



**5** Concern over increasing number of stray dogs roaming the streets



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# Iran vows 'crushing response' after 29 killed at army parade

Arab group, IS claim responsibility • Khamenei blames Tehran's pro-US rivals

**TEHRAN:** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani vowed a "crushing" response after assailants sprayed a crowd with gunfire, shooting dead at least 29 people including women and children yesterday at a military parade near the Iraqi border. Almost half of those killed were members of the country's elite Revolutionary Guards. An Iranian ethnic Arab opposition movement called the Ahvaz National Resistance, which seeks a separate state in oil-rich Khuzestan province, claimed responsibility for the attack. The Islamic State (IS) group also claimed responsibility for the rare assault in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, while Iranian officials accused "a foreign regime" backed by the United States of being behind it.

Behrad Ghasemi, a local journalist who witnessed the attack, said shots rang out for 10 to 15 minutes and that at least one of the assailants, armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, wore the uniform of the Revolutionary

Guards force. "First we thought it's part of the parade, but after about 10 seconds we realized it was a terrorist attack as bodyguards (of officials) started shooting," he told AFP. "Everything went haywire and soldiers started running." Ghasemi said, "I saw a four-year old child get shot, and also a lady. The terrorists had no particular target and didn't really seem to care as they shot anyone they could with rapid gunfire."

After addressing a similar military parade in Tehran to commemorate the start of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, Rouhani warned that "the response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the smallest threat will be crushing". Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the attack was carried out by "terrorists recruited, trained, armed & paid by a foreign regime". "Iran holds regional terror sponsors and their US masters accountable for such attacks," he wrote on his Twitter account.

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AHVAZ, Iran: Injured soldiers are seen on the ground at the scene of an attack on a military parade in this southwestern city yesterday. — AFP

## News in brief

### Basements only for parking

**KUWAIT:** Informed sources at the Municipality said all basements rented out in residential, investment, private and model areas will be cleared to turn them into parking areas as stipulated in their licenses. They added tenants can sue landlords or file complaints against them at various municipality branches if basements are rented out or used without municipal permission. "Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi instructed all branches to start listing violating buildings to warn them and later check that the changes have been made in order to avoid compulsory eviction with the interior ministry's assistance," the sources explained, noting that growing numbers of citizens and expats have been complaining about getting parking tickets because they have no parking spaces outside their buildings. — A Saleh

### MoI warns of dusty weather

**KUWAIT:** The interior ministry yesterday urged road users to be cautious of dust and unstable weather conditions causing low visibility in several areas. In a statement, the ministry urged people to call 112 in case of emergency or assistance. A Kuwaiti meteorologist said yesterday that dust, caused by northwestern winds from Iraq, had resulted in low visibility in some areas. The dust reduced horizontal vision to less than 1,000 m and is moving towards inner residential areas, indicated Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi. He affirmed that weather conditions will improve soon. Air traffic at Kuwait International Airport was normal despite the dust storm, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said yesterday. Flights to and from the airport are ongoing and have not been affected by the current weather conditions, said Emad Al-Sanousi, Director of the DGCA's Department of Air Traffic. — KUNA

## OPEC, allies struggle to pump more oil as Iran supply falls

**ALGIERS:** OPEC and its allies reduced oil output in August as a drop in Iranian supply due to US sanctions derailed their attempts to raise production to agreed levels, delegates said yesterday as the energy producers prepared to hold talks in Algiers. The development further raises pressure on the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to boost supply amid calls from US President Donald Trump to lower oil prices. On Friday, a source familiar with the discussions told Reuters OPEC and its allies led by Russia were considering the possibility of raising crude supplies by a further 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) as US sanctions on OPEC's third-largest producer, Iran, bite into Tehran's exports.

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## Japan space robots start asteroid survey

**TOKYO:** A pair of robot rovers have landed on an asteroid and begun a survey, Japan's space agency said yesterday, as it conducts a mission aiming to shed light on the origins of the solar system. The rover mission marks the world's first moving, robotic observation of an asteroid surface, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The round, cookie-tin-shaped robots successfully reached the Ryugu asteroid a day after they were released from the Hayabusa2 probe, the agency said. "Each of the rovers is operating normally and has started surveying Ryugu's surface," JAXA said in a statement.

Taking advantage of the asteroid's low gravity, the rovers will jump around on the surface - soaring as high as 15 m and staying in the air for as long as 15 minutes - to survey the asteroid's physical features. "I am so proud

that we have established a new method of space exploration for small celestial bodies," said JAXA project manager Yuichi Tsuda. The agency tried but failed in 2005 to land a rover on another asteroid in a similar mission.

Hayabusa2 will next month deploy an "impactor" that will explode above the asteroid, shooting a two-kilo copper object to blast a small crater into the surface. From this crater, the probe will collect "fresh" materials unexposed to millennia of wind and radiation, hoping for answers to some fundamental questions about life and the universe, including whether elements from space helped give rise to life on Earth. The probe will also release a French-German landing vehicle named the Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (MASCOT) for surface observation.

Hayabusa2, about the size of a large fridge and equipped with solar panels, is the successor to JAXA's first asteroid explorer, Hayabusa - Japanese for falcon. That probe returned from a smaller, potato-shaped, asteroid in 2010 with dust samples despite various setbacks during its epic seven-year odyssey and was hailed as a scientific triumph. The Hayabusa2 mission was launched in Dec 2014 and will return to Earth with its samples in 2020. — AFP



This handout computer-generated image shows a pair of Minerva-II rovers dropped on the egg-shaped Ryugu asteroid. — AFP

## Modi faces calls for resignation over Rafale deal

**NEW DELHI/PARIS:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi faced calls for his resignation over allegations of corruption in a military jet deal with France after former French president Francois Hollande was quoted as saying New Delhi had influenced the choice of a local partner. Indian political parties have been gunning for Modi over the 2016 purchase of 36 Rafale planes from Dassault Aviation estimated to be worth \$8.7 billion, saying he had overpaid for the planes and had not been transparent.

In recent months, the opposition has questioned the government on the choice of billionaire Indian businessman Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence as Dassault's local partner instead of a

state-run manufacturer with decades of experience. On Friday, Hollande, who cleared the intergovernmental deal when he was in office, was quoted as saying New Delhi had put pressure on Dassault to choose Reliance. "We did not have a say in that," Hollande was quoted as saying. "It was the Indian government that proposed this service group (Reliance), and Dassault who negotiated with Ambani. "We had no choice. We took the interlocutor that was given to us," he was reported as telling the French investigative website Mediapart, fuelling a political storm in India.

Under Indian defense procurement rules, a foreign firm must invest at least 30 percent of the contract in India to help it build up its manufacturing base and wean off imports. For that, the French firm picked Reliance and not Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the state-run giant that has been producing planes for decades, most of them Russian under license.

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NEW DELHI: A supporter of the Indian Youth Congress holds a model of a Rafale fighter jet as he gets detained by Indian police during a protest yesterday. — AFP

## Over the boundary! Cricket-loving Indo-Pak couples bowled over in UAE

**DUBAI:** While India and Pakistan's fierce cricket rivalry has been on display at the Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates, some families in the country have divided loyalties. The UAE is home to many cricket-loving cross-border couples from India and Pakistan who find it an easier option than living on the subcontinent, where Pakistanis have trouble getting visas for India, and vice versa. Cross-border ties have been strained ever since the violence and upheaval that accompanied the cre-

ation of modern India and Pakistan at the end of British rule in August 1947.

The two have fought three wars since becoming independent, deepening mistrust and suspicion of each other, while thousands of families remain divided by the border. Relations further soured after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and cross-border unions are now few and far between. One rare high-profile example is Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and her husband, Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik, who have a home in Dubai.

Indian national Kasim Vakkil and his wife Ghazala, from Pakistan, are also part of the UAE's large South Asian community. "My marriage would not have been possible if we were not living in UAE," Kasim told AFP. "Ghazala is from Lahore and I am from Mumbai but living at this neutral venue made our marriage possible." They came together through cricket when Kasim met his future father-in-law at a game between

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DUBAI: This photograph taken on Sept 19, 2018 shows Indian cricket fans Kasim Vakkil and Ghazala holding up ticket of the Asia Cup cricket match between Pakistan and India. — AFP

## Local

# Parliament Speaker back home after concluding official visit to Azerbaijan

## Ghanem met Azeri president, attended 100th anniversary celebration



**BAKU:** Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem delivers a speech during a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijani parliament. — KUNA



**National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ogtay Asadov.**



**National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev.**

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem returned home yesterday following a three-day official visit to Azerbaijan. Ghanem was received by Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri, National Assembly supervisor Naif Al-Mirdas and Parliament Secretary General Allam Al-Kanderi. Al-Ghanem, whose entourage included MPs Dr Mohammad Al-Huwailah and Abdullah Nasser Al-Dosari in addition to Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq, attended the 100th anniversary of the founding of Azerbaijan parliament.

### Stronger ties

Ghanem said on Friday that although Kuwait and Azerbaijan already have strong bilateral ties, there was more room to bolster relations between the two nations. Ghanem's statement came during a celebration marking the 100 anniversary of the Azerbaijani parliament, where he was invited to deliver his speech by Azeri parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev attended the ceremony.

"Azerbaijan is an important country with an extraordinary location and it is on the verge of achieving its goals on the cultural and economic scales," Ghanem said in his speech. "The fact that more than 20,000 Kuwaitis have visited Azerbaijan is relieving, and we seek to double those numbers to raise the commercial and cultural cooperation

between the two countries in addition to opening new horizons for youth in the field of sports as well," Ghanem added.

"We will not forget Azerbaijan's stand towards us 28 years ago when Iraq invaded Kuwait, and its support whenever we needed assistance especially the last time when Azerbaijan voted for Kuwait for the membership of



## Kuwait, Azerbaijan strive for stronger ties

the United Nations Security Council," Ghanem continued. "I say to my Friend Ogtay Asadov that we hope to see you in Kuwait soon, and to consider my speech as an invitation for you to visit us anytime you find convenient," Ghanem added.

### Parliamentary relations

Ghanem and his Azerbaijani counterpart held broad

talks on boosting parliamentary ties, in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. The meeting stressed the depth of relations between the two nations, Al-Ghanem told reporters in remarks after the talks. He stated that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had previously decorated the Azerbaijani President with the 'Mubarak Al-Kabeer' medal, one of Kuwait's highest decorations, and the Azerbaijani President decorated His Highness the Amir with the supreme medal in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"During the talks, we touched upon means of strengthening bilateral relations amongst parliamentarians," Ghanem told reporters. The two sides agreed on coordination regarding several common issues in the upcoming international arenas, he noted. There would be an important meeting in Antalya city on October 8 between the Asian and European parliaments, he revealed. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference will be held in mid-October, he pointed out, referring that it will include many issues and files, most of which have been agreed upon. There will be great coordination between the Arab group and the group of countries surrounding Azerbaijan, he stressed. He affirmed his keenness that the Kuwaiti and Azerbaijani parliaments will be a link between the two groups.

Meanwhile, MP Huwaila said that Kuwait and Azerbaijan have distinguished bilateral ties. He emphasized that the parliamentary diplomacy seeks to enhance rela-

tion between the Kuwaiti and Azerbaijani legislatures. Asadov and the Kuwaiti-Azerbaijani friendship committee will visit the State of Kuwait soon, he said, according to Parliament's news network 'Al-Dostur'. Kuwait's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Saud Al-Roumi said that the meeting was good, and regional and international issues were discussed, according to the network. He described Ghanem's visit to Azerbaijan as 'successful' on both political and diplomatic levels.

### Speaker meets Azerbaijan's President

Ghanem had also met on Friday with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev. "I conveyed to President Ilham Aliyev the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his wishes for Azerbaijan's success and progress," Ghanem said in a press statement after the meeting. Ghanem added, "I have learned from his Excellency his keenness to strengthen the Kuwaiti-Azerbaijani relations and his desire to take them to greater horizons."

Ghanem went on to say "I have assured President Aliyev of keenness of His Highness the Amir on continuing cooperation and coordination relations between Kuwait and Azerbaijan, both in terms of bilateral aspect or in terms of coordination with regard to dealing with regional and international files."

## News in brief

### Amir sends condolences to Vietnam

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of condolences to the Vice President of Vietnam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, in which His Highness expressed his deepest sorrow and condolences over the passing of the Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

### ICJ President to visit Kuwait

**BRUSSEL:** The Legal Counselor at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and official at the Kuwaiti embassy in the Netherlands Tareq Al-Shimaimri said yesterday that Kuwait was preparing for an upcoming visit by Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, a Somali international lawyer and President of ICJ, to the country. Both sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and ICJ as well as preparations for the upcoming visit. Shimaimri said after his meeting with the ICJ President at the Peace Palace in The Hague. — KUNA

### Youth Council soon

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said yesterday that a youth council will be launched soon which will be run by youths and will attempt to improve their partnership with government and civil society organizations, including the private sector. In a press release, Jabri said the council will include one of the best youths in Kuwait, and their age will be between 18 to 34 years. The council will tackle issues related to youth, issues that directly affects those youths, including proposed solutions for various problems based on solid scientific methods. Al-Jabri added. The minister noted that the council will also present proposals on policies and planned strategies related to youth affairs and ways to communicate with government apparatus, civil society organizations and the private sector. Jabri also said that the council will also include youths with disabilities due to being a critical and vital part of society. — KUNA

### Equinox on Sept 27

**KUWAIT:** Equinox, the event where the durations of daytime and nighttime are equal, is expected to occur globally today, said Kuwaiti astronomer and historian Adel Al-Sadoun. He added that in Kuwait, the equinox would be on September 27, when sunrise is expected at 05:39 am, while sunset follows 12 hours later. The equinox is the point at which the center of the visible sun is directly above the equator, it occurs twice each year around 20 March and 22-23 September. — KUNA

## PM heads Kuwait's delegation to UNGA session

**NEW YORK:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will represent His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly where he will deliver the speech of Kuwait on September 26, 2018.

The Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that there will be several events on the sidelines of the high-level week and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will hold bilateral meetings with top UN officials.

Otaibi noted that there will be many other different meetings Kuwait will participate at as a member of the Security

Council for this year, where the Security Council will hold two meetings in September under the leadership of the US, one led by US President Donald Trump and the other by US State Secretary.

The Kuwaiti delegation will also take part in discussing the Syrian and Yemeni crises and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' (UNRWA) financial situation, Otaibi said. The 73rd session of the UN General Assembly will discuss several cases this year such as economic growth and strengthening the role of peacekeeping operations, human rights, Africa's development, the fight against terrorism and different other important topics.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled departed on Friday to New York to participate as part of the Kuwaiti delegation in the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. The Kuwaiti delegation accompanied him included Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the US, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohamad Al-Sabah, the Assistant Minister for the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Nasser Hajji Al-



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah departs to New York to participate in the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. — KUNA

Mezsan, assistant Foreign Minister for GCC affairs. The delegation also includes Ambassador Otaibi, Faisal Ibrahim Al-Houli, Kuwait's Consul General in Los Angeles, and Nasser Abdullah Al-Hain, Assistant Foreign Minister for international organizations. On the departure, Ambassador

Dhari Al-Ajran, the Assistant Foreign Minister for Ceremonial affairs along with Ambassador Saleh Salem Al-Logani, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign affairs were at the airport bidding farewell. — KUNA

## Kuwait involved in 10 projects with IAEA

**VIENNA:** A Kuwaiti official has unveiled her country's involvement in 10 projects with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the years 2018-2019. The Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Samira Omar gave a statement on the sidelines of the 62nd IAEA General Conference.

Dr Samira assured Kuwait's continued efforts to strengthen cooperation with the IAEA in all fields relating to the peaceful application of science and nuclear technology. This cooperation has played a central role in maintaining a strong relationship with the agency on the administrative and strategic levels, she said. She pointed out advancements in proposals for hosting regional centers in Kuwait, like the subsequent radiation doses measurement center presented on by the protective radiation department in the Health Ministry, and the center for nuclear medicine and medical physics by the fight against cancer center in Kuwait and the Hydro isotopes center embarked on by the KISR.

The Kuwaiti delegate participated in a conference of the regional agreement for the Arab states in Asia on Eurasian research and development in the field of nuclear sciences on the sidelines of the IAEA's conference. A cooperative project has been agreed on for nuclear energy bodies of Eurasia, which was put forth by Kuwait related to the studies on dust and sludge and their radioactive components with atomic methods, she noted. She added, the agency's program of technical cooperation helps support in the efforts to build up human capacity and institutions in order to use nuclear technology safely and undertake the local needs in the national

social and economic development, and contribute to solving worldwide cases. As part of the technical cooperation program, the KISR is in constant contact with the agency to support programs presented by other agencies in Kuwait, which are related to nuclear safety, security and safeguards that are in the interests of Kuwait. Dr Samira also mentioned that the current programs have a high achievement ratio, which has won the admiration and praise of the Technical Cooperation Department's management, pointing to the 2018-2019 specialized budget for the Kuwaiti programs of EUR 600,000 (KD 215,000 approximately).

### Implemented programs

On the currently implemented program, she clarified that the presently implemented programs are the application of nuclear techniques to improve water production and efficiency to feed fodder crops and the application of genetic mutation events to improve barley yield in harsh environmental conditions in addition to developing the dosimetry laboratory for patients in nuclear medicine project. Dr Samira also mentioned the additional programs like the Comprehensive nuclear medicine education program, the study of carbon acidification and transfer in marine waters, groundwater management project, sub-surface groundwater assessment project, project for monitoring harmful viral reproduction, and a project for the establishment of the national laboratory for measurement of radiation doses and development of national analytical capabilities for the monitoring of radiation and environmental activity. On the five projects presented by Kuwait to the IAEA, she clarified that they are dispersed among all bodies and institutions of the country, which are the development of nuclear techniques in the petroleum industry, radioactive waste management, reducing the radiation risks of atomic medicine workers, improving production and efficiency of chemical fertilizer for fodders crops, and the second stage of applying genetic mutation events to strengthen the barley harvest in harsh environments. She also added the suggestions for five additional projects presented by Kuwait for



**Dr Samira Omar**

the years 2020-2022, are currently under development with the help of the agency's experts. She praised the efforts of the Kuwaiti ambassador to Austria and permanent representative of the state to international organizations Sadeq Marafie who lead the Kuwaiti delegation in this five-day conference, all present with the commission, and the embassy's staff in a consolidation of cooperation with the IAEA.

### Obligations fulfilled

Meanwhile, Kuwait-IAEA liaison officer Dr Nader Al-Awadhi said yesterday that Kuwait has fulfilled its obligations to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Convention on Nuclear Safety. Speaking on the sideline of his participation in the 62nd IAEA General Conference, Dr Awadhi said that Kuwait's national report on nuclear safety was in compliance with IAEA's standards.

The national Kuwait plan within nuclear safety focused on development of institutional, human, and technical resources to monitor and secure radioactive materials, safeguarding it against mal-use and illicit trading. Kuwait and the IAEA are looking into means to further bolster the Kuwaiti national nuclear safety plan, training various institutes and ministries in the GCC country to implement nuclear safety procedures, said Awadhi who praised the current level of cooperation between the two sides. He indicated that the two entities did meet recently to focus on the Kuwaiti plans and programs and they agreed to hold various activities within this frame in Kuwait and elsewhere. The 62nd IAEA General Conference concluded recently in Vienna, adopting several resolutions to bolster cooperation amongst the agency's members and enhancing global nuclear security and safety measures. — KUNA

## Local

# Amir congratulates King Salman on Saudi Arabia's 88th National Day

## Kuwaiti ambassador praises accomplishments of Saudi Arabia

KUWAIT/RIYADH: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud to congratulate him on the occasion of the Kingdom's 88th National Day. In his cable, His Highness the Amir also expressed wishes of prosperity and progress to the Saudi leadership and people. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. Meanwhile, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of congratulations to Chairman of the Saudi Shura Council Sheikh Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh on the occasion of his country's national day.

### Saudi accomplishments

Kuwait's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said meanwhile that Saudi National Day is a national day for all who seek security, stability and welfare. In a press statement, Sheikh Thamer conveyed congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Royal Family and the Saudi people on the 88th National Day.

