

# Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17637

MUHARRAM 11, 1440 AH | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

**7** Domestic workers' rights discussed in Niqashna debate



**12** 'Parents' worst nightmare': Dutch railway collision kills four children



**44** Russian athletes to return to competition; ban lifted



NEW YORK: A generic photo taken during a video game tournament in Long Island City, New York. The picture was used for illustrative purposes only. — AFP

## Gaming industry in Kuwait: Possibility or pipe-dream?

See Pages 3

## Local



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai  
muna@kuwaittimes.net

A new print shop for manufacturing and selling high-tech figurines caused a ruckus in Kuwait between Islamist activists and liberals. Some called it “the manufacturing of idols”, over which there is a dispute between scholars on its permissibility. Messages were extensively circulated on social media following a report about a shop in Kuwait that made high-tech 3-D human

## We are not weak

figurines from stereoscopic images. Some people were angered and labeled them as “idols”.

There have been several opinions about the matter. Some said it is a devilish way to deprive people from Islam and lead them away from worshiping Allah and towards becoming infidels. Others expressed concern over the possibility of its effects on people, if not now, then maybe in a few years' time.

Some people including MP Ahmad Al-Fadhil clearly stated that it is trivial to even consider or assume that anyone would change their religion due to a colorful figurine. He promised to take a “serious stand in the parliament” to stop what he called a “vicious attack” on the products of the company, pointing out that ignorance is leading some members of the Municipal Council and the National Assembly to such actions.

I wonder why some people think that such items could

change people's religion and beliefs. I am really surprised by the extremism that some people have here. Frankly, I do not see such models having a potential spiritual effect, and concerns of idolatry are mere speculations. Moreover, if this topic wasn't on social media, not many people would even think about it. But in Kuwait as usual, every week there is a new controversy on social media.

This subject was not important to me, but what bothered me was the attempt by some to emphasize that such figurines will lead to idolatry. Why are we Muslims portrayed as weak in our faith? Who will change our religion just for the sake of a statue? We travel to many countries around the world and may happen to stay in a hotel that has a bar or casino, for example. Does this mean that you will rush to it just because of its presence there? It is unfortunate that some insist on portraying Muslims as having no logic and no minds...

## Book bans and the challenge for activists

By Ahmad Jabr

Nearly a hundred activists and book enthusiasts gathered recently in Kuwait City to protest the government's 'strict censorship' that has reportedly resulted in the banning of around 4,000 books from entering Kuwait between 2003 and 2007. The protesters' demands were clear: the government must respect the readers' right to choose the books they want to read, and stop playing the role of a guardian who decides what kind of publications that the public should or should not have access to.

Held at the iconic Irada Square that is situated just outside the National Assembly, the gathering was meant to send a message to lawmakers that they needed to act in order to protect citizens' rights. Perhaps to the surprise of few, the protest generated little to no reaction from the elected parliament.

The government usually bans books that contain material deemed offensive or controversial, or discuss sensitive subjects that might entice public outcry, or worse, instigation. There is a special department at the Ministry of Information where staff members review publications pending entrance to Kuwait, and decide which books match the requirements and those that do not. In some cases, books are banned after MPs exert pressure on the Information Ministry, often forcing the minister to make a politically-motivated decision to order ministry officials to ban a publication, thus avoiding parliamentary criticism.

The ban process follows a criteria set by rules and laws that were mostly prepared and passed in the National Assembly. Article 7 of law number 3 for the year 2006 on press and publications states that “it shall be permitted to enter, circulate, or sell the prints that are imported from abroad after obtaining permission from the competent ministry and after checking their contents regarding the prohibited contents in accordance with the articles stipulated under section three of this law.” Subjects banned under section three include criticizing the Amir, insulting religious figures and insulting public morals or instigating to violate the public order.

The Information Ministry bans books for a variety of reasons, some social and cultural and others political. It may take a preemptive decision, banning a book it deems unacceptable to avoid scrutiny or controversy.

It may also ban a previously allowed book after public outcry or parliamentary inquiry. For example, Islamist MP Dr Waleed Al-Tabtabai questioned the ministry over the Arabic novel ‘Subartu’ by novelist Abdulhalim Yousef which was initially allowed into Kuwait. Following this questioning, the Information Ministry investigated the book and ultimately banned it, because as Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri said, the book “contained words and suggestions that are contrary to Islamic teachings and public morals.”

**KUWAIT: Activists gathered at Kuwait's Irada Square on September 15 to protest censorship and the banning of books in Kuwait. It was the second protest in two weeks.**  
— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



While it is normal for politicians in the government or parliament to make politically-motivated decisions, the relatively lackluster public response to the protest is what the organizers and freedom of choice advocates should really be alarmed by. At least compared to other topics of public interest such as demands for creating more public sector jobs for unemployed citizens, granting more financial privileges and reducing the retirement age, the call for more intellectual freedom remains further down the list of public priorities in Kuwait.

There are many factors that make this sad truth a reality, perhaps the most glaring of which is the lack of curricula in the education system that encourage a student to read and do proper research. In most cases, a student in Kuwait is only required to ‘memorize’ the information mentioned in their textbooks which are provided by the Ministry of Education. In class, a teacher is required and expected to provide an explanation only for the information mentioned in the textbook. A teacher is obliged to strictly follow the curriculum, otherwise they can risk facing criticism or even punishment for ‘going outside the textbook’, even in simple cases such as asking students to do online research regarding a certain topic.

Throughout their entire educational process, students in the Arabic system - both public and private - are required to

memorize the information handed over to them, and regurgitate memorized information during test time.

No surprise that students educated in this system fail to value reading or understand its benefits.

Perhaps protestors should shift their focus to calling for an overhaul of Kuwait's education system and integrating more flexible curricula that encourage students to seek knowledge through reading and research. While calls for developing education are not new in Kuwait, most of the demands and subsequent governmental action have so far been focused on improving school infrastructure and quality of teachers hired from abroad. And while those two factors are important, they pale in comparison to the curricula itself which has generally remained unchanged for generations.

Achieving an overhaul of such magnitude is not easy, and it is a process that surely requires a lot of time, effort and patience. But once that change in educational system is achieved, there will be more people who demand more reading freedoms. Eventually, their voices will grow stronger, at which point politicians will have no other choice but to listen.

Until then, activists can stage as many sit-ins and protests as they want, yet decision-makers will have limited interest in a cause so sparsely supported.



# Gaming industry in Kuwait: Possibility or pipe-dream?

By Aakash Bakaya

If you were to tell me 10 years ago that Poland would be the home of one of the most critically-acclaimed games of the decade and the most anticipated game of the last five years, I would have laughed. Today both are a reality. For the uninitiated, I'm talking about 'The Witcher 3' and the upcoming 'Cyberpunk 2077' from Polish game studio CD Projekt Red.

A new trend that has shaped the gaming industry over the last few years is the growth of successful video game development in unexpected places like Poland, as well as Belgium, Czech Republic and India.

The traditional gaming powerhouses - United States, Japan and to a lesser extent the UK - are still home to the biggest and most popular gaming studios. But there's been a major change even there. With the advent of crowd funding websites like Kickstarter, creators and artists both old and new are getting the opportunity to fund their own projects and make a name for themselves. Titles like "Divinity: Original Sin 2", "Pillars of Eternity" and "Darkest Dungeon" are just a few examples of games that were developed purely on the talents of the creators and the backing of a dedicated fan-base.

So the question that's been poised to me is this: "What would it take for a country like Kuwait to get into the video game development industry?" As far-fetched as that might sound, the idea may actually have some potential - both in an artistic sense and a business one. Also since there's approximately zero progress for it at the moment, the only direction it could possibly go is up.

## Reaching the mainstream

The popularity of video games is fast growing in the region, especially in Saudi Arabia and UAE. In Jeddah last week, 'Gamer Con' brought developers and gamers together for a very successful convention that revolved around gaming culture and the ardent artists behind them. While in UAE, 'BleedingEdge Studios' has released over 30+ games on Android and iOS over a two year span. Kuwait hasn't been left out completely either.

This year's 'Comic Con' in Kuwait was the biggest iteration of the convention with a slew of gaming celebrities attending which included Nolan North (the voice behind some of gaming's most iconic characters) and Katsuhiro Harada (the lead creator of Tekken, a massive fighting game franchise). I attended Comic Con Kuwait and was pleasantly surprised at the size in terms of the event and the number of attendees. It really showcased how mainstream gaming has become. But could such events translate into an actual local gaming industry? Could Kuwait be-

come more than just a consumer of gaming and actually take the reins of game development?

For that to realistically happen, you would obviously need investment. Kuwait has lagged behind other countries in the region when it comes to stable investment in other artistic fields like film, for example. But unlike film, I would argue game development is much safer in terms of return on investment. Yes the cost to publish and promote a game has steadily risen over the years but the channels to sell them have expanded and diversified exponentially. Steam, GOG, Humble Bundle are just a few online stores publishers are using to sell their games, of course the mobile market stores are readily available in people's pockets everywhere. No it is not a guaranteed money-maker by any means but in a financially affluent country like Kuwait, risky business endeavors are a dime a dozen.

## Cogs in the machine

So say theoretically money isn't an issue - what would be the next step? Like with any artistic or creative endeavor, you would need to attract the talent. For simplicity sake, I'll divide the required talent into three distinct parts. First you'll need a programmer who will create and handle all the background coding needed to get a game working. Then you would need a conceptual artist, someone to design the game and make it stand out. Finally a director is required to give vision and guidance in order to fully realize the project.

There are several other elements to game development but these three are some of the main cogs in the machine. Ideally though they would be hired as a team but there have been massively successful games that have even less than three people behind it (if you're interested, 'Stardew Valley' and 'Undertale' were both made by just one person). Technology has allowed video game development to be extremely flexible and it is no longer the closed-off garden it once was.

The possibilities are certainly there for those interested in game design in Kuwait like it is in many other countries all over the world. This year's "Kingdom Come: Deliverance" was a game set in 14th century Bohemia (modern day Czech Republic) and the studio behind it put tremendous effort into recreating that era as a showcase of their history. It was a huge success and got a global audience interested in a time period and place they probably never knew existed. So what is stopping someone to create a game based around the Gulf War (something like 'This War Is Mine') or maybe even on other unique aspects of Kuwait or the Gulf region? As the stigma surrounding gaming as a whole improves hopefully we'll see Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf make a significant mark on it as well.

In the Name of God the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

## KEO International Consultants

Is consoled in deep sadness and grieve our precious loss and the good Son, May God save his soul with Mercy and Forgiveness.

## Eng. Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Allam

Has passed away at the Egyptian Arab Republic, after bitter suffering with tough illness

The Condolences acceptance will be at:

**Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, Coral Ball Room,  
on Sunday 23th September 2018  
From 6 PM till 10 PM.**



# A day in the life of a librarian in Kuwait



Only a handful of visitors utilize Kuwait's public library in Khaldiya despite regular social events, lots of books and plenty of space to study. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Kids corner at the Khaldiya library.

By Nawara Fattahova

It's a common refrain that people in Kuwait don't read, and modern technology has exacerbated the matter. Yet there are dozens of public libraries scattered throughout the country, mostly in the Kuwaiti neighborhoods. They still open every day during the week, though few receive many visitors. At some libraries, if there are no social activities, some days see fewer than four visitors.

Yousef Al-Sayegh, a 27-year-old librarian who has been in this job for over two years, is satisfied with his work at the Khaldiya Library. "Although I'm not a huge fan of reading, I enjoy my work here. I benefit from the cultural activities held here presented by professors and teachers from the university and other institutes that have lots of useful information from different fields," he told Kuwait Times.

The Khaldiya Library is open Sunday to Thursday in two shifts. The staff working during the morning shift from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm is different from that working in the evening. "The library reopens in the evening from 4:00 pm till

9:00 pm, and this is when I come to work. The work is easy, and I just wait for visitors to come. When someone requests a book, I help them find it. Over time, I have learnt the location of all kinds of books," Sayegh said.

About 30,000 books are available at the Khaldiya Library. "The majority of our books are in Arabic, but there some English books too. We also have periodicals and magazines, and a children's room with various books for kids. Unfortunately, most of our books are old, as we haven't received any new books since I started working here. Also, not all books are the same in all libraries. Recently, we started indexing, so we will be able to check where a certain book is. Libraries have also started replacing books, so we expect to receive many new books soon," he pointed out.

The majority of visitors are students. "During the school year, we have more visitors as students come to do research at the library, while during summer, the number of visitors is less. Also, at the end of the summer vacation, teachers come to prepare for the school year. Sometimes we also have elderly people visiting the library to read," Sayegh noted.





Saud Abdulaziz at the library.

“  
Few visitors,  
lots of  
time to read  
”

People can also borrow books to take home. “The borrowing period is for two weeks. They pay a KD 5 deposit, and if they don’t return after two weeks, we call them. If they ignore the call and don’t come in a few days, then we just take the deposit. But during my two years of working here, I haven’t faced such a situation. We also scan the borrower’s civil ID and take their contact details. Most of the books have only one copy, and a few are available in two copies,” explained Sayegh.

The average number of visitor is around seven daily during the school year, while it’s around four or five during the summer vacation. Attendance is higher during social and cultural events. “At least once a week an event is held here, and we are planning to increase their number. The events are from different fields - sociology, medicine and many others,” he told Kuwait Times.

Sayegh hasn’t faced any problems during his two years at the library. “Everything is going

smooth here. I’m happy with my job, but my only problem is the salary. I have a bachelor’s degree in library sciences and information, but my salary is much lower than employees in other ministries who hold lesser degrees. This is why most of my classmates refused to work in this field. I only get a KD 10 pay rise annually. So now I’m looking for a part-time job in the morning to boost my income. Also, good relations with my boss - the director of this library Manal Al-Suqoubi - has made me feel comfortable in this job,” he concluded.

His colleague Saud Abdulaziz, a 24-year-old librarian, joined Khaldiya Library two months ago. He graduated from the same faculty as Sayegh, and he likes the work. “I love reading and books, so I’m happy to work here. I have a lot of free time so I can read a lot. Now I’m learning how to classify the books and about the lending process. I appreciate the great efforts of Director Suqoubi, and my colleague Youssef, who are training me,” stressed Abdulaziz.



Tables for visitors to use.



Youssef Al-Sayegh cataloging a book at the Khaldiya library.



# Kuwait Times

ESTABLISHED 1961  
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED



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

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



## Local

# Kuwait Airways, Higher Education ministry sign memorandum of understanding

## 15 percent discount for Kuwaiti students studying abroad

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Higher Education (MHE) yesterday at the KAC premises for a 15 percent discount of market price for the Kuwaiti students studying abroad.

According to this agreement, all Kuwaiti students studying abroad on scholarship by the Ministry of Higher Education will be entitled to a 15 percent discount on market price on airline tickets to all destinations and for unlimited times during the year. The special promotion includes electronic tickets on flights starting from Kuwait and outside Kuwait.

Abdullah Al-Sharhan, CEO of KAC, said that the memorandum comes as part of KAC's plan to support and encourage students. "The ministry will provide us with the names of around 35,000 students who will be entitled to benefit from this promotion, and the database will be systematically updated. This initiative from the

ministry highlights their interest and caring for the students," he pointed out.

This is not the first cooperation between KAC and MHE. "Last year we also signed a memorandum with MHE for transporting the pilots studying in aviation colleges abroad on the expenses of MHE. Some of them will return to Kuwait this year and the others will be following in the coming years," added Sharhan.

Dr Subih Al-Mikhezim, Undersecretary of MHE, noted that "there are about 23,000 students studying abroad on the expense of MHE, around 3,000 students studying abroad on their own expenses under the supervision of MHE, in addition to around 7,000 students studying abroad financed by other governmental institutions. In the future, maybe more categories of students will be included."

Mishaal Al-Mutairi, Manager of KAC's Oasis Club, noted that Kuwait Airways will offer additional 2,500 free miles to students' accounts in KAC's loyalty program Oasis Club, which will be added gradually by 500 miles every year.



**KUWAIT:** Abdullah Al-Sharhan, CEO of Kuwait Airways Corporation (left) and Dr Subih Al-Mikhezim, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education (right) exchange the agreements after signing them yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Domestic workers' rights discussed in Niqashna debate

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Niqashna held a civilized debate entitled 'Domestic workers in Kuwait: have we become modern-day slave owners?' on Wednesday at promenade culture center in the Promenade Mall in Hawally. Niqashna (our debate) is a community platform for open debates in Kuwait that aims to tackle an array of important social and political issues by engaging all members of society.

The discussion opened with Sheikha Bibi Nasser Al-Sabah, Niqashna's founder, head of the Social Work Society (SWS), and an activate at the forefront of fighting for the rights of the disenfranchised migrant workers in Kuwait.

She started by explaining human trafficking, saying that it is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. "I have been fighting for the workers' right since 2003 and I am glad that Kuwait is one of the countries that signed the agreement on supporting anti-trafficking," she said.

"The cases we face in SWS represent pure slavery, where bosses force domestic workers to work after working hours. They use force and threats against the worker, for example threatening to report them absconding from work, which can automatically turn the worker from being a victim to a guilty person," she added.

Sabah further elaborated on a case that her society is currently working on. "We now have a case for a woman called Rosela, who asked her sponsor to let her go after she was abused and beaten up. The sponsor put a knife on her own chest and told Rosela that she would hurt herself and accuse her. This sponsor has been arrested before for blinding her previous maid. The law has been applied, but it did not protect the next maid, like Rosela who is working for this woman. I think the judiciary must be more rigorous and protective to workers."

Sabah noted that Kuwait has slavery practices such as freezing the worker's salary, taking away their freedoms, or threatening them. She added that while there are laws that protect domestic workers, the sponsorship system has been exploited by the sponsors. "How is it fair for a maid who have never received her salary in 11 years? And when she complained, she had to settle for half of her money before they deported her."

"Embassies do not provide any guideline of workers' rights, and if they do, it is only in Arabic and English," she further indicated. "We are now working to provide awareness of workers' rights in 15 languages so that it can reach everyone. We receive approximately 600 cases per month. The worker cannot reach the employment management office because of the language barrier."

Meanwhile, lawyer Bushra Al-Hendal argued that workers receive their rights in Kuwait. "We cannot deny that there are cases of injustice on workers, but we cannot say that Kuwait is at the global level of domestic violence," she said.

"Kuwait is a country of law and order. Also, the workers understand their rights through their embassies, which are obliged to learn the

laws of the country to educate their people."

She affirmed that lawyers apply the law even if the complaint comes from the domestic worker against the sponsor. "There are 51 articles of the Domestic Employment Law," she noted. "Three articles discuss the duties of the worker, 10 discuss the duties of the employer, while 30 articles discuss the organization of offices of domestic labor recruitment."

Hendal explained that the law today has in fact changed to become against the sponsor.

"The Department of Domestic Workers receives complaints from maids who demand their rights," she said.

"Eventually, the worker obtains all his rights including salaries, compensations and even passport. However, if the worker fails to perform his or her duties, the sponsor in that case would not be entitled for a refund of the big amount of money they pay to recruit the worker. Also, we have received many baseless and malicious cases where some workers blackmail their sponsors to get money."



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Lawyer Bushra Al-Hendal and Sheikha Bibi Nasser Al-Sabah. — Photo by Joseph Shagra



## Local

# US hails Kuwait's efforts to tackle terrorism, terror financing

## Finance Minister, US Ambassador discuss bilateral ties

**WASHINGTON/KUWAIT:** The United States praised the Kuwaiti government for its efforts to combat terrorism and encourage moderation. This includes Kuwait's implementation of United Nations Security Council sanctions on both the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda groups, and joining initiatives to combat the financing of terror, the State Department said in its Country Report on Terrorism.

Kuwait is a member of both the Egmont Group and the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center (TFTC), a joint US-Gulf Cooperation Council initiative announced during President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia in 2017. The TFTC, agreed in October, put in place 13 designations of individuals and entities affiliated with IS and Al-Qaeda.

Kuwait also signed a counterterrorism information-sharing agreement with the US during strategic dialogue talks held in Washington last year, and has been active in fostering moderation and addressing violent extremism, the report

added. It went on to reveal 'continued efforts by IS to target Kuwait.' The report commended Kuwait's hosting of a pledging conference for reconstruction efforts in Iraq following Baghdad's defeat of IS in late 2017 alongside several global anti-IS meetings. Additionally, Kuwait's mediation role in the GCC dispute between Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, on the one side, and Qatar, on the other, was also hailed.

Separately, Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf discussed yesterday with the US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman and the economic advisor at the embassy Joseph Ribli ways of boosting cooperation between the two friendly countries. The Finance Ministry said in a statement that the meeting was held following the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the official delegation to the United States, during which he held official talks with US President Trump. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with the US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. —KUNA

## KFAED, Jordan sign deal to schedule \$300.7m debt

**AMMAN:** The Jordanian government and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed yesterday an agreement to schedule debts worth \$300.7 million. KFAED's operations department director

Marwan Al-Ghanem and the acting secretary general of the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Ziad Obeidat signed the agreement. In a statement, Obeidat said the agreement aims to schedule Jordanian debts accumulated as a result of 17 loans. It would be paid off during a period of 40 years with a 15-year grace period at a one-percent interest. Obeidat thanked the KFAED, the Kuwaiti government, and people for their generosity, affirming that Jordan welcomed all gestures of solidarity during periods of economic strife.

Meanwhile, Ghanem lauded relations with Jordan, stressing that Kuwait would help the fellow Arab country achieve economic stability. During the Makkah summit in June, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia agreed to provide \$2.5 billion in economic aid for Jordan. —KUNA



AMMAN: KFAED's operations department director Marwan Al-Ghanem and the acting secretary general of the Jordanian Ministry Ziad Obeidat sign the agreement. —KUNA

## Inflation in Kuwait rose 0.89 percent in August

**KUWAIT:** Basic consumer prices index rose by 0.89 percent in August compared to the same month last year, the monthly report of the Central Statistical Bureau showed. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased monthly to 113.2 by 0.09 percent, as compared to July, as a result of high prices of major groups in the movement of the indices. Annually, consumer prices registered in August 2018 increased by 0.89

percent compared with August 2017, said the Central Statistical Bureau in a report released yesterday. The annual price movement in August 2018 is as follows: Food and beverage group increased by 1.40 percent, cigarette and tobacco prices by 13.51 percent, clothing and footwear decreased by 1.03 percent, housing services decreased by 0.94 percent. Meanwhile, household furniture prices increased by 2.00 percent, health group rose by 3.11 percent, transportation increased by 1.78 percent, communication group by 5.12 percent, recreation and cultural group by 3.83 percent, Education by 1.71 percent. As to the prices of restaurants and hotels, they climbed by 1.34 percent, and miscellaneous goods and services by 2.48 percent. —KUNA

## Hot, humid weather during weekend

**KUWAIT:** Humidity and heat will dominate coastal areas in Kuwait during the weekend, which in general will have light to moderate winds coming from the northwest, a Kuwaiti meteorologist said yesterday. The weather is expected to be hot and humid today with variable light to moderate winds at speeds of 8 to 30 km/h with temperatures soaring to 44 to 46 degrees Celsius, Meteorologist Ahmad Al-Qarawi indicated. The state of the sea will witness waves of light to moderate status reaching 1 to 4 feet. This evening will not fare any better as the weather continues to maintain its hotness and humidity with northwestern light to moderate winds at 6 to 28 km/h. Temperatures will reach 27 to 29 degrees Celsius while the status of the sea will witness light to moderate waves at 1 to 4 feet.

Tomorrow continues the same trend, with temperatures reaching 44 to 46 degrees Celsius during the day and 26 to 28 degrees during the evening, said Qarawi. He added that the northwestern wind speed, during the day and evening, would reach between 6 to 26 km/h, a similar case with the sea as it reaches between 1 to 3 feet. —KUNA

Major Groups	Weights	August-17	July-18	August-18	monthly	Change %	annual
ALL ITEMS	1000	112.2	113.1	113.2	0.09	▲	0.89
FOOD & BEVERAGES	167.06	106.9	108.4	108.4	0.00	-	1.40
Cigarettes & Tobacco	3.33	114.0	129.4	129.4	0.00	-	13.51
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	80.33	106.7	105.2	105.6	0.38	▲	-1.03
HOUSING SERVICES	332.12	117.0	115.9	115.9	0.00	-	-0.94
FURNISHING EQUIPMENT HOUSEHOLD MAINT.	114.33	115.1	117.2	117.4	0.17	▲	2.00
HEALTH	14.80	103.0	106.4	106.2	-0.19	▼	3.11
TRANSPORT	75.42	117.8	119.7	119.9	0.17	▲	1.78
COMMUNICATION	39.77	99.6	104.4	104.7	0.29	▲	5.12
RECREATION & CULTURE	38.45	101.7	105.4	105.6	0.19	▲	3.83
EDUCATION	41.86	117.2	119.2	119.2	0.00	-	1.71
RESTAURANT & HOTELS	34.15	119.4	121.0	121.0	0.00	-	1.34
SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	58.38	104.8	107.7	107.4	-0.28	▼	2.48
TOTAL INDEX LESS FOOD	832.94	113.3	114.0	114.1	0.09	▲	0.71
TOTAL INDEX LESS HOUSING	667.88	109.8	111.7	111.8	0.09	▲	1.82



## Local

# MP Hajraf says grilling against commerce minister ready

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Opposition MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf said yesterday that he has prepared a grilling against Commerce and Industry Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan over alleged financial and administrative violations and that he intends to submit the grilling soon. He called on the minister to choose between facing the grilling in the national assembly or stepping down from his post.

Roudhan had come under increased pressure from several lawmakers who had threatened to grill him over a variety of alleged violations. They include MP Riyadh Al-Adasani who accused the minister of

misusing his post to benefit a company owned by his relative. They also include MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie who accused him of filing 449 incomplete cases to the court regarding a major real estate cheating case. He also accused him of other violations in the ministry.

A large number of MPs have already threatened to grill several ministers when the next term opens in October with expectations of highly tense political environment in the country. A number of MPs have also warned to grill His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Hajraf told reporters in the assembly

that 10 days ago he announced he would grill the commerce minister and "now, the grilling is ready and will be submitted soon." He said the grilling will primarily focus on the state-owned fund for promoting small and medium projects for Kuwaitis which is under the commerce ministry, adding that he had already cautioned the minister over major violations by the fund.

He said that when he previously made the announcement for the grilling, many Kuwaiti youths conveyed many complaints about the fund, adding that the grilling is for the interests of Kuwaiti youths planning to do their own projects.



MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf



Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan

## Cabinet reshuffle likely in first half of October

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A cabinet reshuffle is expected to take place sometime in the first half of October, sources said. The reshuffle is likely to happen after His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah returns from a trip as he leaves on Monday to chair Kuwait's delegation to the United Nations, where he will deliver Kuwait's speech.

The sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity said that His Highness the Prime Minister is still preparing the names of ministers who could leave the cabinet and their replacements. According to the sources, ministers expected to leave include Social Affairs Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh, Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rashidi, Public Works Minister Hussam Al-Roumi, Housing Minister Jenan Bushehri. Meanwhile, Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri, the one of two elected cabinet members, could be returning to

parliament, while it is possible for two MPs to join the cabinet, the sources noted.

In the meantime, the sources believe that Commerce Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan will remain in the cabinet despite two expected grillings from MPs Mubarak Al-Hajraf and Al-Humaidi Al-Subaiee, as he would be backed by a parliamentary majority. Meanwhile the government rejects the parliamentary moves to approve the early retirement law as is. Sources said the government told MPs that the proposal should be returned to the financial committee of the parliament to replace it with another, adding that some MPs agree with that because current one has no chance to be passed.

### Housing welfare

Housing Affairs and Services Affairs Minister Jenan Bushehri issued a decision to form a committee to prepare a proposed law for housing welfare. The committee, headed by Director of Legal Affairs Department Abdallah Al-Saqer, is to prepare an integrated law for housing welfare that includes previous laws and legislative amendments, and to deal with any loopholes and meet the requirements of implementing plans. On the other hand, the minister said that implementation of Al-Mutlaa residential city is ongoing under special follow up, which includes daily reports by resident engineers, in addition to monthly visits by Director of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare Bader Al-Wuqayan.

