but one US school district is under fire for allegedly punishing young girls who wear them to class. Public schools in the Wisconsin lakeside city of Kenosha were defending themselves Tuesday against accusations of discriminating against female students who have embraced the "ath-leisure" style of wearing clothes designed for the gym in other casual settings. In March, the district rescinded a ban on yoga pants, leggings and tank tops amid outcry that the rules disproportionately targeted girls.

But according to the Wisconsin branch of the American Civil Liberties Union-a top US rights group-the overturned ban is still being "selectively" enforced. In one case, a girl was sent home from summer school twice over her attire, according to local media. "The ACLU received reports that the dress code was still selectively enforced against female students in a manner that reinforced discriminatory sex stereotypes," the organization said in a statement, saying that unclear guidelines were threatening students' rights.

On Monday, the civil liberties group sent a list of rec-

ommendations to the district to "ensure students are protected from discrimination, harassment and degrading treatment." "Without these changes, female students will continue to disproportionately miss out on classroom time because of minor dress code infractions," the ACLU's Emma Roth said. The school district disputed the ACLU's account, saying its rollout of the new policy had gone "very well." "We have taken reasonable steps in order to ensure that the student dress code policy is fair on its face and in its enforcement," the district told a local television station. — AFP

# Calvin Klein puts Jaws bite into NY Fashion Week



Models walk the runway at the Calvin Klein 205W39NYC Spring 2019 Men's and Women's runway show during New York Fashion Week in New York City. —AFP photos



Calvin Klein took a bite out of the New York runway Tuesday with Belgian designer Raf Simons inspired by "Jaws," in his latest exploration of America, its glistening surface and dark underbelly. Models marched down a red-carpeted runway against a glittering video seascape backdrop—all bobbing yachts, sun bouncing off gentle waves and a swimmer coming into view. Suddenly the summer idyll was shattered with the menacing chords of the theme music to the 1975 Steven Spielberg blockbuster, more than 40 years on perhaps still America's most iconic summer horror flick.

Models emerged as if straight from the ocean, with wet strands of hair, beads of water glistening on their skin and dressed in wet suits, both long and cropped, the "Jaws" metaphor labored in shark-bite-style slashes on the hemlines of delicately pleated skirts. "Jaws" imagery was printed on singlet T-shirts, as the soundtrack to the show flitted from the menacing to the sunny, taking in "Suspicious Minds" along the way and closing with "Scarborough Fair."

Simons moved to Calvin Klein two years ago and has been credited with giving the iconic American label renewed relevancy, his collections diving deep into the good, the bad and the ugly of the United States. "The landscape of America—literal and psychological—inspires Calvin Klein. A journey through America leads, inevitably, to the edge of the landscape: the beach," Simons wrote in notes for the show. "At the beach there is this incredible idea of beauty, but also a tension-between land and ocean, a feeling of two worlds meeting, maybe colliding," he added. "There's a sense of the unexpected—and always, a temptation. For me, Jaws perfectly exemplifies these notions."

Hints at a savage world were teased out with plenty of animal print in bold reds, greens and yellows paired with black, and fringed, almost-tribal style clip-on chest adornments. Contrast came from the school's out look—Cindy Crawford's 17-year-old daughter Kaia Gerber walking down the runway in a blazer and black mortar board—a nod to movie "The Graduate." "Like the film, this collection explores taboos and temptations, shifts in culture and community, but ultimately, the overarching theme is love," Simons explained. He ran out at the end, blowing kisses to cheers and warm applause for his mens and

womenswear 205W39NYC Spring 2019 collection from those in the room, including the actor Jake Gyllenhaal.

#### Disney and Santa Fe

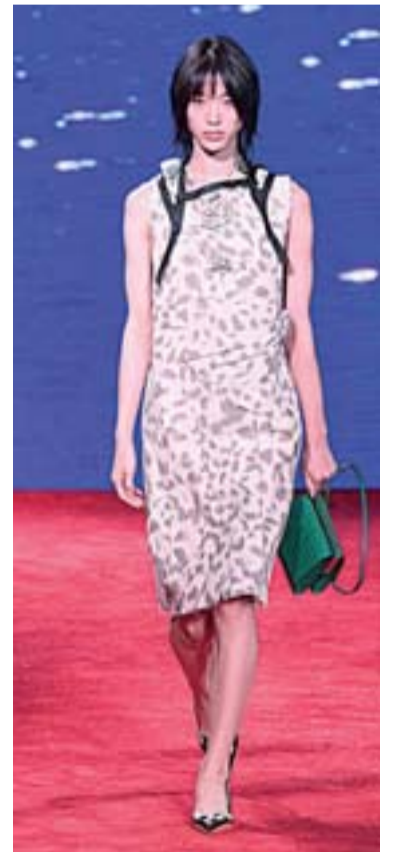
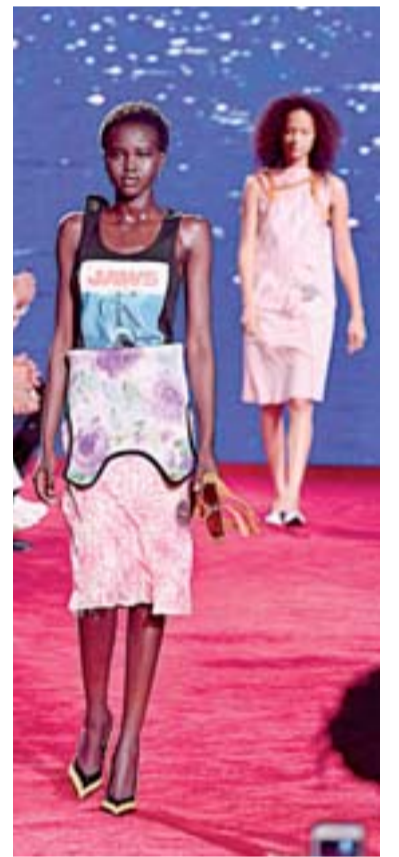
Coach transported the fashion pack to an alien-like mise-en-scene Tuesday for a spring/summer 2019 collection of prairie-style skirts and fringed suede jackets inspired by Santa Fe and Georgia O'Keeffe. It was British creative designer Stuart Vevers's latest outing for the 77-year-old US leather goods brand, which has only relatively recently moved into ready-to-wear, with muse Selena Gomez, 26, front row. His spring vision stayed true to Vevers's fascination with the Wild West, with peasant-style loose frocks paired with slashed and fringed suede jackets and ruffled blouses.

There were also hoodies and T-shirts featuring pictures from that other pillar of US popular entertainment: Disney movies. The set was something out of 1982 science fiction movie "Blade Runner" with a dinosaur skeleton-style metal sculpture, and a rusted-out Volkswagen Beetle, giving Vevers his trademark contrast between outback and urban grit. The designer, who has been at Coach since 2013, summed it up as "assembling and reconstructing the craft and spirit of the American look," and "scavenged and salvaged American heirlooms."

#### Too cool for school

"A fashion show can feel quite stale. We want to make it exciting," said Patric DiCaprio, one of the designers at up-and-coming New York label Vaquera. "Humor is very, very important in our collections." The independent brand founded in 2013 and feted for its originality saw vampires and zombies take over a Manhattan high school with an erotic, gender-bending and humorous take on style.

Closing with a fantasy graduation dress in electric blue with crinoline and Bo Peep-style hat, the show embodied the creative maxim that the catwalk is about art and not necessarily about the shop rack. "The wearable pieces get sold because the unwearable pieces exist," explained designer Claire Sully. Relatives, friends and high schoolers, brimming with personality, were among the models, and students were invited to watch. —AFP



Lifestyle | Fashion



Models walk the runway at the Coach Spring 2019 show during New York Fashion Week at Pier 94.



Selena Gomez (right) and guests attend the Coach 1941 front Row.



Models walks the runway for Namilia during New York Fashion Week: The Shows at Gallery II at Spring Studios.

# In Cuba, street vendors sing to sell, from salsa to reggaeton



Lyssett Perez, 46 (center), sells peanuts to tourists on the streets in Havana, Cuba. — Reuters photos



Yurien Roja, 40, sells guava pie bars on the streets.



Gilberto Rabell, 52, sings as he sells noodles on the streets in Havana, Cuba.

Cuba's street vendors are bringing back the pregon, the art of singing humorous, rhyming ditties with double entendres about the goods they are selling, with some modernizing the tradition by setting their tunes to reggaeton. The pregon is a centuries-old tradition that has inspired famous songs like "El Manisero" (the peanut vendor), composed in the late 1920s by Cuban musician Moises Simons on son music, the backbone of salsa. It faded out in Cuba after Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution did away with most free enterprise. With the tentative liberalization of the centralized economy over the last few decades, however, it has made a comeback.

Cubans can now get a permit to make and sell their own goods on the street, from coconut ice cream to juices. Vendors often opt for that option, rather than opening a shop, which remains an onerous venture given ongoing restrictions on private business. Others just illegally sell wares from stores at a mark-up, hoping to avoid authorities and a fine. Not all street vendors bother with the pregon. Some just shout out what they are selling and their prices in a blunt manner on a loop, often using loudspeakers that they strap to rickety carts or bicycles, adding to the urban cacophony.

Cuba's pregoneros however, like Lyssett Perez, who hawks paper cones of roasted peanuts to tourists in Old

Havana, believe their ditties help them stand out. "Firstly, it's so people listen to me. Secondly, so they love me," said Perez. "For me the pregon means joy." Perez has opted for more traditional pregons. She dresses up in colonial-style dresses with voluminous skirts and white aprons in order to catch the eye of potential clients. "If you want to have fun by the mouth, buy yourself a peanut cornet," she sings in a deep, melodious voice as she meanders up and down Old Havana's pebbled and picturesque streets. Other pregoneros are updating the genre. Gilberto Gonzalez raps about his wares to the beat of reggaeton that blends reggae, Latin and electronic rhythms.