Sheikh Thamer said "The Kingdom's achievements are ahead of time to achieve the goals of sustainable development through the implementation of the strategy 2030, which we see its fruits represented in restructuring the economy, raising efficiency of performance of the government sectors, human development, and enhancing the participation of women in building the country to keep abreast of global variables, whether



His Highness the Amir  
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud



Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia  
Sheikh Thamer

economic, developmental, social or cultural." He stressed that the vision 2030 serves the concept of reducing the dependence on oil as a single and depleted source and reaching the goal of diversifying sources of income, encouraging foreign investment and opening up to successful regional and global experiences. He added that this will enhance the aspirations for a bright and secure future for the kingdom under the guidance of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

The Kuwaiti diplomat praised the outstanding efforts

exerted by the Kingdom with the international community to combat the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism and the exploitation of the true religion through establishment of the World Center to Combat Extremism and the establishment of the Islamic Alliance against Terrorism, in addition to the peace agreement between the Republic of Ethiopia and the State of Eritrea, a matter which reflects the Kingdom's effective role in enhancing security and stability of the region and the world. He also referred to the Kingdom's generous

humanitarian assistance to alleviate human suffering wherever it was through the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Action and the active and influential efforts in helping the brotherly Yemeni people. Sheikh Thamer stressed that the relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are in constant development, pointing out that the establishment of a Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council recently is a testament to the distinguished historical and social ties between the two countries. — KUNA

## Pinnacle Middle East, IAA-Kuwait organize digital conference

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A one-day digital conference, workshop and exhibition was organized by Pinnacle Middle East in partnership with the International Advertising Agency Association (IAA-Kuwait Chapter) to provide the best platform for knowledge and exchange partnership that will eventually help shape the future of business. The event was attended by about 300 digitally-driven companies.

Nayab Rafiq, Founder and CEO of Pinnacle Middle East, welcomed guests and urged them to continuously support innovation for the benefit of their industries or companies. Pinnacle Middle East has been in the market supporting changes in digital technologies of many countries around the world since 2010. "Events for our company started eight years ago in Dubai, but now we are all over the Middle East. It's a response to what is happening on the global level in digital space," he said.

It is very important that companies are always on top of all the innovations in the digital space. "Businesses will compete to excel and leverage the latest digital tech," Rafiq said. According to him, the event was made possible through the support of several digital companies in Kuwait and the IAA-Kuwait Chapter. "It is a chance to meet one another and get to know each other and learn. Definitely the most interesting thing in this world right now is to make sure that we all know that the world is constantly changing and that we need to be on top of it," he added.

"Kuwait is relevant to all countries around it, just like other countries are relevant to Kuwait. This region is relevant to other regions as well. Every country has its own phases to cope with the fast-changing world. For example, the UAE is in an advanced phase thanks to the leadership of the rulers who are doing their best to be relevant elsewhere in the world. Everyone is moving towards digitalization and enhancing innovation and space. We



Officials attend a panel discussion during the conference.



Officials in attendance.

are all doing well, including the countries around us, except of course countries in this region that are in turmoil (referring to Syria and Yemen)," Rafiq said.

He said a country like Kuwait is doing well in digital technology but admitted that it needs more pushing. "It is a small country but with very dynamic people. The world we are living in today is very different from the world they lived in years ago. Digital technology space needs only a good idea to see rapid result and growth from the idea of concept implementation. You can achieve so much in a small period of time with technology and the right people, and I think what is important is bringing the right people and minds and leveraging the success of others," he said.



Nayab Rafiq, Founder and CEO of Pinnacle Middle East, speaks to Kuwait Times. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A general view of people attending the conference.

## Saudi Ambassador's message on occasion of Saudi National Day

By Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait HH Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al-Saud

The first day of Libra, September 23 of every year brings the memory of a glorious day in our national history. That day crowned the major national epic with the announcement of founding King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud of unifying the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932. We, as this memory dawns on us, remember the struggle and sacrifice of our forefathers who established and contributed to building this large entity, which provides us with a motive to preserve it along with the gains achieved by this country through the wisdom of its leaders and arms of its loyal citizens.

The founding king placed the kingdom on the path of comprehensive renaissance that went and is still going on in all political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields. His sincere sons continued the march after him, and built on the foundations he laid, as late kings Saud, Faisal, Khalid, Fahd and Abdullah continued construction, development and the kingdom's modernization in all fields, while adhering to the principles and values of the founding king, defending Islam and being dedicated to the service of the country and citizens.

The kingdom, under the reign of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, continues the march of development and modernization in all fields. The kingdom is going through a stage of prosperity and determination to achieve, and build to provide all prosperity means for citizens. He started his reign by enhancing the administrative structure, placing the kingdom on the path of a promising stage of prosperity as a confirmation of his keenness to utilize all national resources to serve the citizens and country. He started the implementation of the national transformation strategy to implement Vision 2030 - vision of the present and future - which announced the kingdom's entry in a new stage of its development to diversify sources of income and increase the efficiency of government performance.

In 2017, the NEOM project was signed, which is a Saudi project to build a Saudi city that crosses borders announced by HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister. The NEOM project aims at transferring the kingdom into a pioneering world model in various aspects of life. The kingdom also signed a memorandum of understanding with a Japanese communications company with regards to the solar power project. In April 2018, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques launched the Qiddiya entertainment project which includes mountains, valleys and a view of the desert. These three economic cities are considered the largest in the world.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz was able with his vast political and administrative experience to advance the kingdom qualitatively in all fields despite the regional and international developments that surrounded the region lately,



Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait  
Prince Sultan

which enabled the kingdom to maintain its international status as one of the 20 most influential countries in the world politically and economically. The kingdom, under his reign, continues its defense of Arab and Muslim nations' causes, and leads with its vibrant diplomacy efforts to bring peace and security to the region and the world. These efforts were crowned by the Arab-American summit in Riyadh in May.

The kingdom, out of its religious and humanitarian commitments, contributes to rescue and development efforts all over the world, as the total payments the kingdom made during the past decades total \$140 billion. Those efforts were crowned by the establishment of the King Salman Rescue and Humanitarian Action Center, which distributes humanitarian aid presented by the kingdom to other countries.

The kingdom plays a major role in maintaining security and stability in the region, and continues its fight against terrorism. It was one of the first countries to suffer from it and lost several of its citizens in terrorist acts, yet the kingdom was able to thwart many terrorist plans by astray groups. The kingdom's leadership felt the importance of consolidating international efforts to fight terrorism, so it organized the first international conference for fighting terrorism, and created the global center for fighting extremism (E'tidal) which was launched during the Arab, Muslim and American summit in Riyadh last May.

I, on this auspicious occasion, will allude to the strong relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which time has proven is a model of relations to be followed between countries. The communications between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and all officials at all levels continues regardless of what takes place in the distinguished relations between the two brotherly countries.

I am honored, on this occasion, to congratulate the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, HH Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister, the royal family and the Saudi people. I pray to Almighty Allah to protect our country against all evil and to bring this occasion back with all that is good, and maintain security, stability and prosperity for the kingdom, Kuwait and all Arab and Muslim countries.

## Local

# Kuwait stresses Palestinian case is at top of every Muslim, Arab concern

## Kuwait urges Israel join global nuclear weapons ban

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has stressed that the Palestinian case is at the top of the concerns of every Muslim and Arab, stressing that there will be no lasting peace and security as long as the Israeli occupation continues. This came during a speech by Kuwait at a recent meeting of Security Council to discuss the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian issue, delivered by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

"A comprehensive, just and lasting peace must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy," Otaibi said. Otaibi reiterated Kuwait's full support for the efforts of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, to achieve a lasting, just and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian cause. "If new funds are not received immediately, we will face a catastrophic collapse in the provision of basic assistance to services provided in hospitals and clinics, which exposes the lives of more than 500 vulnerable patients to risk including people in intensive care rooms and newborns," he added. He also mentioned the death toll since the start of the peace march on 30th of March to 180 people, condemning "these systematic Israeli crimes against the defenseless Palestinian people, amounting to war crimes against humanity under international humanitarian law and international human rights law."

Otaibi stressed the need to compel the Israeli occupation authority to respect and implement resolution 2334, which affirmed that Israeli settlement constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and an obstacle

to peace. The Ambassador welcomed the first written report of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the implementation of that resolution last June, looking forward to the issuance of periodic reports on the implementation of this resolution in December, in response to the request of ten members of the Council. "Unfortunately, the basic services provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNR-



### Kuwait reiterates full support for UN efforts

WA) for more than five million registered Palestinian refugees are facing great pressures as a result of the financial crisis facing the Agency," Otaibi noted.

#### \$70 million

Otaibi pointed out that the total amount provided by Kuwait during the past four years alone exceeded \$70 million and will continue to support, along with many countries. The international community has been called upon to commit to delegating the Agency and secure resources and financial contributions to its balance sheet and activities in a sustainable manner that will enable it

to continue its role in providing basic services to the Palestinians as a responsibility of the international community to fulfill it in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, he added.

Otaibi renewed his rejection and condemnation of all these violations of the holy places, especially the attempts to change the historical and legal situation in Al-Aqsa Mosque. Otaibi praised the decision of the Government of Paraguay not to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem in respect of international law and the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

Otaibi assured that what he mentioned is only a simplified picture of the suffering by the Palestinian people and it is a small part of the tragedies facing our Palestinians in the occupied territories. Otaibi told reporters before the Security Council session that he renewed Israel's call for compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2334 and stressed that the Kuwaiti delegation would do its utmost to ensure that the Council try to pressure Israel to implement all its relevant resolutions.

#### Nuclear weapons

Meanwhile, Kuwait called on influential member countries of the United Nations nuclear watchdog to demand Israel to join the global Non-Proliferation Treaty with its nuclear facilities subject to scrutiny. Israel, a member of the 170-nation International Atomic Energy Agency, is widely thought to possess nuclear weapons. However, it is not registered as a nuclear weapons state under the treaty, neither has it declared that this is



**NEW YORK:** Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks during a meeting of the UN Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. — KUNA

the case or allowed IAEA inspections of its facilities.

During a discussion of the matter at the IAEA General Conference, Kuwait Embassy to Austria's Second Secretary Ali Al-Wazzan insisted it should continue to receive annual discussion. Kuwait attaches great significance to the NPT and the application of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, which allow IAEA on-site inspections, on all nations in the Middle East. As the IAEA is the sole guarantor of the peaceful nature of nuclear program, he said, seeking to ensure a nuclear weapons free-zone in the Middle East

should have a positive impact on the regional and global security and stability.

Alongside Kuwait, similar calls have been made by other Arab countries and the 120-strong Non-Aligned Movement nations. All countries in the region are committed to the NPT, most recently Palestine, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. However, Wazzan said Israel had an "adamant and stubborn" approach in its rejection of steps towards allowing agency scrutiny of its program. "This threatens the security of the region, increases the state of anxiety and blatantly conflicts with many international treaties," he said. — KUNA

## Humanitarian situations in Yemen 'unprecedented': Kuwait

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has stressed that the humanitarian situation in Yemen and in Hodeidah in particular has unfortunately reached unprecedented stages of daily suffering of the Yemeni people. The Houthi group has exploited the roads used to deliver humanitarian aid through setting up military checkpoints in a clear and deliberate obstruction of aid Humanitarian assistance to children, women and the elderly who suffer from hunger and threat of epidemics. This came during Kuwait's speech at the Security Council meeting on the situation in Yemen, which was delivered by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

Otaibi said that in order to secure the safe access of humanitarian aid to needy people, the Yemeni government forces, supported by the

Coalition for the Support of Legitimacy, have carried out specific operations through the temporary closure of the main road between Sana'a and Al-Hodeidah. He added that the forces had contacted the humanitarian evacuation and humanitarian committee in Riyadh with the international humanitarian actors to inform them of alternative ways of dispatching humanitarian aid from Al-Hodeidah to Sana'a and to confirm that the road will be reopened.

Otaibi said it was stressed that the alternative route will be opened as soon as possible after securing it through the clearing of mines and checkpoints, which have hindered the humanitarian aid process and wasted international efforts to alleviate human suffering in Yemen, including the Donor Conference for Yemen which was held last April in Geneva. He explained that the conference resulted in pledges exceeding \$2 billion contributed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in addition to the State of Kuwait with \$1.2 billion.

Otaibi said that "our meeting today on the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen is the expected result of failure of the political efforts of the crisis, which was caused by the absence of the delegation of the Houthi group of the round of consultations, which was scheduled to be held on 6 September 2018. He

stressed that the coalition to support the legitimacy in Yemen has in several stages of the crisis supported and facilitated all international efforts to seek a political solution based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the most recent of which was the cessation of military operations on Al-Hodeidah.

Otaibi added that the coalition was working to give the efforts of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Yemen time and opportunity to bring the Yemeni parties back to the dialogue table despite the security challenges represented by the Houthi group continuing its practices that threaten peace and regional security through its control over ports of Al-Hodeidah and its threat to the safety of international maritime traffic.

Otaibi confirmed that the ballistic missile attacks on neighboring countries cannot be tolerated, as well as the threat posed against international shipping routes in Bab Al-Mandab and the Red Sea, which will have a negative impact on regional and international peace and security. He pointed to the refusal to use civilians as human shields and the exploitation of civilian facilities and seaports as bases for the launching of military operations and the continued recruitment of children, all of which are war crimes punishable by international law. — KUNA

## Kuwait stresses significance of peacekeeping in Abyei

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has stressed the great role of the peacekeeping operation in achieving relative stability within the Abyei region in Sudan, appreciation at the same time the great role played by the Ethiopian peacekeeping forces in achieving and maintaining stability. Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Counselor Bader Al-Munikh, made the remarks during a meeting of the Security Council recently on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

Munikh said that UNISFA has become one of the best peacekeeping operations, praising Ethiopia's positive role in this regard. The priority of political solutions must remain in the eye of the Security Council and should be achieved through support from peacekeeping operations and in harmony with host States. He hoped that the renewal of the Mission's mandate would be in



**Bader Al-Munikh**

line with its role and achievements, including the continuation of the Joint Border Support Mechanism, whose work had significantly increased the Mission's performance.

On the technical issues such as the strength of the mission and their work sites, Munikh explained that members of the Council could discuss them in the coming weeks in line with the developments in Abyei and within the framework of bilateral relations between Sudan and South Sudan, especially as they are undergoing a period of positive and increasing cooperation which has been welcomed by the neighboring states, the League of Arab States, the African Union and the Security Council. — KUNA

## NBK recognizes its 2018 distinguished employees



**KUWAIT:** For the third consecutive year, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) honored its distinguished employees in 2018 at its Annual Award Ceremony, in the presence of Isam Al-Sager, Group CEO, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO - Kuwait, Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO - Kuwait, Emad Al-Ablani, General Manager- Group Human Resources, and a number of NBK's executives.

In his speech, Isam Jassim Al-Sager said that NBK has established itself as a leading Arab regional bank through its employees which are considered as an engine for its continued success. He added that hard work and commitment have always been the qualities of its staff and part of NBK's achievements over the past decades, pointing out that without these behaviors the vision and goals of the bank cannot be attained.

He pointed out that all NBK employees across different departments consistently adhere to the highest service standards, show great commitment to developing their skills, and benefit from all the technical and moral

support provided by the bank, which contributed to its success.

Sager maintained that in order to achieve NBK's constant pursuit to improve and enhance its services; it requires a professional team capable of ensuring the highest levels of service and commitment to transparency. He stressed that the Bank will continue investing in its human resources, raise their efficiency and develop their skills in order to build a generation capable of leadership in the future.

Sager emphasized that NBK is continuing its strategy of reinforcing its leadership position as the first regional bank through the diversity and breadth of its services that meet the various requirements of customers, together with its investment in human resources.

Meanwhile, Ablani said: "The spirit of teamwork and dedication of NBK's employees underscores their adherence to the Bank's commitment-based culture and approach." He pointed out that the professionalism of the bank's employees represents its wealth and strength which uniquely reflect its high standing.

He added that NBK maintains its position by strengthening relationships with its customers through its commitment to the quality of services provided by a professional team trained on criteria based primarily on standards of innovation and excellence.

He stressed that NBK is always committed to providing a healthy work environment that fosters employee's satisfaction and career development, while continuing to reinforce its leadership position by adopting the best work practices in order to meet its customers' needs and aspirations.

NBK has been keen on organizing these events, honoring its employees to support its human resources wealth and encourage employees to always strive for professional excellence. The selection of distinguished employees depends on the votes of their colleagues within the same department. The voting criteria is based on teamwork, cooperation, participation, and efficiency. The ceremony honoring elite employees featured several activities and contests, as well as awarding prizes to participating employees.

## Audit Bureau wins 1st place in ASOSAI board membership

**HANOI:** Kuwait's State Audit Bureau won first place yesterday in membership of the executive council to the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI), following elections during the conclusion of the 14th meetings in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

Kuwait's state bureau was nominated along with six other countries for the election of ASOSAI's executive board members for the period of 2018-21. The election results saw Kuwait's State Audit Bureau coming first, State Audit Bureau's Technical Administration Chief Engineer

Rashid Abdulsalam said. "Taking the top spot reflects Kuwait's leading position in the ASOSAI apparatus, which also shows Kuwait's relentless efforts during the past years," Abdulsalam added.

Abdulsalam noted that participating in various ASOSAI's committees also helped the Kuwaiti body to become acquainted with knowledge of ASOSAI's expertise. Kuwait has been a member in ASOSAI since 1984, and previously it has been a member of ASOSAI board member in 1997 and 2003. ASOSAI was established in 1979 with 11 members. The membership of the ASOSAI consists of Charter Members, Members and Associate Members. Now, membership has grown to 46 SAIs. ASOSAI's goals is to promote understanding and cooperation among member institutions through exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of Public Audit, to provide facilities for training and continuing education for government auditors, with a view to improving quality and performance. — KUNA



**HANOI:** Kuwait's State Audit Bureau official Aadil Al-Saraawi casts his vote. — KUNA

## Local

# Officials pave way for domestic helpers' recruitment from Philippines, other countries

## Private sector provides 20 percent of medical services in Kuwait

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Relevant Kuwaiti authorities have finished resolving all problems related to laws, regulations and remarks concerned with facilitating the recruitment of domestic helpers from the Philippines and other countries, said informed diplomatic sources. The sources added that the Kuwait-Philippines joint committee will meet next month to sign a number of agreements and discuss the Philippine president's visit in December. The sources added that the Kuwaiti coordination team concerned with Kuwait-Philippines talks on domestic helpers' recruitment, headed by the assistant foreign minister for consulate affairs Sami Al-Hamad, had recently met representatives from the foreign, interior and social affairs and labor ministries and as well as the manpower authority to discuss related concerns.

### Heads of medical departments

The Ministry of Health (MoH) set Wednesday, September 26, as the deadline for newly-appointed heads of medical departments to submit their plans to develop work within their departments, adding that officials who fail to submit such plans will be replaced. In this regard, informed sources said that the legal tenure of new heads of departments will end on Aug 26, 2020 and that their development plans should be handed to the minister's office in written form, including the plan and its schedule. Each head of department will be fully responsible before the minister for implementing it. Notably, the health minister recently appointed new heads of various medical departments with the aim of injecting 'new blood' and providing more opportunities and skills to match medical develop-

ments. In another medical concern, MoH statistics showed that the total number of surgeries made by 12 private hospitals in Kuwait was 46,086 for males and 13,122 for female



### No senior officials with fake degrees

patients. Statistics also showed that the total number of doctors working for private hospitals is 27,000, in addition to around 6,000 nurses, providing 20 percent of medical services in Kuwait.

### Fake degrees

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh denied that the list of names of holders of fake or uncertified degrees that the education ministry reported to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) includes any senior officials in any ministry, adding that full coordination is in progress between the ministry and CSC to track such degrees. Saleh explained that CSC has taken several measures concerning proven forgery cases including undoing all administrative decisions or promotions, recollecting



### Social care

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said tenants of social care homes can be temporarily moved from one care house to another in case of maintenance. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry made in this regard by MP Saleh Ashour, Sabeeh added that the decision is usually made by the concerned administration with the aim of providing care house tenants with the best and most comfortable accommodation.

all incentives unlawfully paid and contacting the manpower authority to suspend national labor support allowances and retrieve the sums paid. In other news, CSC has suspended recruitment through the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) and the Public Authority for Manpower until their merger process is completed, well-informed sources said.

## 'Beautiful' woman blackmails eight well-to-do men

**KUWAIT:** A "beautiful" woman blackmailed eight well-to-do men after having affairs with them. She then gave them an ultimatum to either pay up or they will be exposed. The woman is still free, but being monitored by police. The woman's modus operandi is as follows. After establishing what seems to be a good relationship, the woman starts asking for money, which is seen by the victim as normal. This continues for several months, then after a few months, she asks for a sizeable amount of money. If the man pays, she ends the relationship with him a few days later. If she is met with refusal, she pretends to remain in a relationship before going to the police and claiming she was raped, and submits 'evidence' to prove her claims. When the victim realizes he will face a scandal, he tries to settle the matter, and the woman makes him pay double what she asked for earlier. A security source said the woman will be arrested soon, adding she is free because there is no legal proof of her criminal actions.

### Patrol boat damaged

The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) held a citizen responsible for repairing a boat after three Egyptian fishermen who manned a boat he owns were found fishing in an off-limit area. They then collided with a patrol boat and damaged its engine, then escaped. Deputy Director General of PAAAFR Marzouq Al-Azmi said patrolmen noticed a violating boat with three men onboard and they were asked to stop. But they revved the engine and cut the rope, causing a collision with the patrol boat. The coastguard recovered the violating boat and charged its owner. The three are being sought by police on charges of attacking PAAAFR employees, escaping and violating fishing laws.