## No labor strike at South Mutlaa housing project

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Official spokeswoman of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Aseel Al-Mazyad commented on news regarding a strike of laborers signed in the second contract of the South Mutlaa housing project, who accused their company of failure to pay their salaries for three months. PAM inspectors went to the facility and confirmed that the news were false as workers were assuming their duties at work. The inspectors checked on the workers' accommodation to make sure that it meets health and safety conditions. The authority urged employers and employees to comply with the labor law to avoid punishments. Meanwhile, Deputy Director General for Implementation Affairs at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare Ali Al-Hubail said the authority is keen on ensuring a smooth process of work in Mutlaa according to schedule. Hubail said that work is ongoing in the second contract in all areas, confirming that there was no strike or stoppage of work.

### Education for all

The cassation court ruled that education should be made available for all and the Ministry of Higher Education does not have the right to prevent anyone from continuing their university education. The ruling came in a case challenging a Ministry of Higher Education decision to disallow high school graduates from enrolling in Kuwait University two years or more after obtaining their high school degrees.



**KUWAIT:** The accommodations provided for laborers signed in the second contract of the South Mutlaa housing project.

### News in brief

#### Bank armed robbery reported yesterday

**KUWAIT:** A Gulf Bank branch was subjected to an armed robbery and no injuries to clients or employees were recorded, the bank confirmed yesterday in a post on its verified Twitter account. Necessary measures were immediately taken and a case was filed with concerned authorities at the Ministry of Interior, the bank noted. It also expressed gratitude to the Interior Ministry and security authorities for their quick response.

#### Girl charged in brother's death

Police arrested the sister of a Somali teenage boy who died from a stab wound in the heart recently, and charged her with involuntary manslaughter, Al-Rai reported yesterday. While detectives handling the case were questioning the victim's family members, his 26-year-old sister confessed to stabbing him by mistake while they were playing, before their mother discovered the case.

#### Car stolen

A citizen told Adan police that his vehicle was stolen after he offered it online for sale, Al-Anba reported. In his statements to police, the man said that a person contacted him through WhatsApp, and they agreed to meet at 1:30 am after he showed interest in buying the car. He said that they both agreed on the sale price of KD 18,000, then the suspect asked for a test drive, after which he drove off and disappeared with the vehicle. The complainant described the alleged thief as 'very polite' and 'well dressed'.

#### Pigeons' theft

A citizen told Salmi police that an identified person broke into his farm and stole 200 pigeons worth KD 2,000, Al-Anba reported. The man said that the pigeons were kept in several cages, adding that the theft took place while the farm's keeper was asleep.





Giving birth in Afghanistan:  
Inside MSF's 'baby factory'

## Ghost properties: Cruel legacy of Venezuela's migration crisis

Page 15

Page 17



TEHRAN: Iranian Shiite Muslims watch as they gather by a tent during the reenactment of the Battle of Karbala, in Tehran yesterday, during the annual Ashura commemorations. — AFP

## Jeans and chadors as Tehran marks Ashura

### The two settings reflect the increasingly contrast of Iran

**TEHRAN:** A troupe acts out a scene from Islam's first century at a crowded tent in Tehran's Grand Bazaar, while in another part of town youths sporting tattoos and wearing torn jeans watch a procession. The two settings reflect the increasingly contrasting ways that people in the Iranian capital are marking Ashura — one of the holiest days in Shiite Islam which this year fell yesterday.

Ashura marks the murder of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Mohammed killed in the year 680 while refusing the Caliph Yazid's right to rule the Islamic world. Every year for around two weeks before Ashura which falls on the 10th day of the Islamic month of Muharram, Iran undergoes a transformation to mourn his death, with black flags hoisted and commemorations across the country.

"Every nation is kept alive by its culture, beliefs and rituals," says Rahim Khashtou, a lecturer on cultural studies at Karaj Azad University. "Ashura is one such instance that has had an defining role in the Iranian society." The passion play watched by hundreds of people at the Grand Bazaar is about Hussein and his last stand

at Karbala. For those watching, from pensioners to housewives and their children, neither the stifling heat nor the fact that more than a millennia has passed since Hussein's death matter as they beat their chests as a sign of grief. Many see the plays as an inspiration for their faith and the principles they believe Islam stands upon. Azam Ardestani, a 49-year-old housekeeper, says Ashura "shows that we should only follow truth and righteousness, and that we should be prepared to defend what's righteous."

#### 'Fight tyranny'

For Sajjad Teymoori, a 28-year-old civil engineer, it's a symbol of standing up to persecution. "We value Imam Hussein because he gave everything he had for God, to fight oppression and tyranny." Ceremonies held in the Grand Bazaar are known for sticking to traditions and rigorously abiding by the rules of Islam. Most of the men watching on are dressed in plain black clothes and women are clad in full-length black chadors.

A short distance away from the tent, men and women queue separately at stalls where

vendors have served up food to passers-by for decades during Ashura. But that's not the case for all of Tehran. In the middle class neighborhood of Aryashahr, to the west of the city, many of the young men and women joining a late night Ashura procession sport tattoos and are dressed in torn jeans and low-cut blouses — hardly conforming to the strict Islamic dress code. With police looking on, they mingle with ease and many strike up new friendships as they wait for the procession to get underway. Although they aren't widespread, such gatherings are growing and for the more traditional minded they are an anathema.

#### Generational change

Ehsan Hesabi, a 34-year-old shoemaker who attended the play at the bazaar, sees these new gatherings as the work of the enemies of Islam. "They want to distance us from Imam Hussein. They want us to forget the blood he shed... The enemy wants to culturally separate us from traditional mourning which sheds tears for Imam Hussein." Mehran Hosseini, a 34-year-old who

was at Aryashahr, says however such processions appeal to the younger generations. While the commemorations that older people attend might be more educational, "when it comes to our generation, the circumstances have changed" and many younger people don't like them, says Hosseini. "But the way someone dresses is just a matter of personal taste. It isn't an indication of someone's beliefs deep down inside. Anyone can mourn in their own way," he says.

Khashtou, the university professor, sees change as inevitable. "Just as the ceremonies today are different from those 30 years ago, so were those different from ceremonies held 60 years ago," he says. But while Khashtou believes even the newer ceremonies can help create cohesion among the different strata of society, he warned about the rituals losing some of their meaning. "Should there be a reduction in the dimensions of Ashura, and should it lose its essential meaning and substance, then there is the potential for the ritual to become a carnival, where although the subject is sorrow and grief, in practice it becomes a fun and recreational pastime," he adds. — AFP



## International

# France's Le Pen told to undergo psychiatric tests over IS tweets

## Charged with circulating violent messages

**PARIS:** French far-right leader Marine Le Pen expressed outrage yesterday after being ordered to undergo psychiatric tests for tweeting pictures of atrocities committed by the Islamic State group. Le Pen shared the gruesome images in December 2015, a few weeks after IS jihadists killed 130 people in attacks in Paris, sparking widespread condemnation in France.

The 50-year-old leader of the National Rally (formerly the National Front), who lost to Emmanuel Macron in last year's presidential vote, was stripped of her parliamentary immunity over the pictures and charged with circulating violent messages that can be viewed by minors. Yesterday, she tweeted copies of a court order requiring her to undergo a psychiatric evaluation. Dated September 11, it calls for the tests to be carried out "as soon as possible" to establish whether Le Pen "is capable of understanding remarks and answering questions". "It's crazy," fumed Le Pen, herself a trained lawyer.

"I thought I had been through it all: well, no! For having condemned Daesh (IS) horrors in tweets, the 'justice system' is putting me through psychiatric tests! Just how far will they go?" she asked, repeating her view that it was part of a government plot to discredit her. Speaking to reporters in the halls of the National Assembly, Le Pen said she felt "persecuted" by the state and would defy the order.

### 'I won't go!'

"Of course I won't go and submit myself to this psychiatric evaluation," she declared, daring the investigating magistrate to "force" her. Under French law there is no legal mechanism

for forcing a person to comply with such an order. The prosecutor's office in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, where the court is located, said such tests were routine in cases involving the dissemination of violent messages. But there were howls of indignation from Le Pen's supporters and allies nonetheless. Italy's powerful far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini tweeted his sympathy for Le Pen, along with a photograph of himself and the Frenchwoman greeting each other, their arms outstretched and faces wreathed in smiles. "A prosecutor has ordered psychiatric tests on Marine Le Pen. There are no words. Solidarity with her and those French people who love liberty," wrote Salvini, whose League party is in an alliance with Le Pen's faction.

Rightwing eurosceptic Nicolas Dupont-Aignan wondered whether the French justice system was inspired by the Soviet Union, where political opponents were thrown in psychiatric hospitals. "Next step the gulag?" he asked in a tweet. Even some of Le Pen's opponents expressed misgivings about the tests.

Her leftist nemesis Jean-Luc Melenchon, the France Unbowed leader who once called Le Pen "half-demented", tweeted his "total disagreement" with the court order. "It's not these kind of methods that will drive back the far right," wrote Melenchon, a fierce critic of Macron, who denounced the court order as a "political decision".

### Party 'risks death'

Le Pen shared the IS images in response to a French journalist who drew a comparison be-

have failed, Nasrallah said. "If Israel imposes a war on Lebanon, it will face a fate that it never would have expected."

Israel has fought several conflicts against Hezbollah, the last in 2006. The Israeli military believes Hezbollah has between 100,000 and 120,000 short-range missiles and rockets, as well as several hundred longer-range missiles. Late Monday, an Israeli raid hit Syria's north-western province of Latakia to prevent what the Jewish state said were deliveries of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah.

Syrian air defenses downed a Russian military plane by mistake, killing all 15 on board. Russia also backs Syria's government militarily and it was the worst case of friendly fire between the two allies since Moscow intervened in the conflict in 2015. On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country was "determined to stop Iranian military entrenchment in Syria, and the attempts by Iran, which calls for the destruction of Israel, to transfer to Hezbollah lethal weaponry (to be used) against Israel". Nasrallah accused the Israelis of trying to kill him "day and night". He has lived in a secret location for decades and rarely appears in public.



**FREJUS:** Leader of France's Rassemblement National (RN) far-right political party Marine Le Pen (C) gestures to supporters after she delivered a speech at a meeting. —AFP

tween the jihadist group and her party. One of the pictures showed the body of James Foley, an American journalist beheaded by the Sunni extremists. Another showed a man in an orange jumpsuit being run over by a tank and the third showed a Jordanian pilot being burned alive in a cage. "Daesh is this!" Le Pen wrote in a caption, using an Arabic acronym for IS.

She later deleted the picture of Foley after a request from his family, saying she had been unaware of his identity, but she has denounced the case against her as a violation of her freedom of expression. If convicted, she faces up to three years in prison and a fine of 75,000

euros (\$87,000). Another National Rally lawmaker, lawyer Gilbert Collard, has also been charged for tweeting pictures of IS atrocities.

The furore over the psychiatric tests comes as Le Pen attempts to rally support for her cash-strapped party ahead of European elections next spring, in which she is hoping to rebound from her presidential defeat. Last week, she repeated warnings that her party's existence was at stake if it didn't manage to win back two million euros in subsidies seized as part of an inquiry into claims it misused millions worth of European Parliament funds. —AFP

## Hezbollah defies Israel, says has 'precision missiles'

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's Hezbollah said yesterday it had acquired "precision missiles" despite extensive efforts by neighbor and foe Israel to prevent the Shiite movement developing this capability. "It has been done. The resistance now owns precision missiles" as part of its weaponry, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address during the key Shiite commemoration of Ashura.

Israel this month acknowledged carrying out more than 200 strikes over the past 18 months in war-torn Syria, where Hezbollah fights alongside Israel's arch-foe and Shiite powerhouse Iran in support of the Damascus regime. Israel has said it is working to stop both Iran and Hezbollah from acquiring sophisticated arms. "Attempts in Syria to block the way towards this (missile) capability"

## Arab Israeli poet jailed for online incitement freed

**JERUSALEM:** An Arab Israeli woman jailed for five months for incitement to violence and support for a terrorist organization in online poems and other social media posts was released from prison yesterday. Dareen Tatour posted a video clip of herself reading her poem "Resist, my people, resist them," in October 2015, accompanied by pictures of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces, according to authorities.

The posts on YouTube and Facebook came as a wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence was erupting, including Palestinian knife attacks. The 36-year-old Israeli citizen was sentenced in July. She was released yesterday due to time served before her conviction, she and a prison spokesman said. "Freedom is something so sweet that I can't even describe it," Tatour

told AFP after her release.

She added that she planned to publish a collection of poems and a novel on her experience in prison. International writers' group PEN defended Tatour's actions. She was "convicted for doing what writers do every day — we use our words to peacefully challenge injustice", the group said. The offending verses were quoted in Hebrew in the charge sheet, but according to an English translation on the Arabic literature site ArabLit, they contained the following:

"For an Arab Palestine, I will not succumb to the 'peaceful solution,' Never lower my flags, Until I evict them from my land, Resist the settler's robbery, And follow the caravan of martyrs." Prosecutors said that on October 4, 2015 she also quoted a statement by Islamic Jihad calling for "continuation of the intifada in every part of the West Bank", alleging it showed her support for the outlawed militant group. Tatour, from the Arab village of Reineh near Nazareth, was arrested a week later. Arab Israelis are descendants of Palestinians who remained on their land following the creation of Israel in 1948. They account for some 17.5 percent of Israel's population and largely support the Palestinian cause. —AFP



## International

# ‘Parents’ worst nightmare’: Dutch railway collision kills four children

## Children involved in the crash came from three families

**THE HAGUE:** Four children from a Dutch daycare centre died yesterday when a train smashed into their electric cart at a crossing in an accident described as the “worst nightmare of any parent”. A fifth child and the woman driving the vehicle were critically injured in the accident in Oss, a town near the German border around 110 kilometers southeast of the capital Amsterdam.

Police said they were investigating reports that the brakes had failed on the cart, which was taking children from daycare to school, as it approached the crossing. “Today, every family is hit, and the accident leaves a big gap in families, the daycare centre and school,” said Wobine Buijs, the mayor of Oss. The children who died were between four and 11 years old, officials said. The five children involved in the crash came from three families, police chief Dianne van Gammeren said. The electric cart, known as a Stint, features a Segway-type standing area for the driver at the back and a large plastic box at the front where children sit.

### ‘Screamed for help’

Reports in Dutch media said the woman driving the wagon had screamed for help after somehow ending up between the closed barriers of the level crossing, and that children’s rucksacks could be seen flying in the air when it was hit by the train. The cart had just dropped some children off at a local school and was on its way to

another when the crash happened. Gammeren refused to confirm that the driver had tried to stop but the brakes did not work, saying: “I cannot comment on that at the moment, which is part of the inquiry”. The train, which was carrying 57 passengers from the eastern town of Nijmegen to nearby Den Bosch, was equipped with a front-mounted video camera that will be used in the investigation, officials said. Edwin Renzen, the founder of the Renzen company that makes the Stint wagons, was quoted by NOS broadcaster as saying that “this is the worst nightmare of any parent.”

“This is incomprehensible. We are parents and spent years developing the Stints ourselves. I don’t know what I can do, but I just have to go to Oss,” he was also quoted as saying by the ANP news agency. Around 3,000 Stints are in use throughout the Netherlands to transport around 60,000 children weekly, according to Renzen. They are used by many daycare centers to ferry children around towns in the Netherlands, which has a huge network of bicycle paths that they can take. Officials had earlier said that the children were on a cargo bike, which is similar but smaller and relies on pedal power.

### ‘Heavy loss’

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte tweeted from an EU summit that he was “deeply affected



by the incredibly sad news from Oss where four young children have died in a horrible accident. “I wish everyone involved much strength with this heavy loss,” Rutte said. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands said she and King Willem-Alexander “have no words” and that their “thoughts go out

to all families who have lost their children” The head of the Dutch rail infrastructure firm Pro Rail said it was a “day of mourning and sadness.” “This is a rare blow. There will be a thorough investigation, and we will do our utmost to never let this happen again.” — AFP

## French police seek men over rape posted online

**TOULOUSE:** French police were searching yesterday for four men seen raping a woman outside a nightclub in southern France in videos that were shared on social media. Prosecutors in Toulouse opened an inquiry late Wednesday for gang rape after the 19-year-old victim confirmed she was the woman in at least two videos posted first to Snapchat and then Twitter, a source close to the inquiry told AFP.

The videos of the attack prompted a wave of outrage on Twitter, with many users claiming to know the identities of the attackers, aged 25 to 30. “We need calm and discretion,” the source said when asked about the reported identifications of the men. The local Depeche du Midi newspaper reported that the rape occurred overnight Saturday in a parking lot in Balma, a residential suburb east of Toulouse.

Local police were alerted to the attack after the videos were flagged to France’s national digital surveillance cell, and were already investigating Monday when a friend of the victim told them the woman’s identity. The victim herself then came forward after learning the videos were circulating on social media.

“The way they broke me, the way they humiliated me, nothing can relieve that. But the video, which will be shared, where you see my body... It’s a vulnerability I’ll have to bear my entire life,” she told a local radio station Tuesday. — AFP

## Russia invalidates ‘rigged’ vote after protests

**MOSCOW:** Russian authorities yesterday cancelled the result of a vote in an unprecedented move after claims of vote-rigging in favor of a candidate backed by President Vladimir Putin triggered protests. An electoral commission in the far eastern region of Primorsky Krai took the decision to invalidate the results of a runoff governorship vote after the country’s election chief on Wednesday recommended re-running the election, citing numerous violations. It was the first such case in the history of modern Russia.

The crisis erupted after a Communist Party candidate accused a ruling party representative endorsed by Putin of “stealing” his victory in the vote last Sunday. The candidate of the ruling United Russia party, Andrei Tarasenko, accepted the vote annulment, saying there “have been too many complaints.” The Communist Party had earlier urged the authorities to call the race for its candidate Andrei Ishchenko instead of re-running it and said they would launch legal action.

### ‘Criminal drama’

Communist Party veteran leader Gennady Zyuganov called the local authorities, law enforcement agencies and election officials a “criminal gang” who had colluded to rig the vote. “You have to conduct an investigation and draw serious conclusions,” he said on Wednesday, calling the polls a “criminal drama.”

Ishchenko, 37, said he would appeal the election commission’s decision in court and that he planned more rallies in Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai’s main city. The Communist party said more than 2,000 people protested Monday. On Sunday he seemed poised to become the next governor of Primorsky Krai until the results suddenly

changed overnight allowing Tarasenko to claim victory. Sunday’s vote was a second-round runoff after Tarasenko failed to win at least 50 percent of the vote earlier this month.

In Moscow, electoral head Ella Pamfilova welcomed the decision, saying “there was no other way out in this situation.” Asked if she can guarantee that the next vote will be fair, she told Interfax news agency: “Now only God can guarantee things.” New polls are supposed to take place in three months.

Pamfilova said Wednesday there were “serious violations” in the vote and referred to instances of ballot-stuffing and bribes, but denied that it was rigged in favour of the Putin-backed candidate. In a sign of how rare official acknowledgements of vote rigging are in Russia, the developments from Primorsky Krai — which borders North Korea and lies on the coast of the Sea of Japan — were on the front pages of the country’s top newspapers yesterday.

An editorial in the liberal daily Vedomosti called the vote-rigging “the loudest election scandal in recent years,” saying that only “a drop in the ocean” of election violations in Russia were punished by courts. The pro-Kremlin media hailed the vote cancellation as evidence that authorities were committed to clean elections.

### Rigged so blatantly on purpose?

But The Bell, a respected media startup run by investigative journalists, said, citing sources from Tarasenko’s campaign, that officials rigged the vote so openly on purpose because it became clear the Kremlin-endorsed candidate was going to lose and asked Moscow for help. While nearly every election in Russia is marred by claims of vote-rigging, the opposition and ordinary Russians said ballot-stuffing during the far eastern vote was especially brazen.

According to the official results, Tarasenko won 49.55 percent of the vote after a sudden surge, while Ishchenko received 48.06 percent. That result came despite the Communist Party candidate enjoying a five-point lead when more than 95 percent of votes were counted. Voters across Russia are angry over rising poverty under Western sanctions and a controversial pension reform, which led to a major drop in Putin’s approval ratings. — AFP



## International

Friday, September 21, 2018

# Tensions rise as EU prepares for Brexit

## Two sticking points in the talks — must be 'reworked'

**SALZBURG:** EU leaders met yesterday to prepare for the final stretch of Brexit negotiations, after public clashes with Britain over who should give ground but signs of a shift on both sides over the key issue of Ireland. After pitching her Brexit plan to the other European Union leaders over dinner on Wednesday, British Prime Minister Theresa May will leave them to discuss their next steps without her yesterday.

The meeting in Salzburg, Austria, is the first of three summits in successive months, which Brussels hopes will end with agreement on the terms of Britain's withdrawal from the bloc set for March 29 next year. The Alpine summit began with a warning from EU Council President Donald Tusk that Britain's offer on post-Brexit trade ties and Ireland — the two sticking points in the talks — must be "reworked".

May, who is under intense pressure from Brexiters back home, retorted that she had already made compromises and it was now Brussels' turn. She told EU leaders that their proposal to "carve away" Northern Ireland from the rest of the United Kingdom, to avoid checks on the border after Brexit, was "not credible".

"The approaches remain very different," Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz told reporters as he arrived for yesterday's talks. "Away from the discussion in the media, behind closed doors, I have the impression that both sides are aware that a solution can only be found if both sides make a move towards one another." "It will nevertheless still be a difficult process," Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel added: "It is an agreement, so we both have to find a compromise."

### Irish talks

French President Emmanuel Macron insisted Britain must still explain how it intends to avoid physical border checks in Ireland after leaving the EU's single market and customs union. Both sides have pledged to avoid a "hard" frontier in Ireland, amid fears it could disrupt trade and upset the fragile peace on the island. Britain has put forward a proposal as part of its Chequers plan for post-Brexit trade ties, but accepts that some fallback plan is needed until this can be agreed.

The EU version of the so-called "backstop" would see Northern Ireland alone continue to follow many EU trade rules and regulations — but London says this would undermine the integrity of the UK. May held one-on-one talks on Thursday with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, who had earlier told the BBC: "I don't think we're any closer to a withdrawal agreement than we were in March."

But there were signs of some movement, after the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, this week suggested any checks between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK could be away from the border. May welcomed his willingness to "find a new solution", and conceded that some checks were already carried out in the Irish Sea, on agricultural products.

A senior British government official also said it would bring forward a backstop proposal for regulatory checks on goods crossing into and from Northern Ireland, raising the possibility of a breakthrough. However, May repeated her warning that Britain would never agree to any "legal separation of the United Kingdom into two customs territories".



**SALZBURG:** Chief Brexit Negotiator Michel Barnier poses at the EVP-Summit of the European People's Party (EPP). — AFP

### New Brexit vote

Both sides had been aiming for an October EU summit as the deadline to reach an agreement, to allow time for the deal to be ratified by British and European parliaments before Brexit in March. But with the talks deadlocked, Kurz confirmed yesterday there would be a final summit in November to clinch the deal.

Over dinner on Wednesday, May had her first opportunity to present to fellow leaders her plan for the post-Brexit trading relationship, which was published in July. Her proposal to follow EU rules

on trade in goods has provoked a fierce backlash among eurosceptics in her Conservative party, renewing speculation of a challenge to her leadership. The political turmoil has sparked growing calls in Britain for a re-run of the 2016 Brexit vote — calls echoed by both the Maltese and Czech leaders in Salzburg. However, May warned fellow leaders it would not happen, nor would Britain consider delaying Brexit to allow more time for negotiations. "The UK will leave on March 29 next year," she said over dinner, adding: "The onus is now on all of us to get this deal done." — AFP

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

# GRAND SALE

**119**  
**152**

- Double Door
- 21 Cu.Ft
- No Frost
- Silver Color

**75**  
**149**

- 1000 RPM
- 15 Programs
- Safety Lock

**99**  
**125**

- 5 Burner
- Maximum Safety
- Inox

**best** **بست**  
 AL-YOUSIFI **اليوسفى**

Credit: Best loans S&D • Up to 48 months • Interest repayment

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

**1809 809**

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



## International

# Botswana fights claims of elephant poaching spree

## Claims led to global media attention

**CHOBENATIONAL PARK:** Botswana has rejected claims of a surge of elephant poaching made by a leading conservation charity and put on display carcasses of animals allegedly slaughtered for ivory — some with tusks still intact. Elephants Without Borders (EWB) claimed two weeks ago that it had discovered at least 87 elephant carcasses during a routine aerial survey of conservation areas, suggesting a sudden spike in killings in recent months.

The claims led to global media attention and questions were raised about Botswana's anti-poaching efforts. But officials demanded to see EWB's proof and subsequent visits to the Chobe National Park located just 19 corpses — only six of which were found to be poaching victims.

### 'Haven't recorded any mass killing'

"Last year, the whole year, we lost about 81 elephants. So I can say it's just normal, like any other year, we haven't recorded any mass killing," said Churchill Collyer, the deputy director of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. Officials added that since the start of the year, a total of 63 elephants had died across the country and that there had been no noticeable increase in elephant poaching.

Around 40,000 African elephants are killed every year for their tusks, according to conservation groups. The elephants are illegally traded as part of a multi-billion dollar industry that extends from Africa to Asia and beyond. Botswana, which has Africa's largest elephant population, is on the frontline of the battle against the illicit ivory trade.

This week, the country's authorities took journalists to the vast Chobe National Park in the northeast which has more than 100,000 elephants — the country's largest concentration of the animals. Several hours spent flying over the reserve which borders Namibia, Zambia and Zim-

babwe, showed six elephant carcasses, four of which appeared to have been poached.

"This is almost more than six months since it was killed," said Collyer of one animal with dried, perforated skin and missing tusks. Around 20 kilometers away, another decomposed carcass was found but when EWB led rangers to it, the tusks were still intact, suggesting it was not killed for ivory. "The cause of the natural death could either be from old age, from diseases, from starvation during the drought season," said anti-poaching deputy brigade commander George Bogatsu, a six-year veteran of the fight against poaching. He stood next to the carcass with an assault rifle slung over his arm and a handgun tucked into the side pocket of his camouflage trousers. The animal was one of those counted by Elephants Without Borders as poached. EWB said in a statement that "an unusually high number of elephant carcasses were seen by the survey team". "Our current survey adheres to the highest international standards," it added. "There is no cemetery in the wild — animals like elephants will take years and years to completely disappear" from the spots where they die, said Simon Barwabatsile, the country's anti-poaching coordinator.

EWB had been contracted by Botswana to conduct aerial elephant population surveys. Before concluding the work, the group's director Mike Chase said the survey pointed to elephant poaching on a scale "by far the largest" in Africa.

He said it coincided with the disarming of Botswana's rangers earlier this year. But the military insisted it remained ready to repel poaching gangs armed with high-powered rifles. Barwabatsile said there had been "legal issues" about rangers being armed with certain guns. "There's been a withdrawal of some arms from the anti-poaching unit within the department of wildlife and national parks," he said.



CHOBENATIONAL PARK: Colonel George Bogatsu of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) moves near the marked remaining of an elephant. — AFP

He could not confirm how many weapons — understood to be fully automatic rifles — had been taken out of circulation. A group of other wildlife conservation groups said last week that civilian rangers are still armed with "high-caliber weapons, but no longer carry automatic assault rifles". Some in the conservation community have suggested that Elephants Without Borders made such alarming claims because of "vested interests". Survival International's Stephen

Corry said he expected more reports "stirring up panic over the increasing threat of poaching" as groups raise cash ahead of a conference in London on the illegal wildlife trade next month. But EWB insisted that "given the high number of elephant carcasses seen during the survey, EWB felt it a moral and patriotic duty to immediately report this." "EWB's sole concern is for the wildlife and the natural heritage of our wonderful country." — AFP

## Trump suggested Sahara wall to stem migrants

**MADRID:** Spain's foreign minister revealed that US President Donald Trump suggested building a wall along the Sahara desert to stem the arrival of migrants, as he plans to do on the Mexican border. "Closing ports is not a solution, and neither is building a wall along the Sahara like President Trump suggested to me recently," Josep Borrell told a lunchtime gathering this week, according to a video released by Spanish media. "Just build a wall that borders the Sahara," he quoted Trump as telling him. "But do you know how big the Sahara is?" the minister responded.

He did not give any further details. The reported comments come as EU leaders are locked in talks in Salzburg over how to deal with the number of migrants arriving in Europe. Spain is at the frontline of this issue, having overtaken Italy to become the number one point of entry for migrants coming to Europe by sea or by land from Africa. — AFP

## Mexico official fired over odyssey of truck with nearly 300 bodies

**GUADALAJARA:** A state government in Mexico has fired a prosecutor over a spectacle in which a fetid-smelling tractor trailer carrying 273 bodies was driven around aimlessly for lack of room in the morgue. "I am not willing to tolerate this kind of mistake, which shocks and horrifies public opinion," said the governor of western Jalisco state, Aristoteles Sandoval, as he fired prosecutor Raul Sanchez.