"Toilet paper, so the chorus goes, buy me my people, to clean your bottom, hands in the air!" he raps in a video captured by a passer-by that subsequently drew tens of thousands of views on YouTube. The video appeared just months after shortages of toilet paper in Havana, adding to its humorous appeal. Cubans are notorious for dealing with constant shortages of basic goods by making fun of them. Such was its success that one of Cuba's top DJs, DJ Unic, did a remix that further spread Gonzalez's peculiar renown. Sporting a cap that reads "Money on my Mind," Gonzalez said he was just trying to "make ends meet." — Reuters

## 'Hotel Mumbai' recounts horrors, courage in 2008 attack

A hard-to-watch telling of the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India in Anthony Maras's "Hotel Mumbai" provoked tears and cheers at its world premiere at the Toronto film festival. It is an "anthem of resistance," the Australian director declared at a press conference. "You had a whole lot of people from every conceivable background, racial, ethnic, from different socioeconomic groups who came together in the face of real adversity to survive," Maras said. The film received a standing ovation over the weekend for its searing, vivid dramatization of the events at the opulent Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, targeted by Lashkar-e-Taiba militants. It was also praised by critics for its empathetic portrayal of both the victims and the perpetrators.

Armie Hammer, who plays an American guest of the hotel, said: "The script was dripping in humanity." "You see the toll the attack has on the guests and the staff of the hotel, but you also see it, really for the first time that I can think of, on the actual perpetrators," he said. Nazanin Boniadi, who played his wife in the movie, had tears streaming down her face on stage during a post-premiere question-and-answer with the audience. Jason Isaacs, cast as a Russian guest of the hotel, urged watching it with others in a cinema, saying it "connects you with other people and to recognize your common humanity."

The hotel siege was part of a coordinated series of attacks in India's most populous city which left more than 160 dead and hundreds wounded. The film includes television footage of the attacks, as well as excerpts of interviews by the filmmaker of the survivors. The hotel's executive chef Hemant Oberoi, who has been credited for saving many lives during the assault, was on hand for the premiere. Anupam Kher plays him in the film, which was his 501st and, he said, the first to earn him praise as an actor from his mother: "She said 'I cried, I was very moved by your acting.'"



(From left) Anthony Maras, Dev Patel, Tilda Cobham-Hervey, John Collee, Nazanin Boniadi, Anupam Kher, Armie Hammer and Jason Isaacs attend "Hotel Mumbai" Press Conference during 2018 Toronto International Film Festival at TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

### Screams recorded

Maras was also granted access to transcripts of intercepted calls between the 10 attackers and their handlers, as well as a video confession from the trial of the only surviving gunman. A lot of their dialogue in the film, he said, was "verbatim." "We couldn't make up anything to the extent of what we heard on those chilling tapes," he said. This included a handler telling one of the attackers to leave his phone on throughout the assault so that he might hear the victims' screams. For days, the staff and guests of the hotel were on their own as police were outgunned, using old rifles against automatic weapons and grenades.

Maras said the hotel staff stuffed baking trays and saucepans down their shirts to use as shielding, and armed themselves with rolling pins and kitchen knives to try to protect themselves and guests. "At a time when people are becoming so divided over so many different

lines, to have this story where all these people are coming together selflessly to help each other... they were there for one another," he commented. "What's remarkable is that despite the fact they must all have been out of their wits with terror they continued to act for each other and help each other," echoed Isaacs.

Dev Patel had just finished acting in his first feature film "Slumdog Millionaire" when the violence in Mumbai was splashed live across television news channels around the world. "To come back off this amazing journey (to India) and enter my house in London and see my parents looking at the television screen, watching the city essentially burn, it was very difficult," he said. "It's horrible what happened there." The hotel was completely restored by 2010, and a monument was erected in the lobby to commemorate the victims. The attacks, Patel said, "are still very raw for a lot of people." "But they really wanted to put that in the past and show that it didn't cripple them." — AFP

## Xavier Dolan slips in English language debut at Toronto film fest

Canadian filmmaker Xavier Dolan made his English-language debut on Monday, premiering "The Death and Life of John F. Donovan" at the Toronto film festival. The much-anticipated film starring Susan Sarandon, Natalie Portman, and Kit Harington ("Game of Thrones") had been suddenly withdrawn from Cannes earlier this year and concerns were raised about the production after he later cut Jessica Chastain's scenes. Reviews were mixed. On the red carpet in Toronto, Dolan did not speak to the media, leaving his cast to field questions in his stead. "He wasn't aiming to like have this big breakout, first English movie, it's just (that) the movie he was making had to be in English," said Harington.

"It's about the entertainment industry, it's about Hollywood. And he wanted to work with some actors that didn't speak French as well. So you know that

leaves him with doing an English language movie." The story unfolds with television heartthrob Donovan dying alone and unexpectedly after a series of scandals. Years later, fan Rupert Turner, who as a child had corresponded with Donovan, writes a memoir about his five-year secret correspondence with him.

Turner details the actor's troubled life, the compromises he made for fame, but also his tenderness and generosity toward the boy. The film also stars Kathy Bates, Thandie Newton ("Westworld"), Jacob Tremblay ("Room") and Ben Schnetzer, also at TIFF this year in "The Grizzlies." The film's world premiere marks Dolan's first presentation at the Toronto film festival, where he also appears in a supporting role in the film "Boy Erased," about a teen forced to undergo so-called gay conversion therapy. —AFP



(From left) Actors Emily Hampshire, Thandie Newton, filmmaker Xavier Dolan and actors Kit Harington and Sarah Gadon from the film 'The Death and Life of John F. Donovan' pose for a portrait during the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival at Intercontinental Hotel.



Ivorian rapper Bop de Narr performs on stage during Festi Primud 2018 urban culture festival in Abidjan. — AFP

## Ivorian rap has rising star in sardonic Bop de Narr

Boycotted by radio shows for being too provocative but piling up hits on Ivory Coast's social media for nailing facts of life, the young rapper's latest song has a bite. Sex, money, social injustice—Bop de Narr tackles head-on any aspect of society that strikes him as in need of comment, but he does so with a subversive turn of mind and rare humor. His very stage name is provocative for those who remember late French mercenary boss Bob Denard, the manager of several coups in post-colonial Africa who died in 2007. Feigning ignorance, the 24-year-old rapper says he was known as "Bop" in his teens, while "Narr" is just an abbreviation of the word "narration", adopted in homage to poetry slam gigs and performances.

In his hit "C'est Payant" (At A Price), he names a number of "actresses"—models or former beauty pageant winners and others—who are targets of allegations that their careers are boosted by their dealings with powerful men. "We all know that it comes at a price, I'm simply telling the truth / As for he who wants to insult me, I'm going to tell him, 'You're as stupid as a nightclub that doesn't open on Saturday.'" In "Vilain" (Ugly), De Narr last year set his sights on wealthy men, particularly famous football stars. "Money, car, house, can a woman tell you you're ugly? / She's going to be serious with you even if your looks are a joke."

Mocking the rich helps to express the frustration of young Ivorians who are penniless and out of work at a time of mass unemployment, when they can barely con-

sider setting up home and family. "I describe my environment, I sing what there is around me. Sex and money are two themes that are very prominent in Ivorian society. Here, everything is based on money, showing off, bling-bling! I denounce, I criticize," says De Narr, though he does not consider himself an activist.

### 'A hybrid artist'

"Bop de Narr is unique," reckons manager, promoter and studio producer Ickx Fontaine, the "grandfather" of hip hop in Ivory Coast. "His style, his writing are singular. He frequently uses derision to make a social critique (of) an Ivorian society that has a high level of corruption and poverty," he added. Sex makes a comeback in "Comment On Soigne Ca" (How You Handle That), which tackles conjugal infidelity and says that money isn't enough to make a happy couple if love is lacking. "You're not there and your lady's cold / Your neighbour's ready to become her pullover," De Narr teases in another tirade, instantly recognisable from his way of twisting language and his nasal intonation.

The rapper has a flair for Ivorian slang known as Nouchi, playing with words to create original expressions often destined to become part of the accepted street vocabulary. "Bop de Narr, he goes all the way, he takes risks. He's a hybrid artist, he manages to make songs that are both festive and denunciatory at once. He's the only one on the Ivorian scene," declares Ozone, presenter of a hip hop show on television.

The Ivorian club scene has lately been dominated by the percussive Coupe-Decale dance music, initiated a decade ago by Ivorian DJs active in Paris and popular in their homeland. Apart from turntable wizardry, Coupe-Decale—which essentially means "cut and run" in Nouchi-adopted influences from zouglou, a style that emerged as a youth phenomenon in the 1980s and 1990s, blending Caribbean forms from calypso to reggae with African styles.

### 'Punchlines are my weapons'

In Ivory Coast, hip hop and rap started out as joyous, festive music. However, the forms evolved, becoming tougher over a dozen years for a young generation caught up in a prolonged political and military crisis that split the country in two until Laurent Gbagbo, a president who refused to accept defeat at the polls, was arrested in April 2011. "Mockery is an escape route that helps one bear a difficult life," said Ickx Fontaine, with regard to the sardonic edge Ivorian musicians bring to social commentary.

"Punchlines are my weapons," says De Narr, who makes a living from concerts and night club gigs. "My audience sees me as courageous." After a disappointing experience with a record label, he is producing his own work, but he hopes to sign with an international major and "make progress under other skies where there is a real music industry." — AFP



## News

## Worried Idlib father turns paper cups into gas masks

**MAAR SHURIN, Syria:** Fearing the worst in the looming battle for Syria's last rebel stronghold, one desperate father is doing everything to protect his kids - fashioning gas masks from paper party cups and plastic bags. Hudhayfa Al-Shahhad, who lives in the northwestern province of Idlib, is determined he and his family will be ready as best as possible for any chemical weapons attack, and has even dug a cave under his home to sit out any bombings.