### Chalet burned

Jahra detectives are looking for two men accused of burning a citizen's chalet. The interior ministry received a call about the fire, so firemen responded and put out the blaze. A police source said the chalet's owner lodged a complaint against two persons he knows over setting the blaze. Investigations are underway.

### Bootlegger arrested

Police arrested an Indian man for selling homebrewed liquor and found 160 bottles with him. He was sent to concerned authorities. — *Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai*

## MoH to keep abreast of int'l developments

**KUWAIT:** Assistant Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health for Quality and Control Dr Mohammad Al-Khashti yesterday affirmed that Kuwait's third Infectious Disease Conference reflects the Ministry's keenness to keep abreast of international developments. The conference also aims to exchange expertise, work protocols and preventive and curative care to cope with emerging infectious diseases, Dr Khashti said in a speech during the conference.

Dr Khashti pointed out that infectious diseases

are a source of concern and threaten global and regional health security, despite the achievements of the world in eradicating and containing many epidemics and reducing effects of many of these diseases. He stressed the importance of applying the World Health Organization's (WHO) Convention to the International Health Regulations related to environmental determinants, climate change and neglected diseases. "We must continuously strengthen the capacity of the health system to prevent, monitor, diagnose and treat them under the umbrella of comprehensive health coverage," Khashti added.

Meanwhile, Director of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dr Jamal Al-Duaij said in that the conference comes in cooperation with the University of London. The conference aims to identify the latest developments and access to scientific papers, transfer of experiences and expand research in the field of infectious diseases in Kuwait, he added. — KUNA

## Stray dogs increase in Kuwait



**KUWAIT:** An increasing number of stray dogs have been roaming Kuwaiti streets, especially in industrial and new residential areas, creating an issue of concern for people and the environment. — KUNA

## Consulting engineering offices helps prevent mishaps: Union

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Union of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses urged the Kuwait Direct Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) to commit to engineering regulations and encourage Kuwait's engineering and consultancy sectors by having them design and supervise the execution of development projects in order to prevent repeated mistakes and mishaps.

Referring to a recent fire and the collapse of giant beams during installation, the union's Chairman Bader Al-Salman stressed that the presence of a local engineering and consultancy house in a major development project will help achieve and impose safety and security conditions as well as achieve quality execution as per certified conditions and specifications. Salman added that the major reason for the aforementioned mishaps was violation of safety and security conditions.

In other news, the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) announced that 51.6 percent of Al-Ghoush Street development project has been completed, noting that the project linking the Fifth and Sixth Ring Roads will include six intersections, three flyovers, a tunnel and a footbridge. The authority added that 66 percent of the west Fifth Ring Road development project has so far been completed.

## local spotlight

## Are cleaners beggars?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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The municipality announced that it will deport any cleaner working for a cleaning firm under contract with the municipality if he is caught begging and the company will be fined. Kuwait Municipality's Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said in a statement that "all companies working in all governorates were informed of these regulations." According to the report, if a cleaner is found begging or acting contrary to public order, he will be punished and his company penalized.

Inspection campaigns will commence from this week, which includes joint teams from the Public Authority for Manpower, interior ministry and the commerce and industry ministry, in addition to the municipality. The official said "these measures were designed to reduce widespread begging by cleaners that affects Kuwait's reputation."

In June 2017, local newspapers published a statement from the municipality which reported that 33 cleaners had been caught begging in four areas after being monitored. According to the statement, their companies were fined for violating the terms of the contract. Now, there is no doubt that the municipality sees these workers as employees of a company and getting paid, so begging and asking for money from people is legally prohibited because this employee is not entitled to ask money from passersby or act in a manner that suggests that he is asking for money. This is understood.

Personally, and this is my opinion, I have never come across a cleaning worker who came to me asking for money explicitly and directly. I do agree that some of them may suggest so by giving you a pitiful look, and thus you may feel that he needs a little money. But I have never seen a cleaner in my life who said to me in the face "I want money". On the contrary, several women dressed in full black with their faces covered have approached me in parking lots and started talking about living in poverty and asked for money directly and openly. These women should be arrested and deported.

I know that some people have a lot of derision and contempt for these poor workers who work in very difficult conditions and unbearable climate in summer or winter with a meager income, but the streets will not be clean without them.

I don't think there are many people who disagree that the cleaners are poor and that the workers are not considered beggars or entered the country with the intention of begging - but I wonder why no one looks at the subject from another angle and asks what prompts them to beg or behave in a way that suggests that they are begging or accept money from people?

For many years, there have been rumors about the exploitation by such companies of their workers, that salaries are not paid in full or regularly and that they live in difficult circumstances. But I haven't seen extensive investigation campaigns to find the truth, and if there is exploitation by the companies, I hope the municipality will take such reports into account.

As for violating companies, I do not see how to punish the company as it may be an individual action of the worker and the company has no direct responsibility. But the head of the workers - who is usually of the same nationality as the workers - has a significant role in directing these workers, so if a worker is arrested while begging, the head worker must be investigated.

I have another question - what if a person willingly gives some money or food to these workers? Will they be prevented from accepting money or food out of caution and fear of punishment or deportation? There will always be kind and charitable people who will keep giving money and food to these workers. I believe it is time to look at the situation of workers from all aspects.



Pakistan's leader Khan decries 'arrogant' India

## Vatican, China sign landmark accord on appointing bishops

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LAKE VICTORIA: Investigators on a boat work on the capsized ferry MV Nyerere which killed 170 people in Lake Victoria, Tanzania yesterday. — AFP

# Tanzania ferry disaster toll passes 200

## Tanzanians mourn as president orders arrests

**NAIROBI:** The death toll from a crowded ferry capsizing in Lake Victoria rose sharply to 207 yesterday, a Tanzanian minister said, as rescue workers found a lucky survivor. Public radio quoted the transport minister as updating the number of dead from 170 earlier in the day. Joseph Mkundi, a lawmaker for the Ukerewe district, told AFP there were 41 known survivors among the passengers of the MV Nyerere - a ferry built to carry 100 people, according to state media. It capsized on Thursday close to the pier on Ukara Island.

Although hopes were fading of finding any more survivors by day three of the search effort, workers rescued an engineer who had managed to locate a pocket of air in the vessel. According to Mkundi, the engineer had shut himself into a "special room". Tanzanian President John Magufuli on Friday ordered the arrest of ferry management. Witnesses told AFP the ferry sank when passengers rushed to one side to disembark as it approached the dock. Others blamed the captain, saying he had made a brusque manoeuvre.

In a speech broadcast on TBC 1 public television, Magufuli said "it appears clear that the ferry was

overloaded". He added: "negligence has cost us so many lives... children, mothers, students, old people. "I ordered the arrest of all those involved in the management of the ferry. The arrests have already begun," he added.

### National mourning

The president declared four days of national mourning and said the government would cover the funeral expenses of the victims. State television cited witnesses reporting that more than 200 people had boarded the ferry at Bugolora, a town on the larger Ukerewe Island. It was market day, which usually sees the vessel packed with people and goods. "I have not heard from either my father or my younger brother who were on the ferry. They had gone to the market in Bugolora to buy a school uniform and other supplies

for the new school term," said Domina Maua, among those seeking information about loved ones.

Sebastian John, a teacher, said such tragedies had become part of life for those living on the lake. "Since my birth, people have gone to their deaths on this lake, but what are we to do? We did not choose to be born here, we have nowhere to go," he said.

### Overloading and 'negligence'

Tanzania's Electrical, Mechanical and Services Agency, which is responsible for ferry services, said it was unknown how many passengers were aboard the MV Nyerere. The ageing vessel, whose hull and propellers were all that remained visible after it overturned, was also carrying cargo, including sacks of maize, bananas and cement, when it capsized about 50 m from Ukara dock. The cause of the accident

was not immediately clear, but overloading is frequently to blame for such incidents. The country's opposition has accused the government of "negligence".

"We have often raised concerns about the poor condition of this ferry, but the government turned a deaf ear. We have repeatedly denounced this negligence," said John Mnyika, deputy secretary general of Chadema, the main opposition party. Mnyika said overloading was "another failure of the authorities" and criticized "inadequate relief efforts as well as delays" in the rescue operation. Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leaders of Uganda and Kenya offered their condolences, while Pope Francis in a statement expressed "the greatest solidarity with those who have been bereaved".

With a surface area of 70,000 sq km, oval-shaped Lake Victoria is roughly the size of Ireland and is shared by Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. It is not uncommon for ferries to capsize in the massive lake, and the number of fatalities is often high due to a shortage of life jackets and the fact that many people in the region cannot swim. —AFP



## Survivor pulled from capsized ageing vessel

engers were aboard the MV Nyerere. The ageing vessel, whose hull and propellers were all that remained visible after it overturned, was also carrying cargo, including sacks of maize, bananas and cement, when it capsized about 50 m from Ukara dock. The cause of the accident

## Tornado batters area near Ottawa

**OTTAWA:** A tornado sparked chaos near the Canadian capital Ottawa yesterday, injuring dozens as homes were damaged, cars flipped over, and over 130,000 people left without power, local media said. Meteorologists reported gusts whipped up to around 120 miles per hour, with the city of Gatineau, about five miles north of the capital, taking the brunt.

Images on social media showed homes with damaged rooftops and trees torn apart, as debris was seen swirling through the air in dramatic video footage. "There was a power cut and less than a minute later, the wind began to hit

the windows," Vincent-Carl Leriche, who filmed the video said. "The debris was flying everywhere, I had never seen anything like it except in Hollywood," the 30-year-old, from Gatineau's Mont-Bleu neighborhood said, adding he saw sofas and freezers that had been blown into the street.

Ottawa emergency services official Anthony Di Monte told local media around 30 people were injured, five seriously. Meanwhile, electricity company HydroQuebec reported over 130,000 customers were without power in the Ottawa area Friday evening. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged residents to check on neighbors who might need help. "We're monitoring the situation and thinking of everyone affected," he said on Twitter. A weather alert was put in place Friday afternoon for all of southern Ontario and Quebec. Winds eased by the time they reached greater Montreal, which was hit by heavy rains but escaped major damage. —AFP



MONT-BLEU, Canada: Destroyed buildings and cars are seen in Mont-Bleu, Gatineau, Quebec, close to Ottawa after a tornado shattered Canada's capital. — AFP

## Mexicans hunt for missing relatives; Truck full of dead bodies found

**GUADALAJARA:** Dozens of people from across Mexico who are searching for missing relatives this week journeyed to the city of Guadalajara, where a scandal has erupted over a truck full of unidentified bodies that overflowed local morgues. A wave of violence linked to powerful drug cartels has sent the number of missing persons in the country soaring to more than 36,000, and families of the "disappeared" often search fruitlessly for them for months or years. Guadalajara, the country's second-largest city, has been hit particularly hard by the violence as home base to the brutal Jalisco New Generation Cartel.

It emerged over the weekend that the city's morgues are so full, authorities decided to rent a refrigerated trailer to hold the bodies of 278 murder victims. The truck caused outrage when the authorities parked it in a series of impoverished neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city. Residents protested over the smell, flies and risk to public health. Officials then moved it to a prosecution storage facility in the city center. The governor has fired the state prosecutor and coroner over the debacle. The gruesome affair drew some 100 people from across the country to the western city,

where they demanded to know if their loved ones were among the bodies.

"When I heard this awful news, I said, we have to go," said Yadira Gonzalez, 36, who has been searching for her missing brother Juan for 12 years, and belongs to a group for people with missing relatives in the central city of Queretaro. They drove some five hours to picket outside the Institute of Forensic Sciences for Jalisco state, of which Guadalajara is the capital, demanding to know whether their loved ones were in the truck. "Our family members disappeared in Queretaro, but they could be anywhere in the country, really," said Gonzalez.

### 'We've lost all trust'

News media have broadcast footage of the open trailer of the truck, with piles of bodies in black bags and a man in white boots stepping on the bags. "Society has lost all trust in government institutions and their leaders," said another woman seeking a missing family member, Guadalupe Aguilar. "That's why we're here picketing. We won't leave until we get answers." 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. — AFP

## International

# Vatican, China sign landmark accord on appointing bishops

## Historic deal will give pope final say in naming bishops

**VILNIUS:** The Vatican yesterday signed a landmark agreement giving it a long-desired say in the appointment of bishops in China, though critics labeled the deal a sell-out to the Communist government. The provisional agreement, signed in Beijing by deputy foreign ministers from both sides, was announced as Pope Francis visited Lithuania on a four-day trip to the Baltic countries. It gives the Holy See a decisive role in the appointment of all bishops in a country whose around 12 million Catholics have been split between an underground Church swearing loyalty to the Vatican and the state-supervised Catholic Patriotic Association.

The Vatican said the accord, a breakthrough after years of negotiations, was "not political but pastoral." A Holy See statement did not mention Taiwan, which the Vatican recognizes diplomatically and which China sees as a renegade province. However, diplomats have said the accord was a possible precursor to a resumption in diplomatic relations with Beijing after 70 years. Beijing does not allow countries to have diplomatic relations with both China and Taiwan.

Taiwan now has formal relations with only 17 states and the Vatican is the only one in Europe. The Vatican said the pope hoped "a new process may begin that will allow the wounds of the past to be overcome, leading to the full communion of all Chinese Catholics." But prospects of such an agreement had divided communities of Catholics across China, some of whom fear greater suppression should the Vatican cede more control to Beijing. Others want to see rapprochement and avoid a potential schism.

"They're giving the flock into the mouths of the wolves. It's an incredible betrayal," said Cardinal Joseph Zen, the feisty, 76-year-old former archbishop of Hong Kong who has led the opposition to the deal. "The consequences will be tragic and long lasting, not only for the Church in China

but for the whole Church because it damages the credibility. Maybe that's why they might keep the agreement secret," Zen told Reuters in an interview on Thursday. Vatican sources have said the deal will not be published and can be reviewed and fine-tuned in the future.

### Readmitted

The Vatican said that as part of the deal, Pope Francis had recognized the legitimacy of the seven remaining



### Ex-Hong Kong archbishop says deal a 'betrayal'

state-appointed Chinese bishops who had been named without papal approval and had re-admitted them into the Church. "Today, for the first time all the bishops in China are in communion with the Bishop of Rome (the pope)," Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State and one of the chief architects of the deal, said in a statement. Vatican sources have said that a few bishops appointed by Rome will cede their places to bishops who had been appointed by Beijing. In future, new bishops first will be proposed by members of local Catholic communities together with Chinese authorities. The names of candidates will be sent to the Vatican and the pope will make a final decision, the sources said. — Reuters



**BEIJING:** Christian devotees attend a mass at the South Cathedral in Beijing. The Vatican announced yesterday a historic accord with China on the appointment of bishops in the Communist country as Pope Francis recognized seven Beijing-appointed bishops in a move that could pave the way for a rapprochement between the Catholic Church and the world's most populous country. — AFP

## Washington criticizes treatment of Uighurs in latest China row

**WASHINGTON:** The United States yesterday denounced China's treatment of its Uighur Muslims in unusually strong terms, adding to a growing list of disputes in increasingly turbulent relations between the two powers. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voiced alarm after a United Nations report described the mass internment of Uighurs under the pretext of preventing extremism in the western Xinjiang region where the minority group is concentrated. "Hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of Uighurs are held against their will in so-called re-education camps where they're forced to endure severe political indoctrination and other awful abuses," Pompeo said in a speech on the state of religious freedom around the world.

"Their religious beliefs are decimated," Pompeo said. In a letter to Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, both Republican and Democratic members of Congress late last month called for sanctions on Chinese officials implicated in the internment of Uighurs. Pompeo did not say whether the United States would take punitive measures. Even so, the remarks were striking for their tone, with President Donald Trump's administration putting human rights on the back seat in relations with allies such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The Trump administration itself has faced criticism at home and abroad for its stance on Muslims, with the president as a candidate calling for a complete ban on Muslims entering the United States and, soon after taking office, barring entry to citizens of several Muslim-majority countries. Pompeo also expressed concern about the fate of Christians in China, who he said had been targeted in a government crackdown. The government, he said, has been "closing churches, burning Bibles and ordering followers to sign papers renouncing their faith."

### China defends treatment

In an interview earlier in the week, Pompeo had described China as a greater threat to the United States than Russia, saying that Beijing was a "non-transparent government." "It treats our intellectual property horribly, it treats its religious minorities horribly," he told Fox News. China has rejected the findings of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said last month that the report was "based on so-called information that is yet to be verified and has no factual basis."

Hua added that China was doing what was needed to combat extremism and terrorism on its western frontier. Uighurs have long complained of systematic discrimination in the region, which activists call East Turkestan, with tensions especially rife in areas that have seen large-scale migration from China's dominant Han ethnicity. The Uyghur Human Rights Project, an advocacy group that uses an alternative spelling for the minority group's name, has estimated that an entire 10 percent of the population has been detained as part of an indoctrination campaign.

### Rising disputes

The fresh focus on human rights comes as trade disputes mount between the world's two largest economies. The two countries will launch new tariffs on Monday, with Washington targeting \$200 billion in Chinese exports and Beijing hitting \$60 billion worth of American products. The two sides have already imposed tariffs on \$50 billion in goods from each country. Trump in his first year appeared to relish a chummy rapport with Chinese President Xi Jinping, whom he invited to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

But relations have wobbled as Trump takes an increasingly hard line to protect domestic industry. Moving a step further, the United States said Thursday it was placing financial sanctions on the Equipment Development Department of China's defense ministry as well as its top administrator for violating sanctions on Russia by buying Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets and S-400 surface-to-air missiles. — AFP

## Russia, Turkey agree on the demilitarized zone borders

**SARAJEVO:** Russia and Turkey have agreed on borders of a demilitarized zone in northern Syria, Russia's top diplomat said yesterday, part of a deal that could check an assault on the last rebel enclave in Idlib. "Just yesterday or the day before, the militaries of Russia and Turkey agreed the concrete frontiers of the demilitarized zone," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said after talks with his Bosnian counterpart Igor Crnadak.

Moscow says the demilitarized zone would help stop attacks from Idlib on Syrian army positions and Russia's military bases in the region. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreed the establishment of the 15 to 20 kilometer buffer zone on Monday after talks that lasted more than four hours. Security in the zone, which includes parts of Idlib and neighboring provinces including the city of Aleppo, will be overseen by Turkish contingents and Russian military police.

The agreement will prevent military action against the city of Idlib, Russia's defense minister said. "It's an intermediate step... but a necessary step," Lavrov said of the zone. "By mid-October, all (fighters of the Al-Nusra Front) must leave this demilitarized zone, and all heavy military equipment must be pulled out of there," he said. Russia is a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, helping the Syrian government establish control over most of the country's territory after intervening in the multi-front conflict in 2015.

Turkey, however, backs opposition fighters seeking to oust the Syrian leader. It has said a large-scale offensive against the rebels could trigger a mass exodus towards its border. Turkey has asked France to help "consolidate" the agreement within the UN Security Council, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told the daily Le Monde in its edition which appeared yesterday.

Le Drian said that international pressure and warnings of a looming humanitarian crisis in Idlib had proven effective in checking an all-out assault by the Syrian regime. The Russian-Turkish accord could be validated by a reso-

## Yemenis face starvation, aid agencies warn

**UNITED NATIONS:** International aid agencies are losing the fight against famine in Yemen, where 3.5 million people may soon be added to the eight million Yemenis already facing starvation, the UN aid chief warned yesterday. A sharp drop in the value of Yemen's currency that has sent fuel prices spiraling compounded with renewed fighting has led to a worsening of what the United Nations already considers the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

"We are losing the fight against famine," Mark Lowcock, the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told the Security Council. "We are already seeing pockets of famine-like-conditions-including cases where people are eating leaves because they have no other form of sustenance," he said. The council was meeting at Britain's request to discuss the worsening crisis in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is fighting Iran-aligned rebels who control the capital Sanaa.

Lowcock said the situation had deteriorated "in an alarming way in recent weeks" and that the crisis may be approaching "a tipping point, beyond which it will be impossible to prevent massive loss of life." The stark warning came ahead of next week's gathering of world leaders at the United Nations for the annual debate on global issues that will feature meetings on Yemen.

After a lull in fighting, Saudi-backed government forces this week launched a series of attacks on rebel-held Hodeida, the Red Sea port city that also serves as the entry point for humanitarian aid deliveries. The fight for Hodeida, which the Houthis seized in 2014, was put on hold



**HAZZANU, Syria:** A Syrian child waves a Turkish flag as he stands on a shade above other protesters during a demonstration against the Syrian government in the rebel-held town of Hazzanu. — AFP

lution or declaration by the Security Council, which includes France among its permanent members, a French diplomatic source said, adding that talks in that direction were now underway in New York.