The state's chief coroner was fired earlier in the week over the sad drama in the state capital, Guadalajara. The bodies were in the refrigerated truck because the morgue in Mexico's second-largest city was full. Officials originally put the number of bodies at 157 but on Wednesday they raised it to 273. The truck was parked for two weeks at a warehouse in a downtrodden neighborhood on the city outskirts until residents complained of the stench and the flies it attracted.

The authorities then moved the truck to an empty lot in another poor neighborhood far from the city center, until

residents there protested Saturday. Officials then moved it to a prosecution storage facility in the city center, where it remains parked for now. News outlets broadcast footage Wednesday of the open trailer of the truck, with piles of bodies in black bags and a man in white boots stepping on the bags.

Officials have said the bodies were of victims of violent crime, so under Mexican law they cannot be cremated. Authorities said they were looking for a longer-term solution. The coroner who was fired over this case, Luis Octavio Coterio, said the state government was working on a site to bury 800 bodies outside Guadalajara. The number of murder victims in Mexico has exploded in recent years. Since the government deployed the army to fight the country's powerful drug cartels in 2006, Mexico has been hit by a wave of violence that has resulted in more than 200,000 murders. Last year, the country registered a record 28,702 homicides.

Mass graves are regularly discovered containing dozens or even hundreds of unidentified bodies. Nearly 4,000 such corpses have been found since 2007, according to the National Human Rights Commission. Some of the highest-profile violence has been in Jalisco, home to the brutal Jalisco New Generation Cartel. Other states hit hard by cartel violence have also struggled with overflowing morgues in recent years, including Veracruz in the east, Guerrero in the south and Chihuahua in the north. — AFP



## International

# Ghost properties: Cruel legacy of Venezuela's migration crisis

## Deserted homes, desolate apartment blocks and stagnant markets

**CARACAS:** Three years ago, asphyxiated by Venezuela's economic meltdown, Francisco Rojas and his wife Elena packed up four suitcases with the barest of essentials and walked out of their Caracas apartment. It has remained empty ever since. Toothbrushes are still perched on the bathroom sink, the refrigerator runs with only ice and tomato sauce inside, and the bar is empty except for a lone bottle of rum.

Deserted homes, desolate apartment blocks and stagnant markets for both renters and buyers are yet another disheartening byproduct of the South American country's dire economic straits, which have prompted a mass exodus. Elena, 33, was offered a job in Ecuador and there was no looking back. She can now earn as much in one month as she did in four years in Caracas.

When the couple left Venezuela, they simply locked the doors to the apartment rather than selling it, even though the money would have helped. Bought for \$100,000 in 2014, their home had already lost half of its value. "We wanted to see how things would go. Now that we're established, it would be absurd to sell," Francisco Rojas, a 28-year-old sports journalist, told AFP from Guayaquil, Ecuador's most populous city.

In Venezuela, more and more apartment blocks have turned into ghost buildings. Lights are never turned on, parking spaces remain empty and mailboxes are jammed with letters that are never claimed. The crisis has sparked a new business — management of deserted homes. Such services include the payment of public services bills, representation at condo meetings and even the

switching on of lights at various times to ward off burglars. According to the United Nations, some 1.6 million Venezuelans have fled the country since 2015 and a total of 2.3 million live abroad — some 7.5 percent of the total population of 30.6 million.

### Buyers' market

The Rojas were tired of the insecurity, the lack of food and medicine and the inflation — predicted by the International Monetary Fund to reach a staggering one million percent this year — that rendered their salaries practically worthless. Hope springs eternal, though, even for those who have already left. "If the situation improves, we'll see if we return to Venezuela or sell the apartment," said Francisco. Right now, it's not a sellers' market.

Roberto Orta, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Real Estate in Caracas, says properties have lost 70 to 80 percent of their value over the last five years. "An apartment that cost \$170,000 is worth no more than \$70,000 today. Someone offers \$50,000 and the owner prefers to leave it locked," real estate broker Carolina Quintero told AFP.

Mariana Garcia, a 41-year-old accountant who fled in 2017 with her husband and two children, says her house "lost more than half its value" but they held onto it. "We locked the house, (left it) intact, and left with just two suitcases," she said from the United States, where her husband accepted a job offer after first emigrating to Ecuador. "Even if you have money, there's nothing to buy or there's no water," said Garcia, explaining



CARACAS: View of the bedroom of an empty apartment. — AFP

that she and her family took off before it was too late, worried that as international airlines shut down, they could be stranded in Venezuela.

### Fear of squatters

As well as a reluctance to sell, homeowners who have moved abroad don't want to rent their properties for fear of being unable to reclaim them from tenants, as authorities often prevent evictions, even in the case of rental contract violations. Rental laws

oblige proprietors to sign contracts with their tenants of at least one year that must be extended for six months to three years.

According to Orta, the rental market is operating at just five percent of its potential. Carlos Gonzalez, president of the National Real Estate Chamber, told AFP that "hyperinflation means it's not worth renting in bolivars," but few people have access to dollars which, since 2003, have only been available on the black market. — AFP

## Brazil's presidential campaign polarized between left and right

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazil looks to be charging headlong into a two-horse presidential race between the far right and the left in what has been an at times surreal and unpredictable campaign. But while right-wing Jair Bolsonaro and leftist Fernando Haddad head opinion polls, they're also the most hated candidates, something that analyst Thomaz Favaro believes could pose a problem for the next president's credibility.

"The fact that these options generate so much rejection can have serious consequences for the country," said Favaro, from Control Risk consultancy. "It brings a problem of legitimacy for the next government which will struggle to implement its reforms... whoever wins, he'll come up against a lot of resistance in Congress."

In the latest opinion poll by Ibope, Bolsonaro led with 28 percent while Haddad climbed to second on 19 percent just a week after polling a mere eight, directly after his nomination by the Workers' Party (PT) as their replacement candidate after former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was barred from standing because he is serving a 12-year prison sentence for corruption. But 42 percent of respondents said they would never vote for Bolsonaro — a figure that has remained consistent amidst accusations of racism, sexism and homophobia against the ex-army captain over some controversial comments — while 29 percent similarly reject Haddad.

In a further twist, should those two get through the October 7

first round to the run-off second round three weeks later, Ibope's poll says they would finish level with 40 percent each. A reader who wrote in to the economic newspaper Valor summed up the mood with this comment: "I will never forgive Bolsonaro for forcing me to vote PT."

### Lesser of evils?

When it comes to the second round of voting it may well be a case of who voters hate the least rather than like the most. "Unless someone (else) bounces back, we will have an election like 1989 when Fernando Collor, a politician from an insignificant party, fought a duel with Lula," and won, said Lincoln Secco, an analyst and historian at the University of Sao Paulo.

The uncertainty of an election in which the initial frontrunner was languishing in jail while his main opponent recovered in hospital, shows no sign of abating. The Lula soap opera was a long drawn-out affair and while the 72-year-old premier from 2003-2010 refused to give up on his bid to stand in the election, his conviction for accepting a seaside apartment as a bribe eventually ruled him out of the running.

Even while he tried to exhaust every appeal process available to him, Bolsonaro's fate took a dark turn as he was stabbed earlier this month by a leftwing activist while out on the campaign trail. He has had two operations and remains in hospital recovering, with his ability to return to the campaign trail even before the October 28 second round vote looking increasingly unlikely. There's nothing new about right versus left presidential races, particularly in Brazil, but the main protagonists are not what the country is used to. On the one hand, Bolsonaro has openly expressed admiration for the much-hated military dictatorship from 1964-85 and its use of torture, while Haddad, 55, is a virtual unknown outside of Sao Paulo, where he was once the mayor. — AFP

## Pot 'enthusiasts' wanted to sample cannabis in Canada

**OTTAWA:** A Toronto marketing company is looking to recruit six "cannabis enthusiasts" to test strains of pot and report back on their characteristics. So far, AHLLOT says it has received more than 500 applications for the part-time positions — an overwhelming number that is "slightly panicking" its marketing team.

The job, which is only open to Canadian adults, pays Can\$50 (US\$39) an hour for up to 12 hours a month "to evaluate the best that Canada's growers have to offer," it said. "A self-avowed interest in cannabis together with the ability to distinguish the often nuanced characteristics of different strains is desirable," said the job posting. The selected pot "connoisseurs" will form a "cannabis curation committee" whose advice will help determine which strains the company includes in sample packages once recreational-use pot becomes legal on October 17.

The new hires would also be asked to write social media posts and appear in promotional videos for the company, as well as attend corporate events. AHLLOT itself does not produce cannabis. Rather it has partnered with licensed grower Solace Health to handle orders and distribute its branded products. "The cannabis industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the country and come October 17th, Canadians are going to be hit with a tsunami of choice," chief executive Greg Pantelic said in a statement announcing the sample packs. — AFP



## International

# 12 killed, dozens missing in new Philippine landslide

## Typhoon Mangkhut pounds the nation's north

**NAGA:** Twelve people were killed and dozens missing after a landslide unleashed by monsoon rains struck in the central Philippines yesterday, inflicting more misery on the already storm-battered nation. The new tragedy comes just days after 2018's most powerful storm, Typhoon Mangkhut, pounded the nation's north with heavy winds and rain, sparking a separate landslide that left dozens dead.

Emergency workers in helmets and locals with shovels rushed to search for survivors of the new disaster, which happened in the village of Tina-an on the popular tourist island of Cebu. Days of heavy monsoon rains caused a steep slope of crumbly limestone and soil to collapse into at least 10 homes early yesterday when many people would still have been in bed.

"Even four-storey houses are buried," said witness John Rhay Repuesto Echavez, who also saw the human toll of the slide. "(My neighbor) was crying right in front of her sister's house. There was nothing left, not even the rooftop was visible," he told AFP. "Her sister's whole family was buried." Injured survivors were wheeled into the back of ambulances and the dead were laid on pews at a local church. "We have 12 dead now," civil defence spokesman Julius Regner told AFP, adding at least 50 people were still believed missing.

### Upland town

"There are more than 100 rescuers on the site. They are using backhoes (excavators) and other heavy equipment," he added. Civil defence officials in the region said landslides are fairly rare on Cebu, an elongated island with low hills that did not take a direct hit from Mangkhut. As yesterday's search for survivors unfolded, efforts continued in the hunt for bodies in the mining area of Itogon in the mountainous north of the Philippines, which was the area worst hit by the typhoon.

Most of those killed in the storm died in landslides in the Cordillera range, which includes Itogon and other towns in a region known for gold mining.

Police said yesterday that the death toll rose to 88, primarily due to corpses recovered from the Itogon slide. Mangkhut swamped fields in the nation's agricultural north and smashed houses when it tore through at the weekend. Itogon is one of the country's oldest mining hubs, with known gold panning activity stretching back to before the 17th-century Spanish colonial conquest. Thousands of people from all over the country still flock to the upland town seeking their fortune in largely unregulated mining, which is accompanied by periodic deadly accidents. —AFP



**NAGA:** Residents dig amongst boulders as they search for survivors after a landslide triggered by moonson rains hit a village in Naga City, Cebu province in central Philippines. —AFP

## Indonesian city orders staff to 'pray or get a new job'

**JAKARTA:** An Indonesian city has ordered its top civil servants to visit their local mosque for dawn prayers or risk being sacked, underscoring the growing influence of religion across the world's biggest Muslim majority country. Senior bureaucrats in Palembang, co-host of last month's Asian Games, are now required to visit their local mosque at the crack of dawn — and they've been warned that a smartphone app was in the works to sniff out the less-than-devout.

The order, which may be a first for Indonesia, is aimed at helping bureaucrats better relate to residents' concerns while the early wake-up call could also boost productivity, city spokesman Amiruddin Sandy told AFP. "By praying together at dawn with regular people, we get a chance to hear from them directly," he said, adding that common complaints ranged from water not running to broken street lights.

The edict comes as Indonesian society's lurch toward religious conservatism has chal-

lenged its long-held reputation for having a tolerant brand of Islam. Religious and sexual minorities have been subject to increasing prejudice, from authorities whipping gay people in conservative Aceh province to Christian congregations being targeted by suicide bombers earlier this year.

Health officials in Aceh have struggled to roll out a child vaccination program over concerns the medicine contains traces of pork — outlawed in Islam — while the country's leader Joko Widodo drew criticism for picking a conservative Muslim cleric as his running mate in next year's presidential elections.

Palembang's new rule, which started Wednesday, applies to Muslim members of its 16,000-strong civil service although only 1,100 senior staff will risk a sacking if they skip dawn prayers. The city's mayor plans to do some spot checking to make sure officials were complying until the local government launches a smartphone app to keep track of attendance, Sandy said.

"If we find an official disobeying the regulation we won't immediately sack him. We will summon him first and ask why he didn't go to the mosque," he said. "If you're doing your prayers well then, God willing, everything else will be good." About 90 percent of Indonesia's 260 million people follow Islam. Muslims are required to pray five times a day starting from daybreak, but many do it alone rather than going to a mosque. —AFP

## Malaysia ex-PM hit with 25 new charges over 1MDB scandal

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's ex-leader Najib Razak was hit with 25 new charges of money laundering and abuse of power linked to the 1MDB mega-scandal yesterday, including allegations hundreds of millions of dollars were transferred to his personal bank account. As hundreds of banner-waving supporters gathered outside the Kuala Lumpur court, Najib pleaded not guilty to all counts, which represented the most serious in a string of charges he has faced over the alleged looting of state fund 1MDB.

Najib, whose shock election defeat in May ended his coalition's six-decade stranglehold on power in Malaysia, was accused of abusing his position to receive funds totaling 2.3 billion ringgit (\$555 million) between 2011 and 2014. The suspicious transfers to his accounts were a key chapter in the scandal, and Najib has previously insisted they were a donation from Saudi royalty — an explanation that was widely derided.

Allegations that Najib and his cronies pilfered huge sums from 1MDB and spent them on everything from high-end real estate to artwork were a major factor in the defeat of his long-ruling coalition to a reformist alliance headed by Mahathir Mohamad. After being charged yesterday, Najib gave a defiant press conference outside court: "I pray I will clear my name. I hope the rule of law exists in this country."

"We shall fight till the end and God will guide

us all along the path of truth," he added, as his supporters cheered. He was released after agreeing to post bail of 3.5 million ringgit. Mahathir, 93, who is in his second stint as premier after coming out of retirement to take on scandal-mired Najib, has ramped up probes in the 1MDB scandal and vowed to have the ex-leader prosecuted. The raft of charges filed yesterday accused Najib of receiving vast amounts of money in a complex series of transactions. Many of the transfers happened ahead of a hotly contested national election in 2013, which Najib's coalition won comfortably.

### Political blueblood

Najib was first charged over 1MDB in July and August, over allegations he pocketed money from a former unit of the fund, but the latest counts are the most significant yet as they relate to key chapter in the saga. For each count of abuse of power, Najib faces up to 20 years in prison and for each count of money laundering, he faces up to five years. When reports surfaced in 2015 that huge sums from 1MDB flowed into Najib's bank accounts ahead of the poll, it dramatically ratcheted up pressure on the leader and his inner circle over the scandal. As pressure mounted, Najib lurched sharply to the right, sacking senior figures in his coalition who dared criticize him and jailing political opponents.

The attorney-general later cleared Najib of any wrongdoing, saying the money was a personal donation from the Saudi royal family, and closed down domestic investigations. 1Malaysia Development Berhad was set up in 2009 and overseen by Najib, with the purported aim of promoting economic development in Malaysia, but accusations quickly mounted that it was a vehicle for the leader and his cronies to loot state coffers. —AFP



## International

# Giving birth in Afghanistan: Inside MSF's 'baby factory'

**KHOST:** The mother was admitted at 9:30 am, the birth recorded at 9:35. Women often arrive in extremis at the Doctors Without Borders maternity hospital in southeastern Afghanistan, one of the most active in the world, with more than 60 babies born daily. The early hours of the morning are the most feverish for the hospital — affectionately known by the NGO as “the baby factory” — just a stone’s throw from Pakistan’s tribal areas, in Khost province.

The Taliban are active in the region and roads are often dangerous after dark, so when 25-year-old Asmad Fahri felt her contractions begin at night she knew she would have to wait until daybreak to begin the three-hour journey to the hospital. Finally she is resting, her infant tightly swaddled and asleep between her knees. On average new mothers are kept in the ward for six hours, but she has asked to leave after just three, to ensure she reaches home before darkness falls again. Sometimes the mothers have to travel for days, in pain and bleeding, over unpaved, insecure roads in carts or by whatever mode of transportation they can find. In an opposite wing, the delivery tables continuously welcome newcomers. Most only have time to lift the long layers of clothing hiding their bodies and wedge their colored veils between their teeth, too rushed even to change into MSF’s standard red pyjamas.

The Khost Maternity Hospital (KMH) opened at the end of 2012 in a medical desert in the conflict-riven country with one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world. It was an overnight success, with nearly 12,000 deliveries in its first full year in 2013. By 2017 that figure had nearly doubled, to 23,000. This year the hospital is on track to deliver 24,000 babies, says Dr Rasha

Khoury, a Palestinian gynecologist who is medical officer at the site.

If so that puts it within crying distance of the busiest maternity wards in the United States, where the Northside Hospital in Atlanta delivered 27,000 babies in 2016, the highest number in the country that year. “Here we are saving lives for free,” smiles Safia Khan, 24, the assistant manager of the midwifery team. Behind her, a young mother of twins searches her skirts and hands her a folded blanket. It is a traditional gesture of gratitude after delivery, at times required in some hospitals but politely declined here. “It’s forbidden,” insists Khan.

## More deadly than war

The UN and the World Bank put maternal mortality at around 396 deaths per 100,000 live births in Afghanistan. But the figure is disputed, with experts pointing out it is an improbable fall from the 1,600 per 100,000 recorded in 2002. Such a decline would mean Afghanistan would have reached its Millennium Development Goal set by the UN some five years early, a study published in the medical journal the Lancet noted in 2017. The authors of that study say more credible figures released by the Afghan government in partnership with USAID suggest maternal mortality could still be as high as 1,291 per 100,000 — meaning that giving birth is around five times more deadly for Afghan women than the conflict itself. If so, it is a staggering figure 17 years after the fall of the Taliban regime, despite billions of dollars in international aid, in a country with one of the youngest, fastest-growing populations in the world.

Dr Khoury says that MSF facilitates around 40 percent of the births in Khost, which has an estimated 1.5 million inhabitants. But to make a real dent in the

sengers were safe. Another traveler said the pilot did not make any announcement other than that the flight would turn back to Mumbai. “I was in the business class and the oxygen mask came down suddenly. One passenger came running from the back asking everyone to put on the masks,” he told the NDTV news network.

“All the passengers were panicking, those sitting at the back and who were unable to wear the masks started bleeding from their mouths and noses.” An official with India’s national aviation regulator told the Press Trust of India the crew “forgot to select (the) bleed switch” to maintain the aircraft’s cabin pressure.

Five travelers who suffered bleeding and were rushed to a Mumbai hospital were suffering from mild deafness that would take some 10 days to recover, a doctor told reporters. The incident is the latest in a string of embarrassing incidents for the airline, which like other Indian carriers has been suffering financially. In January, two Jet Airways pilots were grounded for getting into a brawl and storming out of the cockpit briefly during a New Year’s Day flight from London to Mumbai. In view of the latest scare, India’s Civil Aviation minister Suresh Prabhu has ordered a safety audit of all airlines and airports, asking the report to be submitted within 30 days. —AFP



**KHOST:** In this photo taken on August 9, 2018, an Afghan midwife from Doctors Without Borders (MSF) checks a newly delivered baby at the MSF maternity hospital. —AFP

mortality rates in the face of these challenges they would need “three hospitals like MSF”, she says.

## Pashtunwali

On top of war, poverty, and a galloping population, the medical staff face a further obstacle: the Pashtunwali, the patriarchal social code of honour that dictates life in the conservative Pashtun tribal region where Khost lies. Under the Pashtunwali the genders must be segregated, and a woman must never show her face to a stranger.

As such, medical staff at the hospital are exclusively female, with the exception of some anaesthetists and the director of the neonatology department. Even so, a little persuasion has at

times been necessary, says Salamat Khan Mandozai, a respected local figure who deals with security for the hospital and has also acted as a community liaison. “In this rural environment, some women still prefer to give birth at home,” he notes.

Going to hospital embarrasses them, agrees Safia Khan — birth is a private matter. Dr Khoury says the hospital is aware that many women are not coming to them, but adds that the families who do come do so “without hesitation”. For many, she adds, obstacles are not about culture, but finances — namely, paying for transportation — or safety and security, especially at night. Women must also wait until a man of the family is available to accompany them, she says. —AFP

## Air pressure mix-up causes mass bleeding on Jet Airways flight

**MUMBAI:** A cockpit mix-up left more than 30 passengers on an Indian plane bleeding from their ears and noses yesterday after the crew reportedly forgot to flick a switch regulating cabin air pressure. The Jet Airways flight to Jaipur had to turn back due to loss in cabin pressure, the airline said, with travelers describing “panic” on board.

The plane carrying 166 passengers landed back in Mumbai and those affected were given medical attention while alternative flights were arranged, Jet Airways said. The flight crew “has been taken off scheduled duties pending investigation”, the company said in a statement. People on board posted photos and videos of the calamity online, with one purported passenger, Darshak Hathi, uploading footage on Twitter showing travellers using oxygen masks.

“Panic situation due to technical fault in @jetairways 9W 0697 going from Mumbai to Jaipur,” he tweeted, adding that all pas-

## Vatican suspends Indian bishop accused of rape

**NEW DELHI:** The Vatican has accepted a request from a bishop in India to be temporarily relieved of his pastoral duties as police questioned him for a second day over accusations that he raped a nun. In a letter seen by Reuters, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India, said Pope Francis had received the bishop’s request to be temporarily relieved of his pastoral responsibilities. The Vatican had accepted the request, the letter said.

The nun from the southern Indian state of Kerala has accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal, who heads the Diocese of Jalandhar, of raping her repeatedly over a period of two years. The bishop has not been charged, but has given interviews denying wrongdoing and saying he wanted to defend his name. He wrote to the Vatican on Sunday asking to step down temporarily as protests and calls for his arrest grew in the state. “Having considered all circumstances, the Holy Father has accepted this request,” the letter said. The case comes at a time when the Christian community, which accounts for 19 percent of the state’s population, is reeling under an erosion of trust as sexual abuse cases involving the clergy pile up. The Catholic Church faces crises worldwide involving sexual abuse of minors by members of the clergy. —Reuters

## Child deaths plague India’s tribal people

**MUMBAI:** India’s indigenous children are far more likely to die or suffer from malnutrition than those from other communities, according to the first government study on health among tribal groups. Among indigenous communities, 57 out of every 1,000 chil-

dren die before age five, compared to 37 deaths in other social groups, according to the report released last week. The national average for malnutrition among children is 35 percent, while researchers found that 42 percent of indigenous children are underweight. Researchers examined health conditions for India’s 104 million indigenous people, and called for resources to be directed specifically towards improving healthcare and food security among the country’s 705 tribal groups. —Reuters



## International

# Two Koreas' leaders in a mountain show of unity

## Washington ready to engage immediately in negotiations

**SEOUL:** Kim Jong Un and Moon Jae-in visited the spiritual birthplace of the Korean nation yesterday for a show of unity after their North-South summit gave new momentum to Pyongyang's negotiations with Washington. The North Korean leader on Wednesday agreed to shutter the Tongchang-ri missile-testing site in the presence of international observers, a move the US welcomed by saying it was ready for immediate talks aimed at denuclearising the North.

Pyongyang also said it could dismantle its best-known nuclear facility at Yongbyon, if the US takes "corresponding measures", as Kim and the South Korean president held their third summit this year. It is an important caveat — Moon told reporters on his return to Seoul that the US would need to "end hostile relations with North Korea and provide security guarantees for the North Korean regime". But the declaration appeared to break the North's logjam with Washington.

President Donald Trump welcomed the move, tweeting that Kim had "agreed to allow Nuclear inspections, subject to final negotiations", adding: "Very exciting!" Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also praised the "important commitments", saying he invited his North Korean counterpart to talk next week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, and representatives of both sides to meet "at the earliest opportunity" in Vienna — home of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Washington was ready to "engage immedi-

ately in negotiations" to achieve the North's denuclearization by January 2021, Pompeo added — the end of Trump's first term. Kim was hoping for a second summit with Trump "at an early date", Moon said in Seoul after concluding his three-day trip, adding he would take the US president a message from Kim when he meets him himself next week.

### 'Appease Trump'

The nuclear discussions had stalled after the first historic summit between Trump and Kim in Singapore in June, when Kim declared his backing for denuclearisation of the peninsula but no details were agreed. Washington and Pyongyang have subsequently sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved, with the Trump administration consistently referring to the denuclearisation of North Korea specifically.

For its part, Pyongyang — which wants a formal declaration the 1950-53 Korean War is over — has condemned demands for its unilateral disarmament as "gangster-like". Experts remain skeptical, pointing out that closing Tongchang-ri, also known as Sohae, would have no impact on the North's ability to manufacture rockets.

Pyongyang has used several other locations for missile launches and has repeatedly said it has no need for further testing. Many also believe the North has other covert nuclear facilities. "The North Koreans are offering gestures that mimic disarmament," arms control expert Jeffrey Lewis tweeted. "They don't meaningfully



**UNDISCLOSED LOCATION:** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (2nd L) and his wife Ri Sol Ju (L) pose with South Korean President Moon Jae-in (2nd R) and his wife Kim Jung-sook (R) on the top of Mount Paektu. — AFP

constrain North Korea's nuclear program." Their main purpose, he added, was "to appease Trump, so that Moon and Kim can keep their engagement alive".

### Peak diplomacy

At their Pyongyang summit, Moon and Kim

agreed that the North Korean leader will visit Seoul "at an early date". It would be the first such trip by a North Korean leader since the Korean War ended in an armistice, leaving the peninsula divided and technically still in a state of war, and Moon said the historic journey could happen later this year. — AFP

## Thais acquitted after torching king portraits

**BANGKOK:** Six young Thais accused of setting portraits of the royal family on fire have been granted rare acquittals, their lawyer said yesterday, escaping strict royal defamation charges that can carry 15 years in jail. Thailand has some of the harshest royal insult legislation in the world and has policed aggressively any perceived slight to the ultra-rich family, whose portraits are plastered across billboards around the kingdom.

The law, known as 112, carries a maximum sentence of 15 years per count and trials are often shrouded in secrecy behind closed doors. But the six Thais were acquitted on appeal earlier this week after being arrested in 2017 for allegedly vandalizing ceremonial arches bearing pictures of the current and former king in the northeastern province of Khon Kaen. They said they had been hired to do the job.

Initially convicted in January, they still face jail terms of three to nine years for criminal association charges and burning the property of others, according to Thai Lawyers for Human

Rights. The court ruling on the royal insult charge said the defendants' actions were aimed at causing damage to the arches only, the rights group said.

While lese majeste cases shot up under the ruling junta that seized power in Thailand in 2014, convictions have declined in recent months, suggesting a change in attitude towards the strict defamation law. "The prosecution of 112 cases has been very low this year, to the point that it's nearly non-existent," Pawinee Chumsri, a lawyer for the rights group that represented the defendants, told AFP.

She added that that verdicts now trend towards acquittals or charges that carry lesser jail time. "It's somewhat good progress to see 112 cases are not easily prosecuted," she said. Yingcheep Atchanont, from the legal monitoring group iLaw, said there have been four acquittals this year and no new cases. Analysts say the law could be wielded differently under the new reign of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who took the throne in 2016 after the death of his much-beloved father Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Sulak Sivaraksa, an elderly historian who faced the charge after questioning accounts of an ancient elephant battle involving monarchs, said it was the new king's "grace" that led to prosecutors declining to pursue the case further. But many are still serving time or in self-exile after being accused of the offence. — AFP

## Abe vows to tweak pacifist constitution after party vote win

**TOKYO:** Shinzo Abe vowed yesterday to press on with revising Japan's pacifist constitution after winning a historic third term as party head that set him on course to become the country's longest-serving premier. The 63-year-old conservative secured 553 votes against 254 won by former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba, a hawkish self-confessed "military geek", in a two-horse race for leader of the Liberal Democratic Party.