"I learnt how to make them on YouTube," says the 27-year-old policeman demonstrating the rudimentary home-made masks, which he hopes may spare his three young children from the potentially deadly effects of any gas attack. Sitting cross-legged on a cushion in his home in the southern village of Maar Shurin, he pricks the bottom of a brightly colored paper cup with a pin.

As his daughter peers over his shoulder, he pushes medical gauze down into each cup gaily decorated with pictures of mangoes, bananas and other fruit. Next he heaps in several spoonfuls of charcoal, some cotton wool, and then another layer of gauze so the wearer does not breathe in any of the black dust. Shahhad uses sellotape to seal it all in, snips a dent into the top of the cup where the wearer can place their nose and then tries breathing through it.

As he inhales, tiny arms clad in gold bangles wrap

themselves around his neck, and his two-year-old daughter tries to clamber onto his back. When she sits down, he passes her the makeshift carbon filter. "Here, put it on your mouth," he tells the green-eyed, curly haired toddler, sporting a bright pink T-shirt. "Breathe in," he says.

He, like his neighbors, has been increasingly concerned by reports that Russia-backed regime forces have massed around Idlib in recent weeks, sparking fears of an imminent air and ground attack to retake the last major opposition bastion. "We've been hearing the regime and Russia threaten to bomb us with chemical weapons," says Shahhad. "We had to make these masks to protect our women and children just in case," he says. For a final touch, Shahhad places the cup-shaped filter into the snipped corner of a large translucent plastic bag. He helps his three-year-old son don the mask. He clutches the cup with his small hand, while the plastic bag covers his whole face and shoulders.

On Tuesday, Moscow claimed that the rebels, who have been fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad since 2011, had begun working on staged film footage to try to claim to the world that an alleged chemical attack has taken place. Throughout the seven-year war which has claimed more than 350,000 lives, the Syrian regime forces have repeatedly been accused of carrying out chemical attacks, mostly with chlorine but also with deadly sarin nerve gas, on rebel-held areas.

The regime and Russia have consistently denied the accusations, blaming opposition fighters instead. But international investigators have found that on at least three occasions the regime unleashed chemical weapons on civilians, while the so-called Islamic State group was also blamed for using mustard gas.



**BINNISH, Syria:** Um Majid tries an improvised gas mask on family members in her home in Syria's rebel-held northern Idlib province as part of preparations for any upcoming raids yesterday. — AFP

The homemade DIY masks are catching on. In the town of Binnish, in Idlib, Um Majid has also used soft drinks cans and bottles to make her own devices for her family. In April last year, more than 80 people were killed in Idlib's town of Khan Sheikun after toxic gases hit the town. This

year in April, an alleged chemical attack on the then rebel-held town of Douma outside Damascus took the lives of more than 40 people, medics said. After the gas assault, the regime swiftly took back the surrounding area under a Russia-brokered surrender deal. — AFP

## Defiant Aussie paper reprints 'racist' cartoon

**MELBOURNE:** An Australian newspaper defiantly republished a controversial cartoon of tennis star Serena Williams on its front-page yesterday, slapping aside "politically correct" accusations that the drawing was racist and sexist. Melbourne's Herald Sun cartoonist Mark Knight's caricature of Williams throwing a tantrum at the US Open was originally printed on Monday, attracting widespread condemnation from across the world.

Under the front-page headline "WELCOME TO PC WORLD", the newspaper wrote yesterday that "if the self-appointed censors of Mark Knight get their way on his Serena Williams cartoon, our new politically correct life will be very dull indeed". The cover included caricatures of other Australian and foreign political

leaders drawn by Knight. The veteran cartoonist added yesterday he had suspended his Twitter account to protect his family and friends. Prior to disabling his account, his tweet of the cartoon had attracted more than 22,000 comments, most of them critical.

Knight labelled the outcry against his cartoon as a sign that the "world has just gone crazy". "I drew this cartoon Sunday night after seeing the US Open final, and seeing the world's best tennis player have a tantrum and thought that was interesting," he said in quotes published on the News Corp Australia paper's website yesterday. "The cartoon about Serena is about her poor behavior on the day, not about race."

The caricature has also sparked renewed debate in Australia about racist and sexist discourse in the highly multicultural nation. "I thought they went over the top. The depiction of Serena was pretty vile," Melbourne commuter Louise Rodbourn told AFP, echoing the mood of many city workers yesterday. "I think it's disgusting. I find it really, a little offensive," added fellow Melbourne resident Nowal Kahsai.

But some said the controversy had gone too far. "She's a fantastic tennis player and we should all see

past that," commuter Donna Weitacher said. "This is his (Knight's) job, isn't it? This is what he does for a living and we've all appreciated what he's done over the years in all different cartoons. Some of them very, very funny."

Serena, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, smashed her racquet and called the umpire a "thief" and a "liar" while she was losing Saturday's final to Haitian-Japanese Naomi Osaka. She was given three code violations by Carlos Ramos, which cost her a point penalty and then a game penalty. That sparked a debate about whether she was treated more harshly than male tennis stars like John McEnroe, who was famous for his angry outbursts.

Knight's caricature showed a butch and fat-lipped Williams jumping up and down on her broken racquet, having spat out a dummy. Osaka was portrayed as petite and feminine with jet blonde straight hair - in real life she has dark curly hair with blonde streaks and is taller than Williams. Knight's detractors included author JK Rowling, who said: "Well done on reducing one of the greatest sportswomen alive to racist and sexist tropes and turning a second great sportswoman into a faceless prop." — AFP



**MELBOURNE:** This photo illustration shows the front page of the Herald Sun newspaper on sale at a newsstand yesterday. — AFP

## MoI urges visit...

Continued from Page 1

The source expressed hope that citizens and expats will participate by not harboring these people. He said studies are being made to take action against those who harbor residency violators. He said a large group of

residency violators are Asian, followed by Arabs, particularly Syrians, and estimated their number at 10,000, 3,000 of whom came on family visit visas. Indians form the largest community living illegally in the country, followed by Egyptians. Asked whether the interior ministry will pursue Syrian violators, the source replied in the affirmative, noting the situation in their country is no longer an obstacle for their return. — Agencies

## Trump's US loses role as Mideast ...

Continued from Page 1

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. According to Dunne, the Americans appear to be trying to take the thorniest issues - the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinians, and Palestinian statehood - off the negotiating table. "Clearly those issues remain highly relevant to Palestinians as well as many other Arabs and Muslims," Dunne noted, adding: "It seems very unlikely that Palestinians will fold in that way."

The Palestinian Authority has denied Trump the role of Middle East peace mediator that Washington enjoyed for decades. But that is no surprise to Aaron David Miller, a former negotiator for both Republican and Democratic administrations on Middle East issues, who says Washington has never really been an "honest broker". "Our relationship with Israel has prevented us from being a honest broker," Miller told AFP. "We can be at certain times what I call an effective bro-

ker. We've used that relationship at times to reach agreements between Arabs and Israelis," he said, citing the Camp David and Oslo accords. For now, however, "we have compromised, undermined and abandoned any possibility of being an effective broker," said Miller, who is the Middle East program director at the Wilson Center, a Washington think tank. "I've never seen an administration that is so preternaturally supportive of Israel and at the same time so hostile towards the Palestinian piece of this peace equation."

The issue is such a minefield that Kushner's team has not even found the right time to unveil its long-awaited peace plan - its unveiling has been delayed for months. But the White House insists the plan has not been abandoned. "It's an extraordinarily ambitious project that the administration has undertaken," National Security Advisor John Bolton said Monday. "The sensitivity and the appropriateness of the timing of rolling it out are difficult questions."

Miller says barring a real surprise, such as a roadmap to Palestinian statehood with East Jerusalem as its capital, "the most likely outcome is a 'no' from the Palestinians". Such a refusal may even be the White House's goal, Dunne says, so it can "use the Palestinians' inevitable rejection as a justification for further changes to the US position on behalf of Israeli claims to the West Bank". — AFP

## MoH grapples with MERS case...

Continued from Page 1

He was rushed to the emergency room of a medical center in southern Seoul on arrival at Incheon International Airport.

As of Tuesday evening, a total of 21 people who had come in close contact with the MERS patient, including those on the plane, such as flight attendants, passengers, medical staff and immigration officials, have been quarantined in their homes and are being monitored for signs of MERS. South Korea was hit by a MERS outbreak in 2015, resulting in 38 deaths and 186 people testing positive for the coronavirus.

Later yesterday, Redha met South Korean Ambassador Hong Young-ki. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to promote cooperation in various fields, particularly the medical field, since it rapidly changes and requires constant follow-up on the latest global updates, the health ministry said in a statement. They also addressed cooperation in exchanging medical expertise, in addition to mutual visits between Kuwaiti and South Korean specialists to open new prospects for fruitful action. The meeting also tackled ways to bolster the two countries' health cooperation and partnership, in addition to discussing health programs and projects aimed to enhance medical care in Kuwait.

The health ministry also said yesterday that reports in neighboring countries about the spread of cholera are mere "media reports". Assistant undersecretary for public health Majida Al-Qattan commented on the reports at a press conference, stressing "all precautionary measures were taken to counter cholera and prevent it from spreading". She confirmed that no information has been received from WHO and other relevant organizations about the outbreak of the epidemic, explaining that the ministry issued directives to intensify epidemiological surveillance of the disease and to take the highest precautions.

Although WHO hasn't announced any cholera epidemic outbreak in the region, the ministry has provided laboratory reagents and diagnostic capabilities for sampling and laboratory diagnosis of suspected cases. As part of its concern for the safety of citizens and residents in Kuwait, the ministry has circulated all the treatment protocols issued by WHO and the US Centers for Disease Control, Qattan clarified.