### Refugee boat sinks

In another development, a boat with 39 Syrian refugees aboard sank off the coast of Lebanon as it sailed illegally for Cyprus yesterday and most were rescued by the Lebanese army but a five-year-old boy drowned, security sources said. They said it appeared to be the first time in almost a year that a group of refugees had tried to get to Europe by boat from Lebanon, where Syrian refugees account for roughly a quarter of the population.

Cyprus is around 180 km from the coast of northern Lebanon. Three more of the people on the boat were in a serious condition in hospital, the sources said. The UN refugee agency UNHCR says there are close to 1 million

registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The Lebanese government puts the number at 1.5 million. As Syrian forces and their allies have retaken more territory in Syria, Lebanon's president and other politicians have called for refugees to go back to areas where fighting is over before a deal is reached to end the civil war.

Some refugees have trickled back to Syria in recent months in what the Lebanese authorities have described as voluntary returns coordinated with the Syrian government. But UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said during a visit to Beirut last month that refugees were concerned about issues including the lack of infrastructure and fear of retribution and military conscription. For larger numbers to decide to go back, he said, more confidence must be created by addressing these issues and UNHCR should have a presence in areas of return, according to a statement on UNHCR's website. — Agencies



**ABS, Yemen:** A Yemeni child suffering from malnutrition lies on a bed at a hospital in the northern district of Abs in the northwestern Hajjah province. — AFP

for 11 weeks as the United Nations struggled to bring warring parties to peace talks in Geneva. But the talks collapsed earlier this month after the northern Yemeni rebels refused to attend. Three quarters of Yemen's population-or 22 million people-are in need of humanitarian aid, including eight million who need food relief to survive, according to UN figures.

The Yemeni rial has lost 30 percent of its value over the past month, driving a sharp increase in the cost of food, almost of all of which is imported. Lowcock called for council support for immediate measures to stabilize the economy, support the exchange rate and keep all ports and main roads open. "The lifeline through which the aid operation runs now hangs by a thread," he said. The Saudi-led alliance intervened in the Yemen conflict in 2015 in a bid to bolster embattled Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, whose government is recognized by the UN, in his war against the Houthis rebels. Nearly 10,000 people have been killed in the war. — AFP

## Hezbollah financier arrested in Brazil

**SAO PAULO:** Brazilian police yesterday arrested a Lebanese citizen on suspicions of raising funds for Lebanon-based Shiite military group Hezbollah, which the United States considers a terrorist group. Assad Ahmad Barakat, 51, was arrested on Brazil's three-way border with Argentina and Paraguay close to the world-renowned Iguazu Falls, accused of carrying fake identity documents, federal police said. "Members of the Barakat Clan made purchases worth \$10 million, without declaring their value, at a casino in the Argentine city of Iguazu," Brazilian police said, "with the view to laundering the organization's money."

The money was allegedly destined for Hezbollah's coffers, but the funds and other assets were frozen by Argentine authorities, Brazilian police said. Barakat spent six years in a Paraguayan prison for tax evasion but was released in 2008, after which he moved to Brazil. In 1989 he had obtained Paraguayan nationality but was stripped of it in 2003 following his conviction. Yet in April he was issued a Paraguayan passport, according to Asuncion, which says it is investigating that case.

In 2006 Barakat was added to a US list of individuals and groups operating in the triple border area and financing Hezbollah, which has close links to Iran's regime. The US Treasury Department described Barakat as a "global terrorist," and said his network was a "major financial artery to Hezbollah." Around one million people live in three cities that converge on the triple border, an area US officials suspect of harboring dormant Islamic terror cells. — AFP

## International

# Trump turns on Supreme Court nominee's accuser Blasey Ford

## New bombshell revives debate on Trump fitness for office

WASHINGTON: The woman whose sexual assault allegation threatens to bring down Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee rejected an ultimatum Friday for testifying in the Senate after the US president turned against her, claiming her accusation could not be true. The increasingly ugly fight over the fate of Trump's bid to put conservative judge Brett Kavanaugh into the lifetime position on the Supreme Court appeared to be nearing its end game, though still with no clarity on whether the woman at the center of the row will testify.

Christine Blasey Ford, a California professor who says Kavanaugh carried out a violent sexual assault against her when he was 17 and she was 15, insists she is ready to testify under oath before the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, she rejected a Friday evening deadline imposed by the committee's Republican leader to agree to his terms for the hearing, which he said should take place next Wednesday.

If she didn't agree, committee chairman Chuck Grassley said he would go ahead and schedule a vote on confirming Kavanaugh on Monday, but without her testimony. A statement by Ford's lawyers carried by CNN asked for one more day to respond, calling the deadline "arbitrary." "Its sole purpose is to bully Dr. Ford and deprive her of the ability to make a considered decision.... Our modest request is that she be given an additional day to make her decision."

Ford has said she wants to testify Thursday at the earliest and to be able to call as a witness a man who she says was present during the assault, when they were all teenagers attending private schools near Washington. The committee's Republican leadership has turned down those demands. But late Friday, in a tweet addressing Kavanaugh directly, Grassley said he had given Ford more time to decide. "Judge Kavanaugh I just granted another extension to Dr Ford", he wrote, adding Ford should decide "so we can move on." "I want to hear her. I hope u understand", he added. "It's not my normal approach to b indecisive".

### Presidential pressure

After several days of maintaining a relatively neutral posture, Trump took off the gloves Friday to declare that Ford could not be believed. The aggressive stance reflected Trump's fear that time is running out to get his hand-picked judge confirmed—thereby tilting the Supreme Court firmly to the right for years to come—before November elections when Republicans risk losing control of Congress. "TAKE THE VOTE!" Trump tweeted, blaming "radical left wing politicians" for the controversy. Trump rejected the credibility of Ford's claim that a drunken Kavanaugh tried to pin her down and remove her clothes, muffling her cries, in the early 1980s.

According to Trump, the fact that Ford remained silent until now shows the incident probably never happened—even if this runs counter to what experts say is the typical

reaction of sexual assault victims afraid or embarrassed to report. "I have no doubt that, if the attack on Dr Ford was as bad as she says," Trump wrote, "charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities by either her or her loving parents." "Why didn't someone call the FBI 36 years ago?" The senior Democrat in the Senate, Chuck Schumer, called Trump's

### Latest bombshell to rock troubled administration

logic "a highly offensive misunderstanding of surviving trauma."

### New bombshell

Meanwhile, Donald Trump faced a new challenge to his authority Friday after US media reported that his deputy attorney general had discussed ways to force him from office on grounds of incompetence, just months into his presidency. In the latest bombshell to rock the troubled administration, The New York Times and The Washington Post reported that Rod Rosenstein in May 2017 had suggested secretly recording Trump for evidence of White House dysfunction—and using that to formally remove him from power.

Coming on the heels of an explosive book by respected White House chronicler Bob Woodward, the reports added to mounting evidence indicating that numerous people in Trump's own government have serious doubts



WASHINGTON: Activists walk through the Hart Senate Office Building to the office of Republican US Senator and Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Chuck Grassley during protests against Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh. —AFP

about his fitness for office—and have actively worked to undermine him. As the number two Justice Department official, Rosenstein oversees the probe into whether Trump's 2016 election campaign colluded with Russians in defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The Time and Post reports were both based on secret memos by a former FBI director—which some speculated may have been leaked in order to undermine Rosenstein, and in turn the Russia special prosecutor Robert Mueller. Rosenstein branded the reports "inaccurate and factually incorrect." And the Justice Department released a statement by a former senior official—who would not be identified—saying that he was "in the room" at the time and

that Rosenstein was only joking. "The statement was sarcastic and was never discussed with any intention of recording a conversation with the president," said the former official.

Trump's son Donald Trump Jr held up the reports as evidence of disloyalty among the president's entourage. "Who are we kidding at this point?" he tweeted, above a link to the Times article. "No one is shocked that these guys would do anything in their power to undermine @realdonaldtrump." Trump's Republican ally Mike Huckabee meanwhile urged Attorney General Jeff Sessions to fire Rosenstein—or for Trump to fire them both if he refuses. —Agencies

## Journalist murdered in Mexico; 9th in 2018

TUXTLA: Gunmen on Friday killed a Mexican journalist who had received threats after reporting on corruption in the southern state of Chiapas, his newspaper said, in what was at least the ninth murder of a reporter in the country this year. Mario Gomez, a reporter with El Heraldo de Chiapas, is the latest victim in a wave of violence against the press in Mexico, the second-deadliest country in the world for journalists after war-torn Syria, according to the watchdog group Reporters Without Borders.

"He had recently filed a complaint because he was receiving threats," a colleague at the paper told AFP on condition of anonymity. Gomez, 35, had also been threatened in 2016 for publishing articles on corruption by two state officials, according to the media rights group Article 19. El Heraldo said Gomez, a general news correspondent in the town of Yajalon, was leaving his house to go to work when two unidentified men arrived and "murdered him in cold blood" with a series of shots to the abdomen at point-blank range.

Gomez was taken to the hospital but died of his wounds, said the paper, where he had worked for the past eight years. "We call for an exhaustive investigation to find those responsible for this crime," his colleagues wrote in an editorial published on the newspaper's website. The state prosecutor's office said in a statement it would "follow all lines of investigation to shed light on this reprehensible crime and bring those responsible to justice."

### Dangerous place to work

Racked by violent crime linked to its powerful drug cartels, Mexico registered a record number of murders last year: 28,702. That included at least 11 murdered journalists. Asking questions about the multibillion-dollar narcotics trade, government corruption or the links between the two can be a deadly job in Mexico. Including Gomez, at least nine journalists have been murdered so far this year in the country in possible retaliation for their work. More than 100 have been murdered in Mexico since 2000. The vast majority of the cases have gone unpunished—as do more than 90 percent of violent crimes in Mexico. It was not immediately clear whether Gomez was enrolled in the Mexican government's protection program for journalists and human rights activists, launched in 2012 in a bid to stop such crimes.

The program provides bodyguards, panic buttons and other protective measures to people at risk. But it suffers from under-funding and has failed to stop several high-profile murders. It risks running out of funding in January, if the government does not bridge a budget gap. Gomez's murder "saddens and burdens us, just as we're facing the lack of resources for the government's protection program for at-risk journalists," said Balbina Flores, Mexico representative for Reporters Without Borders. "We demand a full investigation and a guarantee of security for his family." —AFP

## Britain's PM faces new resistance in Northern Ireland

DUBLIN: British Prime Minister Theresa May's renewed pledge to deliver Brexit without dividing the UK was met with contradictory ultimatums Friday from Northern Ireland's unionist and nationalist parties. May returned from a bruising EU summit in Salzburg to deliver an impassioned televised address in which she blamed Brussels for the impasse and demanded "respect" for the UK.

The embattled prime minister said EU negotiators were offering a deal that would keep the North "effectively" in the EU customs union and separate it from Britain. "It is something I will never agree to—indeed, in my judgment it is something no British prime minister would ever agree to," she said. May is in a difficult negotiating position because her slender majority in parliament relies on the support of Northern Ireland's pro-Brexit Democratic Unionist Party.

DUP leader Arlene Foster vowed on Friday to veto any deal that sets up a

regulatory trade barrier between her region and the rest of the UK. "Any new regulatory barrier would be a matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly, where the DUP would veto any attempt to undermine the economic or constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom," she said in a statement. "Our red line from day one of these negotiations has been that there can be no border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain."

But Sinn Fein—the party favoring Irish unification—said it would fight any Brexit divorce deal that does not include the "backstop" proposed by the EU. A "backstop" would ensure the boundary between the North and the Republic is free of a hard border by keeping Northern Ireland effectively in the EU. This would honor the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 that ended a period of conflict in the region by devolving power and giving legitimacy to both unionist and nationalist views. The EU proposal would keep the North separate from the rest of the UK for a transition period during which more customs mechanisms could be defined.

"There can be no withdrawal agreement without a backstop for the North,"

## Nigerians vote to elect governor of southwest state

OSOGBO, Nigeria: Voters in the southwestern Nigerian state of Osun went to the polls yesterday to elect a new governor amid growing concerns about free and fair voting, six months ahead of a presidential election. The Osun vote is seen as a litmus test for President Muhammadu Buhari's popularity as he seeks a second term in February. The 75-year-old retired general who led a military regime in the 1980s was elected in 2015.

Voting opened in most polling booths in Osun around 8.00 am with long queues of voters in Osogbo, the state capital, and other towns and villages across the state. "You can see that people are already exercising their civic responsibility," electoral official Sodipo Oladapo said in the capital. "All those on the queue will be accredited and allowed to vote until 2:00 pm when the exercise will end," he said.

According to the Independent Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC), 1.2 million voters are eligible to vote for the candidates of 48 political parties participating in yesterday's vote. Osun is part of Nigeria's southwest which includes the economic capital Lagos and

a region crucial to Buhari's re-election as he faces a formidable challenge from an array of high-profile opposition candidates. The leading candidates jostling for the Osun governor's seat include Gboyega Oyetola of Buhari's All Progressives Congress (APC) and Ademola Adeleke, nicknamed "the dancing senator" because of his penchant for dancing in public.

### 'Votes for peanuts'

Adeleke is the candidate of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). He is also an uncle of Nigerian Afropop star Davido, whose real name is David Adedeji, and from a wealthy and political family in Ede. Both were to vote in the town, some 20 kilometers from the state capital. The winner of the election will replace APC Governor Rauf Aregbesola, who is stepping down after two four-year terms, the legal maximum. Osun INEC chief Olusegun Agbaje said voting materials and personnel had been distributed to all the 30 local government areas for a "hitch-free exercise" and security provided for election officials, materials and voters was adequate.

He urged voters to come out and avoid any form of financial inducement. "The commission has done a lot to put things in place. People should be free to exercise their franchise. Any act of vote-buying will be met with the appropriate sanctions," he said, adding that offenders risked up to one year in jail.



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves after making a statement on the Brexit negotiations following a European Union summit in Salzburg. —AFP

said Sinn Fein's Brexit spokesman David Cullinane. "This is a red line issue and one that cannot be allowed to become a bargaining chip in the weeks and months ahead." May hinted in her speech that "regulatory barriers" may be introduced between Northern Ireland and the rest

of the UK if "the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly agree". But the Northern Irish Assembly at Stormont—the executive body May referred to—dissolved in January 2017 after a power sharing accord between the DUP and Sinn Fein fell apart. —AFP



OSOGBO, Nigeria: A billboard displays an image of songwriter Innocent Ujah Idibia popularly known as '2Face' - part of a campaign against politicians who allegedly offer money to youths to foment trouble during elections. —AFP

National deputy police chief Habila Joshak said some 18,500 police, plus equipment, had been deployed to prevent irregularities. "We have enough men on ground to deal with those willing to sell their votes for peanuts," he warned. Local and foreign observers are monitoring the vote and have also raised concerns about inducement.

The last gubernatorial vote in the southwestern state of Ekiti in July led to widespread concerns about vote-buying by the leading political parties. The

Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room coalition of civic groups said on Friday its monitors were already in Osun to ensure a hitch-free and credible vote. "We urge INEC to implement the laws on vote-buying," by punishing offenders, said its leader Clement Nwankwo. The Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), an election lobby body, said it had information that politicians were doing out gifts, cash and food ahead of the vote, describing the trend as "inimical to the credibility of the electoral process." —AFP



## International

# Pakistan's Khan decries 'arrogant' India for cancelling rare meeting

## India accuses Pakistan's PM of harboring an 'evil agenda'

ISLAMABAD: India's decision to cancel rare talks with Islamabad was disappointing and "arrogant", Imran Khan said yesterday, one day after New Delhi accused Pakistan's prime minister of harboring an "evil agenda". India pulled the plug on a meeting between its foreign minister and her Pakistani counterpart set for next week on the sidelines of a major UN conference, just one day after saying it would go ahead.

The foreign ministry in New Delhi blamed the about-face on recent actions that had revealed Pakistan's "evil agenda" and the "true face" of Khan, who hit back on Twitter yesterday. "Disappointed at the arrogant & negative response by India to my call for resumption of the peace dialogue," he wrote. "However, all my life I have come across small men occupying big offices who do not have the vision to see the larger picture." New Delhi said it cancelled the talks after the "latest brutal killings of our security personnel by Pakistan-based entities" and the recent release of a series of Pakistani postage stamps "glorifying a terrorist and terrorism".

India did not specify which killings it was referring to in its statement, but earlier this week, an Indian

border guard in the disputed territory of Kashmir was killed and his body mutilated. Three policemen were then found dead on Friday after being abducted in Indian-administered Kashmir. Pakistan also recently issued postage stamps of Burhan Wani, a charismatic Kashmiri militant commander killed by Indian troops in July 2016, whose death sparked a wave of violent protests in the territory. India has long accused

Pakistan of arming rebel groups in Kashmir, a Himalayan territory divided between the two countries but claimed in full by both.

### Indian border guard killed, his body mutilated

In a statement from its foreign office, Pakistan said Friday it had "nothing to do with" the deaths, accusing India of spreading "motivated and malicious propaganda". The meeting in New York between Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and Pakistan's Shah Mehmood Qureshi-on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly debate-was only confirmed on Thursday. It came after Khan wrote to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi calling for a resumption of talks between the nuclear-armed foes. High-level talks between India and Pakistan are rare. Indian media described the meeting would have been the first in nearly three years.—AFP



SRINAGAR: In this file photo, Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers parade in Srinagar. Suspected rebels abducted and killed three policemen in Indian-administered Kashmir on September 21 as tension in the disputed region mounted ahead of civic polls.—AFP

## US president holds on to 'diplomatic success' in N Korea

WASHINGTON: More than a year after President Donald Trump threatened Pyongyang with "fire and fury like the world has never seen," the US leader now boasts of his relationship with North Korean strongman Kim Jong Un. "He's calm. I'm calm," Trump said this week. The US leader has claimed a diplomatic win, citing the "tremendous progress" and "great responses" from Pyongyang since he met Kim at a summit in Singapore in June.

The historic meeting resulted in a lofty joint statement, though momentum appeared to have stalled in recent weeks, with the two sides unable to agree on how Kim would get rid of his nuclear weapons. But on Friday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped for a second summit between Trump and Kim "before too long" to press ahead with efforts to denuclearize North Korea.

"I hope the two leaders get together again to continue to make progress on this incredibly important issue for the entire world," Pompeo said. The development came after Kim this week welcomed South Korean President Moon Jae-in to Pyongyang. The North Korean leader agreed to close a missile testing site, giving new momentum to nuclear negotiations with the US, and said the North could dismantle its best-known nuclear facility at Yongbyon-provided the US takes "corresponding measures."

Experts praised the positive developments, but cautioned much remains to be done, noting the steps Kim has so far taken do not ensure North Korea will get rid of its nuclear weapons. "Trump still thinks the first (summit) was a major success," Jon Wolfsthal, director of the Nuclear Crisis Group, told AFP. "He needs a foreign policy success soon to reverse his domestic decline," the former Obama administration official added.

### Denuclearization first

Pompeo has said Washington is ready to "immediately" begin negotiating with Pyongyang, and has invited his North Korean counterpart to meet on the sidelines of next week's United Nations General Assembly in New York. But the top US diplomat has quietly ignored North Korea's demand for counter-measures, such as sanctions relief, as the US has long insisted on denuclearization before it rewards Pyongyang. "Nothing can happen in the absence of denuclearization," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said. "Denuclearization has to come first," she added. "In order to get to the denuclearization of North Korea, sanctions must be enforced. We cannot let our foot off the gas."

While Washington isn't budging on sanctions, Trump has indicated he is ready to independently offer other concessions, a move Kim may be counting on. "After a nice letter from (Kim), the president says he's willing to have a summit-though none of the problems have been fixed," Bruce Klingner, who formerly worked for the CIA and now specializes in Korean and Japanese affairs for the Heritage Foundation think tank said. "Pyongyang is trying to decouple Trump from the rest of the administration. They see him as more likely to offer concessions, as he did in Singapore, without demanding things in return-and Kim is right to think so."

The US could try to use North Korea's eagerness to meet with Trump as some sort of leverage to get concrete steps ahead of the meeting," Klingner added. Still, many experts view the prospect of new talks positively. While the announcements made by the North this week are limited, "it is the first time where we have seen this initiative where North Koreans are willing to talk to South Koreans about denuclearization," said Joseph Yun, who was the US special representative for North Korea until days before Trump accepted the Singapore summit invitation.—AFP

## China opens embassy in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO: China's most senior envoy inaugurated a new embassy in the Dominican Republic on Friday after the Caribbean country cut ties with Taiwan in a move that prompted US concern over the Asian island's dwindling number of allies. Self-ruled Taiwan, which China claims as its own, now has formal relations with only 17 countries, almost all of them small and less developed nations in Central America and the Pacific, including Belize and Nauru.

"We have witnessed a historic breakthrough," capping 20 years of growing engagement, Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi, the government's top diplomat, said in a speech televised by Chinese state media. Along with the Dominican Republic's decision in May, Panama and El Salvador have also switched recognition to Beijing in the past two years.