"I will finally embark on constitutional revision, which has never been achieved in the 70 years since the end of the war, and start building a new nation as we look to the future," Abe told reporters after his victory. He said his election had given him "strong support" to suggest changes to the text, which he would submit to parliament at the next session, expected to take place in the next few weeks.

The election win hands Abe three more years as party leader, giving him the chance of breaking the record for the nation's longest serving premiership held by Taro Katsura, a revered politician who served three times between 1901

and 1913. To loud cheers of "banzai"—the Japanese equivalent of "three cheers"—from party members, a grinning Abe said: "The battle is over. Let's build a new Japan by joining hands and uniting." Shinichi Nishikawa, professor of politics at Meiji University in Tokyo, told AFP that the vote was effectively a referendum on Abe's record that he successfully negotiated. "But he can't wholeheartedly welcome the result as he couldn't win overwhelmingly." Public support for Abe—a political thoroughbred whose grandfather and father both held power—has recovered after he managed to survive a series of cronyism and cover-up scandals.

Reconfirmed in power, Abe will head to New York this weekend to attend the UN General Assembly and hold a summit with US President Donald Trump. Abe and Trump, who enjoy each other's company on the golf course and are close diplomatic allies, are expected to analyse the latest inter-Korean summit as well as trade disputes between them. The premier said he would seek a face-to-face meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un to solve the sensitive issue of Japanese citizens kidnapped by Pyongyang in the 1970s.

Nationalist Abe has frequently voiced his wish to rewrite the charter, imposed by the victorious US occupiers, which forces the country to "forever renounce war" and dictates that armed forces will "never be maintained". Abe insists any changes would merely remove the country's well-equipped Self-Defense Forces from the constitutional paradox whereby they should not technically exist. — AFP



# Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

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

Egyptian actor Gamil Ratib poses for a photograph as he arrives on the red carpet during the 8th Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) 2011. — Getty

## Franco-Egyptian actor Gamil Ratib dies at 92

See Page 20



## Franco-Egyptian actor Gamil Ratib dies at 92

Gamil Ratib, an award-winning Franco-Egyptian actor whose roles as villain or aristocrat made him a household name across the Arab world, died Wednesday, state media reported. He was 92. Ratib's acting career - he appeared in about 100 films in both French and Arabic - began as early as the 1940s in Cairo when he landed a role in an Arabic adaptation of "The Three Musketeers." His scenes, however, were removed because his parents objected to him taking up acting.

Ratib, who died of an unspecified illness in a Cairo hospital, later traveled to study law and economics in Paris, but that did not make him abandon his passion for acting. He joined the sto-

ried "Comedie Francaise" before his big break came when he was cast in the American movie "Trapeze" (1956) along with Hollywood stars Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis.

His career took a giant leap forward when six years later he played an Arab named Majid in the 1962 classic "Lawrence of Arabia." Meanwhile, 1967's "Peau d'Espion" led to him being awarded the Legion d'Honneur de Grade de Chevalier. Ratib returned to his native Egypt in the 1970s when his leading roles in hit movies and TV dramas earned him celebrity status across the Arab world. His roles were mostly the lovable villain or the pompous aristocrat who is contemptuous of the poor and ignorant. — AP



This file photo shows actor Gamil Ratib, attends a funeral in Cairo, Egypt. — AP

## LeBron teams with 'Black Panther' director for 'Space Jam 2'



In this file photo LeBron James attends the John Elliott front row during New York Fashion Week: The Shows in New York City. — AFP

Two months ago, basketball superstar LeBron James joined the Los Angeles Lakers. Now, he's taking on Hollywood in a big way. The long-awaited sequel to "Space Jam"-the 1996 live action-animated film starring NBA legends Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing-is finally moving forward. King James's production company, SpringHill Entertainment, on Wednesday tweeted an image of a locker room featuring the names of James, "Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler as the producer and... Bugs Bunny himself as point guard.

"I loved his vision" for "Black Panther," James said of Coogler to The Hollywood Reporter. Independent filmmaker Terence Nance-the creator of HBO's quirky comedy "Random Acts of Flyness"-is tapped to direct the film for Warner Brothers. The original film featured the Looney Tunes characters-Bugs, Daffy Duck and friends-who recruit Jordan to help them win a basketball game against the Monstars, a team of animated alien villains who steal the talents of other NBA icons. "Space Jam 2" has long been rumored, but Wednesday's tweet made it clear the project is a go.

This is not the first time that James, who signed with the Lakers in July, has dipped his toe into the acting world, but this would be his first starring role. He made a well-received supporting turn in Amy Schumer's "Trainwreck" (2015) and has a voice role in Warner Brothers' animated feature "Smallfoot," which hits US theaters this week. He also produced the HBO series "The Shop," in which big names in the sports and entertainment worlds talked about the big issues facing America in barbershops. — AFP

## In a first, American picked to direct next Bond film

Filmmaker Cary Joji Fukunaga will become the first American to direct a James Bond movie, its producers announced Thursday, replacing British director Danny Boyle for the storied spy franchise's 25th installment. Fukunaga, a surprise pick not among the names touted to direct Daniel Craig in his final outing as 007, takes over after Boyle quit the project last month over "creative differences" with the producing team.

The movie will begin filming in March ahead of its worldwide release on February 14, 2020. "We are delighted to be working with Cary," Michael G. Wilson, Barbara Broccoli and Craig announced on Twitter. "His versatility and innovation make him an excellent choice for our next James Bond adventure." Fukunaga is best known for directing the first season of the Emmy Award-winning series "True Detective" and Netflix's first feature film "Beasts of No Nation" starring British actor Idris Elba-long tipped as a future 007. The director partnered with the streaming service again on "Maniac", a hotly anticipated 10-episode series set for release later this year.

### 'Suspension of disbelief'

Raised in California by a Japanese-American father and Swedish-American mother, Fukunaga first gained recognition for the 2009 Spanish language film "Sin Nombre", which depicted the violent world of Central American gangs-and an obsessive attention to detail that he has since become known for. "Anytime



US director Cary Joji Fukunaga (left), US actress Emma Stone (second left), US screenwriter Patrick Somerville (second right), and US actor Justin Theroux pose on the red carpet upon arrival for the world premiere of the film "Maniac" in central London. — AFP

something is slightly uncanny or just not quite right, it could potentially disturb suspension of disbelief," he told The New York Times for a profile this month. His unexpected appointment follows the surprise departure of Boyle, who won an Academy Award in 2009 for "Slumdog Millionaire" and had been due to partner again with screenwriter John Hodge on the new 007 movie.

Boyle-a longtime franchise fan who included Craig's Bond in the opening ceremony he directed for the 2012 London Olympics-left the project dramatically in August, with the producing team citing "creative differences". The decision, at the start of the casting process, appears to have delayed the as yet untitled film, which was originally planned for release in Britain on October 25, 2019. — AFP

## France offers bonus to back women filmmakers

France is to give a major cash bonus to movies made by women in a bid to try and bring gender parity to the film industry, its culture minister said Wednesday. Francoise Nyssen, who helped persuade the Cannes film festival to sign the 50/50 charter on gender equality earlier this year, said productions that are "exemplary" on equality will get an extra 15 percent subsidy. The new bonus will work on a points system, Nyssen said, with a production seeking a subsidy from the French film council, the CNC, given one point for a female director, scriptwriter or chief technician.

A film will have to get eight points to qualify for the extra cash. The measures are specifically targeted at opening up technical positions to women, which have remained an almost exclusively male preserve. "When things do not change themselves or change too slowly, we have to change them ourselves," she said as she announced the experiment, which will initially last for a year. "We cannot wait any longer," Nyssen

added. "The figures oblige us to act. As it stands, only one film in six would qualify for this subsidy." Subsidies are a key motor for the film industry, particularly in Europe, where many are sustained by seed cash and tax write-off schemes.

### Sourcing gender balance data

The minister is also forcing the CNC to demand that producers hand over detailed information on the gender balance of their movies, and how much men and women earn. Nyssen has been a vocal supporter of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements that were sparked by the downfall of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. She has also made the campaign against sexism and the underrepresentation of women in the film industry a priority. "We cannot let the wave that rose up last year fall away," she told a meeting of a special commission of filmmakers she assembled to tackle gender equality in the cinema. — AFP



## Millennium fortune: Han Solo jacket up for auction in London



In this file photo the jacket worn by Harrison Ford's character Han Solo in the 'Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back' film is on show at the Imax in central London and will be auctioned. — AFP

The jacket worn by loveable Star Wars scoundrel Han Solo in "The Empire Strikes Back" as well as Indiana Jones's signature fedora are among rare movie memorabilia going under the hammer in London yesterday. More than 600 costumes and props from much-adored films and television series, including Marty McFly's hoverboard in "Back To The Future Part II", are being auctioned by Prop Store at the BFI IMAX complex. The film memorabilia seller has held the annual auction since 2014, and expects this year's collection to fetch a record £3.5 million (\$4.6 million, 3.9 million euros).

The big-ticket item is the jacket worn by actor Harrison Ford as smuggler Solo to dodge asteroids and shoot at Darth Vader in "Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back". It is expected to be the highest-selling lot and fetch up to £1 million in the sale, which gets underway at 1100 GMT. "It is a relatively simple jacket," said Brandon Alinger, Prop Store's chief operating officer, explaining how "Star Wars" creator George Lucas wanted workaday-looking clothes rather than flashy costumes that might distract attention.

"There's some very cool stylized elements, like this triple-stitch banding on the sleeves," Alinger noted the jacket's grey color, explaining how getting clothes to appear the correct shade of blue on film can be difficult. "This color hasn't changed. This is exactly what the color is for 'The Empire Strikes Back'." Meanwhile Ford's fedora hat in the Indiana Jones franchise debut "Raiders of the Lost Ark", and his bullwhip from 1984's "The Temple of Doom" are also featured. Signed by Ford on the inner sweatband, the rabbit-felt hat is set to sell for up to £300,000.

The fedora was "sat upon, wrung repeatedly and treated with bleach and dust" ahead of filming to achieve a worn look, according to the auction catalogue. Another hot item is the hoverboard ridden by actor Michael J. Fox's character Marty McFly in the "Back to the Future" trilogy. The board, expected to fetch £30,000 to £50,000, "is outfitted with neon-green and pink-coloured Velcro on top, and includes a furry pink foot strap," the catalogue says.

For potential buyers on a lower budget, a piece of the Death Star from the "Star Wars" saga is listed at £1,000. Items from the "James Bond", "The Godfather", "Harry Potter", "Batman", "Aliens", "Star Trek", "Blade", "Tomb Raider" and "Men in Black" series are also up for grabs. Other classic movie items available include the robe worn by Brad Pitt's Tyler Durden character in "Fight Club", a Wonka bar from "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and Johnny Depp's unique costume in "Edward Scissorhands". Prop Store acquires its wares from movie studios, crew members and other collectors around the world. — AFP

## Morocco radio ban urged for singer accused of rape

A social media campaign has been launched to ban the songs of Moroccan pop star Saad Lamjarred on the country's radio stations after he was charged in France in a third case involving rape charges. The 33-year-old singer, whose hit "Lmaalleem" has been viewed more than 660 million times on YouTube, was detained on Tuesday over an alleged incident in a Saint-Tropez hotel. Lamjarred, who denies the allegations, had already faced rape accusations in October 2016 and April 2017. Social media activists have started campaigning to silence Lamjarred under the hashtags #masaktach ("we will not be silenced") and #LamjarredOut.

Arabic-language website Hesspress on Wednesday posted a caricature of the singer in vanishing black ink against a Parisian backdrop next to the slogan "Salina, salina," (it's over, it's over), the title of one of his love songs. The station Radio 2M said on Twitter that it had stopped promoting Lamjarred's songs over the latest rape charge, while Hit Radio said it would poll its listeners to decide on whether to keep his music off the air. — AFP



Saad Lamjarred

## Newcomer Shah battles with rock big guns Arctic Monkeys for Mercury Prize



In this file photo British singer Lily Allen poses for a photo-call before Chanel's 2018/2019 fall/winter collection fashion show. — AFP

Arctic Monkeys, Noel Gallagher and Lily Allen are among the heavyweight contenders for Britain's prestigious Mercury award yesterday, but newcomer Nadine Shah's pro-immigration album "Holiday Destination" is favorite to win. Post-punk singer Shah, whose father moved to Britain from Pakistan, uses her own experiences to explore the themes of xenophobia and immigration, with one track closing with a chant recorded at a pro-refugee rally. "I'm so glad that that's on there," she told the BBC. "I wanted to be very direct and I wanted people to be very aware of the context of the album."

The award is presented annually for the best album released by a British or Irish artist, according to a panel of judges. Past winners include Primal Scream, Franz Ferdinand, PJ Harvey, The xx and grime star Skepta, with yesterday's victor earning £25,000 (\$33,000, 28,000 euros) as well as a likely boost in album sales. London rapper King Krule, who draws on punk, jazz and electronica, is the bookies' second favorite for his third album "The Ooz".

Sons of Kemet bagged the shortlist's usual spot for a jazz act with their anti-monarchy album "Your Queen Is a Reptile", and are also expected to be serious contenders. Sheffield rockers Arctic Monkeys, the joint second most-nominated act in the Mercury Prize's history, are in the running to become only the second artist to win the award twice with their sixth studio album "Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino". The band's departure to a more laid back sound divided critics and some fans, but the record became their sixth consecutive number-one debut in Britain, and the country's fastest-selling vinyl record in 25 years. — AFP

## Thai fans nabbed for sneaking into airport to see South Korean star

Two Thai fans were charged with trespassing Wednesday after sneaking into Bangkok's main airport by impersonating customs officials to meet South Korean movie star Lee Jong-Suk, police said. The women, whose names were not disclosed, entered the restricted zone of Suvarnabhumi airport on September 14 using security passes they obtained in a risky attempt to meet the celebrity. All went according to plan until one of the women detailed the derring-do exploit on Instagram, raising concerns about airport security. Thailand receives about 35 million tourists a year and the airport is its busiest hub.

Camera footage shows one customs official handing the pair security passes and leading them to the prohibited area where Lee was due to arrive. "The two women are now charged over trespassing while two officials are wanted for helping them to commit the crime," airport police chief Viroj Tudso told AFP. If convicted, they face fines and possible jail terms of up to five years.

One of the women facing charges had thanked her friend in a post for helping find the actor's flight details and another person for leading her to the inner departure gate. She also described the ruse, in which they wore outfits that made them look like customs staff, and said she was thrilled when it worked. "I was the first person to shake hands with (him)," the woman said. "I won't wash my hands." An airport representative said stricter rules on staff security checks would be implemented in response to the embarrassing breach. — AFP



Lee Jong-Suk



# Alberta Ferretti's soft toned urban explorers open Milan Fashion Week



Models present creations by Alberta Ferretti during her Women's Spring/Summer 2019 fashion show in Milan. —AFP photos



The curtain went up on Milan's fashion week on Wednesday with a soft-toned and feminine collection designed by Italy's Alberta Ferretti with urban safari-inspired looks. For the next six days the Italian capital of fashion will host more than 140 catwalks and presentations for the spring-summer 2019 collections, attracting buyers, designers, influencers and fashion addicts. Milan is the third leg of the month-long catwalk seasons that started in New York, moved to London and wraps up in Paris.

Ferretti temporarily moved away from her signature flowing and delicate long designs, adventuring towards looks for an innocent and fresh-looking woman, caught between adventure and travel. An explorer wearing wide trousers under cardigans tied to the waist, Ferretti's 1970s-inspired safari rangers also strutted in flared leggings matched with field jackets or short skirts paired with cropped jackets with pockets. To the rhythm of French and Italian music from the decade, some models carried loose woven straw backpacks with leather details and wore flat sandals.

But Ferretti returned to her traditional looks with ruched tops, pink overalls with

knitted brassieres and short dresses in broderie anglaise. For the evening, Ferretti's girls were more mischievous, with even shorter black dresses, see-through pleated tops and above-the-knee A-line skirts as well as skin-tight sheer dresses. Ferretti, one of brands of the Aeffe group which also includes Moschino, in June unveiled sleek new uniforms for the airline Alitalia.

Clothes, bags and accessories make up 4 percent of Italy's economy, and 10 percent of the world's luxury goods, according to a study by Mediobanca's research department. The country's fashion chamber CNMI estimates that this year sales in Italian fashion and linked industries - such as jewelry, cosmetics and eyewear - will grow 2.8 percent, in line with 2017, to just under 90 billion euros. Later on Monday, Italian luxury outerwear group Moncler was due to unveil another collection of its so-called "Genius" project, whereby monthly product launches replace the traditional biannual catwalk shows. Milan's fashion week runs until Monday Sept 24, with catwalk shows from fashion houses including Giorgio Armani, Prada, Fendi, Versace, Cavalli and Dolce & Gabbana. —Reuters







Models present creations for Fendi fashion house during the Women's Spring/Summer 2019 fashion shows in Milan.







## U2's Bono and Pope discuss Irish sexual abuse crisis

**B**ono, frontman for Irish rock band U2, met Pope Francis on Wednesday and said afterwards he is an extraordinary man who is sincere in his pain over a sexual abuse crisis in Ireland. Bono and the pope spoke for more than 30 minutes at a meeting to team up the rock star's ONE organization, a global campaign and advocacy organization that aims to end extreme poverty, with a papal group named Scholas Occurrentes, which helps foster cooperation among schools worldwide.

"Having just come from Ireland, inevitably, we talked about his (being) aghast about what has happened in the Church," Bono told reporters afterwards. During his trip to Ireland last month, Francis begged forgiveness for the multitude of abuses suffered by victims in Ireland at the hand of the Church over decades. "I explained to him how it looks to some people that the abusers are being more pro-

tected than the victims and you could see the pain in his face," Bono said. "I felt he was sincere and I think he is an extraordinary man for extraordinary times".

Years of sexual abuse scandals have shattered the credibility of the Church, which four decades ago dominated Irish society. In the past three years, Irish voters have approved abortion and gay marriage in referendums, defying the Vatican. Bono also said he and the pope discussed development issues and the pontiff's 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si," which backed moves to defend the planet from global warming and climate change and called for a more equal distribution of the earth's resources. "We have to re-think the wild beast that is capitalism. Although it is not immoral, it is amoral and it requires our instruction and he (the pope) is very keen on that," Bono said. —AFP



This handout photo taken and released by the Vatican Media, shows Pope Francis (right) welcoming Irish band U2 Paul David Hewson, known by his stage name Bono, prior their meeting at Vatican. — AFP

## All-star Mary Poppins sequel flies into view

**A** view across the grimy rooftops of London? A nanny descending to earth with a flying umbrella? Dick Van Dyke? All are present and correct in the trailer for the "Mary Poppins" reboot that was released on Tuesday. Julie Andrews, who won the 1965 Best Actress Oscar for her performance in the original, is replaced in "Mary Poppins Returns" by Emily Blunt as the unconventional governess who arrives as if by magic to heal a family in need of love. In the sequel, it is 1932 and the boy, Michael Banks, has grown up and, helped by his sister Jane, is bringing up children of his own, in the absence of their mother.

The trailer gives few other clues to the plot of the musical, but showcases a stellar cast of British acting talent, including Ben Whishaw, Colin Firth and Julie Walters. Meryl Streep also features, as does Dick Van Dyke who played the chimney sweep Bert with the so-bad-it's-good cockney accent in the original. Now 92, the trailer shows him as lithe as ever, dancing on a table. The Bert character - Jack in this film - is played by



Lin-Manuel Miranda, the rapper and composer who created the acclaimed musical "Hamilton". The movie includes mixed live-action and animation scenes that are reminiscent of those that were cutting edge in the mid-1960s but have a retro-charm now. The original movie was based on the children's books by P.L. Travers who famously objected to Walt Disney's embellishments to her stories. It was a huge success and became a classic. — Reuters

## Cher turns back time with album of ABBA cover versions

**M**aking a cameo in the "Mamma Mia!" movie sequel gave Cher a taste for the music of ABBA. Now the singer and actor is releasing an album that will feature cover versions of the Swedish pop group's hits, and going on tour to promote it. "Dancing Queen," to be released next week, features Cher's interpretations of 10 of the band's songs, including "SOS," "Waterloo" and "Mamma Mia." Cher, 72, said the idea came to her after she performed the song "Fernando" for the July 2018 sequel "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" movie, whose story is built around ABBA songs.

Cher played the wealthy celebrity mother of the character played by Meryl Streep, in what was the singer's first on-screen role in eight years. "I did 'Fernando' and then I did the opening to 'Super Trouper,'" Cher told Reuters Television. "Somehow, it came from that ... I was going to go off on vacation and I

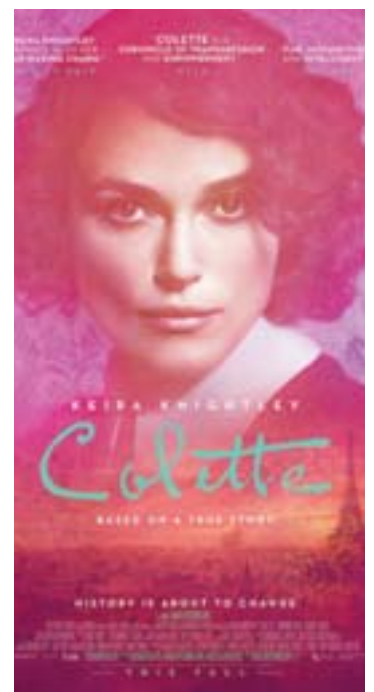


just thought that might be a cool thing to do," she said of the new album. Cher said she had been advised not to include versions of 'Mamma Mia' and 'Waterloo' on the album because the originals are so well-known. "And I went, nah, I love them. I don't care how famous they are, I'm just going to do them, because I want to do them, because I want to be able to sing them," she said. —Reuters

## Female empowerment, 100 years ago, at heart of 'Colette'

**C**olette is not your usual period drama. Beneath the corsets and petticoats lies a turn-of-the-20th-century real life tale of feminism and gender politics that is just as relevant today, the film makers say. "Colette," opening in US movie theaters today, tells the story of French novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette (Keira Knightley) who marries charming older writer Henry "Willy" Gauthier-Villars (Dominic West) and moves from rural France to Paris.

Under pressure, she agrees to ghostwrite for her husband what turns out to be a best-selling novel. She later fights him over creative ownership of the book, divorces him and embarks on a shocking gay love affair with androgynous artist Mathilde "Missy" de Morny. Knightley, whose previous historical movies include "Pride & Prejudice" and "The Duchess," said she was taken aback by how current the "Colette" script felt. "The conversations we are having in the film about gender politics and sexual politics about feminism are still exactly what we are having today," the British actress told Reuters. "There's something kind of tragic that a hundred years later we're still talking about this and we still haven't figured it out," she added. — Reuters







# This Spanish-inspired seafood dish is a simple one-pot meal

By America's Test Kitchen

This Spanish-inspired seafood dish is a simple one-pot meal. You can substitute halibut, sea bass, or haddock for the cod in this recipe. Other varieties of hard, cured sausage (such as linguica) can be substituted for the Spanish chorizo; we do not recommend using fresh chorizo.

When shopping for saffron, look for dark red threads without any interspersions of yellow or orange threads, and be prepared for some sticker shock, they don't call it the most expensive spice in the world for nothing, but its distinctive flavor is worth it. You will need a 12-inch skillet with a tight-fitting lid for this recipe.

## Cod in saffron broth with chorizo and potatoes

### Ingredients:

### Servings: 4

Start to finish: 1 hour

4 ounces small red potatoes

1 onion

4 garlic cloves

3 ounces Spanish-style chorizo sausage

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

1/4 teaspoon saffron threads

1 (8 ounce) bottle clam juice

1 bay leaf

4 (6- to 8 ounce) skinless cod fillets, 1 to 1 1/2 inches thick

Salt and pepper

1 lemon

Fresh parsley

1 loaf rustic bread

### Preparation:

Slice potatoes 1/4 inch thick. Chop onion fine and mince garlic. Slice chorizo into 1/4 inch-thick rounds. Heat oil in 12 inch skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Add onion and chorizo and cook until onion is softened and lightly browned, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in garlic and crumble saffron into skillet and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Stir in clam juice, 3/4 cup water, potatoes, and bay leaf

and bring to simmer. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and cook until potatoes are almost tender, about 10 minutes. Pat cod dry with paper towels and season with salt and pepper. Nestle cod, skinned side down, into skillet and spoon some broth over top. Bring to simmer, cover, and cook until potatoes are fully tender and cod flakes apart when gently prodded with paring knife and registers 140 F, 10 to 15 minutes.

While cod cooks, squeeze 1 teaspoon lemon juice. Mince 2 tablespoons parsley. Carefully transfer cod to individual shallow bowls. Using slotted spoon, divide potatoes and chorizo evenly among bowls. Discard bay leaf. Stir lemon juice into broth and season with salt and pepper to taste. Spoon broth over cod, sprinkle with parsley, and drizzle with extra oil. Slice bread and serve with cod.

### Nutrition information per serving:

238 calories; 109 calories from fat; 12 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 45 mg cholesterol; 567 mg sodium; 9 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 2 g sugar; 17 g protein.



# Serve chicken cutlets with tart orange sauce and olives

By Sara Moulton

Now that my kids are on their own and cooking for themselves, both have thanked me for passing on one technique in particular: how to cook a thin piece of protein and make a pan sauce from the drippings. It is indeed a quick, easy and affordable skill with endless variations. It also guarantees a deeply delicious entree. Consider this recipe - chicken cutlets topped with a tart orange sauce - the template for the technique.

Whenever you use it, you have to start with a thin piece of protein to ensure that it cooks quickly and evenly. Here I've chosen thinly sliced chicken cutlets. If the only breasts available at your supermarket are large and thick, bring them home, pop them in the freezer for 30 to 40 minutes (which firms them up) and then, very carefully, slice them in half width-wise to produce two thinner cutlets. If you'd prefer pork to chicken, just buy half-inch-thick boneless pork chops and trim off any excess fat.

Before sauteing the meat, you'll need to dredge it in flour. This step prevents the meat from drying out by coating and insulating it. (Both chicken breasts and boneless pork chops are very lean.) It also serves to thicken the sauce when the protein is added back to the pan. My flour of choice is Wondra, a venerable brand favored by my grandmother that was magically designed not to lump up in gravy. It also produces a nice light coating for the cutlets.

After you've browned the cutlets in a little oil and moved

them onto a plate, there'll be some concentrated juices sitting on the bottom of the pan. To deglaze the pan and dilute the brown bits, you'll need to add liquid, usually something acidic. Wine is traditional, but a little vinegar and/or citrus can also do the job.

Next you'll add some chicken broth, then reduce the liquid a bit before returning the cutlets to the pan to finish cooking them gently as the flour coating thickens the sauce. The last touch? Add some butter to enrich and thicken the sauce a trifle further. That's it. You've landed a delicious entree on the table in just 30 minutes.

## Sauteed Chicken Cutlets with Tart Orange Sauce and Olives

### Ingredients:

Start to finish: 30 minutes

Servings: 4

1/4 cup all-purpose flour (preferably Wondra)

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 pound boneless skinless chicken breast cutlets, preferably thin sliced

Salt and black pepper

1 orange, peeled and cut into sections plus 1/3 cup orange juice (preferably fresh)

1/3 cup vinegar

1 cup chicken broth

1/3 cup chopped pitted green olives

### Preparation:

Spread out the flour on a piece of parchment on the counter. In a large, nonstick skillet heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season the cutlets on both sides with salt and pepper and coat them with the flour, shaking off the excess before adding them to the skillet. Reduce the heat to medium and cook the chicken until lightly golden, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer the chicken to a plate.

Add the orange juice and vinegar to the skillet and simmer until reduced by half, scraping up the brown bits in the bottom of the pan. Add the chicken broth and olives and bring the liquid to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for a few minutes. Return the chicken to the pan, along with the orange segments and any juices from the plate and simmer very gently, turning the chicken over several times, for 2 to 3 minutes until it is just cooked through. Do not let the liquid boil. Transfer the chicken to 4 plates and simmer the sauce until it has thickened. Add butter to the skillet and swirl the pan just until the butter is incorporated. Add salt and pepper to taste and spoon the sauce over the chicken.

### Nutrition information per serving:

283 calories; 109 calories from fat; 12 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 83 mg cholesterol; 533 mg sodium; 13 g carbohydrates; 1 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 27 g protein.