She stressed the ministry's keenness to prevent the transmission of such diseases to Kuwait, adding that the ministry is constantly following the latest developments on the cholera epidemic in coordination with the concerned authorities, WHO and other international organizations. She urged travelers, especially children under the age of five, patients suffering from chronic diseases and pregnant women not to travel to some countries suspected to have any presence of the epidemic to avoid any infections.

Separately, the health ministry announced yesterday the formation of a committee to examine the death of a Kuwaiti girl at a hospital after her family accused an expatriate doctor of responsibility. The ministry said the committee will include physicians from Kuwait University's School of Medicine and the department of health, stressing the results of the investigation will be announced with full transparency.

Redha said in a press statement that technical investigations into the death of Dora Al-Haraz have begun, confirming that it will take legal action against anyone who is proven to be negligent in this case. On Tuesday, Health Minister Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah confirmed that the death of Dora will not pass unnoticed, adding the ministry has taken two steps in this regard - to suspend all those who were treating the girl and imposing travel bans. The hospital management was also advised to make the necessary investigations to determine the circumstances of the accident.

MP Nasser Al-Dossari said the girl reportedly died of an injection given by an expatriate female doctor and demanded an investigation into the allegations. The lawmaker also demanded that authorities should not allow the doctor to leave the country before the probe is completed and legal actions are taken. — Agencies

## Apple unveils larger iPhones...

Continued from Page 1

"Apple Watch has become an intelligent guardian for your health," chief operating officer Jeff Williams said. He highlighted a major innovation - the watch's ability to perform an electrocardiogram. "This is the first ECG product offered over the counter directly to consumers," he said. "Now you can take an ECG anytime, anywhere, right from the wrist." The device also detects when a person suffers a fall, seen as an important feature for elderly or disabled users. "Identifying a fall may sound like a straightforward problem, but it requires a lot of data analysis," Williams said. "If a person falls, and then is motionless, the watch will call emergency services, he added.

Research firm CB Insights said Apple is at a "crossroads" a decade after introducing the iPhone. "Looking for the next wave, Apple is clearly expanding into augmented reality and wearables with the Apple Watch and AirPods wireless headphones," the firm said. "But the next 'big one'

## Turkey nabs bomb suspect in Syrian...

Continued from Page 1

He said a man "working for Syrian intelligence" had given the order for the bombing and called on others in Syria to "return before it is too late", saying Turkey will "look after us". Nazik, 34, from the Turkish southern city of Antakya, said he had been responsible for making contact with Syrian intelligence, bringing the explosives inside Turkey and obtaining the vehicles used. Turkish Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul hailed the operation as "successful" and vowed Turkey's "independent judiciary will give the necessary punishment".

A senior Turkish official, who asked not to be named, confirmed Anadolu's report and said the testimony of Nazik "confirmed long-standing rumors about the Assad regime's active role in the bombing". Turkey has been an implacable foe of Assad throughout the over seven-year Syrian conflict and has repeatedly called for his ouster. Yet Ankara has also been working in recent months more intensely with its main allies Russia and Iran on ending the conflict.

Attention is now focused on Turkey's reaction should the regime go ahead with a planned assault on the last rebel stronghold of Idlib, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warning such a move could lead to a humanitarian disaster. That the operation to capture Nazik took place in Latakia is significant as the city has been a regime stronghold through-

## Kuwait calls for joint military...

Continued from Page 1

He said it was "imperative" to "enhance and integrate our capabilities for our mutual national security interests" and "rise above all the other aspects". According to him, two enduring security threats are the destabilizing actions of Iran and violent extremist organizations. "We are not abandoning this region or our partners here, and our Central Command's priorities here have not changed. We need to face our common threats together - and enforce this way of thinking and operating down to the lowest levels of command," he said.

Votel mentioned areas of contribution including counterterrorism efforts with integrated special operations forces, basing and over-flight rights, strategic airlifts, political statements supporting peace and reconciliation, condemning violence, boots

- a success and growth driver on the scale of the iPhone - has not yet been determined. Will it be augmented reality, auto, wearables? Or something else entirely?"

Apple's event comes with the global smartphone market largely saturated, without a major catalyst for sales ahead of a likely rollout of 5G, or fifth generation, wireless networks, expected in 2019. Research firm IDC expects worldwide smartphone shipments to decline 0.7 percent in 2018 to 1.455 billion units, with growth likely to resume as 5G devices become available. Cook said Apple was nearing its two billionth device for its mobile operating system known as iOS. "We are about to hit a major milestone. We are about to ship our two billionth iOS device," he said. "This is astonishing - iOS has changed the way we live."

Executives made the announcement at the Steve Jobs Theater at Apple's new circular headquarters in Cupertino, California, named after the company's co-founder who wowed the world with the first iPhone in 2007. "There's no real game-changer on the table," said Hal Eddins, chief economist at Apple shareholder Capital Investment Council. "It's a matter of getting people to keep moving up." The company was also expected to unveil a new version of its wireless AirPods earbuds with wireless charging and a wireless mat that will be able to charge several

out the civil war and not an area where Turkey would usually have any influence. Timur Akhmetov, Ankara-based researcher at the Russian International Affairs Council, said Russia was keen to channel Turkey's Syria policy towards security issues - where Ankara could find common ground with Damascus - rather than backing rebels. "I think that the Yusuf Nazik operation was carried out within this intention of the Russia and Syrian authorities," he told AFP. There were no further details on whether the operation had been carried out with or without the knowledge of the Syrian authorities or Russian forces who are present in the area.

But Anadolu said no logistical or intelligence support had come from "any foreign state" and the "detection, monitoring, operation and transfer" had been carried out entirely by MIT units. "A giant operation in Assad's bastion," said the pro-government Hurriyet daily. The operation is the latest in a series of high-profile swoops by the MIT which is led by Hakan Fidan, a shadowy figure regarded as hugely loyal to Erdogan. The intelligence service has brought back to Turkey in recent weeks suspects accused of links to preacher Fethullah Gulen, the accused mastermind of the 2016 failed coup seeking to topple Erdogan, from several countries including Kosovo, Gabon, Moldova and Ukraine.

"Nazik's capture and repatriation should serve as a reminder to all other criminals that we will never stop hunting them," said the senior Turkish official. Ankara is keenly aware of the boost to public morale of successful secret service operations after the audacious 1999 nabbing in Kenya of Kurdish militant leader Abdullah Ocalan gave a huge boost to the government of the time. — AFP

on the ground and supplies, capacity building efforts and others. "I hope this will be a good forum for sharing information and maintaining high level mil-to-mil relationships. The input and opinions you share with me and each other is invaluable toward us taking the necessary steps to ensure our security, achieve our national and shared interest and keep the lions at bay," concluded Votel.

In the concluding session, Khudher thanked the attendees for their efforts in achieving the present and future goals of the armed forces. "I hope these achievements will meet our expectation. The success of our meeting expresses our cooperation and I hope we will continue holding these meetings," he noted. In June 2017, Saudi Arabia and its allies cut all ties with Qatar, demanding that their erstwhile ally cut longstanding ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and take a stronger line with Saudi archrival Iran. The rift has proved a strategic headache for Washington as Qatar provides the main headquarters in the region for CENTCOM while rival Bahrain is home to the US Fifth Fleet. Kuwait, which along with Washington has led mediation efforts in the crisis, has said it is considering US proposals for a regional alliance to counter Iranian influence.



## Sports

# Red Bull car park drift: A return to origins

## Beirut's Martyrs Square to host the regional finals



**BEIRUT:** Red Bull Car Park Drift is once again back to its city of origin, Beirut, where everything started more than a decade ago. Meanwhile, the region's qualifiers that kicked off earlier this year are on track, moving from one city to another. They will climax next month at the foot of Beirut's Martyrs' Statue, with the most spectacular shows that the regional drifting elite has to offer.

The grand finale is scheduled to take place on Sunday the 23rd of September, starting 2:00PM, in the Parking lot adjacent to Beirut's Martyrs' Square. The Lebanese Capital will host 17 drifters from 15 countries; namely the champions of the local qualifiers that were held in various cities in the region. All of them, however, are aiming for the prestigious "King of Drift" title, though only one will be crowned.

### THE CAPITAL OF THRILL AND ACTION

Over ten thousand motorsport lovers are expected to flow to Beirut to witness this unique event. The

Lebanese in general are known for their passion for drift shows, and the capital is usually full of tourists of Arab and other nationalities during this time of year. All of them will have the opportunity to enjoy the outstanding shows from the free standing places on the public platform, or by booking their seats on the grandstand. The ticketing modality will be announced soon.

The local qualifiers in the various participating countries had kicked off in Muscat, Oman, on the 26th of January, before moving to Abu Dhabi, and from there to Cairo, Doha, Kuwait, Marrakesh, and Amman, all the way to Port Louis, the Mauritian capital, Algeria, Istanbul, Tunis and Lebanon.

### MORE THAN JUST DRIFT

One may think this is just about car drift shows with no rules or restrictions. Yet, Red Bull Car Park Drift has taken competition in this category of motorsports to a whole other level, by adopting new regulations and

criteria. Drifters will undoubtedly seek to demonstrate their skills and driving control capabilities by performing drift shows, but they will have to take other things into consideration as well.

As a matter of fact, every participant is expected to pimp-up their car according to the tournament's requirements in terms of looks, design and special effects, meant to amplify the roaring and magnify the rubber smolder. Drifting skills are certainly a major element, though they only constitute one of nine criteria in a weighted grading system. The total score will determine a driver's ranking, based on the evaluation of a special panel of judges. In addition to drifting skills, criteria include the car's looks and design, sound, and tire smoke, besides the box and spiral. Participants will also be graded for manoeuvres included in special categories called "gate", "flipper" and "clip".