## Pope to honor Baltic martyrs amid abuse crisis

VILNIUS: Pope Francis kicks off a Baltic tour in Catholic Lithuania yesterday where he will honor victims of the region's Nazi and Soviet occupations as the Church reels from fresh clerical abuse scandals. The four-day trip to the northeastern edge of the European Union and NATO alliance brings him geographically close to Russia, where Vatican diplomats have been trying for years to arrange a papal visit. The pontiff will also visit mainly Protestant Latvia on Monday and secular Estonia on Tuesday as all three Baltic states mark 100 years of independence this year. But the celebrations risk being overshadowed by a fresh wave of devastating claims of sexual abuse by clergy across the globe.

### Allegations of abuse

Scandals in Australia, Europe, and North and South America have involved widespread claims of abuse - and cover-ups - by clergymen and lay members with one archbishop describing it as the church's "own 9/11". Pope Francis has called for a meeting of the heads of Catholic bishops' conferences at the Vatican next February to discuss the issue of the "protection of minors". However, the pontiff has kept a stony silence regarding claims he had ignored allega-

## Unexploded mortar shell kill eight kids

MAZAR-I-SHARIF: Eight children, including four siblings, were killed in Afghanistan when a mortar shell they were playing with exploded, relatives said yesterday, adding to the ever-growing civilian toll in the 17-year war. Another six children were wounded in the blast on Friday, including

The United States recalled its top diplomats in those countries and warned that China was offering economic incentives in a bid for domination. Tensions between the United States and countries in the region have flared over US President Donald Trump's hard line policies against immigration. US Ambassador Robin Bernstein said on Thursday, in her first public appearance back in the Dominican Republic, that she had been asked about China's role in the region while in Washington, and that she hoped countries were considering their "long-term goals".

In a statement on Thursday, the US embassy in El Salvador lamented that countries in the region were deepening ties to "unfamiliar partners" and engaging in transactions that "lack transparency". Taiwan says China offered the Dominican Republic a \$3.1 billion package of investments and loans to get them to sever ties, though China said there were no economic pre-conditions. Wang said the Dominican Republic is China's biggest trade partner in the Caribbean, setting the foundation for diplomatic ties. "The Chinese developing economy and expanding market have brought real benefits to the Dominican Republic," he said.

Wang, in a swipe at US criticism, said

tions of abuse that were reported to him. U2 frontman Bono said he could see the pain on Francis's face after a Wednesday meeting when he told the pope that "it looks to some people that the abusers are being more protected than the victims". Church authorities in Germany are expected to officially publish a study detailing decades of child sex abuse by priests as Francis winds down his trip on Tuesday. According to the study, 1,670 clergymen in Germany committed some form of sexual attack against 3,677 minors between 1946 and 2014, Spiegel Online reported earlier this month quoting leaked data.

### 'Sacrifices, freedom'

Francis will meet President Dalia Grybauskaitė in Vilnius before addressing youth and visiting a revered icon. His trip will follow in the footsteps of late Polish-born pontiff Saint John Paul II, who travelled to all three Baltic states in 1993, just two years after they broke free from the crumbling Soviet Union. The trio have since firmly anchored their sovereignty in alliances with the West by joining both NATO and the EU in 2004. While that led to solid economic growth, it also brought social inequality that triggered mass emigration to western Europe - a troubling trend for states with populations ranging from 1.3 to 2.9 million. The last century of Baltic state history was marked by the Nazi invasion - which wiped out almost all of the region's Jews - and then decades of Soviet occupation during the Cold War.

Behind the Iron Curtain, the Catholic Church played a key role in the non-vio-



SANTO DOMINGO: Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Counselor of the People's Republic of China, Wang Yi (right) and the Dominican Republic Foreign Minister Miguel Vargas Maldonado, shake hands during the inauguration ceremony of the Chinese Embassy in Santo Domingo.—AFP

that as a sovereign country, the Dominican Republic had the absolute right to decide its own foreign policy and that no other nation had the right to interfere. "The Dominican Republic establishing diplomatic relations with China does not target any third party,

and will not harm the traditional influence and legitimate rights of other countries in the region," he added. Wang will also visit Guyana and Suriname before speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York.—Reuters



VILNIUS: Pope Francis, in his papamobile, greets the crowd as he arrives for a meeting with youth near the Vilnius Cathedral Square yesterday in Lithuania.—AFP

lent anti-Soviet resistance, especially in Lithuania, the only Catholic-majority country of the three. "The Church was a fortress for all dissidents, not only Catholics. It strongly resisted Sovietisation and defended the rights of believers," historian Terese Birute Burauskaitė said. As a result, it was persecuted with both priests and bishops killed by the authorities. Vilnius estimates that more than 50,000 Lithuanians died in camps, prisons, and during deportations between 1944 and 1953. Another 20,000 partisans and supporters were killed in anti-Soviet guerilla warfare.

"I will honor all those whose past sac-

rifices have made freedom possible in the present," the pontiff said in a Thursday video message addressed to the people of the Baltic states. Francis will visit a museum in the former KGB building in Vilnius where regime opponents were tortured and killed. He will also honor Holocaust victims at the ghetto memorial in Vilnius, known as the "Jerusalem of the North" for its vibrant Jewish community prior to WWII. Around 200,000 Lithuanian Jews died at the hands of the Nazis and local collaborators under the 1941-44 German occupation. Today there are only around 3,000 Jews left in the country of 2.9 million people.—AFP

a security checkpoint, Faryab police spokesman Abdul Karim Yoresh said. "On Friday afternoon the children were passing the area when the mine hit them," Yoresh said.

Children are often killed or maimed by explosive devices left over from decades of conflict, carelessly discarded or deliberately planted. Civilians, including children, have borne the brunt of the conflict which began with the US-led invasion in 2001 that toppled the Taliban regime. UN figures show 3,179 children were killed or wounded in 2017, accounting for almost one-third of the total civilian casualties for the year. Improvised explosive devices, such as remotely detonated or pressure-plate bombs, killed or wounded 545 of them. Unexploded ordnance claimed the lives of 142 children and wounded 376 in the same period.—AFP

two who had lost limbs and were in a critical condition in a hospital in the northwestern province of Faryab. All the children were aged between five and 12. "They found an unexploded mortar shell and brought it near our house," Shukurullah, an uncle of four of the children killed said. "They didn't know what it was and were trying to open it when it suddenly exploded."

Mohammad Alam, who was a cousin of four of the children, said he heard a "big explosion". "I rushed to the site and saw the kids covered in blood," Alam told AFP from the hospital. "They had found an unexploded shell and were playing with it when it went off." Officials were quick to blame the explosion on the Taliban, which last week captured Koh-e-Sayad village where the children lived. The militants had planted a mine near

## Analysis

Kuwait Times  
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
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E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.netOrdering opioids  
online? Carrier may  
also deliver cuffs

He looked like a regular mail carrier, dropping off an unremarkable package at an upscale New York City apartment tower, but neither the man nor the package were quite what they seemed. The mail carrier was really a federal agent, conducting a so-called controlled delivery, a tactic the US government employs to help stem the flow of heroin, prescription painkillers and other opioids fueling the nation's epidemic of fatal overdoses.

Drug-filled packages with misleading labels have become a common sight at John F Kennedy International Airport's (JFK) sprawling mail-sorting hangars, a frontline in the battle against opioids. Many of the parcels originate in China, having been ordered on the web's darker corners. "Nobody anticipated the explosion we were going to face," said Christopher Lau, who oversees the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations office (HSI) at the airport.

Fatal opioid overdoses jumped to a record high of nearly 50,000 last year, more than double the 2013 toll, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Customs agents with X-ray machines and sniffer dogs detect and seize what they can. But to track, arrest and prosecute suspected dealers, the New York HSI office organizes several controlled deliveries each month, taking the packages out to see who claims them.

For this delivery, a Reuters reporter was allowed to ride along and watch the agents in action. The package had arrived on a Friday in August, mailed from Shanghai and filled with 250 gm of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 100 times stronger than morphine that can kill with a 2-mg dose. It was enough to cut into hundreds of thousands of bootleg painkiller pills, which could sell for \$10 each or more. It is also often added to heroin, contributing to a rise of overdoses by unsuspecting users.

The package was an ideal candidate for a controlled delivery, Lau said. It was addressed to someone called Randy, but there was no record of anyone with that name living at the designated address. And there had been a pattern of earlier packages delivered to the building from China, often addressed to non-existent apartments or apparently fictional residents.

Before the delivery, agents replaced the fentanyl powder with coffee grounds. More than a dozen federal agents set up surveillance around the building, snacking in unmarked cars or pretending to read a newspaper on a nearby bench, all dressed in blue jeans and sports jerseys. They watched the building's glass-fronted lobby, waiting to see who claimed the package.

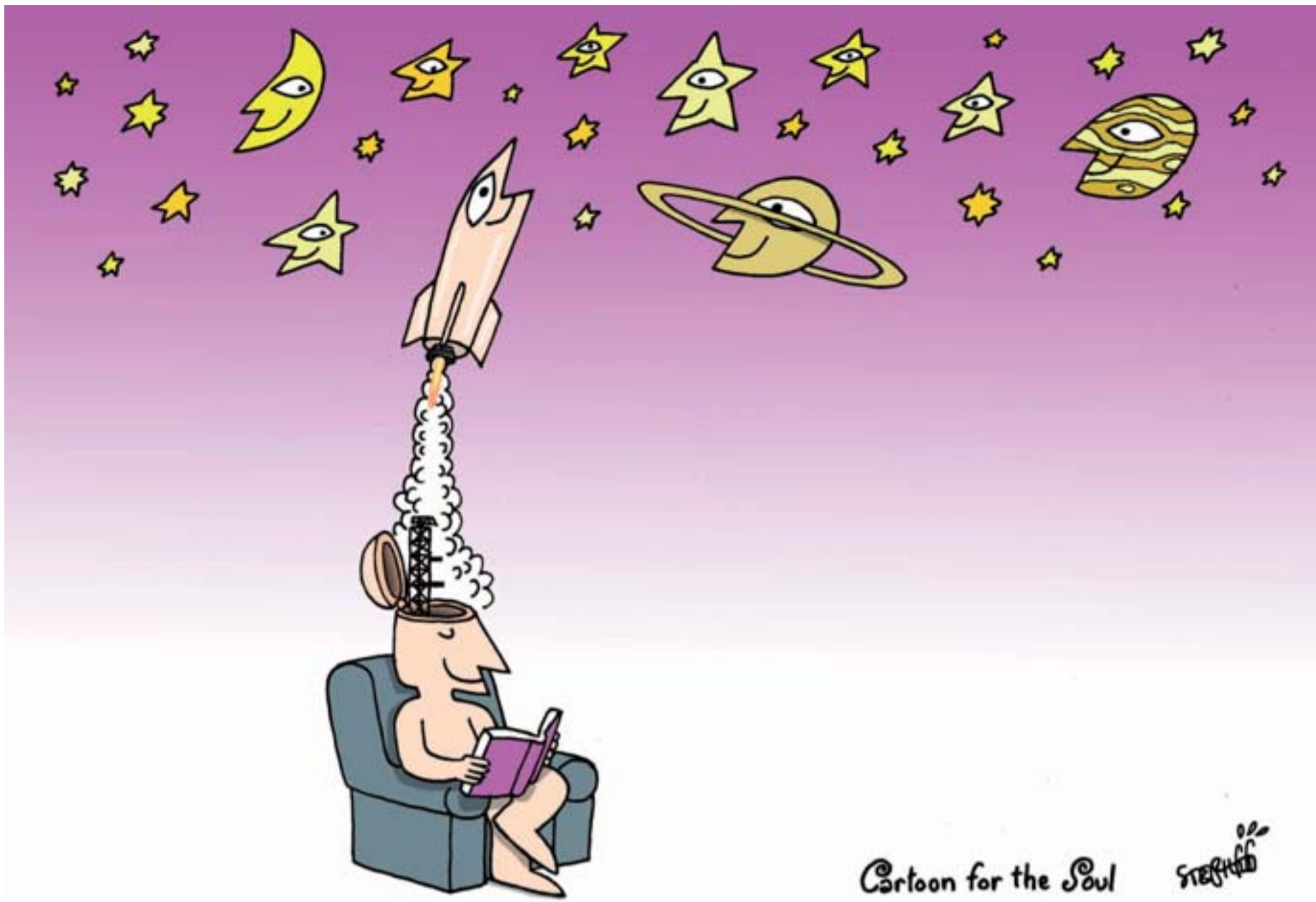
## Online shopping

The volume of drugs coming through the mail has grown in step with legitimate online shopping, customs agents say, as Americans have taken to ordering drugs from overseas via the dark web. Agents suspect that was how the package for "Randy" came to arrive at JFK. It is illegal to import prescription medicines and controlled substances from outside the United States. Chinese laboratories have become the main source of fentanyl in the United States, most of it sent through the mail, the US Department of Justice says.

In 2016, customs agents caught nine packages at JFK containing fentanyl, according to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). So far this year, they have seized more than 200, in part because of expanded screening and better training, said Anthony Bucci, a CBP spokesman. Outside the New York apartment building, two eventless hours passed before a man emerged carrying a plastic bag. An agent discreetly tailed him. A false alarm.

Then the voice of Walter Rivera, an HSI special agent, came over the radio with a new urgency: "You see the guy who came out with a backpack right here? Gray shirt and ponytail?" Agents had hidden a GPS tracking device in the package. The man with a ponytail fiddled on his phone and then got into a lively cab. "If the GPS goes down the block, that's him," Rivera radioed. Lau watched the GPS move and bellowed, "It's him!" —Reuters

The agents tore off in their cars, sirens wailing. The confused cab driver soon pulled over by a busy sidewalk, and agents handcuffed his passenger, taking back the package. He turned out to be the building's concierge, who had taken the package with him at the end of his shift. He quickly confessed that his name was not Randy. Although agents were able to make an arrest in this case, more than a million international packages arrive each day in the country, and authorities can only screen a fraction of them. No one knows how many packages of drugs slip through the net. —Reuters



## WASHINGTON WATCH

## A must read history of failed peacemaking

By Dr James J Zogby

Seth Anziska's "Preventing Palestine: A Political History From Camp David to Oslo" is a deeply insightful and profoundly disturbing book that traces the tortuous path of Middle East peace-making during the past four decades. It was quite painful to read. Having been a close observer and sometimes participant in many of the developments that have unfolded since the end of the 1973 War, Anziska opened old wounds while shedding new light on the painful events and acts of betrayal that have shaped recent Palestinian history.

Through all of the twists and turns of this period, the brutal wars and the diplomatic initiatives, the one constant that emerges is the Israeli determined refusal to recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood and the self-serving acquiescence to their intransigence by successive American administrations and key Arab leaders.

The culprits are many. In Anziska's telling of this history, we can find fault with most of the parties to the conflict - all of the US Administrations that were involved during this period: Israeli prime ministers, whether from Labor or Likud; Egyptian Presidents Sadat and Mubarak; Lebanon's Phalange Party; and, in the end, even the PLO's Yasser Arafat.

Digging deep into the official records of the Israelis, Egyptians, Americans, Palestinians, and others who participated in the region's wars and various diplomatic endeavors, Anziska mines government and research center archives unearthing revealing contemporaneous accounts, minutes of meetings, and official communiqués - providing the story behind the story of events as they unfolded.

Especially fascinating were: The internal debates that took place in Israeli cabinet meetings and how, at times, they would don a diplomatic mask of accommodation, while clinging to their firm refusal to surrender sovereignty of Palestinian lands or recognize the existence of a Palestinian nation; the discussions that occurred between President Carter and his aides; the frustrations expressed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's various foreign ministers over his betrayal of the Palestinian cause; the way Israel's Ariel Sharon rudely manhandled US emissaries and their cowering in the face of his beligerence; the way Israel's Menachem Begin initially sought to pose as the savior of the Christians of Lebanon only to "turn on a dime" after they refused to sign a peace agreement on Israel's terms; the insidious plotting of a Phalange leader with the Israelis to end the

Palestinian presence in Lebanon; and the short-lived, but still worth noting, instances of frustration of US Presidents Carter and Reagan and Secretaries of State George Schultz and James Baker with the Israelis.

What emerges as key to the denial of Palestinian rights is the self-imposed paralysis of American decision-makers in the face of Israeli intransigence - resulting from successive administrations' fears of the domestic political fallout that might follow any pressure the US might apply on Israel. Time and again, US principals grew impatient with Israeli ploys and their headline refusal to recognize and grant national rights to Palestinian, only to back down after advisers cautioned them of the political consequences that might result. There were no American "profiles in courage" emerging from Anziska's book.

Carter, for example, began his term with a pledge to realize a "homeland" for the Palestinians. In line with his Administration's commitment to human rights, Carter was moved to end their suffering in exile and under occupation. The vehicle he envisioned to initiate the path toward this goal was an international all-party conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Carter's efforts were ultimately upended by a combination of: Israel's refusal to participate in any forum that would question their claim of sovereignty over the Palestinian territories; Sadat's resolve to achieve a separate Israeli-Egyptian peace without the Palestinians, despite his public pronouncements to the contrary; and the pressure from the American Jewish community, which caused sufficient enough discomfort within the White House to cause Carter to back away from pressing Israel to cede land or political rights to the Palestinians.

In the end, Carter acceded to the pressure and shepherded the Camp David peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. The agreement, shaped by largely by the Israelis, promised only future discussions on a vaguely worded plan for Palestinian "autonomy" - which in the Israeli lexicon meant that the Palestinians could realize control of their persons, but not control over land. The result, as Anziska notes was that at Camp David Sadat got the Sinai and Begin got the West Bank. And with Israel's southern border secured, Begin was free to attempt to "wipe out" the PLO in Lebanon.

Throughout the next four decades the region witnessed the horrific Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon (together with the aerial bombardments that devastated Beirut and the massacres in the Palestinian refugee camps), two Palestinian uprisings, and repeated failed American efforts at peacemaking. During this time, the US dithered, professing to want to solve the conflict,

but refusing to apply the pressure needed to make it happen.

## Dithering

As Anziska observes, throughout this entire period, the Israelis, while agreeing to negotiate, insisted on their exclusive sovereignty over the occupied territories and their "God given right" to settle in them. These were not topics they would discuss. In communiqués, they repeatedly chided their American interlocutors rejecting the designation "occupied territories" and insisting on the terms "Judea and Samaria". They also rejected the term "Palestinian people", referring to them, instead, as "Arab inhabitants".

As a result of this Israeli intransigence and the weak-kneed American response, the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands only deepened. In 1977 there were about Israeli 5,000-8,000 settlers in the West Bank, by 1992 there were 100,000 settlers, and today the number exceeds 600,000. Despite the euphoria that accompanied the Sept 1993 signing of the Oslo Accords, Anziska demonstrates the similarities between what Oslo provided for the Palestinians and the autonomy proposal offered by Menachem Begin at Camp David 15 years earlier. The supposed self-rule won by the Palestinians at Oslo was circumscribed by Israel's insistence that it retain control over land, resources, security, and borders. Like Begin's proposal at Camp David, there would be no Palestinian sovereignty and no truly independent state. Anziska cites many prominent Palestinians who called Arafat to task for his rush to sign what they termed a "flawed agreement".

Menachem Begin, while adamantly rejecting a Palestinian state, at times, spoke magnanimously of extending rights to the "Arab inhabitants in Judea and Samaria" - whom he saw as a "minority" living in Eretz Israel. Anziska quotes Begin saying, "What's wrong with a Jewish majority living together with an Arab minority in peace, in human dignity, in equality of rights?"

Well, here we are in 2018, 40 years after Camp David. The Palestinian dream of an independent state is not only unrealized but is most likely unrealizable. With many Palestinians now favoring a one state solution, they may throw Begin's words back at him and say, "There's nothing wrong with that!" The problem for the Israelis, of course, is that the once "Arab minority" is now a majority and Israelis have only themselves to thank for digging this hole. By "Preventing Palestine", they have given birth a new reality.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

Back to the wall, Cruz  
decries O'Rourke as  
out-of-touch leftist

Ted Cruz is in the political fight of his life - and he knows it. The conservative US senator from Texas is being outpaced and overshadowed by his progressive challenger, Beto O'Rourke, who is pushing to be the first Democrat in Texas to be elected to the Senate in 30 years. Cruz and O'Rourke faced off in their first debate ahead of Nov 6's congressional elections at Southern Methodist University in Dallas on Friday, and Cruz's strategy swiftly became clear: Paint O'Rourke as too radical for this traditionally Republican state.

O'Rourke, a charismatic congressman from El Paso, has benefited from an avalanche of media attention and a gusher of small donations, raising millions of dollars more than Cruz. Cruz remains favored, but only slightly. Most polls indicate the election is now too close to confidently predict. The race has massive implications for the battle for the US Senate. Democrats need two more seats to gain control and upend President Donald Trump's agenda. Cruz's seat was supposed to be safe, but he conceded at Friday's debate that he's in a battle.