# Seven can't-miss experiences in Gujarat



Temples atop Shatrunjaya hill

**T**hough many travelers pass it by en route to Mumbai or Rajasthan, Gujarat is a terrific all-rounder: Ahmedabad draws you in with its remarkable architecture and dining scene, national parks shelter unique populations of Asiatic lions and wild asses, and tribal villages in the remote countryside practice their centuries-old crafts of weaving and embroidery. There's a spiritual aspect to Gujarat as well: Gandhi's legacy is powerful here, while sacred Jain and Hindu pilgrimage sites attract streams of the devout.

## Ahmedabad

The intense, bustling capital of Ahmedabad, India's first UNESCO heritage city, is likely to be your first port of call in Gujarat. A little overwhelming at first, it blows you away with its wealth of centuries-old mosques, mausoleums and temples and wins you over with its excellent museums and its terrific dining scene. The

best way to tackle it is to stay in its historic heart, preferably in a characterful hotel, such as the Deewanji Ni Haveli, House of MG or French Haveli.

Foodies have their work cut out, choosing between grazing at street food stalls at Ratri Bazaar, tucking into thalis at the likes of Gopi Dining Hall and exploring Gujarati cuisine at atmospheric Vishalla. With a reliable local guide, check out the unmissable Calico Museum of Textiles, the splendid Hutheesingh Temple, Gandhi's former headquarters at Sabarmati Ashram and the impressive Jama Mosque and Siddi Sayid's Mosque. If you have time, head out of the city to see the remarkable Modhera Sun Temple and the Rani-ki-Vav, the elaborate step-well in Patan.

## Craft villages of Kachchh

For centuries, the craftsmen and craftswomen of Kachchh - one

of India's richest areas for handicrafts - have perfected their craft, creating remarkably fine textiles of superb quality. But that's not all. Kachchh village communities, scattered around the arid province, also specialise in wood carving, block printing, pottery, bell making and more. Using the capital of Bhuj as your springboard, you can engage the services of a knowledgeable local guide, such as Salim Wazir or Kuldip Gadhvi, who can tailor your visit to the villages of Kachchh according to your interests.

Standout artisans include Vankar Vishram Valji, a weaver family in Bhujodi; Parmath - specialists in Ahir embroidery; Traditional Rogan Art in Nirona keeps alive the ancient art of rogan painting, while Dr Ismail Mohammed Khatri excels at block printing using natural dyes. The Living & Learning Design Centre Crafts Museum is a superb introduction to the region's creativity, and if you're short of time, you can pick up superb textiles and weavings



## Lifestyle | Travel

Friday, September 21, 2018

at the Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Kala Raksha, Shurjan and Khamir cooperatives around Bhuj.

**A feast of festivals**

Gujarati cuisine is famous across India for its lavish spices and flavors, and chefs and street-food vendors go into overdrive for the state's many festivals. During the Navratri festival in September or October, Hindu devotees perform mass dances to honour the nine incarnations of the goddess Durga, swapping the standard Gujarati menu for special dishes made without meat or grains.

The Uttarayan Kite Festival in January is another extraordinary spectacle, filling the skies over Ahmedabad and other cities with a kaleidoscope of kites, from enormous whales and tigers to tiny 1-rupee fighting kites, while food carts serve seasonal treats such as jalebi (dough swirls soaked in syrup) and undhiyu, a stew of beans, yams and other vegetables, cooked in a buried pot heated from above. In November, attention shifts to the Rann of Kachchh, as a tent city emerges from the salt plains for Rann Utsav, hosting everything from dance and music performances to delectable Kachchhi foodstuffs.

**Champaner & Pavagadh**

Few sights in Gujarat make such an indelible impression as this UNESCO Heritage Site. Even if you're not a pilgrim looking to pay your respects to the evil-destroying goddess Kali at the Kalikamata Temple atop the sacred volcanic hill of Pavanar, it's well worth tackling the three-hour pilgrim trail and ropeway for the all-encompassing views from the top. Nearby, the mosques inside the ruined, centuries-old Gujarati capital of Champaner feature some of the most exquisite stonework you're ever likely to see, with standout sites being Jami Masjid, Nagina Masjid and and Saher ki Masjid.

**Gir National Park**

This hilly, forested, 1412-sq-km sanctuary between Veraval and Junagadh is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion, best spotted between December and April. In terms of conservation, Gir is a mas-



The Jama Masjid at Ahmedabad is one of the largest mosques in the Indian subcontinent. It was built in 1424 CE.



Colorful kites fill the sky during the Uttarayan Kite Festival.





Champaner & Pavagadh

sive success story, with lion numbers doubling since the 1960s, so big cat sightings are pretty much guaranteed. The only access to the park is via authorized safari, booked in advance; when you're driven through the thick forests at dawn, if you're lucky, you may spot agile chinkaras (gazelles), dainty chital (spotted deer), nilgais (large antelopes) and elusive jaguars. Most visitors stay in the wildlife lodges and hotels in and around the little town of Sasan, such as the Asiatic Lion Lodge or the Gir Birding Lodge. For something more luxurious, there's the newly opened eco-resort, Woods at Sasan. If you haven't secured a safari permit in advance, you can still spot lions and jaguars in the Devalia Safari Park - a small reserve within a reserve.

Shatrunjaya

Most days, you see a stream of pilgrims dressed in their finery,

snaking their slow way up Shatrunjaya hill - one of the holiest Jainism sites. Most walk barefoot. Older pilgrims are carried by porters. Join the pilgrims, and it'll take you less than two hours to tackle the 3300 steps leading to the spectacular temple complex at the summit of the hill, where Adinath, the founder of Jainism, is said to have meditated beneath the rayan tree. Don't miss the wonderfully detailed carvings inside the splendid Adinath Temple; then just allow yourself to get lost in the narrow walkways and drink in the atmosphere. The pilgrimage is particularly impressive during the Kartik Purnima festival, when the trickle of the devout becomes a flood, flowing up the arid slopes of Shatrunjaya, and stopping at smaller temple tunks (enclosures) to pay their respects along the way.

Wild Ass Sanctuary

If you come out onto the barrel plains of the Little Rann of Kachchh at dawn, they seem to sparkle like hoarfrost, with the sun's rays bouncing off the salty crust. Walk on it, and it crunches underfoot like snow. One of the harshest corners of Gujarat, Little Rann comprises the Wild Ass Sanctuary, home to the last remaining population of the chestnut-colored khur, the Indian wild ass; they feed on the grassy hillocks that rise up from the salt flats. The monsoon season between November and March attracts a vast birdlife population, including flamingos. The best way to explore the Wild Ass Sanctuary is by staying at Rann Riders, Camp Zainabad or Eco Tour Camp; all camps run 4WD safaris, giving you the chance to spot other wildlife, such as bluebills, blackbuck and chinkara. ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com))



An Asiatic lioness and her cub in Gir National Park.



A craft village in Kachchh



WORD SEARCH

Chess

Find and circle all of the Chess words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a secret message.  
Note: QUEEN and QUEENING are separately hidden and do not overlap.

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

ATTACK	CHAMPIONSHIP	GRANDMASTER	PAWN
BISHOP	DEEP BLUE	JUMP	PIECE
BUTZ CHES	DIAGONAL	KASPAROV	PROMOTION
BLOCKED	EN PASSANT	KIBITZING	QUEEN
BLUNDER	ENDGAME	KING	QUEENING
CAPTURE	EXCHANGE	KNIGHT	ROOK
CASTLING	FILE	LOSE	SACRIFICE
CENTER	FISHER	MATE IN TWO	STALEMATE
CHECKMATE	FORK	MIDDLEGAME	TOURNAMENT
CHESSEBOARD	GAMBIT	OPENING	WIN

Yesterday's Solution

Cheerleading - All Star

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

AERIAL	DIVE ROLL	JUMPS	POP CRADLE	SKIT
ALL STAR	DOUBLE CUFFE	KICK OUT	PRESS DOWN	SPLIT
ARCH	DOUBLE FULL	KICK OVER	REBOUND	SPONGE
AROUND THE WORLD	DOUBLE HOOK	KNEE DROPS	RELOAD	STICKING IT
BACK BEND	DOUBLE NINE	LAYOUT	REVIEW	SUPERMAN
BOW AND ARROW	EXTENSION	LOG ROLL	ROLL DOWN	TEAMS
CARTWHEELS	FISTS	LOW V	ROUND OFF	THE SUMMIT
CHOREOGRAPHER	FLAT BACKS	NATIONALS	ROUTINE	TREP CRADLE
COACH	FLIP FLOP	NEEDLE	SCALE	TUCK
COMPETITIONS	FOUNTAIN	PENCIL DROP	SCISSORS	TUMBLING
CRADLE CATCH	FROG JUMP	PIKE	SCORPION	WHYRESD
DIAGONAL	HANDSPRINGS	PITCH	SHOULDER STAND	WORLDS
DIAMOND HEAD	HANDSTAND			

The hidden message is: ALL STAR CHEERLEADING IS A TEAM SPORT WHICH COMBINES GYMNASTICS, ACROBATICS AND DANCE, SET TO MUSIC.

CROSSWORD 2014

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25  
26 27 28  
29 30 31  
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41  
42 43 44  
45 46 47 48 49  
50 51 52 53 54 55  
56 57 58 59  
60 61 62  
63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71  
72 73 74 75 76 77  
78 79 80 81 82  
83 84 85

ACROSS

- Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
- The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
- (Of non-living objects) The state of being free of pathogenic organisms.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- Of or relating to or derived from or containing boron.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- Knock unconscious or senseless.
- A riblike part of a plant or animal (such as a middle rib of a leaf or a thickened vein of an insect wing).
- An upward movement (especially a rhythmical rising and falling).
- A fact that has been verified.
- A drop of the clear salty saline solution secreted by the lacrimal glands.
- A colorless volatile highly inflammable liquid used as an inhalation anesthetic.
- Challenge the honesty or credibility of.
- A refuge from attack.
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- An island in Indonesia east of Java.
- Slanting diagonally across the grain of a fabric.
- Signal with the hands or nod.
- (anatomy) A somewhat rounded subdivision of a bodily organ or part.
- (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- The language of the nomadic Lapp people in northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula.
- (Babylonian) The sky god.
- Jordan's port.
- An enclosed space.
- Seizure of a vehicle in transit either to rob it or divert it to an alternate destination.
- Medium tall celery pine of New Zealand.
- White Southerner supporting Reconstruction policies after the Civil War usually for self-interest.
- Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
- An ancient city in northern Portugal.
- In bed.
- A man who is the lover of a girl or young woman.
- Lower in esteem.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A member of the Algonquian people formerly inhabiting the Maritime Provinces of Canada.
- Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- Radish of Japan with a long hard durable root eaten raw or cooked.
- A large vase that usually has a pedestal or feet.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- An open box attached to a long pole handle.
- The seat within a bishop's diocese where his cathedral is located adv.
- The visual percept of a region.
- A rapid bustling commotion.

DOWN

- The female or generative principle.
- Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.

- A basketball shot made with one hand from a position under or beside the basket (and usually banked off the backboard).
- Any enzyme that catalyzes the splitting of proteins into smaller peptide fractions and amino acids by a process known as proteolysis.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- (archaic) Truth or reality.
- Any of several related languages of the Celts in Ireland and Scotland.
- Reddish long-tailed monkey of west Africa.
- Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
- Being one more than one.
- Swedish chemist (born in Germany) who discovered oxygen before Priestley did (1742-1786).
- A state in the Rocky Mountains.
- A row of unravelled stitches.
- A broken piece of a brittle artifact.
- Motivation based on ideas of right and wrong.
- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- Of or relating to Fabianism.
- Of a period of maximal use or demand or activity.
- Containing or involving or occurring in the form of ions.
- Capital of Nigeria in the center of the country.
- A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
- A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
- The flesh of animals (including fishes and birds and snails) used as food.
- A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and

- continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
- A mark left by the healing of injured tissue.
- A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
- One or more recordings issued together.
- A group of African language in the Niger-Congo group spoken from the Ivory Coast east to Nigeria.
- The compass point midway between northeast and east.
- A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- One of a family of granular intrusive rocks.
- Make difficult to perceive by sight.
- A republic consisting of 26 of 32 counties comprising the island of Ireland.
- An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- A Loloish language.
- Representation of the cross on which Jesus died.
- (prefix) Within.
- Of southern Europe.
- An accountant certified by the state.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

3				2	4			
			6					
5	7			8	9			
		8			6			3
6	3	4				8	7	9
7			8			1		
			1	9			8	6
					7			
		5	3					7

Yesterday's Solution

4	2	7	5	6	8	3	1	9
6	9	8	1	2	3	5	4	7
1	3	5	7	4	9	6	2	8
2	7	4	6	3	5	9	8	1
3	5	1	9	8	7	4	6	2
8	6	9	2	1	4	7	5	3
7	8	6	4	9	2	1	3	5
9	1	2	3	5	6	8	7	4
5	4	3	8	7	1	2	9	6



## TV Listings

OWN MOVIES ACTION	
00:00	Dead Again In Tombstone
01:55	Unwanted Guest
03:40	Dangerous Lessons
05:25	Nerve
07:15	Patriot Games
09:25	Girl Missing
11:05	Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story
13:15	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
15:40	Rampage: President Down
17:30	Iron Man
19:50	In The Line Of Fire
22:00	Chosen
23:45	Cymbeline

ANIMAL PLANET HD	
00:45	Insane Pools: Off The Deep End
01:40	I'm Alive
02:35	My Cat From Hell
03:25	Pet Nation Renovation
04:15	Insane Pools: Off The Deep End
05:02	Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
05:49	Pit Bulls & Parolees
06:36	Animal Airport
07:00	Animal Airport
07:25	O'shea's Big Adventure
08:15	Animal Cops Houston
09:10	Pet Nation Renovation
10:05	Insane Pools: Off The Deep End
11:00	Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
11:55	Pit Bulls & Parolees
12:50	My Cat From Hell
13:45	Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
14:40	Insane Pools: Off The Deep End
15:35	I'm Alive
16:30	Mekong: Soul Of A River
17:25	Animal Cops Phoenix
18:20	My Cat From Hell
19:15	Whale Wars
20:10	North Woods Law
21:05	Wild Appalachia
22:00	I'm Alive
22:55	Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50	Whale Wars

crime & investigation network	
00:00	Crazy Love
01:00	Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
01:55	Crimes That Shook Britain
02:50	Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
03:45	I Killed My BFF
04:30	Homicide: Hours To Kill
05:15	It Takes A Killer
06:00	Cold Case Files
07:00	It Takes A Killer
07:20	Homicide Hunter
08:50	Homicide: Hours To Kill
09:35	Cold Case Files
10:30	Evil Up Close
11:25	The First 48
12:20	Crimes That Shook Britain
13:15	Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
14:10	Deadly Wives
15:05	Homicide: Hours To Kill
16:00	It Takes A Killer
17:00	Homicide Hunter
19:00	Crimes That Shook Britain
20:00	Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
21:00	Deadly Wives
22:00	Cold Case Files
23:00	It Takes A Killer
23:30	It Takes A Killer

COMEDY CENTRAL	
00:05	Tosh.O
00:28	Graves
01:00	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:22	Another Period
01:43	The Alternative Comedy Experience
02:06	Tosh.O

02:28	Graves
03:00	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25	Another Period
03:50	The Alternative Comedy Experience
04:15	Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:05	Lip Sync Battle
05:55	Disaster Date
06:20	Ridiculousness
06:50	Snack Off
07:40	Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30	Disaster Date
08:55	Friendszone
09:20	Ridiculousness
09:45	Impractical Jokers
10:10	I Used To Be Fat
11:00	Friendszone
11:25	Disaster Date
11:50	Key And Peele
12:40	Impractical Jokers
13:05	Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55	Friends
14:20	Real Husbands Of Hollywood
14:45	Key And Peele
15:35	Friendszone
16:00	Snack Off
16:30	Snack Off
16:55	Friends
17:20	Real Husbands Of Hollywood
17:45	Bondi Ink.
18:35	Impractical Jokers
19:00	Key And Peele
19:25	Key And Peele
19:50	Graves
20:12	Friends
20:35	Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30	Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
22:00	Teachers
22:25	Teachers
22:50	Detroiters
23:15	Detroiters
23:40	This Is Not Happening

Discovery Family	
00:30	Destroyed In Seconds
00:55	Destroyed In Seconds
01:20	How It's Made
01:45	How It's Made
02:10	My Cat From Hell
03:00	Tanked
03:50	Ultimate Survival
04:40	Sci-Jinks
05:05	Sci-Jinks
05:30	Strange Evidence
06:20	How It's Made
06:40	How It's Made
07:00	Destroyed In Seconds
07:25	Destroyed In Seconds
07:50	My Cat From Hell
08:40	How It's Made
09:05	How It's Made
09:30	Tanked
10:20	Ultimate Survival
11:10	Destroyed In Seconds
11:35	Destroyed In Seconds
12:00	How It's Made
12:25	How It's Made
12:50	Sci-Jinks
13:15	Sci-Jinks
13:40	Strange Evidence
14:30	How It's Made
14:55	How It's Made
15:20	My Cat From Hell
16:10	Ultimate Survival
17:00	My Cat From Hell
17:50	Tanked
18:40	Destroyed In Seconds
19:05	Destroyed In Seconds
19:30	Space Dealers
20:20	Secret Space Escapes
21:10	How It's Made
21:35	How It's Made
22:00	Ultimate Survival
22:50	Space Dealers
23:40	Secret Space Escapes

ID	
00:45	Keith Morrison Investigates: Donnie Rudd
01:40	Keith Morrison Investigates: Donnie Rudd
02:35	Murder Among Friends

03:32	Murder Calls
04:25	Your Worst Nightmare
05:20	The Perfect Murder
06:10	I Almost Got Away With It
07:00	Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25	Betrayed
08:15	Disappeared
09:10	Your Worst Nightmare
10:05	American Monster
11:00	Bride Killers
11:55	Betrayed
12:50	I Almost Got Away With It
13:45	Your Worst Nightmare
14:40	The Perfect Murder
15:35	Murder Calls
16:30	Betrayed
17:25	Disappeared
18:20	I Almost Got Away With It
19:15	Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil
20:10	The Perfect Murder
21:05	Murder Comes To Town
22:00	Dead North
22:55	I Am Homicide
23:50	Let's Kill Mom

Disney Channel HD	
00:00	Hank Zipzer
00:25	Alex & Co.
00:45	Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50	Evermoor Chronicles
01:15	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05	Binny And The Ghost
02:55	Hank Zipzer
03:15	Disney Mickey Mouse
03:20	Hank Zipzer
03:45	Alex & Co.
04:35	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25	Binny And The Ghost
05:45	Disney Mickey Mouse
06:00	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
06:25	Tangled: The Series
06:50	Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
07:20	Elena Of Avalor
07:45	K.C. Undercover
08:10	Bunk'd
08:35	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:25	Tangled: The Series
10:15	Bizaardvark
11:05	Liv And Maddie
11:55	K.C. Undercover
12:45	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
13:10	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:00	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
14:15	Bunk'd
14:40	K.C. Undercover
15:05	Disney Mickey Mouse
15:10	Kitty Is Not A Cat
15:35	Elena Of Avalor
16:00	Tangled: The Series
16:25	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:50	Raven's Home
17:15	Stuck In The Middle
18:05	K.C. Undercover
18:30	Bunk'd
18:55	Descendants Wicked World
19:00	Raven's Home
19:25	Liv And Maddie
19:50	K.C. Undercover
20:15	Disney Mickey Mouse
20:20	Tangled: The Series
20:45	Bizaardvark
21:10	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
21:35	Stuck In The Middle
22:00	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:25	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50	Lolirock
23:10	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35	Binny And The Ghost

00:00	Hank Zipzer
00:25	Alex & Co.
00:45	Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50	Evermoor Chronicles
01:15	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05	Binny And The Ghost
02:55	Hank Zipzer
03:15	Disney Mickey Mouse
03:20	Hank Zipzer
03:45	Alex & Co.
04:35	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25	Binny And The Ghost
05:45	Disney Mickey Mouse
06:00	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
06:25	Tangled: The Series
06:50	Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
07:20	Elena Of Avalor
07:45	K.C. Undercover
08:10	Bunk'd
08:35	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:25	Tangled: The Series
10:15	Bizaardvark
11:05	Liv And Maddie
11:55	K.C. Undercover
12:45	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
13:10	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:00	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
14:15	Bunk'd
14:40	K.C. Undercover
15:05	Disney Mickey Mouse
15:10	Kitty Is Not A Cat
15:35	Elena Of Avalor
16:00	Tangled: The Series
16:25	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:50	Raven's Home
17:15	Stuck In The Middle
18:05	K.C. Undercover
18:30	Bunk'd
18:55	Descendants Wicked World
19:00	Raven's Home
19:25	Liv And Maddie
19:50	K.C. Undercover
20:15	Disney Mickey Mouse
20:20	Tangled: The Series
20:45	Bizaardvark
21:10	Hotel Transylvania: The Series
21:35	Stuck In The Middle
22:00	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:25	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50	Lolirock
23:10	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35	Binny And The Ghost

Disney Junior	
00:10	Minnie's Bow-Toons
00:15	Zou
00:30	Henry Hugglemonster

01:00	PJ Masks
01:50	The Hive
02:00	Zou
02:15	Zou
02:30	Henry Hugglemonster
03:20	The Hive
03:40	Zou
04:25	The Hive
04:35	The Hive
04:45	Henry Hugglemonster
05:35	The Hive
05:45	PJ Masks
07:00	Muppet Babies
07:15	Puppy Dog Pals
07:35	PJ Masks
07:55	Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30	Vampirina
09:00	Sofia The First
09:30	Elena Of Avalor
10:00	Puppy Dog Pals
11:00	Muppet Babies
11:20	Muppet Babies
11:40	Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:40	PJ Masks
13:55	Muppet Babies Show And Tell
14:00	Claude
14:40	Trulli Tales
15:30	Vampirina
16:25	Muppet Babies Show And Tell
16:30	Muppet Babies
17:00	Claude
17:30	Puppy Dog Pals
18:00	Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:30	Vampirina
18:45	Vampirina
19:00	PJ Masks
19:15	PJ Masks
19:30	The Lion Guard
20:00	Sofia The First
20:25	Unsungablevaluable
20:30	Elena Of Avalor
21:00	Puppy Dog Pals
21:30	Mickey And The Roadster Racers
22:00	Vampirina
22:40	PJ Masks
23:15	The Lion Guard
23:45	Sofia The First

Discovery Channel HD	
00:15	Street Outlaws
01:05	Outback Truckers
01:50	Dive Wars Australia
02:35	Diesel Brothers
03:20	Street Outlaws
04:05	Alaska: The Last Frontier
04:50	Dirty Jobs
05:35	Storage Hunters
06:00	Beetle Crisis
06:23	Property Wars
06:45	Storage Hunters
07:10	How Do They Do It?
07:35	Alaska: The Last Frontier
08:20	Beetle Crisis
08:45	Property Wars
09:10	Dirty Jobs
09:55	Outback Truckers
10:45	Dive Wars Australia
11:30	Diesel Brothers
12:20	Beetle Crisis
12:43	Property Wars
13:05	Storage Hunters
13:30	How Do They Do It?
13:55	Dirty Jobs
14:40	Street Outlaws
15:30	Outback Truckers
16:15	Dive Wars Australia
17:05	Diesel Brothers
17:50	Alaska: The Last Frontier
18:40	Dirty Jobs
19:25	Street Outlaws
20:15	Street Outlaws
21:00	Extreme Engineering
21:50	Impossible Engineering
22:40	What On Earth?
23:30	Alaska: Battle On The Bay

XFL	
00:05	Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
00:30	Booster
00:55	Booster
01:20	Counterfeit Cat
01:45	Counterfeit Cat

02:10	Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
03:00	Booster
03:20	Booster
03:45	Dude That's My Ghost
04:10	Dude That's My Ghost
04:35	Counterfeit Cat
05:00	Guardians Of The Galaxy
05:29	Marvel's Avengers Assemble
06:00	Marvel's Spider-Man
06:29	Big Hero 6 The Series
07:00	Milo Murphy's Law
07:29	Big City Greens
07:45	Big City Greens
08:00	Phineas And Ferb
09:00	Star vs The Forces Of Evil
10:00	Counterfeit Cat
11:00	Booster
12:00	Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
13:00	Phineas And Ferb
13:29	Phineas And Ferb
14:00	Lab Rats
14:29	Lab Rats
15:00	Right Now Kapow
15:29	Lab Rats
16:00	Supa Strikas
16:29	Milo Murphy's Law
17:00	Big City Greens
17:15	Big City Greens
17:29	Big Hero 6 The Series
18:00	Lab Rats Elite Force
19:00	Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:29	Kickin' It
20:00	Milo Murphy's Law
20:29	Big City Greens
20:45	Big City Greens
21:00	Marvel's Spider-Man
21:29	Star Wars Rebels
22:00	DuckTales
22:25	Big Hero 6 The Series
22:50	Dude That's My Ghost
23:40	Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja

E! HD	
00:10	Ashlee+evan
01:05	Life Of Kylie
01:35	E! News Middle East
01:50	E! News
02:50	#RichKids Of Beverly Hills
05:30	Celebrity Style Story
06:00	Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
06:55	E! News Middle East
07:10	Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
08:10	E! News: Daily Pop
09:10	Botched
10:05	Ashlee+evan
11:00	Life Of Kylie
12:00	E! News Middle East
12:15	Model Squad
15:00	E! News Middle East
15:15	E! News: Daily Pop
16:15	Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
17:10	Ashlee+evan
18:05	Botched
19:00	E! News
20:00	Live From The Red Carpet
22:00	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:00	E! News Middle East
23:15	Model Squad



01:45	101 Dalmatians 2
03:15	Muppets Most Wanted
05:15	The Princess Diaries
07:15	Old Dogs
09:00	The Lion King 2: Simba's Pride
10:45	Muppets Most Wanted
12:45	Old Dogs
14:30	The Country Bears
16:15	Brave
18:00	The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
20:00	Freaky Friday
22:00	The Country Bears
23:45	Brave



Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

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



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are able to draw the attention of all who cross paths with you today. You are captivating and intriguing. Your imagination and creativeness are in overdrive. Your mind is working faster than your hands can create or your mouth can speak. This is a very productive time for you if you can exercise patience. You may find yourself with a strong desire for power and control. Make sure you work to fulfill these desires in a healthy manner, Taurus.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Solutions to old problems and breakthroughs in the workplace seem to be falling into your lap today. This is a great day to reach new levels of success. Hard work and determination have paid off for you. You have remembered the old saying, "if at first you don't succeed..." This has brought success into your world. It is a great time to celebrate and reward yourself for your success. Enjoy an evening of spoiling yourself.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find comfort staying in and spending some time with the family and loved ones today. A strong sense of needing to be needed may be overwhelming today and you will find just what your heart desires from these loved ones. Home is where your heart is today. Cancer, you may feel as if you are being put in a position to make choices that go against your values to further your career. This could be a very awkward situation for you. You may see this as a very crooked road to success and feel you will be ignoring much of what you love if you choose to follow this path. Cancer, continue to follow your heart and know you will always be supported by the ones you love.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may be feeling emotionally detached from your surroundings at this time. You tend to be viewed as detached by others when you are in all reality your mind is highly focused and your wheels are turning. You are fascinated by the unusual and are finding yourself lost in your thoughts. You may find it hard to focus in the workplace today. Today may not be the best day for important decisions in the work place as you have lost yourself in your thoughts. You are quick witted and are no stranger to finding yourself having to apologize for having offended someone. Bite your tongue, keep it to yourself today as this could result in a battle of words with someone close to you. Leo, settle in with a book tonight and give your mind a break from reality. This will provide a much-needed escape for you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find yourself speaking before you think. You are somewhat direct with those around you today. Your emotions seem to be in overdrive and putting on the brakes is not an option. You desire to make a fresh start. New surroundings, whether this means physically or surrounding yourself with new friends seems to be a goal you are ready to put in motion. This is a great time to make a move. Make wise decisions you have put much thought into because these changes will have a great impact on your future. You may feel a heightened sense of confidence and independence now. Make sure the decisions are ones you can live with when you are back to your normal self.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Make a plan and put it in action. The ins and outs of your daily life have become mundane. You need excitement and change. Even though plans for a getaway may not go smoothly, the actual trip is just what you need to refresh and rejuvenate. Your focus tends to be centered on the wants and needs of those around you. This is a time in your life it will be best to put yourself first. Remember you must first take care of yourself to be able to help others.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

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



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are focused and very goal oriented today. It is as if you are on a mission and will let nothing stand in your way. You are motivated and determined to fix all that is around you this not just as you think it should be. You want things your way and refuse to settle for less. This day reveals itself to be a perfect time to spend with a lover or someone close to you as you are feeling a desire to be needed and admired. You will find this will fulfill your needs and leave you with a sense of completion. Your most productive time today will be spent at home.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may have been so focused lately you have been missing out on a social life. Today is a great day to get out and about. Hit the town but choose your company wisely as not to experience any conflict while doing so. Surround yourself with like-minded friends. Choose friends who are positive and share your love of life. You may find yourself experiencing a real spiritual awakening and the desire to share this with others. You should be pleasantly please at how receptive your friends are. A great day for you where the lines of communication open in all aspects of your world.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

All that sparkles may not be gold, but it sure does catch your eye. You have deep appreciation for the beauty surrounding you and find it hard to pass by any sparkling treasure in your path. Admire it and move on Aquarius, and this could be a very good financial period for you if you can resist the urge to spend. This may be a time of change in your life. The changes you are about to make or may be making may not be supported by those close to you. You may experience conflict or major pushback. You are longing to broaden your horizons, a longing to grow and have new experiences. Remember, Aquarius, these things cannot occur without change.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself in a bit of a conflict when it comes to balancing your Home Life and work life. You may find yourself passing an opportunity by at work because it will interfere with time with your family. This may be a hard decision to make at this time, but the payoff with your family will be well worth it. In a time for you to make sure your priorities are straight. You have a strong appreciation of your past. You are able to reflect and realize the obstacles and problems of your past talk to the lessons that made you and you are today. You are able to appreciate hardships and look at them in a more positive manner knowing you will come at a stronger person in the end.