### FROM JAPAN TO LEBANON

Red Bull Car Park Drift took place for the first time

in 2008 in a shopping center in Beirut. It gave drifters an opportunity to put their skills to the test safely and away from the streets. The event was so well received by the large community of drift and motorsports lovers in the region, thus turning the championship into an annual and much awaited regional championship.

This sport originated in the Japanese mountains in the 1960s, with a group of competing off-roaders, before drift tournaments became an integral part of the prestigious Japan Touring Car Championship by 1970. In the 1990s, tournaments became more organized and widespread in countries such as the UK, Australia, New Zealand, and China, before reaching the Middle East through Lebanon in 2008 with Red Bull Car Park Drift.

Red Bull Car Park Drift series final in Beirut is in collaboration with Total, Falken Tires, Honor from Go Mobile and Noise. And the media partnership of Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International (LBCI), Sawt El Ghad, and NRJ Radio.



Sebastian Vettel

## Vettel takes aim at Hamilton with Singapore sling

**SINGAPORE:** Sebastian Vettel is under growing pressure to slash Lewis Hamilton's championship lead at this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix—and erase Ferrari's painful memories from last year in the process.

Mercedes normally struggle at the steamy Marina Bay Circuit, but in 2017 Hamilton won from fifth on a rain-soaked grid after a first-lap shunt scuppered both Ferraris and the Red Bull of Max Verstappen.

Ferrari and Vettel are still smarting after Hamilton won at Italy's Monza 10 days ago, despite the Maranello team locking out the front row at their home grand prix. Vettel's first-lap spin after contact with Hamilton enabled the Englishman to extend his lead in the drivers' standings to 30 points and the German vowed to bounce straight back in Singapore, where he has won a record four times.

"For sure it's a disappointment right now," Vettel said after the race. "But I am turning the page and focusing on Singapore—I like the place and I am happy to go there." Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff warned this week that Ferrari and Red Bull would have the edge on Mercedes on the tight, twisting street circuit. But with rain forecast again this week, anything could happen.

"Singapore has features that we've struggled with in the past," said Wolff. "The short straights, the slow, tight corners

and the bumpy surface all make the Marina Bay Street Circuit one of the trickiest for us." On paper, the track should favour the Ferraris, but the championship fight is so close that predictions are almost meaningless." Vettel said he was not worried about the gap to Hamilton growing to 30 points with seven races remaining, and is relishing the chance to pounce on one of his favourite tracks.

"I think we have the pace," the four-time world champion said. "The points sound a lot, but actually it doesn't take a long time to get them down." Red Bull have suffered a lean season but will fancy their chances of picking up a second 2018 win to follow Daniel Ricciardo's triumph at Monaco's similarly twisty street circuit. The Austrian team have not won in hot, humid Singapore since 2013, when Vettel was behind the wheel, but Ricciardo has remarkably finished second in each of the past three years. "It's a place where I have good races and finish pretty strong," said Ricciardo. "I've had four podiums and three second places in a row there, so it's about time I win the damn thing."

Verstappen echoed his team-mate's optimism. "I think the whole team is looking forward to Singapore because we know we have a real chance to have a good result there," said the Dutchman, who turns 21 at the end of the month.

"The race has been a strong one for us in the past and I think we should be able to challenge for a podium." Off the track, much attention will focus on Kimi Raikkonen after Ferrari announced that the former world champion would be replaced by Monaco's Charles Leclerc, 20, next year. More than 20,000 fans had signed an online petition urging Ferrari to stick with the veteran Finn, who will now join Sauber, for one more season at least. —AFP

## Williams feels the pain, still waiting for gain

**LONDON:** All pain and very little gain is the story of Williams' Formula One season so far, with the former champions last and with only seven points from 14 races ahead of Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix. Claire Williams, the deputy principal who runs the illustrious team founded by her father Frank, can only agree about the pain but is adamant there will also be a gain eventually.

"I did read the other day about somebody saying they didn't think Williams felt pain any more when we don't do well," she told Reuters in a recent interview. "For me this has been up there with one of the most painful experiences of my life."

"This team... is like another sibling to me. It feels like another one of my children. I take a huge sense of personal responsibility for it." Williams were fifth last year, well behind fourth placed Force India but still the only team outside the top three with a driver on the podium.

Technical head Paddy Lowe had signalled a change of aerodynamic philosophy before the season started but the outcome has been like having an ice bucket poured over the head. Williams have scored points in only two races, Canadian Lance Stroll eighth in Azerbaijan and ninth in Italy with Russian Sergey Sirotkin 10th after Haas driver Romain Grosjean was disqualified.

Haas are appealing, meaning that those points from Monza are not yet assured.

There has been some improvement, with Stroll qualifying 10th in Monza in the team's best Saturday performance so far, but Williams are still far behind the rest. That is not a new experience for a proud team that dominated in the 1980s and 90s but have gone up and down like a yo-yo of late, third in 2014 after finishing ninth in 2013.

Claire Williams felt the turnaround that followed the 2011-13 period, and owed a lot to the introduction of the V6 turbo hybrid engines and the dominance of suppliers Mercedes, had brought a sense of false security. "Sometimes that blinds you a bit... and you don't do the level of detail, get into the weeds of what you really need to do in order to make a successful team," she said.

"If anything positive has come out of this, it has led all of us to really look deeply at what we do and to make sure that where we are failing, we're addressing those weaknesses and to make sure that we put this team into good shape for the future."

Williams said she had also asked herself whether she might be part of the problem. But where some teams might 'chop a few heads' as part of the process of rebuilding, she felt a more measured response was needed. "One person can't change the world.

No one person is the magician," she said.

"They at least need to be afforded some time to demonstrate their talent and to implement changes... there would be no point making a rash decision because you're only going to end up in the same place. "It's the same for me, I'd never been a team principal before, or run a business before I was running Williams. It's a case of going through your job and learning almost as you go along. That's what we're doing."

"We're now trying to do the best we can to make sure that we put in place everything we need to, to give it a successful future. But that takes time." Williams said the rest of the season would be about bringing upgraded parts to the car to evaluate developments for next year's campaign.

The team are losing title sponsor Martini at the end of the season while Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll is expected to take his son to Force India, which he now controls through a consortium of investors. That will leave a hole in the finances, with the share of television revenues also set to shrink as a result of the championship placing. Williams said it was not all doom and gloom, however. "Lawrence has kept us apprised of what his plans have been and so we've been aware of that and can plan for that," she added. — Reuters



Claire Williams

## Sports

# Red Sox clinch playoff spot with Brock Holt's three-run home run

## Angels use 8 pitchers in 2-hit shutout of Rangers

**BOSTON:** The Red Sox became the first team to clinch a postseason berth this season, with pinch hitter Brock Holt's three-run home run in the seventh inning sending Boston to a 7-2 win over the visiting Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday. This is third consecutive trip to the playoffs for the Red Sox, which ties the longest streak in franchise history. Holt, batting for Sandy Leon in the seventh, hit his fourth homer of the season. He has hit both of Boston's pinch-hit homers on the year. Chris Sale started the game for Boston, allowing one hit and hitting a batter while striking out two in one inning. The short stint was planned for his first start since Aug. 12. He went on the disabled list six days later with mild inflammation in his left shoulder.

### BRVES 4, GIANTS 1

Mike Foltynewicz became just the seventh major-leaguer this season to throw two complete games, limiting host San Francisco to six hits in Atlanta's win. Charlie Culberson hit a two-run home run in the fifth, helping the Braves extend their lead in the National League East to a season-best 6 1/2 games over the Philadelphia Phillies. Foltynewicz (11-9) came within one out of becoming the first pitcher to throw two shutouts this season. Foltynewicz, who shut out Washington on June 1, walked one and struck out seven Tuesday. Atlanta posted its fourth consecutive win while San Francisco lost its 10th in a row.

### ANGELS 1, RANGERS 0

Eight pitchers combined on a two-hit shutout in Los Angeles' victory over Texas in Anaheim, Calif. Jose Fernandez hit his first career major league homer in the second inning, providing the Angels all the offense they would need. After the Angels' first six pitchers threw seven hitless innings with three walks allowed, Blake Parker began the eighth inning and retired the first batter before Isiah Kiner-Falefa lined a 91 mph fastball into right field for the Rangers' first hit of the night.

### CUBS 3, BREWERS 0

Jose Quintana fanned seven batters in 6 2/3 scoreless innings, and host Chicago held on for a shutout of Milwaukee. Chicago increased its lead to two games over Milwaukee in the NL Central with less than three weeks remaining in the regular season. The St. Louis Cardinals also are in the mix as they remained 3 1/2 games behind the Cubs. Quintana (13-9), who gave up three hits and walked two, matched his single-season high for victories. The left-hander won his third straight decision and allowed two runs or fewer for the fifth outing in a row.

### CARDINALS 11, PIRATES 5

Tyler O'Neill hit a three-run homer and Marcell Ozuna had three RBIs in St. Louis' blowout win over visiting Pittsburgh. St. Louis won its third straight, moving to within 1 1/2 games of Milwaukee for the top NL wild-card spot. Cardinals starter Miles Mikolas (15-4) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings. Pittsburgh starter Joe Musgrove (6-9) struck out eight and at one point retired 14 in a row, but he allowed four runs on four hits and two walks in six innings. Corey Dickerson drove in two with a single and a double for Pittsburgh, which lost its second in a row.

### TWINS 10, YANKEES 5

Joe Mauer capped a six-run fifth inning with a grand

slam, and Minnesota roughed up New York in Minneapolis. Mauer's grand slam, the fifth of his career, gave the Twins a 10-1 lead and helped the Twins beat the Yankees for the first time in the last nine meetings, including last season's American League wild-card game. Didi Gregorius also hit a grand slam in the sixth and tripled as the Yankees fell to 4-4 on a nine-game road trip. The Yankees saw their lead in the race for the first AL wild card trimmed to two games over the Oakland A's.