## Defining a party

Cruz's strategy in the debate highlighted how O'Rourke's star-making candidacy can be a double-edged sword for Democrats. With his support of universal health care, his openness to abolishing the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, and his willingness to consider impeaching Trump, O'Rourke may define the party going forward in a way that could be incongruent with more moderate Democrats who must defend their Senate seats in states that Trump won in 2016.

At the same time, his campaign has kept the spotlight and money away from other races that are critical to Democrats' hopes of taking the Senate in states such as Nevada and Tennessee. Ultimately, even if O'Rourke pulls off what might be considered a political miracle in Texas, it might not matter for Democrats unless they can hold on to Senate seats in places such as Florida, Missouri, and Montana as well.

As for Cruz, his campaign continues to worry about competing with O'Rourke financially and whether Republican voters will turn out in numbers to ensure his victory. He is turning to the White House for help. Trump is expected to appear at a rally in Texas with Cruz next month. The two candidates will face off twice more in debates before Election Day.

## Contentious debate

In the debate, the two candidates clashed over issues such as immigration, gun rights, trade, and protests of the National Anthem, with O'Rourke frequently complaining

that Cruz was misrepresenting his positions. At one point he accused Cruz of "slander". Cruz drew O'Rourke's ire when he suggested that O'Rourke, in supporting protests of police brutality by National Football League players, favored burning the American flag. O'Rourke said Cruz was trying "to mislead" the public. "No one here, including myself, has suggested anyone should be doing that," he said.

He also pushed back at Cruz's suggestion that he supports doing away with the Second Amendment to the US Constitution, which safeguards gun rights. "That's not true," O'Rourke said. After the debate, O'Rourke said Cruz "has a tendency to mischaracterize a position". "If we are talking about NFL players who are kneeling during the National Anthem at a football game to call attention to injustice in this country, he'll talk about flag-burning," O'Rourke said. Cruz's camp responded by arguing that O'Rourke's positions were finally being publicized. "It's the first time he is being directly confronted with his policies," said campaign spokeswoman Emily Miller.

In his closing statement at the debate, Cruz lumped O'Rourke in with New York congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, an avowed socialist, and argued that he was to the left of progressive US senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. After the debate, O'Rourke was asked whether Texas is "really ready for a vision that sounds socialist". "I don't buy into the labels," he replied. Even if O'Rourke doesn't, Cruz showed on Friday that he certainly does. —Reuters

## Business

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LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (left) leaves after making a statement on the Brexit negotiations, from no 10 Downing Street, central London on Friday. British Prime Minister Theresa May said Friday the European Union's abrupt dismissal of her Brexit plan was not acceptable, as she conceded talks were "at an impasse". — AFP

# British PM slams EU over Brexit plan

## May blames Brussels for impasse weeks ahead of a deadline

LONDON: Prime Minister Theresa May hit back Friday at the European Union after it roundly rejected her Brexit plan, saying its refusal to compromise was "not acceptable" and warning she was still prepared to walk away from the talks. In a defiant statement from Downing Street, May blamed Brussels for the "impasse" just weeks ahead of a deadline to seal a deal—and six months before Britain leaves the EU in March.

"Throughout this process, I have treated the EU with nothing but respect. The UK expects the same," the prime minister said. May was speaking after returning from an EU summit in Salzburg Thursday, where her fellow leaders lined up to condemn her proposals for post-Brexit trading ties and the Irish border.

It was a setback characterized by the British media as a "humiliation", just days before a meeting of May's Conservative party, where eurosceptics are ramping up the pressure on their leader to be tough.

Standing at a podium with two British flags behind her, May said: "At this late stage in the negotiations, it is not acceptable to simply reject the other side's proposals without a detailed explanation and counter proposals."

"So we now need to hear from the EU what the real issues are and what their alternative is so that we can discuss them.

Until we do, we cannot make progress." She said she wanted an agreement, but "I have always said no deal is better than a bad deal". The pound slipped against the euro after she spoke, reflecting fears that Britain could crash out of the EU with no agreement.

### Tough talk

EU Council President Donald Tusk hit back late Friday at May's criticism of the EU's negotiating position: "The results of our analysis have been known to the British side in every detail for many weeks." "The UK stance presented just before and during the Salzburg meeting was surprisingly tough and in fact uncompromising," he said in a statement.

Tusk added he remains "convinced that a compromise, good for all, is still possible" in Brexit negotiations and that he is "a close friend of the UK and a true admirer of PM May". EU leaders had previously criticized May's proposal for a free trade area in goods after Brexit, but the tough tone at the Salzburg summit surprised many commentators, with some describing it as an "ambush". Tusk and French President Emmanuel Macron said it would fragment the bloc's single market and "not work", and demanded she come back with an alternative by an EU summit in mid-October. The bloc also

raised the stakes by putting on ice a special summit planned for November to seal a deal, saying it would only happen if there is progress next month.

On Friday, May said the EU's plan for Britain to stay in the European Economic Area, effectively the single market without any say in the rules, would "make a mockery" of the 2016 vote for Brexit. Meanwhile the alternative offer of a free trade agreement was contingent on a "backstop" keeping British-ruled Northern Ireland aligned with EU rules, which she warned risked the integrity of the UK.

This was "something no British prime minister would ever agree to" she said, adding: "If the EU believe I will, they are making a fundamental mistake."

She repeated that she would bring forward alternative proposals to the backstop, which would come into effect until a new trade deal is struck.

### 'Rocky patch'

Reports suggested a tetchy meeting between May and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on the sidelines of the summit in Salzburg had helped harden views.

Varadkar said Friday the two sides were "entering into a rocky patch" but said he was determined to secure a deal. EU

Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said the two sides were "moving closer" but were like "hedgehogs who love each other".

"When two hedgehogs embrace, they have to watch out that they don't get scratched," he told the Austrian daily Die Presse. Simon Usherwood, politics professor at the University of Surrey, said the EU's previous strategy of giving May some breathing room at summits had "collapsed".

Salzburg was "about irritation and bad tempers that the UK really hasn't got the measure of this properly", Usherwood added. But he noted that May was "super-constrained by the party. She can't really be seen to be making concessions".

The House of Commons must approve any Brexit deal, and May's small majority would be undermined if her hardline Brexiters lawmakers go through with a threat to oppose it.

Eurosceptic Tories welcomed May's tough tone on Friday but reiterated their own opposition to her trade plan, which they think will undermine Britain's independence.

Opposition Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn said the prime minister's negotiating strategy had been a "disaster". "The political games from both the EU and our government need to end because no deal is not an option," he said. — AFP

## WTO eyes China bid to slap stiff trade sanctions on US

GENEVA: A World Trade Organization arbitrator is reviewing a Chinese request to impose more than \$7 billion (nearly 6 billion euros) in annual sanctions on the United States over anti-dumping practices, a Geneva trade official said.

The decision to appoint an arbitrator was reached during a special meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body convened to discuss developments in a five-year-old trade dispute between the world's top two economies. Beijing had already warned earlier this month that it planned to ask the global trade body during the meeting for permission to impose \$7.04 billion in annual trade sanctions on Washington in the case.

China's representative told Friday's meeting that measures taken by Washington had "seriously infringed China's legitimate economic and trade interests."

A source close to the WTO meanwhile said that the arbitration "was automatically triggered after the United States informed the WTO that it objected to the level of retaliation proposed by China."

WTO arbitration can often be a drawn-out process, and the results are not expected to be known for months. China initially filed its dispute against the United States back in December 2013, taking issue with the way Washington assesses whether exports have been "dumped" at unfairly low prices onto the US market.

The use of anti-dumping duties are permitted under international trade rules as long as they adhere to strict conditions, and disputes over their use are often brought before the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body. In this specific case, China alleged that the United States, in violation of WTO rules, was continuing a practice known as "zeroing", which calculates the price of imports compared to the normal value in the United States to determine predatory pricing.

In October 2016, a panel of WTO experts found largely in China's favor in the case, including on the issue of "zeroing". The United States, which has repeatedly lost cases before the WTO over its calculation method, said in June last year that it would implement

the panel's recommendations within a "reasonable" time frame.

This past January, the DSB set an August 22 deadline for Washington to bring its practices in line with the 2016 ruling. According to WTO rules, the plaintiff in such cases can request permission to impose sanctions if the parties have not reached agreement on a satisfactory compensation within 20 days of the WTO deadline.

### US optimistic

The United States is optimistic about finding a way forward in its trade dispute with China, but it does not have a date scheduled for further talks as it assesses Beijing's response to the latest round of tariffs, a senior White House official said on Friday.

The official said despite its protestations, China was well aware of US demands it halt what Washington considers unfair trade practices. US President Donald Trump has made clear his resolve on the issue, the official said, and the two sides remain in touch.

"We have been very clear in all of these meetings about what is ... required," the official said. "I am still optimistic that there is a positive way forward, and the president wants us to continue to engage to try to achieve a positive way forward." — Agencies

## US very close to Mexico-only NAFTA deal, Canada unmoved

WASHINGTON: The United States is getting "very, very close" to having to move forward on its trade deal with Mexico without Canada, White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett said on Friday.

There is just over a week to go before a US-imposed Oct 1 deadline to publish the text of a deal to update the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the United States and Canada have still not agreed on terms, Hassett told Fox News Channel.

"We're still talking to Canada, and we're getting very, very close to the deadline where we're going to have to move ahead with Mexico all by themselves," said Hassett, who chairs the White House Council of Economic

Advisers. Washington reached a bilateral trade deal with Mexico in late August and is threatening to exclude Canada if need be. Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland left Washington on Thursday after two days of inconclusive talks with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. Asked for a reaction to Hassett's comments, a Freeland spokesman pointed to her repeated comments that Canada "will not be driven by a deadline but by reaching a good deal". Investor concerns over the future of the 1994 pact, which underscores \$1.2 trillion in annual trade, have regularly hurt stock markets in all three countries, whose economies are highly integrated.

A senior White House official on Friday said he hoped Canada would agree to join the US-Mexico trade deal by the end of the month, adding he thought US lawmakers would support a bilateral deal with Mexico if that did not happen.

But Canada says it does not believe US President Trump has the power to unilaterally turn NAFTA into a two-nation agreement. US business groups and some senior Democrats say NAFTA must be preserved as a trilateral grouping. — Agencies

Business

Bayan Weekly Market Report

# Boursa Kuwait equities mixed, market cap gains marginally

## Key indices fluctuate amid selling pressures

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait ended last week with mixed performance. The Premier Market Index closed at 5,362.75 points, up 0.26 percent, the Main Market Index decreased by 0.05 percent after closing at 4,756.68 points, and the All-Share Index closed at 5,147.66 points up by 0.16 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 196.38 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching around KD 51.19 million, whereas trading volume average was about 160.68 million shares, recording an increase of 85.58 percent.

The market capitalization of the Boursa recorded a weekly increase equivalent to KD 41.16 million, as it reached by the end of the week around KD 28.80 billion, up by 0.14 percent of its level in the previous week, where it was KD 28.76 billion. The Boursa gains reached since the launch of the new market segmentation to around KD 945.42 million or 3.40 percent. (Note: The market capitalization for the listed companies in the Market is calculated based on the weighted average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial statements).

The performance of the three indices fluctuated by the end of last week, whereas the Premiere and All-Share indices succeeded in recording increases supported by the continued purchasing powers on the leading and heavy stocks, especially the stocks nominated to be within FTSE Russell Index, while the Main Market Index could not succeed in recording gains, and ended the week's trading in the red zone affected by the continued selling and liquidating operations executed on some small-cap stocks.

Moreover, and despite the fluctuation of the market indices during the last week, the trading volumes and values witnessed a noticeable increase supported mainly by the last trading session of the week, where it witnessed historical trading and noticeable increase in the trading activity, which caused the total trading value to grow on the weekly level by 270.47 percent, while the total traded number of stocks increased by 131.97 percent.

Last week witnessed trading over 154 stock out of 175 listed stock in the Market, where prices of 55 stock increased against prices of 83 stock decreased, and prices of 37 stock remained at no change.

### Sectors' indices

Six of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other six recorded increases. Last week's highest loser was the Consumer Goods sector, as its index declined by 4.03 percent to end the week's activity at 848.30 points, The Real Estate sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.52 percent, closing at 892.64 points, followed by the Basic Materials sector, which index declined by 1.18 percent, closing at 1,148.93 points.

On the other hand, Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 6.67 percent growth rate as its index closed at 931.20 points. The Oil & Gas sector came in the second place, as its index closed at 1,099.90 points recording 3.28 percent increase, followed by Health Care sector, achieving 1.29 percent growth rate as its index closed at 995.60 points.

### Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 286.08 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 35.61 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 27.60 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 221.76 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 150.77 million or 58.91 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Industrial sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 37.62 million representing 14.70 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Change (%)
Volume	803,384,364	346,329,127	131.97%
Value (K.D)	255,942,020	69,084,927	270.47%
Deals	30,370	18,080	67.98%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %
	28,802,739,821	28,761,583,901	0.14%
			Mkt Seg. to Date %
			3.40%

STOCKS ACTIVITY				
	Total Listed Stocks	Traded Stocks	Up	Down
	175	154	55	83
				No Change
				37

TOP GAINERS				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (Fis)	Ch. %
MADAR	131.00	110.00	21.0	19.09%
ALMAL	20.70	17.70	3.0	16.95%
TAAMEER	32.00	27.70	4.3	15.52%
HAYATCOMM	77.00	69.00	8.0	11.59%
WINS	85.00	77.00	8.0	10.39%

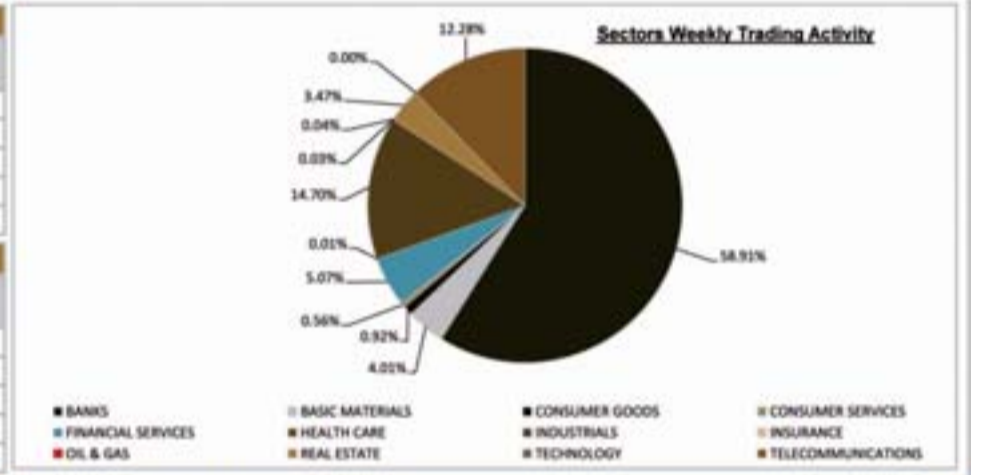
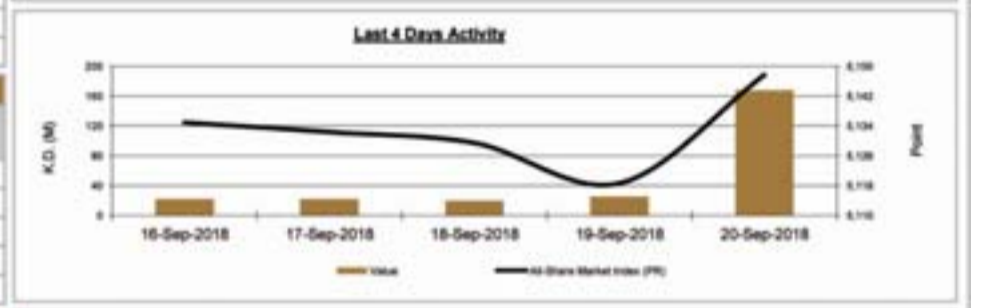
TOP LOSERS				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (Fis)	Ch. %
GFC	60.00	248.00	-188.0	-75.81%
EFFECT	16.00	20.00	-4.0	-20.00%
CABLETV	10.00	12.10	-2.1	-17.36%
TAHSSILAT	18.50	22.00	-3.5	-15.91%
TJARA	50.50	56.90	-6.4	-11.25%

MOVERS BY VOLUME				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Total Volume (Stock)	To Market (%)
TAAMEER	32.00	27.70	130,881,660	16.29%
KFH	607.00	595.00	85,349,498	10.62%
NBK	830.00	830.00	81,871,560	10.19%
ZAIN	482.00	477.00	64,958,999	8.09%
NIND	160.00	165.00	35,017,221	4.36%

MOVERS BY VALUE				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Total Value (K.D)	To Market (%)
NBK	830.00	830.00	68,122,956	26.62%
KFH	607.00	595.00	51,474,225	20.11%
ZAIN	482.00	477.00	31,250,781	12.21%
AGLTY	853.00	864.00	22,057,966	8.62%
BOUBYAN	557.00	558.00	10,958,279	4.28%

SECTORS TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
BANKS	286,077,867	35.61%	150,774,255	58.91%
BASIC MATERIALS	10,290,824	1.28%	10,250,910	4.01%
CONSUMER GOODS	4,097,934	0.51%	2,355,480	0.92%
CONSUMER SERVICES	12,870,290	1.60%	1,445,566	0.56%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	148,577,399	18.49%	12,980,369	5.07%
HEALTH CARE	28,141	0.00%	33,361	0.01%
INDUSTRIALS	48,722,133	6.06%	37,618,961	14.70%
INSURANCE	662,120	0.08%	64,643	0.03%
OIL & GAS	3,980,732	0.50%	106,677	0.04%
REAL ESTATE	221,758,437	27.60%	8,886,034	3.47%
TECHNOLOGY	9,590	0.00%	1,150	0.00%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	66,308,897	8.25%	31,424,613	12.28%

INDICES PERFORMANCE					
	Last week	Previous week	Change (Point)	Change (%)	
Weekly	Premier Market Index	5,362.75	4,756.68	606.07	12.85%
	Main Market Index (PR)	4,759.29	4,759.29	0.00	0.00%
Mkt Seg. to Date	All-Share Market Index (PR)	5,147.66	5,139.56	8.10	0.16%
	Close	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
	Change (Point)	362.75	-243.32	606.07	24.93%
	Change (%)	7.26%	-4.87%	2.95%	3.98%



SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Mkt Seg. to Date Change (%)
BANKS	1,087.66	1,079.97	0.71%	8.77%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,148.93	1,162.66	-1.18%	14.89%
CONSUMER GOODS	848.30	883.96	-4.03%	-15.17%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,010.46	1,022.35	-1.16%	1.05%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	979.51	986.48	-0.71%	-2.05%
HEALTH CARE	995.60	982.95	1.29%	-0.44%
INDUSTRIALS	991.45	1,000.40	-0.89%	-0.85%
INSURANCE	968.07	959.04	0.94%	-3.19%
OIL & GAS	1,099.90	1,064.93	3.28%	9.95%
REAL ESTATE	892.64	906.39	-1.32%	-10.74%
TECHNOLOGY	931.20	873.00	6.67%	-6.88%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	931.38	924.49	0.75%	-6.86%

## Nigeria oil unions threaten strike over Chevron dispute

**ABUJA:** Nigeria's two main oil unions have prepared their members for possible nationwide industrial action over a staffing dispute with Chevron, they said yesterday.

Nigeria, an OPEC member, is Africa's largest oil producer and crude sales make up around two-thirds of government revenues in West Africa's largest economy. The dilapidated state of its refineries means the country imports most of its refined fuel. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PEN-GASSAN) and Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) accused US oil major Chevron of attempting to sack thousands of Nigerian workers in violation of their contracts. —Reuters

## No-deal Brexit to have limited impact on German labor market

**BERLIN:** Chancellor Angela Merkel's government expects the impact of a no-deal Brexit on the labour market in Europe's biggest economy would be "relatively small", the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel said yesterday.

Around 41,000 British people were employed in Germany in December 2017 and that number is insignificant for the labor market overall, the magazine cited a government response to a request for

information from the far-left Linke party as saying.

There were around 44.8 million people employed in Germany in total in the second quarter of 2018, according to data from the Federal Statistics Office.

The German government has repeatedly stressed that Britain cannot cherry-pick the elements of the European Union that it wants while rejecting principles like free movement during negotiations on its looming departure from the bloc. Der Spiegel cited a government response to the opposition Greens as reaffirming that Berlin rejects British Prime Minister Theresa May's idea of maintaining free movement of goods between the EU and Britain after Brexit while ending the free movement of people.