COUNTRY CODES

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



## Health

# Removing 'zombie' cells deters Alzheimer's in mice

**PARIS:** Eliminating dead-but-toxic cells occurring naturally in the brains of mice designed to mimic Alzheimer's slowed neuron damage and memory loss associated with the disease, according to a study published Wednesday that could open a new front in the fight against dementia.

The accumulation in the body of "zombie cells" that can no longer divide but still cause harm to other healthy cells, a process called senescence, is common to all mammals.

Scientists have long known that these dead-but cells gather in regions of the brain linked to old age diseases ranging from osteoarthritis and atherosclerosis to Parkinson's and dementia. Prior research had also shown that the elimination of senescent cells in ageing mice extended their healthy lifespan. But the new results, published in Nature, are the first to demonstrate a cause-and-effect link with a specific disease, Alzheimer's, the scientists said.

But any treatments that might emerge from the research are many years down the road, they cautioned. In experiments, a team led by Tyler Bussian of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota used mice genetically modified to produce the destructive, cobweb-like tangles of tau protein that form in the neurons of Alzheimer's patients.

The mice were also programmed to allow for the elimination of "zombie" cells in the same region. "When senescent cells were removed, we found that the diseased animals retained the ability to form memories, and

eliminated signs of inflammation," said senior author Darren Baker, also from the Mayo Clinic. The mice likewise failed to develop Alzheimer's signature protein "tangles", and retained normal brain mass.

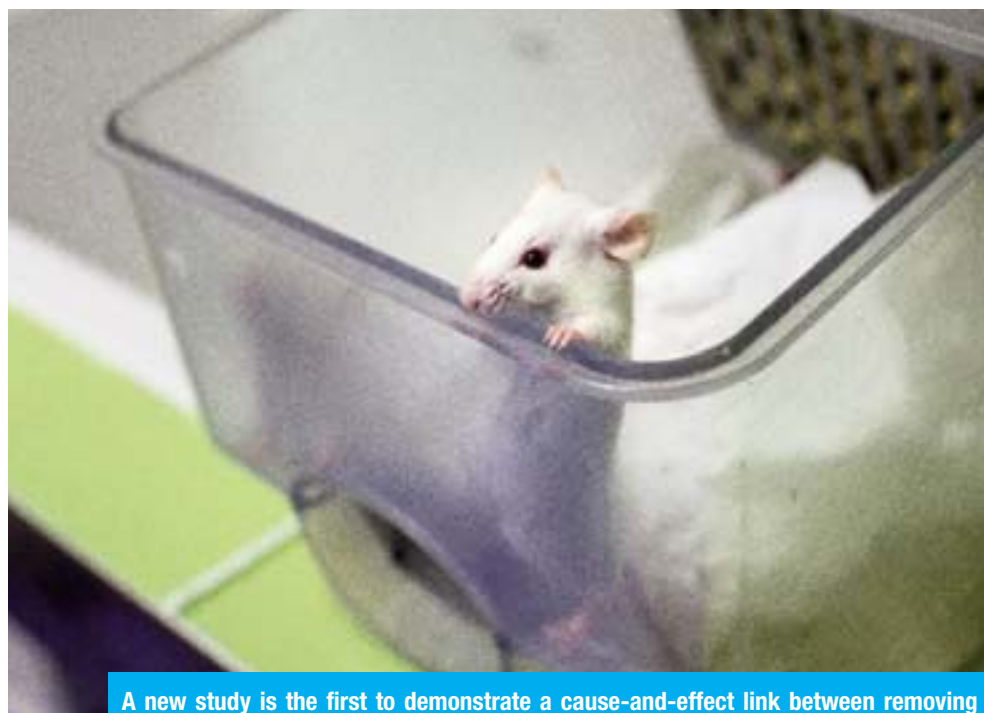
## Keeping zombies at bay

A closer look revealed that the "zombies" belonged to a class of cells in the brain and spinal cord, called glia, that provide crucial support and insulation to neurons. "Preventing the build-up of senescent glia can block the cognitive decline and neurodegeneration normally experienced by these mice," Jay Penney and Li-Huei Tsai, both from MIT, wrote in a comment, also in Nature. Bussian and his team duplicated the results with pharmaceuticals, suggesting that drugs could one day slow or block the emergence of Alzheimer's by keeping these zombie cells at bay.

"There hasn't been a new dementia drug in 15 years, so it's exciting to see the results of this promising study in mice," said James Pickett, head of research at Alzheimer's Society in London.

For Lawrence Rajendran, deputy director of the Dementia Research Institute at King's College London, the findings "open up new vistas for both diagnosis and therapy for neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's." Up to now, dementia research has been mostly focused on the diseased neurons rather than their neighboring cells.

"It is increasingly becoming clear that other brain cells play a defining role,"



A new study is the first to demonstrate a cause-and-effect link between removing "zombie cells" in a mouse's brain and a specific disease, Alzheimer's. — AFP

Rajendran added. Several barriers remain before the breakthrough can be translated into a "safe, effective treatment in people," Pickett and other said. The elderly often have lots of harmless brain cells that look like the dangerous senescent cells a drug would target, so the molecule would have to be good at telling the two apart.

Worldwide, about seven percent of people over 65 suffer from Alzheimer's or some form of dementia, a percentage that rises to 40 percent above the age of 85. The number afflicted is expected to triple by 2050 to 152 million, according to the World Health Organization, posing a huge challenge to healthcare systems. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

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

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



Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

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

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



## Academic Certificates – Training

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

## Scope of clinical Practice.

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



email: wbuhaimeed@gmail.com

Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228


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



# CLINIC PAGE




**Kuwait Times**  
248 33 199



مستشفى السلام الدولي  
Al-Salam International Hospital

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



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

@Malhajry

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

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



**ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES:**

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

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

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

SHARL, Ahmad Alhajry (E), Building 18, Floor 11.

Tel.: (+965) 22060777


@DrBuhaimeed, @fahadsb, @fahadonk

Email: dr.fahad@beautybeyond.com.kw

www.beautybeyond.com.kw




BEAUTY & BEYOND



مستشفى السلام الدولي  
Al-Salam International Hospital

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



**Specialized in:**

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

alsalam.int.hospital

Telephone: 1830003 Ext: 2400



مستشفى السلام الدولي  
Al-Salam International Hospital

**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist



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

**Specialized in:**

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

alsalam.int.hospital

Telephone: 1830003

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastrosocopy
- ◆ 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


Telephone: 1802 555

Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com



مستشفى دار الشفاء  
Dar Al Shifa Hospital


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



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


daralshifa

Telephone: 1802 555



مركز الطب الدولي  
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
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

http://www.international-clinic.com


**Tel: 1886677**

ic\_kwt



مركز الطب الدولي  
Global Medical Center

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



All general and specialized surgeries such as:

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

Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar  
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.

Telephone: 1871111

@globalmedcenter  
www.globalmed-center.com



# Classifieds

Friday, September 21, 2018

Kuwait Times  
Established 1961

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

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 30 km/h .

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

WEATHER WATCH			Fog	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART	20/09/2018 0000 UTC
KUWAIT CITY	39 °C	32 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	27 °C		
ABDALY	45 °C	29 °C		
BUBYAN	.. °C	... °C		
JAHRA	46 °C	30 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	38 °C	30 °C		
SALMIYAH	34 °C	31 °C		
AHMADI	35 °C	31 °C		
NUWAISIB	40 °C	27 °C		
WAFRA	45 °C	27 °C		
SALMY	46 °C	28 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	09/21	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	46 °C	30 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 28 km/h
Saturday	09/22	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	46 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Sunday	09/23	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	45 °C	31 °C	NW-SE	12 - 32 km/h
Monday	09/24	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas and some high clouds will appear	42 °C	30 °C	NE-SE	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:16
Sunrise	05:35
Zuhr	11:42
Asr	15:10
Sunset	17:48
Isha	19:05

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	22 %
MAX. Wind	SE 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, BURLAKUNTA SUB-BARAJU, S/o BURLAKUNTA BALARAJU, R/o D.No: 3/105 Pulapathur Village, Rajampet (M.D) Kadapa (Dt.) A.P, India, Passport No. R7701669, have changed my name to SINGARAJU SUB-BARAJU, S/o SINGARAJU BALARAJU, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents.

**TEACHER REQUIRED**  
To teach a grade 7 student with difficulty in learning for Math , English and social studies .  
**99662515**

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## Airlines



Kuwait Airways 171  
Jazeera Airways 177  
Wataniya Airways 22 066 536  
American Airlines 22087425  
22087426  
Jet Airways 22924455

FlyDubai 22414400  
Qatar Airways 22423888  
KLM 22425747  
Royal Jordanian 22418064/5/6  
British Airways 22425635  
Air France 22430224

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

**Call MSAL hotline 128**



## Business

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

**38** 'High uncertainty' hurting global growth, says OECD**40** Kuwait-backed Aston Martin targets £5.1bn IPO**41** China shrugs off concerns over trade war 'obstacles'

VIENNA: In this file photo taken on May 25, 2017 Saudi Arabia's energy minister and president of the OPEC Khalid Al-Falih (center) attends the 172nd meeting of the OPEC Conference at its headquarters in Vienna. US President Donald Trump yesterday issued a fresh call on the OPEC to lower crude prices, saying the US was providing Middle Eastern energy giants with security. — AFP

# Trump tells OPEC to lower oil prices

## Stop buying oil from Iran or face sanctions, importers warned

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump yesterday issued a fresh call on the OPEC oil cartel to lower crude prices, saying the United States was providing Middle Eastern energy giants with security.

"We protect the countries of the Middle East, they would not be safe for very long without us, and yet they continue to push for higher and higher oil prices!" he tweeted. "We will remember. The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!" Trump has earlier called for members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries—primarily cartel kingpin and US ally Saudi Arabia—to raise their production, and warned importers to stop buying oil from Iran or face US sanctions.

Two of OPEC's founding members, Iran and Venezuela, are under sanctions from Washington. A new set of US sanctions is due to hit the Islamic republic's oil industry on November 4. Output from Iran has hit its lowest level since

July 2016, according to the International Energy Agency, as top buyers India and China have distanced themselves from Tehran.

In 2016, major producers both within and outside OPEC agreed to slash production in an attempt to boost prices following the 2014 oil market crash.

OPEC and its allies are unlikely to agree an official increase in crude output when they meet in Algeria this weekend, although pressure is mounting on top producers to prevent a spike in oil prices ahead of new US sanctions on Iran, OPEC sources said. Saudi Arabia is worried that any sanctions-related spike in oil prices will trigger fresh criticism from Trump but is concerned about a lack of spare oil capacity to offset shortages, the sources said.

The kingdom is caught between a rock and a hard place, seeking to prevent prices from rising far above \$80 a barrel ahead of US congressional elections while fending off doubts over its

ability to compensate for a drop in Iranian supply. "It's complicated. Saudi Arabia has to balance oil supply and demand, and it has to balance oil prices so they don't rise too much before the US elections," one OPEC source said. "It's also political because the Saudis don't want to pump too much oil then the Iranians complain to OPEC that it (Saudi Arabia) is taking (Iran's) market share. They also don't want oil prices to fall too much."

Under pressure from the US president, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia and other allies agreed in June to boost production by 1 million barrels per day, having participated in a supply-cutting deal since 2017.

The so-called "OPEC+" coalition meets on Sunday in Algeria to discuss how to allocate that 1 million bpd increase within its quota framework. OPEC sources say there is no immediate plan for any official action as such a move would

require OPEC to hold what it calls an extraordinary meeting, which is not on the table.

The weekend gathering will discuss how to share the previously agreed output increase and examine whether the market needs more oil to offset the loss of Iranian supply as well as a decline in Venezuelan output, the sources said.

Two sources said the meeting could produce a recommendation on dividing the increase, as most participating countries would be represented. "There are no proposals for an extraordinary meeting in Algeria," another OPEC source said. The source added that the joint OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial committee known as the JMMC, which meets in Algiers on Sunday, can still recommend to the wider coalition a further increase in output if needed.

A separate OPEC source said: "To make a decision, you need to have all the ministers. Not all ministers are attending but most delegations will be represented." — Agencies



## Business

# ‘High uncertainty’ hurting global growth, says OECD

## Economists should have predicted Lehman collapse: Gurria

**PARIS:** Global expansion is likely to slow as tensions kickstarted by US President Donald Trump’s protectionist policies hit world trade, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday.

“Global GDP growth remained solid in the first half of 2018, at around (3.75) percent, but there are signs that the expansion may have now peaked,” the OECD said. In a report titled “High Uncertainty Weighing on Global Growth”, the OECD said it now expected growth to settle at 3.7 percent in 2018 and 2019 — down 0.1 and 0.2 points respectively from its May projections.

Among the factors hurting growth are slowing trade expansion, which slipped from 5 percent in 2017 to around 3 percent in the first half of 2018, the report said. The drop comes as Trump’s “America First” approach has brought trade conflicts with China, the world’s second largest economy, while also raising the pressure on its European trading partners.

Trump this week announced another \$200 billion worth of goods for his latest volley in the stand-off with Beijing, threatening even more tariffs could be in the pipeline if China doesn’t play ball.

The new measures add to the \$50 billion worth of goods already targeted, taking the total to about half of China’s exports to the US.

### Impact on living standards

The OECD report warned that the trade tensions

are leading to a rise in uncertainty that is hurting both advanced and emerging market economies. “A further rise in trade tensions would have significant adverse effects on global investment, jobs and living standards,” the report said. The OECD pointed to strong job growth particularly in advanced economies, but also noted that “wage growth... remains moderate”—leaving low-income households particularly vulnerable.

It also said that the tariffs are already having a palpable impact in some sectors. In the US, “imports of washing machines, solar panels and steel and aluminium all began to decline in value terms in the first half of the year”, the report said, adding that “US domestic prices have risen sharply in the affected sectors”.

### Banking crisis

The head of the OECD said Friday that he regretted the rich nations club’s failure to predict the crisis triggered by the collapse of Lehman Brothers a decade ago, saying economic forecasts needed to better reflect reality.

“At the end of my first year in office, in June 2007, the OECD economic outlook stated ‘the current economic situation is in many ways better than what we have experienced in years’,” Angel Gurría said. He told a meeting in Paris on lessons from the financial crisis that reading these words today feels “like stabbing myself”.

“We were equally optimistic regarding the growing concern about the US mortgage indus-

try,” Gurría added. “When one is so happy to be professionally optimistic, then of course you disregard the voices that are warnings.”



PARIS: New Chief Economist of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Laurence Boone addresses a press conference to present the OECD interim economic outlook at the OECD headquarters in Paris yesterday. —AFP

try,” Gurría added. “When one is so happy to be professionally optimistic, then of course you disregard the voices that are warnings.”

Lehman Brothers, a 150-year-old investment bank weighed down by risky debt holdings made up of subprime mortgages, collapsed in September 2008, prompting the worst global economic crisis since the 1930s.

Gurría said the crisis had made clear that “mainstream economic thinking and the models it was based on did not reflect the reality either of the economy or people’s life”. —AFP

“We will see a gradual growth increase from now on. Our main goal is to establish 5 percent growth from 2021 onwards,” Albayrak said at the presentation in Istanbul. He did not take questions. “We will realize the necessary policies and measures to ensure economic hardships are overcome,” he said. “We are aware of the economy’s strong and weak points.”

## Now near 100m bpd, when will oil demand peak?

**LONDON:** Sometime in the next few weeks, global oil consumption will reach 100 million barrels per day (bpd) — more than twice what it was 50 years ago — and it shows no immediate sign of falling. Despite overwhelming evidence of carbon-fuelled climate change and billions in subsidies for alternative technologies such as wind and solar power, oil is so entrenched in the modern world that demand is still rising by up to 1.5 percent a year.

There is no consensus on when world oil demand will peak but it is clear much depends on how governments respond to global warming. That’s the view of the International Energy Agency (IEA), which advises Western economies on energy policy.

As Bassam Fattouh and Anupama Sen of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies said in a presentation last month, the debate over peak demand “signifies a shift in perception from scarcity to abundance”, which is already changing the behavior of all players in the world oil

market, including exporters. “Taking the ‘peak demand’ argument forward, it is generally thought that the world is on the brink of another energy transition, in which conventional sources such as oil will eventually be substituted away in favor of low-carbon sources.”

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo told a conference in South Africa on Sept. 5 that global consumption would hit 100 million bpd this year, sooner than anyone had projected. With a sophisticated global infrastructure for extraction, refining and distribution, oil produces such a powerful burst of energy that it is invaluable for some forms of transport such as aircraft.

Of the almost 100 million barrels of oil consumed daily, more than 60 million bpd goes for transport, and alternative fuel systems such as battery-powered electric cars still have little market share. Much of the remaining oil is used to make plastics by a petrochemicals industry that has few alternative feedstocks. Although government pressure to limit the use of hydrocarbons such as oil, gas and coal is increasing, few analysts believe oil demand will decrease in the next decade.

If the current mix of policies continues, the IEA expects world oil demand to rise for at least the next 20 years, heading for 125 million bpd around mid-century. —Reuters

## Seeking to restore confidence, Turkey cuts growth forecasts

**ANKARA:** Turkey sharply cut its growth forecasts for this year and next yesterday, but disappointed investors who had hoped for deeper reductions that reflected the fragile state of the economy and a plan to help banks.

Turkey has seen its lira currency plunge by 40 percent this year on concerns over President Tayyip Erdogan’s influence over monetary policy, with the turbulence jolting financial markets around the world. Finance Minister Berat Albayrak hoped to use his medium-term economic plan to rebuild confidence by giving investors a full account of the country’s economic prospects.

He said growth would be 3.8 percent this year and 2.3 percent in 2019, both revised down from forecasts of 5.5 percent. Sources, however, had said there was debate among top government officials about the extent of the revisions, underscoring the delicate balance between Erdogan’s long-standing emphasis on credit-fuelled economic expansion and investors’ calls for greater austerity.

“At the moment the program is a disappointment. First, when you look at the growth forecast, current account deficit forecast, they are too ambitious,” said Guillaume Tresca, a senior

EM strategist at Credit Agricole. “We don’t have anything new, regarding a bad bank, regarding the treatment of (non-performing loans), regarding the foreign-exchange funding of the banking system or the foreign-exchange funding of the corporates. It is lacking details and it is lacking news.”

The lira weakened to 6.2962 by 1104 GMT, from around 6.20 beforehand and a close of 6.2541 on Wednesday. Albayrak, Erdogan’s son-in-law, had previously promised “realistic macro targets” and “right action plans”.

“We will see a gradual growth increase from now on. Our main goal is to establish 5 percent growth from 2021 onwards,” Albayrak said at the presentation in Istanbul. He did not take questions. “We will realize the necessary policies and measures to ensure economic hardships are overcome,” he said. “We are aware of the economy’s strong and weak points.”

### Inflation, unemployment

The central bank hiked interest rates by 6.25 percentage points last week in a bid to tame double-digit inflation and put a floor under the lira. The currency had made moderate gains since the central bank’s action.

The finance minister’s economic program forecast that inflation would rise to 20.8 percent this year before dropping to 15.9 percent in 2019 and 9.8 percent in 2020. Investors want to see signs the government is moving away from a decade and a half of growth driven by credit and big infrastructure projects. —Reuters



## Business

# Canada PM: 'More work' needed to get a continental trade deal

## As High-level talks resume, Trudeau brushes off US pressure

**WASHINGTON:** There is still a way to go to reach a new North American Free Trade Agreement, Canada's prime minister said Wednesday, brushing off US pressure for a quick deal as high-level talks resumed in Washington.

Canada's top diplomat Chrystia Freeland met twice with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in Washington on Wednesday, and called some of the issues involved "fiendishly complex."

Negotiators have been in talks nearly non-stop for a month as they try to overcome hurdles and agree on a NAFTA rewrite. The goal is "to see if we can get a good deal for Canada, a good deal for everyone," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"We remain confident that there is always a deal possible, but it will take more work."

US President Donald Trump, who called NAFTA "one of the worst trade deals in history," spoke to Trudeau late Tuesday by telephone, and "the two leaders discussed trade," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement.

Trump demanded the 1994 accord between Canada, the United States and Mexico be revised, and the talks started a year ago. Trump has blamed the trade pact for sending many manufacturing jobs—notably in the auto sector—to Mexico.

As the sides continue work towards a rewrite of the 25-year-old pact, Freeland told reporters on Wednesday they already have tackled "a fiendishly complex set of issues and economically absolutely core to the North American economic relationship." Now officials are working on the remaining disagreements, centering on Canada's managed dairy sector,

and the dispute resolution provisions.

However, Freeland declined to discuss specifics on the status of the talks or whether any progress had been made in overcoming those differences. "Our negotiators have been really hard at it including an all-night session last night of one team. So we are working very, very hard," she said earlier in the day.

In between meetings with US trade officials, Freeland huddled at the Canadian Embassy with Ontario Premier Doug Ford, the Conservative leader of the province home to much of Canada's automotive industry.

The United States and Mexico sealed their own two-way deal at the end of August, after reaching agreement on auto content requirements. They plan to sign the accord by December 1, and since then Trump has ramped up pressure on Canada to accept his terms.

But Ottawa has seemed reluctant to give in to Trump's push to agree to a deal before US midterm elections in November, and the transfer of power December 1 to Mexican President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Trudeau's Liberals also need a win to hold up to voters when they return to the polls in one year.

### Dairy farmers on edge

Ottawa and Washington remain at odds over Canada's protected dairy sector and cultural subsidies, as well as Canada's demand for an international system for resolving disputes. Dairy farmers publicly urged Trudeau not to cave to demands for increased access to the nation's dairy market, noting that the US

Turning to Brexit, Moscovici said the European Union could not compromise on the "four freedoms" of movement of goods, capital, people and services that it says are integral to its single market.

But he said the Commission was "totally dedicated to a deal", adding: "We are still hopeful that we can make it." On Wednesday, British Prime Minister Theresa May received less than glowing praise for her Brexit plan, with top EU official Donald Tusk saying Britain must rework its proposals for Northern Ireland and trade.

Asked about the probability of a no-deal Brexit, Moscovici said "a good deal ... is still doable, this is still feasible. And the Commission is working in that direction, and only in that direction."

With just over six months to go until Britain leaves the EU, time is pressing and both sides are keen to secure some kind of deal before the end of the year and ease concerns over a disorderly Brexit, which could push the economy into a downturn.

Turning to elections to the European Parliament next year, Moscovici, a former French finance minister, did not rule out running as the lead candidate for the Social Democrats group.

"That's something which is not impossible," he said. "The time has not come for me to say precisely what I will do. Two or three weeks from now I will give my intentions." —Reuters



OTTAWA: Ottawa and Washington remain at odds over Canada's protected dairy sector and cultural subsidies —AFP

already sells five times more milk to Canada than Canada sells to the US.

"We call on the government to ensure that any final NAFTA deal has no further negative impact on our dairy sector," Pierre Lampron, the president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, said at a news conference. Flanked by dairy farmers from all of Canada's 10 provinces, he said Ottawa had given milk and cheese carve-outs to the EU and 10 member nations in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact in order to secure free trade with those blocs.

This cost Canada Can\$250 million (US\$193 million) in lost milk production, he said. The Canadian industry is valued at Can\$19 billion.

That also hurts associated industries, Lampron said. "Enough is enough." The government controls production and prices of milk, eggs and poultry, resulting in higher prices for consumers but a stable income for farmers.

"We will continue to defend supply management," Trudeau said. "This is a system that works for Canadians. It works for our agricultural industry." —AFP

## Keep your debt under control, EU tells Italy

**BERLIN:** Italy must work to keep its national debt under control, EU Economics Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said, by cutting wasteful spending and prioritizing investment and infrastructure spending to help stimulate growth and productivity.

He said separately in an interview with Reuters that the European executive was "totally dedicated" to achieving a good Brexit deal. Italy's populist ruling coalition called on Economy Minister Giovanni Tria on Wednesday to allow greater deficit spending in next year's budget in order to make good on its campaign promises, reviving financial market concerns about the country's debt situation.

"I urge all the government in Italy to be clear and to stay where it has to stay - at the core of the euro zone as a strong, credible country willing to secure that its debt is under control," Moscovici said.

Italy, like all other euro zone countries, will have to submit its draft budget for next year by mid-October. The Commission could reject it if it decides it is out of line with EU rules, a power that the EU executive has so far never used.

## UK watchdog calls auction to end Sky takeover deadlock

**LONDON:** A battle to buy pan-European television broadcaster Sky is set for a rare auction to determine final rival bids by Comcast and 21st Century Fox, a UK watchdog ruled yesterday.

An auction lasting a maximum of three rounds will take place tomorrow, the Takeover Panel announced in a statement, should the US media giants not table final offers by late Friday. "The auction procedure will consist of a maximum of three rounds which will all take place on 22 September," the watchdog said in a statement.

Following the auction, Sky and its shareholders will have to decide the winning bid. Cable giant Comcast recently raised its offer for satellite-TV group Sky to £26 billion (\$34.3 billion, 29.3 billion euros), shortly after Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox hiked its

own offer to value the prized company at £24.5 billion.

The drawn-out pursuit comes as traditional media giants are looking to beef up their creative offerings to compete with Netflix and other streaming services. Comcast is meanwhile seen as favorite to win Sky after it dropped out of a bidding war with Disney for film and television operations of 21st Century Fox.

Comcast itself has said it would now focus on acquiring Sky. However 21st Century Fox is still in the running after the UK government cleared the way for Murdoch's group to take full control of Sky having agreed to address media plurality concerns. Fox's long-running pursuit of the 61-percent of Sky it does not own had been plagued by government concerns also over broadcasting standards—and the influence of Australian-born US citizen Murdoch. Critics argued that allowing Murdoch—who owns major British newspaper titles The Times and The Sun—to have also full control of Sky News would hand him too much influence in the UK news business. To remedy this, Fox has proposed to sell the rolling TV news channel to Disney should it win full control of Sky.

Sky's jewel in the crown is its live coverage of English Premier League football, while the company provides also broadband internet and telephone services. —AFP



## Business

## Kuwait-backed Aston Martin targets £5.1bn IPO

**LONDON:** Aston Martin, the luxury British sports car brand favored by fictional spy James Bond 007, said yesterday that its upcoming stock market flotation would look to value the group at up to £5.1 billion (\$6.7 billion, 5.7 billion euros).

The glitzy carmaker's latest starring role will be on the London Stock Exchange in October, the group revealed in a statement, in a plot twist that will make it the only listed British automobile manufacturer. The part-flotation of Aston Martin—whose top-end cars are cherished by Hollywood actors, global sports stars and British royalty—will carry a price range of £17.50 to £22.50 per share.

“By becoming the only automotive company listed on the London Stock Exchange, Aston Martin Lagonda will provide investors with a fitting opportunity to participate in our future success,” chief executive Andy Palmer said in a statement.

The group will sell 25 percent of its share capital or almost 57 million shares. Final pricing is expected on October 3 when conditional dealing will start.