### DIAMONDBACKS 6, ROCKIES 3

Ketel Marte drove in four runs, Zack Greinke pitched effectively into the seventh inning, and Arizona beat Colorado in Denver. David Peralta homered for the third-place Diamondbacks, who moved within 2 1/2 games of first-place Colorado in the NL West. The Rockies maintained a 1 1/2-game lead on the second-place Los Angeles Dodgers. Greinke (14-9) allowed three runs on six hits and no walks while striking out five in 6 2/3 innings. Yoshihisa Hirano got the last three outs for his first save.

### INDIANS 2, RAYS 0

Edwin Encarnacion and Yan Gomes homered, and rookie Shane Bieber picked up his 10th win as Cleveland snapped Tampa Bay's franchise-record, 12-game home winning streak. Bieber (10-3) struck out a career-high 11 batters while allowing just three hits and three walks over 6 2/3 innings. He improved to 6-0 in 10 career road starts. Encarnacion and Gomes each had two hits for Cleveland, which sliced its magic number to three to clinch the AL Central title. Encarnacion's 30th homer of the season in the sixth extended his streak of seasons with 30 or more home runs and 90 or more RBIs (96) to seven, the longest active stretch in the majors.

### ASTROS 5, INDIANS 4

Tony Kemp and Tyler White hit two-run homers, Jose Altuve supplied a solo blast, and visiting Houston edged Detroit. Kemp, Altuve and Yuli Gurriel each had two hits for the Astros, and Josh Reddick scored twice. First-place Houston maintained its three-game lead on the A's in the AL West. JaCoby Jones hit a three-run homer for the Tigers, who have lost the first two games of the three-game series. Jordan Zimmermann (7-7) gave up five runs (four earned) on six hits in five innings.

### A'S 3, ORIOLES 2

Matt Chapman, Khris Davis and Stephen Piscotty each drove in a run as Oakland defeated host Baltimore in the opener of a three-game series. The A's have won five consecutive games. The Orioles have dropped five games in a row. The Orioles could not do much against Mike Fiers, who went six innings and allowed one run on four hits. Fiers (12-6) struck out seven with just one walk. The right-hander improved to 5-0 in seven starts since the A's acquired him in an August trade with the Detroit Tigers.

### REDS 3, DODGERS 1

Brandon Dixon and Scott Schebler hit home runs against their former organization, and Luis Castillo pitched 6 1/3 strong innings as Cincinnati continued its winning streak against visiting Los Angeles. The Reds, in last place in the NL Central, are now 6-0 against the Dodgers this season. They won all four games at



**BOSTON:** Mookie Betts #50 of the Boston Red Sox slides into home past Danny Jansen #9 of the Toronto Blue Jays to score a run during the eighth inning at Fenway Park on Tuesday in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

Dodger Stadium in the first half and have won the first two games of the current three-game series. The Reds can make it a perfect 7-for-7 with a victory in the series finale Wednesday. Dixon and Schebler were former Dodgers prospects until a trade before the 2016 season sent them to Cincinnati. Dixon's home run in the second inning was his fifth of the season, while Schebler hit his 16th one inning later. Castillo (9-12) gave up one run on four hits with a walk and nine strikeouts.

### MARLINS 5, METS 3

Jacob deGrom continued to go unrewarded during a record-breaking season when the New York ace took the loss despite allowing just two runs over seven innings as the Mets fell to visiting Miami. The Marlins, who hadn't played since Saturday due to back-to-back rainouts, won for just the fourth time in 12 games. The Mets have won six of nine. DeGrom (8-9) allowed three runs or fewer for the 26th straight start—the longest single-season streak in baseball history. Leslie "King" Cole had a string of 25 such starts for the Chicago Cubs in 1910. DeGrom gave up just three hits and two walks while striking out nine as his major-league-leading ERA rose from 1.68 to 1.71.

### NATIONALS 3, PHILLIES 1 (GAME 1)

Spencer Kieboom hit his first major league home run on the first pitch after losing a tooth, and batterymate Erick Fedde threw 5 2/3 innings of shutout ball, lifting Washington to a victory over host Philadelphia in the first game of a doubleheader. Phillies right-hander Nick Pivetta (7-12) took a one-hit shutout into the fifth inning of a scoreless game before Kieboom walked to the plate with one out and spit out a tooth that had become dislodged shortly before entering the batter's box. The catcher then belted the first pitch he saw for his first homer in 117 plate appearances. Fedde (2-3) turned a 2-0 lead over to the Washington bullpen after

limiting the Phillies to two hits in his 5 2/3 innings. He walked two and struck out a career-high nine. The win was his first since June 29.

### NATIONALS 7, PHILLIES 6 (GAME 2, 10 INNINGS)

Juan Soto produced a crushing blow to Philadelphia's playoff hopes, smacking a solo home run in the top of the 10th inning that gave visiting Washington a sweep of the teams' doubleheader. Soto's heroics came after each team had rallied from three-run deficits to produce a 6-6 tie, with the Nationals getting three in the top of the ninth to extend the game. Soto, who walked and scored as part of the ninth-inning rally, homered twice, scored three times, had three hits and drove in four runs.

### PADRES 2, MARINERS 1

Wil Myers doubled home the go-ahead run off Edwin Diaz with one out in the top of the ninth inning as visiting San Diego defeated Seattle. The Padres have won all three games they've played against the Mariners in 2018 and will go for a season sweep Wednesday afternoon. Hunter Renfroe led off the ninth with a line-drive single off Diaz (0-4) on an 0-2 pitch. Eric Hosmer then lined a single to left, sending Renfroe to second. After Diaz struck out Frammil Reyes, Myers doubled down the left field line, scoring pinch runner Travis Jankowski.

### ROYALS 6, WHITE SOX 3

Rookie Brad Keller gave up just one run in seven innings, and Hunter Dozier drove in two runs as host Kansas City knocked off Chicago. Keller (8-6) allowed four hits and two walks while striking out six. He retired 13 of the final 14 batters to face him in winning for the fourth time in his past five decisions. Whit Merrifield collected two hits, two runs and two stolen bases for Kansas City. — Reuters

## KSSC shooting tournament

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The Shooting School Tournament, organized by Kuwait Shooting Sport Club (KSSC) began on Tuesday at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, and will continue until September 15. The tournament will be in 10M Air Pistol and rifle and Olympic archery. The tournament is being held

under the patronage of President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng Duajj Khalaf Al-Otaibi. Shooters from Sheikh Saad Olympic Shooting Academy, juniors and shooters from KSSC Jahra branch and Sabahiya center.

Assistant KSSC secretary Eng Mohammad Misfer Al-Ghurba said the board of directors exerts great efforts to spread the sport all over Kuwait and have more participants so that new skilled shooters can be discovered, and get them ready to join national team. He said after the opening of Jahra and Sabahiya branches, there are plans to have ranges in many areas.

He said the board of director works on making available all that is necessary for shooters in order to reach international standards that enables Kuwait shooters to represent Kuwait as they do.



Mohammad Al-Ghurba

## Ponting, Lehmann baffled by 'bizarre' Maxwell Test snub

**SYDNEY:** Batting all-rounder Glenn Maxwell's "bizarre" failure to make the Australia Test squad for their tour against Pakistan left former captain Ricky Ponting and ex-coach Darren Lehmann baffled yesterday. Selectors named five uncapped players ahead of Maxwell for the two-Test tour in the United Arab Emirates next month, despite the Victorian being one of the fastest scorers in world cricket with a handy off-spin option.

Coach Justin Langer said the 29-year-old needed regular big scores to be in contention, but Ponting questioned why he was not given the opportunity to do just that on the ongoing Australia A tour of India.

"If I was Maxi I'd be thinking, 'why didn't you give me the chance to actually go there (to India) and push my case to get myself into the team?'" he told cricket.com.au. "That's all a bit bizarre to me. If I was Maxi and I hadn't been given the chance to play for Australia A, I'd be ropeable."

In contrast, uncapped batsmen Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head were taken to India and rewarded with a spot in the 15-man Test squad. While Head is Australia's leading run-scorer on that tour, Labuschagne hasn't fared so well with an average of barely 24.

"I'm not sure what the message is, but it's a bit confusing to me," added Ponting. A disappointed Maxwell said he had interpreted his non-selection for the A tour as a good sign and had been under instructions from Cricket Australia to rest over the winter months.

"To get told not to play in the A series and have a rest... I was understanding of that and their reasoning behind that," he told reporters. "I was hoping that was a positive note to go to Dubai. But obviously that wasn't the case."

Despite being cast into the Test wilderness, Maxwell said he feels his best years are still to come.



Glenn Maxwell

"I feel like I'm getting better and better. Hopefully this is another year where I can prove people wrong and put a lot of runs on the board," he said.

Lehmann, who Langer replaced after Australia's scandal-plagued tour of South Africa earlier this year, was also baffled at Maxwell's treatment, noting that he had performed well in sub-continental conditions before.

"I would have picked him," he told Macquarie Sports Radio. "It was a tough one with Glenn, he made a ton the last time they toured India and he made a lot of runs in the Sheffield Shield. He plays spin quite well and it was an interesting decision."

Lehmann suggested selectors were looking to the future as they work to turn a corner after the ball-tampering row in South Africa that saw Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft suspended.

"They see (Travis) Head and young Marnus (Labuschagne) from Queensland as real long-term prospects," he said. Despite missing out—along with middle-order batsmen Peter Handscomb and Joe Burns—national selector Trevor Hohns said the door was not completely closed. —Reuters

## Anderson provides fitting climax as England beat India

**LONDON:** A compelling series kept giving right until the very last ball as James Anderson sealed England's 118-run victory over India with a wicket that made him the most successful fast bowler in the history of test cricket on Tuesday.