At a summit in Austria on Thursday, EU leaders rejected May's "Chequers" plan, saying she needed to give ground on trade and customs arrangements for the UK border with Ireland. —Reuters

## Wells Fargo to cut up to 26,500 jobs within 3 years

**NEW YORK:** Wells Fargo announced plans to cut five to 10 percent of its workforce, a move that would affect up to 26,500 jobs based on current headcount.

The bank, which has struggled to regain its footing following a series of scandals, said the job cuts and attrition would make the company more efficient at a time when more customers are banking on digital platforms. "We are continuing to transform Wells Fargo to deliver what customers want" which includes "evolving our business model to meet those needs in a more streamlined and efficient manner," Sloan said.

He said the bank will support laid off workers including pointing them towards other posts within Wells Fargo. Large banks have been closing branches amid the increasing shift to online banking. In July, Wells Fargo, which is a major player in mortgages in the US where most of its business is based, said it planned to close 300 offices in 2018, in addition to divestitures of 52 branches in four Midwestern states.

In the second quarter, the bank experienced a five percent drop in teller and ATM transactions, while digi-



WASHINGTON, DC: In this file photo, a woman walks past a Wells Fargo bank in Washington, DC. —AFP

tal sessions increased 17 percent from the year-ago period, executives said in July.

Wells Fargo also has been stymied by a series of scandals, especially revelations in 2016 that the company opened millions of phony deposit accounts and lines of credit without clients' knowledge as part of high-pressure retail sales tactics.

Since that scandal, the bank has replaced its chief executive, revamped its payment incentive system and added staff to oversee governance. —AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.390471	0.404371
Czech Koruna	0.006008	0.015308
Danish Krone	0.043923	0.048923
Euro	0.349698	0.363398
Georgian Lari	0.134578	0.134578
Hungarian 0.001144	0.001334	
Norwegian Krone	0.033300	0.038500
Romanian Leu	0.064988	0.081838
Russian ruble	0.004571	0.004571
Slovakia	0.009058	0.019058
Swedish Krona	0.030595	0.035595
Swiss Franc	0.310571	0.321571

Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264
Jordanian Dinar	0.423765	0.432765
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022409	0.046409
Omani Riyal	0.781994	0.787674
Qatar Riyal	0.079074	0.084014
Saudi Riyal	0.079847	0.081147
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.105511	0.113511
Turkish Lira	0.042396	0.053896
UAE Dirhams	0.081207	0.082907
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.140
Canadian Dollar	235.270
Sterling Pound	400.110
Euro	355.570
Swiss Frank	295.905
Bahrain Dinar	806.160
UAE Dirhams	82.935
Qatari Riyals	84.170
Saudi Riyals	81.735
Jordanian Dinar	428.845
Egyptian Pound	16.952
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.811
Indian Rupees	4.206
Pakistani Rupees	2.439
Bangladesh Taka	3.626
Philippines Peso	5.620
Cyprus pound	18.035
Japanese Yen	3.700
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.623
Malaysian Ringgit	74.130
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.700
Thai Bhat	10.350
Turkish Lira	48.865
Singapore dollars	220.978

<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.213498	0.225498
New Zealand Dollar	0.197179	0.206679
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.229911	0.238911
US Dollars	0.299400	0.304700
US Dollars Mint	0.299900	0.304700
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002966	0.003767
Chinese Yuan	0.042801	0.046301
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036920	0.039670
Indian Rupee	0.003647	0.004419
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002614	0.002794
Korean Won	0.000262	0.000277
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070216	0.076216
Nepalese Rupee	0.002624	0.002964
Pakistan Rupee	0.001879	0.002649
Philippine Peso	0.005508	0.005808
Singapore Dollar	0.217533	0.227533
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001519	0.002099
Taiwan	0.010414	0.010594
Thai Bhat	0.009017	0.009567
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.790364	0.806864
Egyptian Pound	0.014329	0.020047

Business

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

# Gulf countries avoid emerging market turmoil, currencies firm

## Kuwait's non-oil sector growth forecasts revised down marginally

**KUWAIT:** August was a tough month for many emerging markets, with sharp falls in both currency and equity markets triggered by the escalating US-China trade war and concerns over tightening global liquidity. Kuwait - along with most other Gulf countries - was largely spared the sell-off, with equities only fractionally lower and currency markets stable. Although we have revised down our forecasts for Kuwaiti non-oil growth recently, this largely reflects weaker output GDP data for last year rather than a change in view, and overall growth has been revised up on recent oil market strength. Indeed, the rise in oil prices has improved the fiscal outlook and it looks possible that the budget could be close to balance this year.

**Revised 2017 GDP data**

Revised GDP data show that economic growth was weaker than previously thought last year, at -3.5 percent versus the initial estimate of -2.9 percent. The fall in oil sector production of 7.2 percent - driven by OPEC policy-led cuts in oil output - was actually milder than the previous estimate of an 8.0 percent decline. But this was more than offset by the non-oil sector, where growth was revised down to 2.2 percent from 3.3 percent before. Non-oil growth in 2017 was weighed down by weakness in the construction sector where output dropped 12 percent y/y, perhaps related to softness in the real estate market. But there were strong performances by the hospitality (11 percent), transport (5 percent) and telecoms (5 percent) sectors.

More recent data for IQ18 show non-oil growth at 3.1 percent y/y, stronger than at the end of last year. And in general, we continue to believe that the economic backdrop is gradually improving, given the continued recovery in government spending after earlier cuts, stronger regional growth and especially the upward revision to our oil price forecast (see below). However, we have recalibrated our growth forecast with the new, softer data for 2017 and now expect non-oil growth of 2.8 percent this year and 3.0 percent next versus 3.5 percent before. Incorporating upgrades to our oil sector growth (see below), total GDP is now forecast at 2.6 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively, in 2018 and 2019.

**Oil prices and production**

Crude oil prices rallied in the second half of August, with Kuwait Export Crude ending the month up 3 percent at \$75/bbl and in early September hitting a new four-year high of just below \$76. Although there was concern over the impact of US-China trade tariffs and emerging market

currency crises, the outlook for oil demand remains reasonably solid. Meanwhile, however, there were reports that Iranian oil exports had dropped by an unexpectedly large 0.6 million b/d following the restart of US sanctions, implying the need for higher output from other OPEC members to help balance the market. Prices have averaged \$69/bbl so far this year, up around one-third from the average for 2017, and based upon this strength and the continued risk of supply disruptions, we have revised up our forecasts for KEC to \$69 and \$67/bbl this year and next (\$72 and \$70 for Brent), from \$61 and \$56 before.

Helped by stronger prices, we have also upgraded our oil production forecasts for Kuwait. According to OPEC figures, Kuwait's crude output rose from 2.71 million b/d in June to 2.79 million b/d in July, and as one of the few OPEC countries with any meaningful spare capacity, could increase further in coming months to help the group meet its aggregate policy goal of lifting output by up to 1 million b/d from pre-summer levels. We expect Kuwait's production to reach 2.85 million b/d by end-year and remain there through 2019. This translates into an increase in oil sector GDP of around 2.5 percent this year and 3.0 percent next.

**Real estate sales**

Real estate sales in July were the highest in 4 years, at nearly KD 500 million, over double the value from the previous month and triple the value from 1 year ago. The record sales were driven by a rise in activity in all three real estate sectors combined, but most notably the investment sector, which saw a sharp rise in building sales and transactions during the period, followed by the residential sector which also posted strong gains with more than double the sales of June. Prices on the other hand continued on a negative trend, easing further in July, with the exception of the apartment sector index, which has risen moderately (3.8 percent m/m), a sign of improvement in a sector which has been burdened by oversupply and softer demand over the past 2 years. The July surge in sales and activity was likely helped by lower prices, and a possible correction after 3 consecutive months of declines during Ramadan and the early summer months.

**Consumer spending growth**

Growth in NBK's consumer spending index slowed to 3.5 percent y/y in August from 6.5 percent in July, affected by travel and holidays. The index dropped 2.5 percent on the month, coinciding with Hajj (Islamic pilgrimage) and a 10-day Eid holiday. According to the Directorate General

of Civil Aviation, the number of passengers that traveled during Eid-Al-Adha is expected to have reached 542,000, up 52 percent on the same period last year. Year-to-date, the NBK PCE index is down 3.5 percent, though is expected to pick-up upon the end of the summer season and the start of the academic year.

**NBK consumer spending index**

Consumer spending is projected to continue growing through 2018, albeit at a softer pace than originally expected. A steady expansion in both Kuwaiti and expat employment (better than earlier expectations) should support the spending climate, with further help from low inflation and higher public spending.

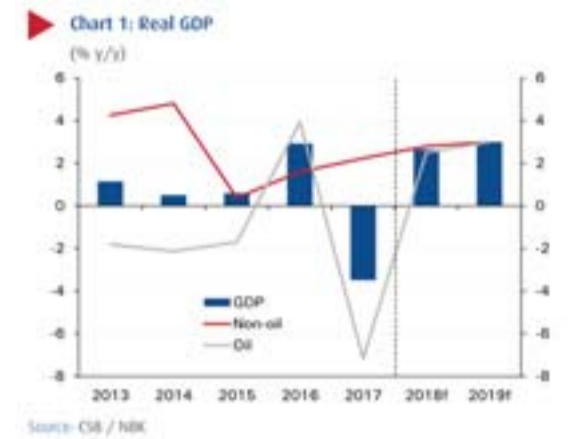
**Inflation rises**

Headline inflation rose to 0.8 percent in July from 0.5 percent in June on the back of higher food prices. Food prices rose 0.8 percent m/m in July and to 1.2 percent y/y from 0.1 percent y/y in June. With food accounting for 17 percent of the CPI basket, July's price rise contributed more than two-thirds of the increase in inflation overall. The pickup in food inflation appears to be stemming from fish and seafood prices, which rose 5.5 percent m/m and 7.8 percent y/y. Meanwhile, deflation in housing services (mostly rents) - which has been the main factor behind low inflation in 2018 - was steady in July at -0.9 percent y/y.

Excluding food and housing, inflation rose to 1.9 percent from 1.7 percent in June. We expect inflation to trend flat-to-higher for the remainder of the year as the pace of decline in rents eases in tandem with some recent improvement in the investment real estate market. Food prices are also showing a modest uptrend. Our forecast is now for inflation to average 0.8 percent in 2018 overall, rising to 2 percent next year.

**Credit growth picks**

Although still running at modest levels, credit growth increased for a second consecutive month in July, increasing by 2.5 percent y/y (1.7 percent in June). The improvement was due to solid borrowing by both businesses and households, with the former supported by a recent pickup in project financing. Household borrowing, however, was unusually supported by borrowing through credit cards, which offset a decline - the first since 2012 - in installment loans, which are used for home financing and typically the main driver of household debt. The overall



pick-up in credit growth should accelerate towards the end of the year as some large one-off corporate repayments that reduced credit levels in 4Q17 fall out of the annual comparison. Deposit growth meanwhile eased to 3.9 percent y/y from 4.6 percent in June due to draw-downs in both private and government deposits. Despite rising oil prices, growth in government deposits, saw its seventh consecutive monthly decline, now at -5.0 percent y/y. Government deposits account for 15.7 percent of all deposits from over 17 percent a year ago.

**Stock market**

Kuwait's All-Share equity index fell 0.6 percent in August, but this was better than the 2.2 percent decline in the MSCI GCC index. Regional stocks in August were affected by both a global sell-off and trade war concerns, which more than offset the positive impact of rising oil prices. Year-to-date (end of August), the Kuwaiti market was up 6.4 percent.

August's trading volume, at KD20 million, was high relative to early in the year and last year, although down from the KD 27 million recorded in July. Strong activity is on the back of positive expectations related to the imminent inclusion of the first tranche of Kuwaiti stocks in the FTSE Emerging Market index due on September 24. The market did suffer its first net outflow of foreign institutional investment this year, likely related to the global sell-off, but net foreign purchases so far this year remain high at above KD100 million. Market capitalization stood at close to KD 29 billion.

### After economy program, investor concern turns to Turkey's banks

**ISTANBUL:** Investors had hoped Turkey would announce a sweeping plan to help its banks when Finance Minister Berat Albayrak rolled out a new economic program this week. What they got fell far short of that. Albayrak announced sharply lower growth forecasts for this year and next and promised \$12 billion in new savings and revenue for 2019, but failed to mollify investors who wanted to see Ankara move quickly to stem worries about the banking sector. Turkey's lira has fallen some 40 percent so far this year, hit by concerns about President

Tayyip Erdogan's control over monetary policy and a rift with the United States. The sell-off has stoked inflation, which is expected to top 20 percent this year, and raised the prospect of a banking crisis. For years Turkish companies, particularly construction firms, have gorged themselves on cheap euro and dollar loans. But the lira crisis has driven up the cost of servicing that debt, meaning lenders face a wave of defaults. "It's quite clear that there will be defaults and there will be a need for restructuring in the corporate sector," said Per Hammarlund, chief emerging market strategist at SEB. "The medium-term economic program would have been a perfect opportunity to present a more actionable, clearer program for how they intend to deal with potential problem loans." Turkey has a large and sophisticated banking sector that is dominated by a mix of listed lenders - including Isbank, Garanti and Akbank - and state-owned banks such as Ziraat and Halkbank. Garanti is a unit of Spain's BBVA which,

along with Italy's UniCredit, France's BNP Paribas, Dutch bank ING and Britain's HSBC, are the foreign banks most exposed to Turkey. That exposure is significant. JPMorgan estimates that the private sector has around \$146 billion in external debt maturing in the year to July 2019. In August Moody's downgraded its ratings on 20 financial institutions, saying Turkey's operating environment had deteriorated beyond previous expectations. Erdogan, a self-described "enemy of interest rates", wants to keep borrowing costs low and credit flowing to companies, particularly construction firms. His comments about monetary policy have undermined the central bank's credibility and caused much of the sell-off. The central bank last week hiked interest rates by a greater-than-expected 6.25 percent points, although the lira remains under pressure. **'Underwhelming'** In a decade and a half in power, Erdogan has transformed Turkey, building roads, hospitals, high speed trains and high rise apart-

ments. But economists say the boom years focused more on consumption rather than productivity - that Turkey built shopping malls when it should have been investing more in factories and its education. Albayrak, President Erdogan's son-in-law, failed to signal an unambiguous break from the emphasis on credit-fueled growth, saying a main goal was to establish 5 percent annual growth from 2021 onwards. Markets had speculated that he would announce a "bad bank" vehicle to take over souring debt. But the economic plan made no mention of such a move and the head of the banking watchdog said there would be no transfer of problem loans. "Albayrak failed to provide a convincing case that there has been a broad shift back to orthodox policymaking," Jason Tuvey of Capital Economics said in a note to clients. "Hopes that the government would announce the creation of a 'bad bank' to absorb souring loans were also disappointed. Overall then, a bit underwhelming." Given their

reliance on external funding, Turkish banks are exposed to refinancing risk. Ratings agency Fitch has that some \$102 billion of loans are maturing in the next 12 months, and that the refinancing requirement is probably around \$55 billion. The government has said it does not expect problems in the banking sector and Albayrak on Thursday dismissed concerns about refinancing risks. Investors are less certain. Istanbul's index of bank stocks is down 40 percent this year. As of July, some 37 percent of Turkish banks' loans - \$144.20 billion - were denominated in foreign currency, according to data from the BDDK regulator, with 15 percent of those short term. Non-performing loans (NPLs) account for just 3.05 percent of all debt, according to BDDK data. But investors are wary. "Two important issues for the banking system are liquidity - how much foreign financing they can get to roll over maturing external debt - and second, how will the NPL ratios develop," said Inan Demir, an emerging markets strategist at Nomura. — Reuters

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## Business

# Turkish Airlines reaches highest monthly load factor in August

## Passenger growth trend continues in Aug with LF reaching 85.6%

**KUWAIT:** Turkish Airlines, which recently announced the results of passenger and cargo traffic in August, achieved the highest monthly load factor (LF) in its history with 85.6 percent. On top of the strong base effect of August 2017, growth in the number of passengers, revenue per kilometer and load factor, is an important indicator of the continued growing interest in Turkey and Turkish Airlines.

### According to August 2018 traffic results;

- The passenger growth trend continued in August, thus total number of passengers carried went up by 2.4 percent reaching 7.6 million passengers, and Load Factor went up to percent 86.

- In August 2018, Total Load Factor improved by 1.3 points, with a minimal increase of 0.5 percent in capacity (Available Seat Kilometer), while international Load Factor increased by 1.1 points to 85.3 percent, domestic Load Factor increased by 2.4 points to 87.6 percent.

- Excluding international-to-international transfer passengers (transit passengers), number of international passengers went up by 3.4 percent.

- In August, cargo/mail volume continued the double digit growth trend and increased by 21 percent, compared to the same period of 2017. Main contribu-

tors to the growth in cargo/mail volume, are N. America with 32 percent increase, Europe with 24 percent increase, Far East with 22 percent increase and Middle East with 18 percent increase.

- In August, Africa, Far East, Domestic Lines and N. America showed load factor growth of 3.1 points, 2.3 points, 2.2 points and 2.1 points, respectively.

### According to the January-August 2018 traffic results;

- During January-August, increase in demand and total number of passengers was 12 percent and 13 percent, respectively, over the same period of last year. Total number of passengers reached to 51 million.

- During January-August, total Load Factor improved by 3.4 points up to 82 percent. While international Load Factor increased by approximately 4 points exceeding 81 percent, domestic Load Factor went up by 2 points exceeding 85 percent, thus recording the highest load factor in Turkish Airlines history for the period of January-August.

- Excluding international-to-international transfer passengers (transit passengers), number of international passengers went up significantly by 16 percent.

- Cargo/mail carried during the seven months increased by 26 percent and reached 898 thousand tons.



## AUB organizes training program on Islamic banking

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank recently organized an integrated training program to raise awareness of Islamic banking for a number of its employees from various departments in cooperation with the European Academy for Islamic Finance and Economics. The program, which was conducted over three days, addressed the topics of Islamic Banking and its sharia-compliance, Risk Management of Islamic Banking Financing in addition to practical applications of sharia standards.

This training program comes as part of AUB's comprehensive training plan aimed at supporting its human resources through the continuous development of the skills and knowledge of the staff, working on increasing their expertise and providing them with a distinguished professional culture that helps them in keeping pace with the steady development of the Islamic banking industry.

Commenting on the training program, Naqeeb Amin, General Manager - Human Resources at Ahli United Bank, said: "AUB has a distinguished working environment, and does not spare any effort to provide the latest programs for the development of its employees. This



is reflected positively on increasing their productivity, improving their performance and assisting them in their career development. Raising the level of efficiency of the Bank's staff by increasing their experience, whether through training courses or practical application, will eventually be reflected on raising the level of customer

service, as they are the main objective in the Bank's activities and its various operations."

Amin added: "The training program was met with great interest from the staff, who praised the rich content of the training program which covered a lot of important information in the field of Islamic banking."

## NBK announces winners of Al-Jawhara weekly draw

**KUWAIT:** In its weekly, monthly and quarterly draws, the National Bank of Kuwait held the weekly draw of Al-Jawhara account for the month of September, announcing Amal Saleh Mohamed, Abdullah Hussain Al-Shaikh and Qumria Hussain Shashtari as the winners of the KD 5,000 prize each.

Automatically entering customers into the draws, Al-Jawhara account gives customers a chance to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a KD 250,000 grand prize quarterly for every KD 50 deposited into their account. If no withdrawal or transfers occur on the account during the required period, customers will receive an additional chance to enter the draw for every KD 50 held in the account, doubling their chance to win.

Since 2012, the National Bank of Kuwait has rewarded loyal customers with a total worth of prizes up to KD 2,200,000.

Customers can open an Al-Jawhara account by simply visiting any NBK branch. Also, NBK customers can conveniently open an Al-Jawhara account through the NBK Online and Mobile Banking services.

Focused on sustaining its relationship with customers, NBK commits to offer diversified and innovative products and solutions, in addition to valuable rewards to customers.

## 'Social business cities' could ease urban growing pains: Yunis

**HONG KONG:** Cities around the world should tap ethical entrepreneurs to help ease their growing pains, ranging from homelessness to unemployment, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus said. The founder of the microcredit movement said "social business cities", which have sprung up from Germany to Japan, could help to solve social issues in a rapidly urbanising world.

"(We can) activate the creativity of individuals and corporates together to solve the problems of cities," Yunus told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on the sidelines of the Philanthropy for Better Cities Forum in Hong Kong.

About 55 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas today, according to the United Nations. It is projected to jump to 68 percent - with another 2.5 billion people - by 2050.

Cities are under pressure to bring their infrastructure up to speed, while also tackling a host of challenges, from preventing disasters to providing clean water and energy. Yunus said inviting social businesses - which aim to solve social problems while turning a profit - to invest in areas like health and housing could free up money for cash-strapped cities to spend on development.

"If you can convert some of these (welfare) programs into social business, then the money comes back to you, it becomes very powerful," the Bangladeshi economist said.