Kuwait-based ADEEM, a family investment house, has a 11.04% stake in Aston Martin Group, while Kuwait's Investment Dar holds a 2.48% stake. Tejara Capital, an investment banking, advisory and asset management services firm with offices in Dubai and London, has a 4.72%. It's part of International Oasis Holding group, a Kuwait-based conglomerate with interests in oil and gas sector, cement industrial, steel

industrial, construction sectors. German carmaker Daimler also holds a 5.0 percent stake.

#### 'Marketing dream'

The vehicles have a long-running association with James Bond, having made their debut in 1964 film “Goldfinger” and more recently in 2015's “Spectre”.

The carmaker does however have a troubled history, having declared itself bankrupt multiple times. “Aston Martin has a chequered past, having gone bust seven times in its 105-year history, though recent performance seems to be turning a corner,” said Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Laith Khalaf.

“The luxury carmaker is looking to ramp up production, expanding into the SUV market and building its presence in China. “The key to success will be increasing the number of models on the road while maintaining the exclusivity of the brand. “On that front, having the world's most famous fictional spy as a brand ambassador is an asset most marketing departments can only dream of,” Khalaf added.

Palmer also said yesterday that the company's turnaround over the last four years has had a “profound” effect on the UK economy, having invested in manufacturing and engineering—and creating thousands of jobs. The hotly anticipated initial public offering (IPO) will value it at between £4.0 billion and £5.1 billion, targeting institutional investors, employees, customers and owners' club members. Aston Martin, which was founded in a small London



**LONDON:** British car maker Aston Martin is in talks with advisers for a potential share float and is targeting \$6.8 billion valuation in potential share offering. — Reuters

workshop, has been transformed into an ultra-luxury brand whose classic car owners include heir to the British throne Prince Charles.

#### Brexit concern

Aston Martin boss Palmer recently sounded the alarm over the possibility of Britain crashing out the European Union next March without a divorce deal. Brexit is “a disaster for the industry on both sides of the Channel if there is no nego-

tiated exit”, he told the Mail on Sunday newspaper. The UK's wider car manufacturing sector has repeatedly warned about potential Brexit fallout. While Britain has a strong automaking industry, the brands have fallen into foreign ownership over recent decades, with Germany's BMW buying Rolls-Royce and Mini, Volkswagen taking control of Bentley, and Jaguar-Land Rover being snapped up by Indian giant Tata Motors. — Agencies

## Under fire Danske Bank faces fresh corruption probe

**COPENHAGEN:** Danske Bank faced a new Danish money laundering inquiry yesterday as political anger spread over a scandal involving 200 billion euros (\$234 billion) in payments, many of which were suspicious, through Estonia.

Chief Executive Thomas Borgen resigned on Wednesday after an investigation commissioned by Danske Bank exposed control and compliance failings, fuelling calls for more stringent European Union rules after several such scandals. The bank's report sparked vocal political criticism and prompted Denmark's Financial Services Authority (FSA) to revisit a case which it had put on ice earlier this year, but is reported to have attracted the attention of US authorities.

“We're reopening the investigation of the bank that we initially closed in May,” FSA head Jesper Berg told Danish broadcaster TV2. In May an FSA report said it had found “serious weaknesses” in the bank's governance and demanded reforms, as well imposing reprimands and a higher capital requirement. Berg said the FSA would use the new information from Danske Bank's report and focus on identifying a legal responsibility.

In an indication of the penalties such lapses can entail, Dutch financial group ING agreed to pay 775 million euros this month after money laundering through its accounts.

One of the main factors behind a dramatic

fall in Danske Bank's share price this year is investor concern that it could have broken US sanctions, which could entail billions of dollars in penalties. Danske Bank said on Wednesday it had not so far found any breach of sanctions, while Chairman Ole Andersen said it had assessed whether it had violated US laws, but declined to share its conclusion.

While authorities in the United States have yet to say whether they are investigating the payments, many of which came from Russia and other former Soviet states, Danske Bank's case is already high on the agenda of European Union members.

European Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova said yesterday she will discuss the Danske Bank case with the finance ministers of Denmark, Finland and Estonia on October 2.

“I want to understand better where the main errors happened, whether it was purely the fault of the lack of due diligence done by the bank itself or whether there was also some mistakes at the level of supervisory authorities,” she said.

Jourova told a news conference in Brussels that she will also discuss the case with the European Banking Authority to see if supervisory mistakes were made.

And in a sign of investor concern, Brussels-based consultancy firm Deminor Recovery Service said it would seek shareholder backing for an impartial investigation of the case at Danske Bank's annual general meeting in March. Danish prime minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen voiced his concern over the failings exposed by the country's biggest lender, saying he was “shocked” at the scope of the suspicious payments and pushed the bank for more answers. — Reuters

## US consumer prices rise slowly; jobless claims near 49-year low

**WASHINGTON:** US consumer prices rose less than expected in August as increases in gasoline and rents were offset by declines in healthcare and apparel costs, and underlying inflation pressures also appeared to be slowing.

Despite the moderate consumer price increases last month, inflation remains underpinned by a tightening labor market and robust economic growth. Labor market strength was reinforced by other data yesterday showing the number of Americans filing for unemployment aid dropped last week to near a 49-year low.

“With labor market conditions tight, wage growth accelerating and input prices being pushed up by capacity constraints and recently imposed tariffs, there is plenty of upward pressure on prices,” said Paul Ashworth, chief US economist at Capital Economics in Toronto.

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.2 percent last month after a similar gain in July. In the 12 months through August, the CPI rose 2.7 percent, slowing from July's 2.9 percent advance. Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the CPI edged up 0.1 percent. The so-called core CPI had increased by 0.2 percent for three straight months.

In the 12 months through August, the core CPI gained 2.2 percent after rising 2.4 percent in July. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI climbing 0.3 percent and the core CPI gaining 0.2 percent in August. The inflation

report came on the heels of data on Wednesday showing producer prices falling in August for the first time in 1-1/2 years.

The dollar, which has gained more than 6 percent this year against the currencies of the United States' main trade partners, is weighing on the prices of goods such as apparel.

August's tepid consumer price gains did not change expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at its Sept. 25-26 policy meeting. The US central bank has lifted rates twice this year. The Fed tracks a different inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index excluding food and energy, for monetary policy. The core PCE price index increased 2.0 percent in July, hitting the Fed's 2 percent target for the third time this year.

“Of course there is always significant month-to-month volatility in the subcomponents, but looking out longer-term we continue to believe that the most likely outcome is a gradual firming in consumer price inflation,” said Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan in New York. “At this point in the cycle the Fed's concerns appear to be shifting from undesirably low inflation to undesirably high inflation.”

An escalating trade war between the United States and China is expected to drive up inflation. President Donald Trump last week threatened duties on another \$267 billion worth of Chinese goods on top of a \$200 billion tariff list that is awaiting his decision. Washington already has slapped duties on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports, provoking retaliation from Beijing.

Minutes of the US central bank's July 31-Aug. 1 meeting published last month showed “several participants commented that increases in the prices of particular goods, such as those induced by the tariff increases, would likely be one source of short-term upward pressure on the inflation rate.” — Reuters



## Business

# China shrugs off concerns over trade war 'obstacles'

## Beijing can 'outlast' tariffs war

**BEIJING:** Chinese officials are shrugging off warnings that the trade spat with the United States could slash the country's economic growth, with state-run media saying Beijing can "outlast" the tariffs war.

Donald Trump this week announced another \$200 billion worth of goods on which to foist levies for his latest volley in the stand-off between the world's top two economies, and threatened there could be more in the pipeline if China doesn't play ball.

But while Chinese Premier Li Keqiang acknowledged on Wednesday that the country is facing "greater difficulties" in maintaining steady growth in the face of the US onslaught, he quickly voiced confidence in its ability to "overcome obstacles".

The new measures add to the \$50 billion worth of goods already targeted. That amounts to about half China's exports to the US, which generate roughly 1.3 percent of its gross domestic product, said Mark Williams, chief China economist at Capital Economics.

According to the rating agency Moody's, this new escalation could cut as much as 0.5 percentage points from Chinese economic growth next year. The row comes at a tough time for Beijing, which has seen the world's number two economy run out of steam of late, hit by the government's efforts to tackle a mountain of debt, which led to a tightening of credit and a sharp decline in infrastructure investment.

The International Monetary Fund predicted

in April that growth would slow to 6.4 percent in 2019, against 6.9 percent in 2017.

But if Trump executes his threat to tax all imports from China, Beijing could see that figure fall to 5.8 percent next year, warned Louis Kuijs, chief Asia economist at Oxford Economics. That would be the slowest rate since 1990, the year after the Tiananmen Square protests.

### 'Few alternatives'

While there are hopes the two sides will be able to resolve their difference, Kuijs warned the prospects for a deal remain low in the short term, with the White House appearing certain it can win the war.

However, Beijing has so far weathered the tariffs storm partly thanks to a sharp depreciation of the yuan, which has lost almost a tenth of its value against the dollar since April, offsetting the impact of tariffs, Capital Economics' Williams said in a note.

Secondly, he added that US companies will stay dependent on Chinese suppliers, because "for many of the affected goods, there are few alternative suppliers". For the types of items taxed by Washington, China is on average the source of half the goods, he said.

Authorities are also expected to take more measures to boost domestic demand, such as lowering income taxes, increasing export-tax rebates, financing more infrastructure, and encouraging banks to expand lending, according to Oxford Economics.



BEIJING: A worker cleans the wall of a building in Beijing yesterday. —AFP

Even so, Li told the World Economic Forum on Wednesday Beijing will not embark on a huge stimulus drive similar that used to fend off the global financial crisis 10 years ago.

While Trump insists that China is in a weakened state—it is straining under a colossal debt mountain exceeding 250 percent of GDP—and will cave in during trade negotiations, there is a stoic confidence in Beijing. Even if Washington taxed all imported Chinese goods, "China has ample fiscal and monetary policies to cushion

that impact", said Fang Xinghai, vice chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC).

"We prepare for the worst, and we think the economy will still be fine," he said this week.

The state-run China Daily declared in an editorial that the country would "outlast" the tariff war and will instead "emerge stronger". And Li saw historical precedents. "For the last 40 years," he said, "the Chinese economy has overcome all obstacles." —AFP

## Bank of Japan mired in 'mission impossible' against deflation

**TOKYO:** Former Bank of Japan member Sayuri Shirai fondly remembers when the bank decided on a massive program intended to perk up the world's number-three economy and save it from damaging deflation. "It was a very exciting time," recalls the 55-year-old. "Globally a lot of people praised this massive monetary easing, the market reacted positively, so I think I was really lucky. It was a really good experience."

It was 2013. New Governor Haruhiko Kuroda was blowing fresh air into a stuffy institution, and there was a sense of optimism that his "Bazooka" approach to monetary policy might finally help Japan beat crippling deflation.

Deflation—or falling prices—is dangerous for an economy as consumers defer purchases hoping goods will become cheaper. This harms consumption and therefore stifles growth.

Backed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his "Abenomics" policy, Kuroda injected first between 60-70 trillion, then 80 trillion yen (\$714 billion) a year into the Japanese economy by buying government bonds and other assets, in-



TOKYO: In this file photo, Bank of Japan's governor Haruhiko Kuroda attends a press conference about the monetary policy, at the Bank of Japan headquarters in Tokyo. —AFP

cluding corporate bonds. The idea was to flood the banking system with easy cash, in the hope that banks would pass on loans at cheap rates to consumers, encouraging them to spend and boost the economy. "We got certain results. We achieved yen depreciation and higher corporate profits," says Shirai.

"Whether it is sustainable or not is another issue." Indeed, five years later, the BOJ appears to have painted itself into a corner. Inflation has stubbornly refused to tick up towards the bank's two-percent target; growth has remained sluggish and the bank is stuck in neutral, without a major policy change in years. The bank is in "deadlock," Shigeto Nagai, head of the Japan department at Oxford Economics said. —AFP

## IMF leaves Kiev without aid deal, CB sees accord soon

**KIEV:** An IMF mission has left Ukraine without announcing a deal on new aid but a top central bank official said yesterday he expected an agreement "in the near future" that would help preserve financial stability during 2019, an election year. Analysts expressed surprise at the lack of an IMF statement at the end of the visit, which ran from Sept. 6 to 19, though markets responded calmly, with Ukraine's dollar bonds slightly firmer yesterday.

The IMF has been pushing Ukraine to raise household gas prices, which have been kept artificially low since Soviet times, to market levels. It was not immediately clear whether the two sides had made progress in their talks on this issue. "There are productive negotiations on the new program. Significant progress has been made. We expect results in the near future," Deputy Central Bank Governor Oleh Churii told Reuters, in the first public comments by a senior Ukrainian official a day after the mission concluded its visit.

"(There are) talks on a new IMF program

that will allow Ukraine to pass the election year freely and maintain financial stability," Churii said. A new agreement would give the government some breathing space to manage its debt payments, which are set to peak over the next two years. It would help keep the currency stable and retain the confidence of investors and Ukraine's foreign allies. It would replace a \$17.5 billion aid-for-reforms program that has propped up Ukraine's economy since 2015 through a sharp recession following Russia's annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of separatist fighting in the Donbass region.

### 'Bit surprising'

IMF aid has been frozen since April 2017 as Ukraine wrenched on commitments to raise household gas tariffs—a potential vote loser next year—and slammed the brakes on reforms to tackle entrenched corruption and modernize the economy. "IMF leaving without a deal/statement....bit surprising as I think most people assumed this was a done deal," said Timothy Ash of BlueBay Asset Management in an email. Ukraine-focused economist Anders Aslund called it "surprising and disappointing." A new deal would allow Ukraine to go to the markets to issue new debt and would also pave the way for the European Union and other foreign donors to disburse more aid to replenish the government's coffers. —Reuters



## Sports

# Indians walk off on Kipnis' slam, rally for 4-1 victory

## Buehler, Puig help Dodgers sweep Rockies

**CHICAGO:** Jason Kipnis hit a walk-off grand slam with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Cleveland Indians rallied for a 4-1 victory over the visiting Chicago White Sox on Wednesday. It was the 17th homer of the season for Kipnis and his second career grand slam. It was also the 1,000th career hit for Kipnis and the 10th grand slam homer hit by the Indians this season. Josh Donaldson led off the ninth with an infield single off reliever Juan Minaya, and Rajai Davis entered as a pinch runner. Caleb Frare (0-1) replaced Minaya and was greeted by a ground single to left by pinch hitter Yandy Diaz that sent Davis to second. After Melky Cabrera popped out to Frare trying to sacrifice, Ian Hamilton replaced Frare and hit Yan Gomes with his first pitch to load the bases. Kipnis then worked the count to 3-2 and before drilling a changeup 399 feet into the bleachers in right field for his fourth career walk-off hit.

### Yankees 10, Red Sox 1

Luke Voit went 4-for-4 with homers in consecutive at-bats off David Price, and New York beat Boston at Yankee Stadium, preventing the Red Sox from clinching the American League East title. Voit hit a solo homer to right to start the fourth inning and give the Yankees a 4-0 lead. In his next at-bat, the burly first baseman hit a two-run homer into the first row of the right field seats-in nearly the same spot as his first-for a 6-1 edge. After replay confirmed that a fan did not interfere by reaching over, Voit's second homer knocked out Price (15-7). New York's Luis Severino (18-8) won for the first time in four starts by pitching one-run ball for seven innings. The Red Sox maintained a magic number of two to clinch their third straight division title and 10th overall.

### Dodgers 5, Rockies 2

Walker Buehler struck out a career-high 12 batters, and Yasiel Puig had a pinch-hit, three-run home run in the seventh inning as Los Angeles widened its lead in the National League West with a victory over visiting Colorado. The Dodgers finished off a three-game sweep, boosting their lead in the division to 2 1/2 games, their largest advantage at any point this year. Los Angeles went 12-7 against the Rockies this season. Los Angeles, which was nine games out of the division lead on May 9, has won seven of eight games. The Rockies have lost five of six and are 1 1/2 games out of the NL's second wild-card spot.

### Diamondbacks 9, Cubs 0

Christian Walker, Chris Owings and Jeff Mathis homered, and Robbie Ray threw six scoreless innings as Arizona used an unorthodox lineup to break a four-game losing streak with a victory over visiting Chicago. Patrick Kivlehan tied a franchise record with two triples, and Owings had three hits in a game in which manager Torey Lovullo gave regulars Paul Goldschmidt, David Peralta, A.J. Pollock and Eduardo Escobar the night off. Ray (6-2) gave up only Addison Russell's third-inning single while striking out eight and walking four. The Cubs did not have another hit, and they did not have more than one runner on base in any inning.

### Mariners 9, Astros 0

Kyle Seager, Mitch Haniger and Guillermo Heredia slugged solo home runs, and Seattle claimed the season series with a victory at Houston. The Mariners took the rubber match of the three-game and season series by jumping to a 3-0 lead on Astros left-hander Dallas Keuchel (11-11) in the first inning and never looking back. Houston won the season series from all four of its American League West rivals last season and needed a win over Seattle to accomplish that feat again. Instead, the Mariners won for the seventh time in nine games in Houston, stalling the Astros' postseason march. The Astros' magic number to secure a postseason berth remained at two.

### Rays 9, Rangers 3

Tommy Pham had three hits including a pair of solo home runs as part of a 16-hit barrage as visiting Tampa Bay remained the hottest team in baseball with a win over Texas to sweep a three-game series. The victory was the fifth in a row for the Rays and their 14th in their past 17 games, all in September. Tampa Bay stayed 5 1/2 games behind Oakland for the second American League wild-card spot with 11 games left in the season.

### A's 10, Angels 0

Brett Anderson combined with three relievers on a four-hit shutout, and Stephen Piscotty matched a career-high with five RBIs, delivering Oakland a victory over visiting Los Angeles. Jed Lowrie and Ramon Laureano drove in two runs apiece for the A's, who snapped a three-game losing streak during which they allowed 21 runs. Anderson (4-5) retired the first eight batters he faced and took a three-hit shutout two outs into the seventh inning before giving way to right-hander Ryan Dull. The veteran lefty struck out three and did not walk a batter.

### Brewers 7, Reds 0

Gio Gonzalez pitched six shutout innings, and Jesus Aguilar drove in four runs, three on a third-inning home run, lifting Milwaukee to a victory over visiting Cincinnati. Manny Pina also had a three-run homer for the Brewers, who moved three games ahead of St. Louis in the race for the first National League wild card. Starting for the third time since joining the Brewers in a trade from Washington in August, Gonzalez (9-11) allowed a second-inning single to Phil Ervin and a fourth-inning single to Scooter Gennett in his six innings. He walked two and struck out five while improving to 2-0 with a 1.65 ERA as a Brewer.

### Braves 7, Cardinals 3

Freddie Freeman had three hits, one of them his 23rd homer, to help Atlanta snap a four-game losing streak and beat visiting St. Louis. The win trimmed Atlanta's magic number for clinching the National League East to six. The loss ended a three-game winning streak for the Cardinals. Freeman broke open the scoreless tie with a two-run homer to left-center in the fourth inning. He added an RBI single in Atlanta's three-run fifth inning and finished 3-for-3 with a walk, a run and three RBIs. Freeman has hit safely in four straight



**SAN DIEGO:** Eric Hosmer #30 of the San Diego Padres scores ahead of the throw to Nick Hundley #5 of the San Francisco Giants during the second inning of a baseball game at PETCO Park on September 19, 2018. —AFP

and is 9-for-17 with two homers during that span.

### Phillies 4, Mets 0

Zach Eflin struck out nine over five scoreless innings, and Rhys Hoskins and Odubel Herrera each homered as Philadelphia kept its flickering playoff hopes alive by beating visiting New York. The second straight win by the Phillies kept them 5 1/2 games behind the National League East-leading Braves heading into a four-game series beginning Thursday at SunTrust Park. The Mets (70-82) have lost four of five and are assured of their second straight losing season.

### Padres 8, Giants 4

Freddy Galvis had a homer and four RBIs, and Wil Myers capped a five-run second inning with a tiebreaking, two-run homer to lead San Diego to a victory over visiting San Francisco. The win snapped the Padres' six-game losing streak to the Giants and prevented San Francisco from sweeping back-to-back series at Petco Park for the first time since the ballpark opened in 2004. Eight of the game's 12 runs were scored in the second, including five by the Padres, with Myers' 414-foot drive into the San Diego bullpen being the decisive blow. Padres starter Robbie Erlin (4-7) broke a four-start losing streak by allowing three runs on five hits and two walks with three strikeouts over five innings.

### Twins 8, Tigers 2

Willians Astudillo had three RBIs, Stephen

Gonsalves pitched six strong relief innings, and Minnesota completed a three-game sweep at Detroit. Gonsalves (1-2) allowed one hit, one walk and struck out four to earn his first career major league win. Robbie Grossman and Ehre Adrianza each had three hits and Tyler Austin added two hits and two RBIs for the Twins, who have won four in a row. The Twins have a 10-6 lead in the season series with the Tigers.

### Pirates 2, Royals 1

Adam Frazier hit a go-ahead solo home run in the fifth inning to give Pittsburgh a win and a three-game series sweep of visiting Kansas City. The Pirates won each game in the series by one run. They have won five straight games and six of seven in their quest to finish above .500. They also have an eight-game home winning streak. Adalberto Mondesi hit a solo homer for Kansas City (52-100), which reached 100 losses for the fifth time this century. The Royals have lost four straight.

### Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1

DJ Stewart homered, doubled and scored twice, and Cedric Mullins added an RBI single in the seventh inning as host Baltimore defeated Toronto. Toronto saw its four-game winning streak end. Jimmy Yacabonis was a last-minute starter for the Orioles. The right-hander went four shutout innings and gave up two hits. Mike Wright Jr. (4-2) then came on for two scoreless innings to get the win. — Reuters



## Sports

# ‘Italian job’: Giorgi ends Wozniacki’s Tokyo reign

## Azarenka thrashes Australia’s Barty

**TOKYO:** Italian Camila Giorgi dashed Caroline Wozniacki’s hopes of a winning a third consecutive Pan Pacific Open title with a stunning ambush of the top seed yesterday. Giorgi, ranked 35 places below Wozniacki at 37th in the world, completed a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 upset in Tokyo to set up a quarter-final with another former number one, Victoria Azarenka. Azarenka thrashed Australia’s Ashleigh Barty 6-4, 6-2 as the Belarusian seeks a return to the top echelons of women’s tennis after becoming a mum in late 2016.

Giorgi reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals earlier this year and showed exactly why as she took just 38 minutes to take the first set with some brutal hitting. The Italian sealed the advantage with a looping forehand that nibbled the back edge of the baseline, wrong-footing Wozniacki, who cut a forlorn figure as she trudged back to her seat shaking her head.

Wozniacki hit back to take the second set, the Australian Open champion leveling with a ferocious backhand that forced Giorgi into a wild shot. But Giorgi dug in and broke for 4-3 in the decider with another murderous forehand before delivering the coup de grace in a little over two hours with a fizzing backhand that Wozniacki could only waft into the net. “It was a good match, nice court, it was fun,” said Giorgi, who will hope for more of the same against Azarenka today. “I’ll just try to focus on my game plan as always and hope to play very consistently, like today.”

### Custody battle

Azarenka, who has tumbled down the rank-

ings following a lengthy custody battle over baby Leo, will be the fresher of the two players. Currently ranked 63rd and competing as a wildcard, she clinched the opening set with a thumping pass that was too hot for Barty. Azarenka raced to a 4-1 lead in the second and closed out proceedings by jamming up Barty



### Croatian Vekic beat Britain’s Johanna Konta

with a vicious kick serve into the ribcage on her second match point. “That makes me feel a little old,” said the 29-year-old when informed she had reached the quarter-finals for the first time since 2012. “I’m just trying to look day by day and see what happens.” Czech Barbora Strycova won a tempestuous encounter with Estonian Anett Kontaveit 7-6, 3-6, 7-5 and next faces Japan’s newly crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka.

Eighth seed Strycova took the first-set tiebreak 7-5 but both players screamed in frustration at their wastefulness in a contest that lasted well over three hours. Having used all her challenges, Strycova huffily staged a sit-down protest after Kontaveit saved one of eight match



**TOKYO:** Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark hits a return against Camila Giorgi of Italy during their women’s singles second round tennis match at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

points with a passing shot that replays showed missed the line by some margin. But the Czech returned to her task and closed out the match when Kontaveit whiffed a drive-volley long.

Elsewhere, Croatian Donna Vekic beat Britain’s Johanna Konta 6-3, 7-5 to advance to the last eight, where she faces second seed Caroline Garcia of France. — AFP

## Garcia looks for lift-off at Ryder Cup tune-up

**LISBON:** Sergio Garcia will hope to use this week’s Portugal Masters as the springboard for a successful Ryder Cup after a difficult season that has seen the Spaniard record just one top-10 finish since April. The 38-year-old was selected as one of four captain’s picks by European skipper Thomas Bjorn for the September 28-30 showdown against the United States at Le Golf National just outside Paris. “I told Thomas, ‘if you end up picking me, I’ll make sure that I play something coming into the Ryder Cup,’” Garcia said on Wednesday, ahead of the tournament at the Algarve resort of Vilamoura.

“I didn’t want to be without playing for four or five weeks coming into such a big and amazing event. “Portugal seemed like a good fit and I’m happy that I decided to come here. Obviously the course is nice, it’s going to be a good test and I’m excited for it,” Garcia, the 2017 Masters champion, has dropped to 28th in the world rankings, but his Ryder Cup pedigree counted strongly in his favor with Bjorn as the leading points scorer in Team Europe history.

It will be his ninth Ryder Cup appearance, having won 22.5 points since becoming the event’s youngest-ever player as a 19-year-old in 1999.

“I don’t need to show anyone. The only thing I have to do is go out there and help Team Europe-my team-mates and my captain and vice captains-not only with the game on the golf course but outside, in the team room and everything,” he said. “There are things that are important to have in a team. I think that is one of the reasons why Thomas picked me, not only because of the game he knows I can play, but what I can bring outside of the golf course into the team room and stuff.” Europe are unbeaten on home soil since 1993, but they were beaten 17-11 by the US at Hazeltine two years ago.

The Americans will bring a power-packed line-up to France, with Jim Furyk able to call upon nine major champions-including the resurgent Tiger Woods-in his 12-man team. Only Phil Mickelson, appearing at his 12th Ryder Cup, has more experience than Garcia across the two teams at this year’s competition. “Everyone knows how much I love the Ryder Cup, and that hasn’t changed, so I’m really excited about it,” said Garcia. “Being the top points scorer in European history doesn’t really matter to me. What I want is to get the cup back, that’s the important thing. “If I can help by winning a lot of points, that’s great, but at the end of the day the most important thing is to get the job done.” — AFP

## Djokovic to provide fire power for Team Europe at Laver Cup

**CHICAGO:** The second installment of the Laver Cup comes at just the right time for 14-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic who is back in top form after winning the US Open. Djokovic is making his debut in this week’s three-day team event which has been dubbed the Ryder Cup of tennis although it lacks the tradition of golf’s premier event. “I would like to play with (Djokovic),” said event founder and Team Europe star Roger Federer. “I hope he feels the same way.”

The exhibition event will take place on US soil for the first time this week when 12 of the world’s top players square off against each other in a three-day team event in Chicago. The tournament begins today and pits a team of six of the best ATP Tour players from Europe against a six players from the rest of the world. Bjorn Borg’s favored Team Europe will try to defend their crown against Team World which will be captained by the legendary John McEnroe. Federer, Djokovic, Alexander Zverev, Grigor Dimitrov, David Goffin and Kyle Edmund will play for Team Europe.

“We’re here to defend our title,” Borg said, “And we’re going to keep the cup in Europe.” Jack Sock, Nick Kyrgios, John Isner, Frances Tiafoe, Kevin Anderson and Diego Schwartzman are representing Team World. McEnroe sees the partisan crowd as a key to Team World’s success. “I’m very much looking forward to coaching this team,” said McEnroe. “We’re excited about getting the home-court advantage, hopefully, in Chicago, which is a great sports town. I think we’re looking forward to showcasing our talents this weekend. “We have four of the six core guys from last year. We’re hopeful that the crowd is as involved or more than they were last year.” The inaugural tournament took place in Prague in September which Team Europe won 15-9. The format calls for shorter matches. If the players split sets, they go straight to a 10-point tiebreaker. The event marks a bit of a homecoming for the South African-born Anderson as the world No.9 spent two years at the University of Illinois. “My wife’s family is from just 20 minutes north of here,” said Anderson. — AFP



# Russian athletes to return to competition; ban lifted

## World Anti-Doping Agency lifts ban on Russia

**VICTORIA:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) yesterday lifted a ban on Russia's anti-doping agency, paving the way for Russian athletes to return to competition across all sports. "Today, the great majority of WADA's Executive Committee decided to reinstate RUSADA as compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code subject to strict conditions," WADA president Craig Reedie said. Reedie said the decision "provides a clear timeline by which WADA must be given access to the former Moscow laboratory data and samples". He said that if the commitment was not met, WADA would reinstate the ban on the Russian anti-doping agency.