Audacious centuries from KL Rahul (149) and Rishabh Pant (114) had given India hope of saving the fifth test and even reaching the target of 464 that was required for a remarkable victory but the day eventually belonged to Anderson.

With less than an hour remaining and India teetering on 345-9, the 36-year-old Anderson was finally rewarded for a long spell as he ripped off Mohammed Shami's middle stump. It was Anderson's 564th test wicket—one more than retired Australian great Glenn McGrath managed—and left him fourth on the all-time list behind spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Shane Warne (708) and Anil Kumble (619).

There could not have been a more fitting conclusion to an incredible few days at the historic south London ground that on Monday witnessed Anderson's close friend Alastair Cook sign off his record-breaking career with an emotional century. They walked off together to a standing ovation on Tuesday and Anderson was close to tears as he spoke of his achievement. "Happy that Cooky was on the field to see that wicket, it's been a tough week," Anderson, who played the first of his 143 tests in 2003, said.

"I'm just happy to win the game. I wasn't even thinking about the record. When India were building that partnership it was looking like they were going to get close."

"But I got into a good rhythm and thankfully (Joe) Root let me take the new ball and gave me a chance to take that wicket." Only if Cook had taken the final catch off of Anderson's bowling could the summer have had a more fitting end.

Cook, England's most-capped test player and run scorer, led the tributes for his old pal. "It has been a privilege to play with England's greatest cricketer, no disrespect to any other guys, his skills to do it time and time again," he said. "He didn't miss his length once." —Reuters

## Sports

# Spain thrash World Cup finalists Croatia 6-0 in Nations League

## Spain sit top of League A's Group Two

**ELCHE:** Spain's identity crisis looks to be well and truly over after Marco Asensio inspired a 6-0 thrashing of World Cup runners-up Croatia in the UEFA Nations League on Tuesday.

Defeat to Russia in July prompted a change of coach and doubts about the Spanish passing style but after an impressive win over England at Wembley, Luis Enrique has now overseen a demolition of Croatia too.

Asensio's two long-range shots, the second cannoning in off goalkeeper Lovre Kalinic, had Spain three up before half-time in Elche, after Saul Niguez had earlier headed home. Croatia, abject at the back, were no better after the break. Asensio first threaded Rodrigo Moreno through to finish before supplying the corner for an unmarked Sergio Ramos to nod in number five.

Isco then flashed a sixth into the top corner, again Asensio the provider.

Two victories in four days mean Spain sit top of League A's Group Two, with a six-point gap over both Croatia and England, who play each other in Rijeka next month. Brushing aside two of the World Cup's top four teams, and one so emphatically, sends out its own message, but just as satisfying for La Roja will be the sense of pride restored.

In particular, this display gave early vindication to Luis Enrique's methods. Spain still dominated possession but they looked forward faster, pressed Croatia higher up and stretched them with balls wide and over the top. There was no sign of the ponderous build-up that suffocated them against Russia at the World Cup. There was no sign either of Gerard Pique, Andres

Iniesta and David Silva, who all retired in the summer, and are not yet being missed.

Asensio was the star, his goal and trio of second-half assists fully justifying his start ahead of Iago Aspas.

But Saul, who shone against England, was excellent too in midfield, departing to a standing ovation at the Estadio Martinez Valero, in the town where he was born. For Croatia, this was a humbling loss that leaves the current crop open to questions about how they sustain momentum following that superb run in Russia.

Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic, still at the top of their games, embraced Real Madrid and Barcelona teammates in the tunnel and Croatia started brightly, with Ivan Santini missing two decent early chances from close range. Spain were more clinical. Ramos wafted a ball out to Dani Carvajal whose stabbed cross was met brilliantly by the arriving Saul.

Asensio made it two with a crashing long-range drive and two minutes later, his left foot unleashed again, this one curling onto the bar and then in off the unfortunate Kalinic's back.

Croatia looked stoney-faced as they emerged for the second half but there was no improvement, either in their intensity or defending.

Rodrigo raced clear and slotted through the legs of Kalinic before Ramos headed in, unchallenged from eight yards.

Isco added a late flourish, receiving a pass from Asensio inside the box. He feigned to go one way but pushed the ball the other, before slamming it into the top corner to complete the rout. — AFP



**ELCHE:** Spain's defender Jose Luis Gaya (C) and Spain's midfielder Dani Ceballos (L) challenge Croatia's forward Marko Rog during the UEFA Nations League A group 4 football match between Spain and Croatia at the Manuel Martinez Valero stadium in Elche on Tuesday. — AFP

## President George Weah makes football comeback aged 51

**JOHANNESBURG:** Liberia president and former world footballer of the year George Weah made a surprise return to international football Tuesday at the age of 51 in a 2-1 friendly defeat by Nigeria.

The international match in Monrovia was organised to 'retire' the number 14 shirt worn by Weah, who was voted world, European and African footballer of the year in 1995. Weah, who scored a landslide victory in presidential elections last December, is the only African footballer to win the world and European awards.

Instead of watching the match against Nigeria from the grandstand, he captained his country and showed glimpses of former skills before being substituted 12 minutes from time.

Weah received a standing ovation when leaving the pitch in the capital of a west African country where football is the most popular sport.

Team-mates of Weah wore shirts with "Thank you King George" on them as a tribute to the legend who retired from international football 16 years ago.

Liberia are ranked 47th of 54 African football nations and 158th in the world. The last of their two Africa Cup of Nations tournament appearances was 16 years ago.

Weah played in Liberia, the Ivory Coast and Cameroon before moving to Europe, where his clubs included Paris Saint-Germain, Monaco, Marseille and AC Milan. He also had brief spells with Chelsea and Manchester City before finishing his career in the United Arab Emirates playing for Al Jazira. In the friendly match, Nigeria built a two-goal half-time lead thanks to Henry Onyekuru and Simeon Nwankwo and Sherman Kpah converted a late penalty for Liberia. — AFP

## Russian World Cup star Cheryshev in doping probe

**MOSCOW:** Russia winger Denis Cheryshev, one of the standout performers at the World Cup, is under investigation for an alleged doping violation, local media reported yesterday. "This case is currently being investigated by the Spanish Anti-Doping agency," the Russian daily Sport Express quoted a World Anti-Doping Agency press spokesperson as saying.

"They will inform WADA about the results of their investigation." The 27-year-old came under suspicion after his father said in an interview that the footballer had received growth hormone treatment before the World Cup. The taking of a growth hormone without a therapeutic use exemption can result in a four-year ban. Cheryshev's father later said he was misquoted by the journalist. The Villarreal midfielder, on-loan to Valencia this season, meanwhile denied any wrongdoing. "I think we'd better leave this case in the hands of medics, who have done everything right," he told Sport Express.

my part everything was honest and I think there will be no problems." Cheryshev scored four goals as hosts Russia reached the World Cup quarter-finals. — AFP



Denis Cheryshev

## Rashford gets England back to winning ways over Switzerland

**LEICESTER:** England manager Gareth Southgate recognised his side have vast room for improvement despite bouncing back from three consecutive defeats as a much-changed team edged past Switzerland for a 1-0 friendly win thanks to Marcus Rashford's winner.

However, the Three Lions again failed to hit the heights from their World Cup campaign, particularly in a poor first 45 minutes that provoked strong words between the players at half-time.

Southgate, though, did at least stave off an unwanted record of becoming the first England boss to oversee four straight defeats and further puncture the feel-good factor of a run to the World Cup semi-finals.

"It's not been a perfect week by any means but we finish with a win, which is important moving forward," said Southgate. "We had a tactical problem to sort out and so many lads playing their first 45 minutes of the season," he added of the first-half display.

"It was a tall order to ask them to play against an excellent Switzerland side, they kept the ball well and we had to chase too much. There was plenty of room for improvement."

The two teams could have met in the quarter-finals in Russia had the Swiss not limped out of the competition with a whimper to Sweden in the last 16. England proved far too strong for the Swedes before falling short against Croatia in the last four, but it is Switzerland who have so far bounced back from their World Cup disappointment the stronger.

Vladimir Petkovic's side thrashed Iceland 6-0 to kickstart their Nations League campaign and were the better side for the first 45 minutes at the King Power. "We could have been two or three nil down at half-time," said England full-back Danny Rose. "It's great we can all shout at each other and tell each other to improve like we did."

Southgate insisted after being outplayed for the majority of a 2-1 defeat by Spain in his side's inaugural Nations League encounter on Saturday that England must persist with his intention to improve on playing out from the back under pressure.

However, it nearly cost the hosts the opening goal twice in a matter of seconds inside the first 10 minutes. Jack Butland misplaced a pass which rolled dangerously close to his own goal, and when the goalkeeper's next clearance to James Tarkowski was cut out by the Swiss high press, Xherdan Shaqiri should have scored rather than striking the post on his weaker right foot.

Southgate has lamented England's failure to produce midfielders of the calibre that Croatia and Spain possess. But his side, containing nine changes from the weekend, was struggling even to cope with the Swiss' passing and movement as the visitors enjoyed nearly 65 percent possession before the break.

A more positive start to the second period for the hosts was rewarded with the only goal on 54 minutes when Kyle Walker's hanging cross to the back post was swept home by Rashford for his fifth international goal.

The importance of holding on for a morale-boosting win for Southgate was shown as he introduced a host of regular starters, including captain Harry Kane off the bench for the final quarter. Shaqiri came closest to an equaliser, but saw his fierce strike bravely blocked by John Stones as England held out for victory. — AFP

## Lukaku bags double as Belgium sweep Iceland aside

**REYKJAVIK:** Romelu Lukaku scored two goals as World Cup semi-finalists Belgium began their Nations League campaign with a comfortable 3-0 win away to Iceland on Tuesday. Eden Hazard converted a 29th-minute penalty after a foul on Lukaku, with the Manchester United striker netting a quick-fire second before adding a third in the closing stages.