The decision was taken at a meeting in WADA in Victoria, capital of the Indian Ocean island of Seychelles. The Russian government applauded the decision to lift RUSADA's three-year suspension, saying it was the result of "enormous work" by Russian authorities to improve their procedures. "We welcome WADA's decision," Deputy Prime Minister Olga Golodets was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying. "Russia confirms its adherence to the principles of clean sports competition," she said. "Over the past years Russia has done enormous work to create transparent and understandable measures to prevent doping," she said.

She said those measures included criminal prosecution for those who force someone to take banned substances. WADA suspended RUSADA in 2015 after declaring it to be non-compliant following

revelations of a vast Russian-backed scheme to avoid drug testers. A WADA report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren accused Russian authorities of running an elaborate doping program with the full support of the Russian Ministry of Sport and the Russian secret service (FSB). WADA announced last week that it had received an internal recommendation to lift the suspension of RUSADA.

The softening of WADA's stance has triggered outrage from athletes and national anti-doping agencies around the world, who have accused WADA of caving in to pressure from the International Olympic Committee. Leading athletes signed a joint letter this week against the plan to reinstate Russia saying WADA "owe it to all clean athletes to be the guardians of clean sport". Jim Walden, the lawyer of Russian doping whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov, led the first wave of outcries at yesterday's decision. "WADA's decision to reinstate Russia represents the greatest treachery against clean athletes in Olympic history," said Walden, whose client lifted the lid on Russia's doping scandal in 2015.

RUSADA's reinstatement could have far-reaching implications across the sports world. Most significantly, it removes a key obstacle to lifting the suspension of Russia by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), track and field's global governing body. The IAAF has taken a hardline stance on Russian athletes since the scandal emerged, refusing to



**VICTORIA:** Executive committee members of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) attend a meeting yesterday in Victoria, capital of the Indian Ocean island of Seychelles. WADA lifted a ban on Russia's anti-doping agency, RUSADA, paving the way for Russian athletes to return to competition across all sports. — AFP

lift its ban shortly before the European Championships. The IAAF will review Russia's status

once more at its council meeting in Monaco in December. — AFP

## Russian scandal

**VICTORIA:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) yesterday lifted a ban on Russia's anti-doping agency, RUSADA, paving the way for Russian athletes to return to competition across all sports. Here are the main events in the long-running Russian doping controversy:

### December 2014

German broadcaster ARD airs documentary alleging systematic doping in Russian athletics. A week later, Russian athletics chief and the treasurer of world athletics body IAAF, Valentin Balakhnichenov, and IAAF marketing consultant Pape Massata Diack, son of then-IAAF president Lamine Diack, step down. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) sets up an independent commission headed by its former chief, Dick Pound, to investigate the claims.

### August 2015

ARD airs a second documentary with new accusations aimed at Russian and Kenyan athletes based on a leaked IAAF database with details of 12,000 blood tests from 5,000 competitors which revealed "extraordinary" levels of doping.

### November 2015

WADA's report calls on Russia's track and field team to be banned from international competition, including from the 2016 Rio Olympics, until "state-sponsored" doping is

eradicated. The IAAF suspends the Russian athletics team. WADA also suspends Russia's national anti-doping body, RUSADA, over non-compliance.

### January 2016

WADA's second report into doping and corruption is published. It says high-ranking IAAF officials must have known about the wide scope of doping.

### May 2016

Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of Moscow's anti-doping laboratory, goes public with details about an organised Russian doping campaign at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

### July 2016

Barely two weeks before the Rio Olympics, Canadian law professor Richard McLaren releases an explosive report for WADA which outlines state-run Russian doping at the Sochi Olympics and other major sports events. WADA calls for Russia to be banned from Rio. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) stops short of an outright ban and says individual sports federations will have to decide whether to allow Russian athletes. The IAAF suspends Russia, as does the International Paralympic Committee.

### December 2016

Second part of McLaren report is published, alleging state-sponsored Russian doping between 2011 and 2015, with sample-tampering at the 2012

London Olympics and Sochi 2014, where Russia topped the medals table.

### December 2017

Vitaly Mutko, Russia's deputy prime minister, uses a speech before the draw for the 2018 World Cup in Russia to slam doping allegations as "an attempt to create an image of an axis of evil". Following its own investigations, the IOC bans the Russian Olympic Committee from the Pyeongchang Games but says clean Russian athletes will be able to take part as neutral competitors. Mutko receives a lifetime Olympic ban.

### January 2018

Russian Olympic officials say that 168 of their athletes take part in Pyeongchang. CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) registers an anti-doping case against bronze medal-winning Russian curler Alexander Krushelnitsky.

### May 2018

WADA contacts RUSADA, offering a compromise solution with an eye to ending the ban.

### September 2018

WADA lifts ban on RUSADA, paving the way for Russian athletes to return to competition across all sports. The Russian government praises the decision as the result of "enormous work" by Moscow to improve testing. But Jim Walden, the lawyer of whistleblower Rodchenkov, says the reinstatement "represents the greatest treachery against clean athletes in Olympic history". — AFP

## London Marathon raises record \$84.21 million for charity

**LONDON:** Runners at this year's London Marathon raised 63.7 million pounds (\$84.21 million) for charity, setting a new world record for an annual single day fundraising event for a 12th successive year. The organizers said the new record was an increase of more than 2 million pounds on the previous record total of 61.5 million pounds from 2017. The total raised for charity since Virgin Money took over as title sponsors of the annual 26.2 mile race in 2010 is now more than 500 million pounds. "We salute every runner who has contributed to this amazing world record total of £63.7 million, a truly incredible sum from a one day event," event director Hugh Brasher said in a statement yesterday.

"We are constantly working to grow the event and its positive impacts as society, health services and charities face ever-increasing pressure on their services and funding. "The London Marathon Charitable Trust has enabled hundreds of thousands more people to get active through its funding of a huge range of recreational projects." Eliud Kipchoge, who broke the world record in Berlin last weekend, took his third London title in April and fellow Kenyan Vivian Cheruiyot won the women's race. The event featured a record 40,273 finishers. — Reuters



## Sports

# Man City struggling to find Champions League magic

## City suffer surprise home loss to Lyon

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City looked far from potential Champions League winners as they fell to a surprise 2-1 loss at home to Olympique Lyonnais on Wednesday with a flat performance leaving them with plenty of work to do to progress from Group F. The Premier League champions, favorites with some bookmakers to win Europe's top club competition this season, were well below their best throughout and now face a serious challenge to progress from a group which also features Germany's Hoffenheim and Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk. City manager Pep Guardiola, serving a suspension, was forced to watch the game from the stands as his assistant Mikel Arteta took charge and it was a frustrating night for the pair, whose side have now lost four games in a row in the Champions League.

In contrast to a flat-looking City, Bruno Genesio's Lyon delivered a tactically superb display, defending in numbers to nullify City's normally dangerous forward line and then counter-attacking at pace. City fans do not seem fired up by European competition and there were empty seats in the Etihad Stadium, which lacked any real atmosphere. City's performance on the field, however, hardly helped to raise the volume. The visitors took the lead in the 26th minute through Maxwel Cornet, who drove home after Fabian Delph made a hash of clearing a Nabil Fekir cross from the left.

City's Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus had a strong appeal for a penalty turned down but that was one of the few moments in which he really

threatened in the box. Ilkay Gundogan had an effort disallowed after Italian referee Daniele Orsato ruled that Raheem Sterling was offside but City's frustrations in attack were not their only problems. Fekir, who was strongly linked with a move to City's Premier League rivals Liverpool in the close season, then made it 2-0 to the French side in the 43rd minute, bursting clear and beating Ederson with a low drive after Fernandinho had given up possession in midfield.

### Smart finish

It could even have been 3-0 when Memphis Depay hit the post on the hour after a magnificent through ball from Tanguy Ndombele. After that let-off, City earned themselves a lifeline through Bernardo Silva, who produced a smart finish after a superb jinking run from substitute Leroy Sane. City's attempts to get an equalizer, however, were foiled by a combination of a well-drilled Lyon defence, which kept chances to a minimum, goalkeeper Anthony Lopes, who produced a fine save to deny substitute Sergio Aguero and some poor decision-making from City's forwards.

City sorely missed their injured Belgian midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and without his dominant presence in midfield they struggled to change the tempo of the game and were far too one-paced. The defeat was a fourth straight Champions League disappointment for City, who lost both legs of last season's quarter-final against Liverpool and the second leg of their



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling (center) dives over Lyon's Portuguese goalkeeper Anthony Lopes (center) during the UEFA Champions League group F football match between Manchester City and Lyon on September 19, 2018. — AFP

last-16 clash against Basel. "Really disappointing. To concede two goals like we did is very frustrating," said City defender John Stones. "We came in at halftime a bit deflated. We picked ourselves up and played a better second half but it was frustrating."

Lyon looked far better than a team in seventh place in France's Ligue 1, after two wins from five games, and their coach was delighted. "It's a

great achievement and a deserved one. We were very, very good in the first half defensively and we also created chances," said Genesio. "We had an opportunity to make it 3-0 that I think would have completely killed the game off. We suffered a bit towards the end as their changes meant they had more pace on the pitch and they upped their rhythm, but we stayed solid and worked for each other." — Reuters

## India rout Pakistan by 8 wickets in Asia Cup

**DUBAI:** India crushed Pakistan by eight wickets in their long-awaited Asia Cup match which failed to live up to its hype in Dubai on Wednesday. Pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3-15) and part time off-spinner Kedar Jadhav (3-23) sent Pakistan, who won the toss and batted, collapsing to just 162 all out in 43.1 overs at Dubai Stadium. Skipper Rohit Sharma then struck three sixes and six boundaries in his 39-ball 52 while fellow opener Shikhar Dhawan hit a six and six fours in his 54-ball 46 as India romped home in 29 overs.

Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik both finished on 31 not out as India exacted some revenge for their humbling 180-run defeat against their arch-rivals in the final of the Champions Trophy in London last year—the most recent match between the teams until Wednesday. Both Pakistan and India had already qualified for the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup and will meet again in Dubai on Sunday. Bangladesh and Afghanistan meet in Abu Dhabi in the last Group B match on Thursday, having already qualified for the second round after Sri Lanka crashed out.

The top two teams from the Super Fours will play the final in Dubai on September 28. "Our spinners kept it tight, got the odd breakthrough, but the wickets in the first couple of overs were very important," said Sharma, standing in for regular skipper Virat Kohli rested for this event. "It was important to get early wickets because Pakistan have got some quality in the batting. So we didn't want to make things easy for them. We kept things on the stumps and we spoke about not giving Pakistan room." Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed blamed poor shot selection for his team's demise.

### 'Batted poorly'

"We didn't have a good start," said Sarfraz, whose openers departed for just three runs. "Lost two wickets in the first five overs. Then regular wickets meant we couldn't come back into the game. You can say we batted poorly." Once Pakistan's unpredictable batting crumbled, Wednesday's match turned into a damp squib for a near-capacity crowd comprising of Indian and Pakistani expats living in the United Arab Emirates.

Kumar ran through the top order by dismissing openers Imam-ul-Haq (two) and Fakhar Zaman (nought) inside five overs, before Babar Azam (47) and Shoaib Malik (43) rebuilt the innings during their 82-run stand for the third wicket. But after Azam was dismissed in the 22nd over, bowled by left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav, Pakistan lost their last seven wickets for 77 runs. Azam hit six boundaries in his 62-ball knock while Malik, dropped on 26 by MS Dhoni off Hardik Pandya, cracked one

## SCOREBOARD

**DUBAI:** Completed scoreboard of the Asia Cup Group A match between Pakistan and India in Dubai yesterday:

<b>Pakistan</b>		Pandya 4.5-0-24-0, Chahal 7-0-34-0, Yadav 8-0-37-1, Rayudu 0.1-0-0-0, Jadhav 9-1-23-3.
Imam-ul-Haq c Dhoni b Kumar	2	
Fakhar Zaman c Chahal b Kumar	0	
Babar Azam b Yadav	47	
Shoaib Malik run out	43	
Sarfraz Ahmed c sub (Pandey) b Jadhav	6	
Asif Ali c Dhoni b Jadhav	9	
Shadab Khan st Dhoni b Jadhav	8	
Faheem Ashraf c Dhawan b Bumrah	21	
Mohammad Amir not out	18	
Hasan Ali c Karthik b Kumar	1	
Usman Shinwari b Bumrah	0	
Extras (lb6, nb1)	7	
Total (all out; 43.1 overs)	162	
Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Imam), 2-3 (Zaman), 3-85 (Azam), 4-96 (Sarfraz), 5-100 (Malik), 6-110 (Asif), 7-121 (Shadab), 8-158 (Ashraf), 9-160 (Hasan)		
Bowling: Kumar 7-1-15-3, Bumrah 7.1-2-23-2,		
<b>India</b>		
R. Sharma b Shadab	52	
S. Dhawan c Azam b Ashraf	46	
A. Rayudu not out	31	
D. Karthik not out	31	
Extras: (nb2, w2)	4	
Total: for two wkts: 29 overs	164	
Did not bat: K. Jadhav, M. Dhoni, H. Pandya, K. Yadav, Y. Chahal, B. Kumar, J. Bumrah		
Fall of wickets: 1-86 (Sharma), 2-104 (Dhawan)		
Bowling: Amir 6-1-23-0, Shinwari 4-0-27-0 (1nb), Hasan 4-0-33-0, Ashraf 5-0-31-0 (2w, 1nb), Shadab 1.3-0-6-1, Zaman 6.3-0-25-0, Malik 2-0-19-0.		
Result: Indian win by eight wickets		

six and one four in a vigilant innings which lasted 67 balls. Sarfraz (six) became Jadhav's first wicket, holing out to long-on where substitute fielder Maneesha Pandey completed a brilliant catch, throwing the ball back into the field to avoid running over the rope and completing the catch. But it was Malik's run out which derailed Pakistan, sent back

by Asif Ali after setting off for a quick single. Pace-man Jasprit Bumrah took 2-23 but India lost all-rounder Hardik Pandya to injury. Bowling his fifth over, Pandya fell in his follow through and was stretchered off with a lower back injury, the extent of which was being assessed by the India team's medical staff. — AFP



## Sports

# Classy Pogba steers Man Utd to 3-0 victory at Young Boys

## Mourinho unhappy with Young Boys' artificial pitch

**BERN:** Captain Paul Pogba produced an outstanding performance garnished by two goals to help Manchester United to a resounding 3-0 win at Swiss debutants Young Boys Bern in their Champions League Group H opener on Wednesday. Pogba bossed midfield on the artificial pitch and fired United ahead in the 35th minute with a goal of the highest quality, drilling a left-foot shot into the top corner from the edge of the penalty area after side-stepping his marker.

The France World Cup winner made it 2-0 with a contentious 44th-minute penalty, harshly awarded by German referee Deniz Aytekin after Luke Shaw's cross struck Kevin Mbabu's arm as the defender tried to avoid contact. A darting run by Pogba midway through the second half released Anthony Martial and the forward scored with a clinical finish from eight meters after his compatriot's good work left him with time and space to find the back of the net. Roared on by a vocal home crowd, Young Boys charged at United in the opening 30 minutes, forcing two saves by David De Gea as the Spain goalkeeper kept out long-range efforts from Mohamed Ali Camara and Christian Fassnacht.

United's defense looked vulnerable on either flank to the home team's breakaways, although 19-year-old Portuguese right back Diogo Dalot showed pace going forward on his debut for the Premier League side. After Marcus Rashford

clipped the outside of the post with a flicked shot in the 22nd minute, United's nerves were settled when Pogba broke the deadlock out of nothing thanks to a piece of sublime individual skill. Young Boys' hopes of a comeback evaporated after Pogba confidently converted the penalty and Martial, enjoying a rare start up front, made no mistake at the near post as United maintained cruise control in the second half.

### Mourinho unhappy

Meanwhile, Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said there were fears his players would suffer injuries on Young Boys Bern's artificial pitch and questioned UEFA's willingness to accept such surfaces, while upbeat about his team's performance the Portuguese manager took aim at the pitch. "Now I can say, I don't understand how you can play the best club competition on artificial pitch," said Mourinho, who had declined to comment on the surface before the game.

"You know, probably some fear injuries. I had some players after training yesterday - light training - and they were feeling ankles, back pains, sore. 'It's not easy, especially not for people who are not adapted to it. Also a little bit of a fear in the duels. 'People are used to great surfaces in England, always watered if not rain - the clubs they provide the water and the football is much more beautiful that way,' Mourinho said.



**BERN:** Young Boys French forward Guillaume Hoarau (center) fights for the ball with Manchester United's French midfielder Paul Pogba (right) and Manchester United's English defender Chris Smalling during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Young Boys and Manchester United on September 19, 2018. — AFP

Before the game, Mourinho had urged his team to follow the example of Swiss tennis great Roger Federer and show they were capable of

winning on different surfaces. Italian champions Juventus and Spain's Valencia will also visit Bern in Group H. — Agencies

## When 2 Red Bulls collide in Europa, the sponsor wins

**PARIS:** When two Red Bulls clash in the Europa League yesterday, it will only be possible because their sponsor has tried to ensure that the two "brothers" are not quite as similar as they appear. RB Leipzig and Red Bull Salzburg wear the same colors. Their shirts carry the same sponsor and almost identical club badges, all showing the charging bulls logo of the Austrian energy-drink company. The two clubs symbolize the rising power of football franchising designed to enhance both squad and brand building.

UEFA, the governing body of European football, introduced a rule to protect the "integrity of European club competitions" in 1998, after British holding company ENIC bought, or took stakes in, half a dozen clubs: Tottenham Hotspur, Slavia Prague, Glasgow Rangers, Vicenza, Basel and AEK Athens. Two clubs with the same owner cannot play in the same competition, yet yesterday two Red Bulls collided. That is possible because, "following a long investigation" completed in June 2017, UEFA decided they did not share an owner.

They accepted that Austrian drinks billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz had surrendered direct control of Salzburg, remaining only as the shirt and stadium sponsor. Yet Salzburg still appear to function as part of a supply chain which also includes the New York Red Bulls of the MLS and Red Bull Brasil, which plays in the

Sao Paulo state league in Brazil. Since the start of 2015, 12 players have gone from Salzburg directly to fast-rising RB Leipzig, who under German rules cannot officially be called "Red Bull", in the bigger Bundesliga. They include Naby Keita, who moved from Salzburg to Leipzig for 15 million Euros in 2016 and then to Liverpool for an estimated 75 million euros this summer. Red Bull are not alone.

Professor Simon Chadwick of the University of Salford in England told AFP that there are "between 15 and 20 entities" who have embarked on a multi-club strategy. They range from AS Monaco, which has bought Cercle Brugge of Belgium, and the Italian Pozzo family which owns Udinese of Italy's Serie A and Premier League Watford and also owned Granada FC in Spain, to the global ambition of Red Bull or the City Football Group. The Abu Dhabi owned company largely avoids problems with UEFA by controlling clubs in different continents: Manchester City, New York City, Melbourne City and Club Atletico Torque in Uruguay, although it has stakes in Yokohama Marinos in Japan and Girona of La Liga.

"Purely in football terms, as football clubs, this is very much about building a talent acquisition network," Chadwick said. "To win football matches, you need the best possible talents and to get the best possible talents, if you operate on a network basis you have more people in more places watching more games, scouting more players." But Red Bull, which is also heavily involved in motor sports, ice hockey, extreme sports and sailing, and the City group have bigger aims. "It's about brand visibility" and "trying to cultivate a new type of global fan" who supports an entire network of clubs, Chadwick said. Commercially, whatever the final score when Leipzig play Salzburg, Red Bull will win. — AFP

## Dembele and Messi partnership fuelling Barcelona goal rush

**BARCELONA:** Lionel Messi's blossoming partnership with electric winger Ousmane Dembele has helped Barcelona to four straight wins at the start of the Liga season and the pair will be gunning for more goals at home to fellow Catalan side Girona on Sunday. While some concerns remain about Barca's away performances, following scrappy wins at Real Valladolid and Real Sociedad, Ernesto Valverde's side have been frighteningly good at home this season, scoring 15 goals in three games at the Nou Camp.

Messi and Dembele have been the architects of their dominance. Messi typically hogged the headlines after scoring a record eighth Champions League hat-trick in a 4-0 win over PSV Eindhoven on Tuesday but the bigger surprise was the performance of Dembele. The Frenchman has enjoyed a superb start to the season and has already matched his goal tally from the whole of the last campaign by scoring five times in six games.

With his last campaign marred by injury problems and struggles to adapt to his new surroundings after a big-money move from Borussia Dortmund, Dembele has been playing with renewed confidence and is having a huge impact this term. The Frenchman's bursts of pace and his ability to dance past defenders have given Barca an outlet they have lacked since the departure of Neymar to Paris St Germain last year. He has also proved decisive, scoring winning goals at Valladolid and Sociedad and in the Spanish Super Cup win over Sevilla while striking the second goal which killed off PSV. — Reuters



# Ronaldo sent off but 10-man Juventus ease past Valencia

## A tearful Ronaldo leaves the pitch in disbelief

**VALENCIA:** Juventus believe they can win the Champions League with Cristiano Ronaldo, but they had to start by beating Valencia without him after he was controversially sent off on his debut in the competition for the Italian champions on Wednesday. A tearful Ronaldo left the pitch in disbelief in the 29th minute, having aimed a petulant, but seemingly harmless, kick at Valencia defender Jeison Murillo. The Portuguese player then made contact with Murillo's head while urging him to get up.

Ronaldo dropped to the floor like the tournament was lost after German official Felix Brych brandished the red card but Juve showed more composure, Miralem Pjanic scoring twice from the penalty spot to clinch a comfortable 2-0 win. Valencia were even awarded a third spot-kick of the match deep into injury-time but Daniel Parejo missed. It remains to be seen how UEFA judge Ronaldo's offence, and dissent, but he is set to miss the next European game at home to Young Boys on October 2. After that comes the more threatening double-header against Manchester United.

"I can only say that VAR would have helped the referee make the right decision," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said afterwards. UEFA are yet to approve the technology in Europe's premier club tournament. Valencia fans celebrated Ronaldo's dismissal at the Estadio Mestalla like a goal had been scored but, in truth, their team missed a golden chance to gain a foothold in Group H. Instead, Ronaldo's absence had little effect. The Italians won-with ease. "Come on Cristiano, give us Europe," read the headline in Italian daily Gazzetta dello Sport.

"You could say he's increased the players' desire to prove themselves," Allegri said. "He's raised the bar for everybody."

### Boos and jeers

Juventus have claimed seven Serie A titles in a row but the Champions League is the one they want. They last won that in 1996 when Ronaldo was 11 and still playing youth football for Nacional. Valencia fans lined the streets outside just to witness the buses pull in, booing the visitors and Ronaldo, in particular. They also jeered him during the warm-up, during which Ronaldo replied by banging a ball into the open net from two yards. Valencia's last game in the Champions League was Gary Neville's first as manager and there have been four more in charge since. Jose Gaya and Parejo were the only players left on Wednesday from that night but change has not yet bridged the gap with Europe's elite.

"We are not prepared to compete consistently with teams at this level," Valencia head coach Marcelino said. Ronaldo started brightly, with an ambitious shot from distance, and then had a hand in teeing up two glorious chances. He first crossed for Federico Bernardeschi to set up Sami Khedira, before misfiring into the path of Mario Mandzukic six yards out. Each fluffed their lines. Valencia had openings too but lacked punch. Michy Batshuayi, on his first start for the club, twisted round Giorgio Chiellini but was denied at the near post.

Then, the moment the match will be remembered for-Ronaldo let frustration get the better of him and Murillo made the most of it, falling instantly. Brych was convinced. But instead of cap-



**VALENCIA:** Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (right) vies with Valencia's Spanish midfielder Daniel Parejo during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Valencia CF and Juventus FC at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia. —AFP

italizing, Valencia twice capitulated. First, Parejo missed a high ball and kicked Joao Cancelo before Murillo took a risk by bundling down Leonardo Bonucci. Pjanic stepped up for both spot-kicks and scored both, the first on the

stroke of half-time, the next six minutes after. Valencia probed but even when Daniele Rugani collided with Gabriel for a third penalty, Parejo's shot was saved by Wojciech Szczesny. There was never any hint of a comeback. — AFP

## Liverpool's band of brothers fire Champions League warning

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool turned the page on defeat in May's Champions League final and showed they are even stronger candidates to win a sixth European Cup this season as they launched their campaign in style against Paris Saint-Germain. The home side left it late to seal the win at Anfield on Tuesday, with Brazil's Roberto Firmino coming off the bench to edge a five-goal thriller 3-2 in stoppage time.

But the scoreline did not reflect the gap in quality between Jurgen Klopp's well-honed unit and a PSG side that still looks like a collection of star individuals. PSG fielded a £400 million (\$525 million) frontline of Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edison Cavani, but once again on a Champions League night away from the French capital the visitors wilted. "Football still has the capacity to make the richest of men

seem very foolish if they pursue glamour at the expense of substance," was the verdict of Britain's Guardian newspaper.

Despite their shortcomings, the sheer amount of individual star quality should still ensure PSG have enough to see off Napoli and Red Star Belgrade to make the last 16. Even though he was kept quiet for almost the entire 90 minutes, Mbappe seized the one big chance that came his way to make it 2-2 seven minutes from time. But on this evidence, only one team from Group C look like serious contenders to end Real Madrid's dominance of the Champions League in the Spanish capital next June. "It's true we expect a lot from our front three and perhaps today it was tough for them. We have to improve all over the field," admitted PSG boss Thomas Tuchel.

"Maybe we need to improve our intensity in games like this but it is early days in the Champions League and there is time to improve." Much has been made of Liverpool's own significant strengthening in the transfer market to turn the progress made under Klopp into trophies. Yet, other than goalkeeper Alisson Becker, who did not make a save of note, Klopp included no summer signings in his starting line-up. Liverpool rode the firepower of their own fantastic front three of Firmino, Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane to reach the final last season.

### Unsung heroes

But aside from the Brazilian's late intervention, it was the more unsung heroes of Jordan Henderson, James Milner and Georginio Wijnaldum who controlled the game in midfield. Milner scored the penalty won by Wijnaldum for Liverpool's second and dispossessed Mbappe to set up Firmino's winner. "We look now much more tuned than it maybe was in the past," said Klopp. "We played a midfield who played a lot of times last season together, that was the reason for that performance."

The three in midfield did an outstanding job." By the time Liverpool got to Kiev in May they were running on empty as a thin squad ran out of gas, particularly when talisman Salah was forced off early by injury. When Klopp looked to his bench he had Adam Lallana and Emre Can on their return from injury, Alberto Moreno, Nathaniel Clyne, Dominic Solanke and Ragnar Klavan to choose from.

On Tuesday he had Firmino, having not felt pressured to field him from the start due to Daniel Sturridge's return to form and fitness, along with more than £100 million worth of signings in Naby Keita, Fabinho and Xherdan Shaqiri. "It's the moment when you have to show faith in the squad," said Klopp. "When you have Bobby Firmino available, you actually always think 'come on, bring him', but it was

nice to see how Daniel performed tonight and he paid 100 percent back." That strength in depth will be needed to maintain a bid for both a first Premier League title in 29 years and Champions League glory. — AFP



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

SPANISH LEAGUE		
Huesca v Real Sociedad	22:00	
beIN SPORTS HD 3		
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
US Sassuolo Calcio v Empoli	21:30	
beIN SPORTS HD 4		
GERMAN LEAGUE		
VfB Stuttgart V Fortuna Dusseldorf	21:30	
beIN SPORTS HD 5		
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Monaco v Nimes Olympique	21:45	
beIN SPORTS HD 6		





VALENCIA: Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (center) reacts after receiving a red card during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Valencia CF and Juventus FC on September 19, 2018. — AFP

## Ronaldo sees red as Juve beat Valencia

See Pages 47