Lukaku, also on the mark in Friday's 4-0 friendly defeat of Scotland, was brought down by a clumsy tackle from Sverrir Ingason and Hazard rolled the resulting spot-kick to the left of Hannes Halldorsson.

He then got himself on the scoresheet two minutes later by following up a rebound after a powerful Vincent Kompany header was pawed into his path by Halldorsson.

Thomas Meunier struck the outside of the post on the hour, although Belgium ultimately transformed their dominance into a third with nine minutes to play as Lukaku slotted away a fizzing cross from Dries Mertens. Roberto Martinez's side move level on three points with Switzerland, who demolished Iceland 6-0 in St Gallen on Saturday.

Earlier, The Republic of Ireland ended a controversial week with a 1-1 friendly draw in Poland on Tuesday as Millwall striker Aiden O'Brien scored on his debut.

Manager Martin O'Neill had to defend his assistant coach Roy Keane after a leaked recording appeared to reveal the former Manchester United captain swearing at midfielder Harry Arter and striker Jonathan Walters as they prepared for matches earlier this year.

Midfielder Arter, 28, has not played international football since.

Having been thrashed 4-1 by Wales in their Nations League opener last Thursday, it looked for much of the



**REYKJAVIK:** Iceland's Gylfi Thor Sigurdsson (L) and Belgium's Vincent Kompany vie for the ball during the Nations League football match between Iceland and Belgium on Tuesday, in Reykjavik, Iceland. — AFP

second half as though the Irish would secure a morale-boosting win, but Mateusz Klich grabbed a late equaliser for Poland in Wroclaw.

After a slow first 30 minutes, Arkadiusz Milik struck a long-range shot straight at Irish goalkeeper Darren Randolph as Poland struggled to break down a solid Ireland defence without Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, who was rested despite sitting on 99 international appearances.

The visitors were almost the architects of their own downfall on the stroke of half-time, but after two failed efforts to clear a simple cross into the box, midfielder

Grzegorz Krychowiak couldn't force the ball home.

Ireland finally managed their first shot on target early in the second half, with Bristol City midfielder Callum O'Dowda's speculative strike easily held by Wojciech Szczesny. But that appeared to wake up O'Neill's side, and they grabbed a 54th-minute lead as the 24-year-old O'Brien met an O'Dowda cross to nod past a helpless Szczesny and into the net.

Poland continued to dominate possession without regularly threatening, but Klich played a neat one-two with Milik before slotting home in the 87th minute, despite Ireland calls for an offside flag. — AFP

**25** Williams feels the pain, still waiting for gain



**26** Ponting, Lehmann baffled by 'bizarre' Maxwell Test snub



**27** Spain thrash World Cup finalists Croatia 6-0 in Nations League



## Ravens seek to avenge loss to Bengals

Panthers TE Olsen re-fractures right foot



BALTIMORE: File photo shows Terrell Suggs #55 of the Baltimore Ravens sacks quarterback Nathan Peterman #2 of the Buffalo Bills in the second quarter at M&T Bank Stadium on September 9, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland. — AFP

**BALTIMORE:** The last time the Baltimore Ravens saw the Cincinnati Bengals, Andy Dalton and Tyler Boyd turned fourth-and-12 into a 49-yard touchdown in the final minute of Week 17, sending the Ravens home for January and upstate New York into a frenzy as Baltimore coughed up the AFC's final wild-card spot to the Buffalo Bills.

The Ravens get a rematch with the Bengals today in Cincinnati. A reporter asking Monday about last year's game couldn't even get the whole question out before Ravens coach John Harbaugh interjected, "Thanks for the reminder. I appreciate that." Asked if that result provides extra motivation this week, Harbaugh replied, "Probably. How could it not be part of it? ...

"That's life. It's human nature. You always want to redeem yourself as best as you can, certainly, but it's not going to factor into who wins the game." After having eight-plus months to stew on the playoff berth that slipped away, the Ravens took out their frustrations on those very Bills in the season opener, romping to a 40-0 lead in less than 35 minutes before settling for a 47-3 victory. It was their second consecutive dominant defensive performance in a season opener, after Terrell Suggs & Co. silenced the

Bengals 20-0 in Cincinnati in Week 1 last year.

That result aside, the Bengals have owned the Ravens of late, winning seven of the past nine meetings and five of the past six at Paul Brown Stadium. Wideout A.J. Green has usually led the charge. Before his two-catch, 17-yard effort in the 2017 finale, Green racked up 37 catches for 678 yards and six touchdowns in the previous six meetings. "I don't know, man, no clue," Green said when asked why he shines so bright against Baltimore. "Sometimes that's the way the cards fall. ... They're one of the best defenses I go against every year, so it's always going to be a challenge." With top cornerback Jimmy Smith serving a four-game suspension for violating the league's personal-conduct policy, Green will see more of Marlon Humphrey, Brandon Carr and Tavon Young.

On the other side of the ball, Cincinnati must contain a new-look Baltimore offense that featured rookie Lamar Jackson in several packages and had three new wideouts—John Brown, Michael Crabtree and Willie Snead IV—catch touchdown passes in Week 1.

The Bengals joined the Ravens at 1-0 after fighting off Andrew Luck's comeback attempt with a late strip, recovery

and score by reserve safety Clayton Fejedelem. Cincinnati emerged with a 34-23 win over the Indianapolis Colts. The Ravens are 7-1 under Harbaugh in short-week today's games, and their Week 1 blowout helped them rest a few veterans. Suggs played just 48 percent (31 of 64) of Sunday's snaps, while safety Eric Weddle and linebacker C.J. Mosley each played 73 percent (47 snaps).

"You can't rest too many guys because it's not like the preseason," Harbaugh said. "It's still only 46 guys who are playing, so a couple guys got to sit out early, and that was probably somewhat helpful." Baltimore running back Kenneth Dixon (knee) and cornerback Maurice Canady (thigh) missed Tuesday's practice, while tight end Hayden Hurst (foot) and defensive tackle Willie Henry (hernia) remain out after missing Week 1. No Cincinnati players missed practice Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen re-fractured his right foot in the team's season opener against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, the Panthers confirmed Tuesday. There are no plans for Olsen to undergo surgery at this time, Panthers head athletic trainer Ryan Vermillion said in a statement. The team will evaluate Olsen's progress

on a monthly basis, with the hope he returns this season. Olsen was limited to seven games last year as the result of a broken right foot, which he had surgically repaired. Prior to last season, Olsen reached 1,000 receiving yards in three consecutive years. Olsen, 33, has 641 catches for 7,589 receiving yards and 53 touchdowns across his 12-year career. He signed a two-year extension with the Panthers in the offseason worth up to \$20.1 million.

Rookie Ian Thomas is expected to start in Olsen's place. Head coach Ron Rivera told reporters Monday that he feels Thomas has a good rapport with quarterback Cam Newton. "I think he's pretty prepared," Rivera said. "There are still some things he has to learn. He's got a long way to go in terms of having that natural feel."

The Panthers also announced offensive tackle Daryl Williams has had surgery recommended to him for the right knee injury he sustained when a Cowboys player fell into the side of his knee on Sunday. Williams was carted off the field as the result of the injury, which occurred to the same knee that he suffered a dislocated patella tendon and torn MCL in during training camp. Williams, 26, started all 16 games for the Panthers last season. — Reuters

## IOC backs daylight savings to ease Tokyo 2020 heat fears

**TOKYO:** The International Olympic Committee yesterday backed calls by Japanese organisers to implement daylight savings time at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as concerns mount over athlete safety in soaring temperatures. The IOC coordination commission chief John Coates gave an unequivocal answer when asked if he supported an appeal made to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last month following a deadly summer heat-wave across the country.

"Yes—we've observed the discussions that are happening in this country," Coates told a news conference. "We've paid a lot of attention to heat, primarily on athletes but also on spectators," he added after pleas to stage the events, particularly the marathon, in cooler hours. "We know the marathon and those events are already starting early in the morning. But we certainly see the potential-with the sun coming up at 4.40am-for daylight savings."

At least 120 people perished as a result of the blistering heat this summer and with the 2020 Olympics being held in late July and early August—Japan's hottest time of year—there are fears that athletes and fans could be at risk. "We understand that there are a lot of issues involved here, and there will be a lot of interest groups that will have a say in this," said Coates. "But it does seem a very good solution to us."

Japan was hit by further natural disasters this summer after a super typhoon killed 11 people last week, followed by a powerful earthquake in northern Hokkaido in which at least 40 more died.

"These are very complex Games," admitted Coates. "What happened last week and what happened in Osaka earlier certainly hit home to me and the organising committee the further complexity of planning for these Games."

"They have to be prepared," he added, comparing Japan's vulnerability to deadly weather with the less complicated 2000 Sydney Olympics in his home country. "In Sydney we had simulation exercises for what could go wrong but all the disasters we dreamt up—a train coming off the rails or someone bursting through and attacking the marathon runners."

"But you don't have to dream anything up in this country, it's very sad to say. But a lot of attention is being given to the weather and this is being factored

into the planning. It's certainly at the front of my mind."

Meanwhile, the head of the local organising committee, Yoshiro Mori, announced that the Olympic flame would be lit in Ancient Olympia on March 12, 2020, with the handover to Tokyo taking place on March 19.

The flame will then make its way across the north-eastern Japanese prefectures of Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima, devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, for six days beginning on March 20, Mori observed. One Olympic baseball game and six softball games will also take place in Fukushima, and Mori also confirmed that finals for the Olympic swimming competition will be held in the morning—a move taken largely to accommodate American television rights holders.

Japan adopted daylight saving time in 1948 under US occupation after defeat in World War II but scrapped it four years later amid concerns it was encouraging longer work hours. — AFP