Yunus revolutionized finance for the poorest when he started providing tiny loans to Bangladeshi villagers at market interest rates without requiring collateral.

Since winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 jointly with Grameen Bank, the microcredit organisation he founded, he has committed his portion of the \$1 million prize money to developing social businesses. —Reuters

## Global equities gain; weak pound lifts British stocks

**NEW YORK:** Global stock markets mostly rose Friday, with London's equity market benefiting from a weaker pound, as optimism on the US economic outlook outweighed lingering trade war worries.

European equities were all solidly higher at the close. US stocks were mixed, with the Dow rising to a second straight record and the Nasdaq retreating. Earlier, Asian equity markets had risen.

"Investors continue to brush off the ongoing trade dispute between the US and China," said Craig Erlam, an analyst at Oanda. A "lack of escalation" in trade spats combined with optimism on the American economy turned out to be a winning combination, added analysts at the Charles Schwab brokerage. "Trade concerns remain contained, while the domestic economic front continues to paint a solid picture," they said.

An unsuccessful Brexit summit in Salzburg, ending in "humiliation" for the British prime minister according to some, weighed on the pound from the start of business but that in turn helped London's

benchmark FTSE 100 index to post a whopping 1.7 percent gain at the finish.

The British currency then weakened further after Prime Minister Theresa May said Brexit talks were "at an impasse" and that the European Union's response to British plans was "not acceptable."

### 'Brave' to buy pound

It was a "brave" investor who dared to buy sterling after May's comments, tweeted Viraj Patel, global macro strategist at ING. "But (the) long game is one of greater upside than downside if a deal is ultimately reached," he said.

Oanda's Erlam, also in a tweet, said that May had said nothing beyond trying to "prove" she's playing hardball with the EU. Nothing, as ever, has changed".

But David Madden, a market analyst with CMC Markets UK, saw more substance in May's performance, saying she "made it clear she is literally willing to walk away from (negotiations) if the EU's offer doesn't measure up."

Asian equities enjoyed another day of strong buying to finish the week with a flourish.

Shanghai surged 2.5 percent after the Chinese government unveiled a stimulus package aimed at lifting domestic consumption.



**NEW YORK:** The closing numbers are displayed after the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange on Friday. —AFP

### EU currencies bounce

The upbeat mood on trading floors was being felt across the board, with embattled emerging market currencies seeing a recovery. Those currencies-beaten down in recent weeks by fears of contagion from crises in Turkey, South Africa and Argentina-were also basking in the optimism as traders sought out higher-risk

assets. Earlier, currencies in South Korea, Indonesia and India had all gained. South Africa's rand and the Turkish lira jumped more than one percent.

China's yuan was helped by remarks from Premier Li Keqiang, who said this week Beijing would not devalue the unit to offset the impact of Donald Trump's trade duties. —AFP

## Mastercard signs with League of Legends

**KUWAIT:** Mastercard yesterday announced a multi-year partnership with Riot Games to become the first global sponsor for League of Legends esports, the largest esports in the world. This first-of-its-kind global agreement signifies Mastercard's support of the esports community and further diversifies the technology company's world-class sports and entertainment portfolio.

"Esports is a phenomenon that continues to grow in popularity, with fans that can rival those at any major sporting event in their enthusiasm and energy," said Raja Rajamannar, chief marketing and communications officer, Mastercard. "Our Priceless platform is built around connecting with people through their passions. We are excited about the experiences and benefits we can bring to the world's largest esports - both in-game

and to the millions of League of Legends fans that watch and attend the tournaments each year."

"We're thrilled to team up with Mastercard on this groundbreaking partnership that will provide meaningful and long-term value to our fans," said Naz Aletaha, head of esports partnerships at Riot Games. "Mastercard is among the first of world-class brands to take such a big step into esports at the global level, and we're proud to have them support League of Legends esports events alongside their other premier sports and entertainment sponsorships."

As the exclusive global payment services partner for League of Legends global esports events, Mastercard will focus on three annual global tournaments - the Mid-Season Invitational, the All-Star Event, and the pinnacle of all esports events, the World Championship. Mastercard will curate unforgettable Priceless experiences and offers across onsite event activations, priceless.com and through other various promotions to bring fans closer to their passion and everything they love about League of Legends events.

The first live-event activation will take place at the League of Legends World Championship this fall in South Korea, and the first experiences available on Priceless.com will include:

- Opening ceremony rehearsal viewing and a behind the scenes tour
- Opportunity to watch a game with a League of Legends pro player from VIP seats
- Test the gaming PCs the pros will compete on during the World Championship final

"We've long been impressed with Mastercard and their fan-focused approach to partnerships," said Jarred Kennedy, co-head of esports at Riot Games. "Our community has made League of Legends the biggest sport in the world, and we're excited to work with Mastercard to bring them new and innovative experiences for years to come."

### Priceless Promotions

Mastercard will work with its banking partners to offer unique League of Legends co-branded products in select markets, starting in 2019.

For more than two decades, Mastercard has been a sponsor of sports and entertainment. League of Legends is the latest sport to join Mastercard's impressive roster of premier partners, including Major League Baseball, the PGA TOUR, The Open, The Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Rugby World Cup and UEFA Champions League, among others.

## Technology

# High-tech Tokyo Game Show: Old skool ones remains the best

## Manufacturers wheeled out revamped versions of their old games consoles

**MAKUHARI:** At the Tokyo Game Show, the world's top firms compete to show off their very latest in high-tech gaming gadgetry: from head-spinning virtual reality to cutting-edge multiplayer eSports. But crowds were flocking not only to the latest smartphone shoot-em-up, but classic games from the 1980s like Donkey Kong and Mario Brothers, as manufacturers wheeled out revamped versions of their old games consoles to capture a new market.

Alongside the top-of-the-range latest models such as the PS4, Japanese electronics giant Sony caught everyone off guard by announcing the release of a miniature console — designed like the original PlayStation — with 20 vintage games. Nostalgic fans and curious new gamers will find PlayStation classics such as the 1997 role-playing game Final Fantasy VII and 1998-1999 racing game Ridge Racer Type 4.

"Twenty-five years after we launched the first PlayStation in Japan, we are offering this version not only for fans from back in the day but also for those who never knew this console," said Shu Takura, spokesman for Sony Interactive Entertainment. Sony's move to roll back the years comes two years after bitter rivals Nintendo launched the NES, a palm-sized version of its eighties era games console, tapping into nostalgia for titles from the early era of home video games.

### 'Old memories'

The console — which retails for around \$60 — comes with 30 games including Nintendo's famed Super Mario and Donkey Kong characters. "These old games are not beautiful but we used to play them with school friends in the arcades and playing them makes you automatically think of this friendship and old memories come flooding back," said Soichiro Morizumi, a gamer and game developer himself. "Modern games may be beautiful but they do not fire the same emotions," Morizumi told AFP.

Other firms at the show are also jumping on the nostalgia bandwagon including Hamster, which has acquired licences to offer classics like Donkey Kong and Mario Brothers on the latest consoles like Nintendo's Switch, Microsoft's Xbox or Sony's PS4. "Games from the 1980s have become extremely popular in recent times and I think the market is exploding," said Satoshi Hamada, chief executive of Hamster.

"Gamers from that era are over 40 now. They still want to play but today's games are too complicated for them. They want the same simplicity they had before, because they have grown old," he added. "As you can see from our stand, it is men in their 40s and 50s that are playing these games." The Tokyo Game Show is Asia's largest, with 250,000 visitors expected until Sunday in the suburbs of the Japanese capital. Some 668 firms from 41 countries are set to showcase their latest cutting-edge wares. — AFP



TOKYO: Visitors play at old video games at the Tokyo Game Show on September 21, 2018. — AFP

## Alcohol responsible for one in 20 deaths worldwide: WHO

**GENEVA:** Alcohol kills three million people worldwide each year — more than AIDS, violence and road accidents combined, the World Health Organization said Friday, adding that men are particularly at risk. The UN health agency's latest report on alcohol and health pointed out that alcohol causes more than one in 20 deaths globally each year, including drink driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse and a multitude of diseases and disorders.

Men account for more than three quarters of alcohol-related deaths, the nearly 500-page report found. "Far too many people, their families and communities suffer the consequences of the harmful use of alcohol through violence, injuries, mental health problems and diseases like cancer and stroke," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. Drinking is linked to more than 200 health conditions, including liver cirrhosis and some cancers.

Alcohol abuse also makes people more susceptible to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and pneumonia, the report found. The some three million alcohol-related deaths registered globally in 2016 — the latest available statistics — account for 5.3 percent of all deaths that year. For young people,

the numbers are even more alarming, with a full 13.5 percent of all deaths among 20-29-year-olds considered to be alcohol-related, the study found.

### 'Unacceptably high'

In comparison, HIV/AIDS was responsible for 1.8 percent of global deaths in 2016, road injuries accounted for 2.5 percent and violence for 0.8 percent, it said. The latest numbers are lower than those in WHO's last report on global alcohol consumption, published in 2014. There are "some positive global trends", the agency said, noting shrinking prevalence of heavy episodic drinking and alcohol-related deaths since 2010.

But it warned that "the overall burden of disease and injuries caused by the harmful use of alcohol is unacceptably high," especially in Europe and the Americas. Globally, an estimated 237 million men and 46 million women suffer from alcohol use disorders, WHO said. Alcohol abuse affects nearly 15 percent of men and 3.5 percent of women in Europe, and 11.5 percent of men and 5.1 percent of women in the Americas, it pointed out. Alcohol consumption overall is unevenly distributed around the globe, with well over half of the world's population over the age of 15 abstaining completely. On average, the 2.3 billion people currently considered drinkers — meaning they have drunk alcohol at least once in the past year — consume 33 grammes of pure alcohol per day.

That is roughly equivalent to two glasses of wine, a large bottle of beer or two shots of spirits. Europe clearly has the highest per capita consumption, which despite a more than 10-percent drop since 2010 still regis-

tered a per capita consumption of 10 liters of pure alcohol or more per year. Alcohol consumption has dropped in three-quarters of European countries, with the biggest declines seen in Russia, Moldova and Belarus.

In Russia, average annual alcohol consumption plunged from 18.7 liters of pure alcohol per person over 15 in 2005 to 11.7 liters in 2016, the report said. This "dramatic decrease" is linked to a range of "positive policies" introduced by Moscow, Vladimir Poznyak, who coordinates WHO's substance abuse unit, told reporters. He pointed to the introduction of a minimum price for vodka and an alcohol advertising ban.

WHO however warned that outside of Europe, alcohol consumption has continued to rise, especially in Asia, with China and India registering significant hikes. It urged countries to do more to counter harmful drinking and to reach a goal of cutting global consumption by 10 percent between 2010 and 2025. "Based on all trends and predictions, we can expect an increase in overall alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm in the next 10 years," Poznyak warned, stressing that "this will definitely result in increased number of deaths and suffering around the world."

WHO is urging countries to tax alcohol and ban advertising of such beverages to reduce consumption. Poznyak said blocking alcohol companies from sponsoring big sporting events could make a big difference. "These events are being watched by millions and sometimes billions of young people, and it's impossible to prevent exposure to this kind of advertising to those who are under the legal age," he said. — AFP

## First to Mars will become Martians: Canada astronaut

**OTTAWA:** Astronauts traveling through space on the long trip to Mars will not have the usual backup from mission control on Earth and will need to think of themselves as Martians to survive, Canada's most famous spaceman half-jokingly said Friday. Current predictions are that humans will reach Mars — up to 400 million kilometers (250 million miles) from Earth — in the coming decades.

But the vast distance means communications with mission control would be delayed by up to 22 minutes. As a result, astronauts would need to be self-reliant on the voyage, which clocks in at 2.5 years round trip in travel time alone. "If I were commander of that crew as soon as the Earth started fading in the rearview mirror, I would get the crew together and say: 'We are no longer Earthlings, we are now Martians. That's who we are. We need to redefine our relationship with the planet that birthed us,'" former

astronaut Chris Hadfield said.

"It's going to be very difficult not having Mother Earth next to you and it's going to be really important for that crew to define who they are as the most distant explorers in human history," he said. Hadfield, whose 2013 rendition of David Bowie's "Space Oddity" aboard the International Space Station was watched by millions, was taking part with fellow astronauts in a fireside chat with students at the University of Ottawa.

Robert Thirsk — who holds the Canadian record for the most time spent in space — said new Canadian Space Agency recruits Joshua Kutryk and Jenni Sidey-Gibbons "are going to go to deep space, returning to the moon, to an asteroid... and then 20 years from now we're going to be on the surface of Mars exploring." In the short term, "the idea of living on the moon... is becoming very, very real," said Kutryk. — AFP

## Facebook dating service rolling out in Colombia

**BOGOTA:** Facebook said Friday a dating service it teased early this year is being rolled out in Colombia. The social media giant chose the Latin American country as its test lab because Colombians are particularly avid fans of using social networks and websites to find partners. The new feature, rolled out in Colombia this week, allows users to create a separate "dating" profile not visible to their network of friends, with potential matches recommended based on preferences and common interests.

The service is programmed not to link up people who are already connected as family or friends, and users of Facebook Dating will also be able to block people if they wish. A basic chat service will be available, and the site will bar strangers from sending photos, videos or links.

Some 21 million people log in to Facebook every day in Colombia, a country of 50 million people, according to the company. "We view this as an incredible opportunity to continue helping people build relationships in meaningful ways on Facebook," said Facebook Dating product manager Nathan Sharp. Facebook's chief Mark Zuckerberg in May announced plans for the new dating feature at the world's leading online social network-while vowing to make privacy protection its top priority in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Zuckerberg was emphatic that the focus would be on helping people find partners, not flings. "This is going to be for building real, long-term relationships, not just hookups," Zuckerberg said in presenting the new feature. He said the dating offer was built with privacy and safety in mind. Facebook faced intense global scrutiny over the mass harvesting of personal data by Cambridge Analytica, a British political consultancy that worked for Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign. The company has admitted up to 87 million users may have had their data hijacked in the scandal. — AFP

## NASA telescope discovers two new planets five months after launch

**ORLANDO:** A planet-hunting orbital telescope designed to detect worlds beyond our solar system discovered two distant planets this week five months after its launch from Cape Canaveral, Florida, officials said on Thursday. NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, better known as TESS, made an early discovery of "super-Earth" and "hot Earth" planets in solar systems at least 49 light-years away, marking the satellite's first discovery since its April launch. TESS is on a two-year, \$337 million mission to expand astronomers' known catalog of so-called exoplanets, worlds circling distant stars.

While the two planets are too hot to support life, TESS Deputy Science Director Sara Seager expects many more such discoveries. "We will have to wait and see what else TESS discovers," Seager told Reuters. "We do know that planets are out there, littering the night sky, just waiting to be found." TESS is designed to build on the work of its predecessor, the Kepler space telescope, which discovered the bulk of some 3,700 exoplanets docu-

mented during the past 20 years and is running out of fuel. NASA expects to pinpoint thousands more previously unknown worlds, perhaps hundreds of them Earth-sized or "super-Earth" sized — no larger than twice as big as our home planet.

Those are believed the most likely to feature rocky surfaces or oceans and are thus considered the best candidates for life to evolve. Scientists have said they hope TESS will ultimately help catalog at least 100 more rocky exoplanets for further study in what has become one of astronomy's newest fields of exploration.

MIT researchers on Wednesday announced the discovery of Pi Mensae c, a "super-earth" planet 60 light-years away orbiting its sun every 6.3 days. The discovery of LHS 3844 b, a "hot-earth" planet 49 light-years away that orbits its sun every 11 hours, was announced on Thursday. Pi Mensae c could have a solid surface or be a waterworld as the composition of such planets is a mixed bag, Martin Spill, NASA's program scientist for TESS, said in a phone interview. — Reuters

## 'Fat' traces confirm weird fossils were earliest animals

**WASHINGTON:** A strange fossil that looks a bit like a giant leaf, or a fingerprint the size of a coffee table, has intrigued scientists for decades. Thousands of the fossils have been found over the past seven decades, revealing that it lived at the bottom of the ocean, without a mouth, intestines or anus, half a billion years ago. Was it a mossy plant? A giant single-celled amoeba? A failed experiment of evolution? Or the earliest animal on Earth?

After digging one of these fossils off a cliff in Russia and analyzing its contents, researchers discovered molecules of cholesterol, a type of fat. This confirms that the creature, known as Dickinsonia, is the Earth's earliest known animal, said the report Thursday in the journal Science. "Scientists have been fighting for more than 75 years" over the nature of these "bizarre fossils," said associate professor Jochen Brocks from the Australian National University Research School of Earth Sciences. "The fossil fat now confirms Dickinsonia as the oldest known animal fossil, solving a decades-old mystery that has been the Holy Grail of paleontology."

### Edge of cliff

Dickinsonia contained rib-like segments the length of its oval-shaped body, which came in a variety of sizes and could grow as large as 4.6 feet. The

analysis showed the animals were abundant 558 million years ago, millions of years earlier than previously thought, according to Brocks. The creature was part of the Ediacara Biota that lived on Earth during a time when bacteria reigned, 542-635 million years ago.

The Ediacarian Period was about 20 million years prior to emergence of modern animal life — a period known as the Cambrian explosion. "The question has been, is that real? Is that an event that happened in Earth history? Or have we just not found the older fossils?" David Gold, geobiologist and assistant professor at the University of California, told AFP. "This paper is another really good line of evidence to support the idea that it is in fact an animal, and that animals are much older than the Cambrian."

Dickinsonia could be an ancestor of "many forms of animal life today" including worms and insects, added Gold, who was not part of the current study. Scientists had a difficult time finding Dickinsonia fossils with organic matter still attached. Many of the known fossils were in Australia, and had been exposed to too many elements over many millions of years. The fossil for the current study came from cliffs near the White Sea in the northwest of Russia.

"I took a helicopter to reach this very remote part of the world — home to bears and mosquitoes — where I could find Dickinsonia fossils with organic matter still intact," said Ilya Bobrovskiy, a doctoral researcher at ANU. "These fossils were located in the middle of cliffs of the White Sea that are 60 to 100 meters high. I had to hang over the edge of a cliff on ropes and dig out huge blocks of sandstone, throw them down, wash the sandstone and repeat this process until I found the fossils I was after." — AFP



In this NASA file photo taken on December 25, 2012, Canadian Space Agency astronaut Chris Hadfield strums his guitar in the International Space Station's Cupola. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
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**Academic Certificates - Training**

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- ◆ (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.

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What's On

# Nespresso inaugurates third boutique in Kuwait, reveals new master origin range

Showing the brand's ambition to serve all coffee lovers in Kuwait



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Nespresso, the pioneer in premium-portioned coffee, has opened an additional Nespresso Boutique in Al Kout Mall. The official inauguration event took place in the boutique itself. Opening its doors earlier this year to the public, the new Nespresso Boutique offers its guests and all coffee aficionados the opportunity to immerse into a complete journey from the wide range of twenty-five different coffees to the multiple coffee machine solutions, passing by the stylish accessories collections that make every coffee moment a pure pleasure.

Julien Mario, Regional Business Development Manager for Middle East & Africa at Nespresso, said: "We are extremely proud that the brand continues to expand in Kuwait as this is a reflection of our great relationship with our Members here and the demand for our products. This third boutique comes in response to this growing

demand and allows us to be more accessible in new areas where weren't physically present yet."

Located on the Ground Floor Level of the mall and spanning 107.7 sq/m in total, the new boutique is a true celebration of coffee and its origins. And the origins of coffee were also celebrated at the inauguration with the new and unique range, Master Origin, surprising and delighting all coffee aficionados.

Each of the Master Origin coffees has been on a unique journey of discovery. The Nespresso coffee experts scoured the world to discover the finest coffee sourcing regions, from the forested mountains of Sumatra through to the highland vales of Nicaragua. Within each selected region, Nespresso formed a partnership with the local farming experts and embarked on a mission to test innovative and demanding farming practices, all with the goal of

crafting incredible new coffee aromas and tastes.

Karsten Ranitzsch, Head of Coffee at Nespresso explained: "Processing techniques play a hugely important role in the final coffee profile and with the Master Origin coffees we wanted to toy with this idea and see how we could use a mix of traditional, new and adapted methods to produce five distinct and original coffees."

Together with the local farmers, we took risks and challenged ourselves, only made possible thanks to the mutual trust and support built by the Nespresso AAA Sustainable Quality Program." Coffee lovers in Kuwait are welcome to discover the Al Kout Mall Nespresso Boutique and taste the new Master Origin coffees Sunday to Wednesday from 10 am to 10 pm and Thursday to Saturday from 10 am to 11pm.



## Sheraton Kuwait and the Four Points host LOYAC trainees

The Sheraton Kuwait and the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait welcomed the Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC) trainees for this year during the summer program. The trainees underwent a six-consecutive-week program as part of the hotel's responsibility toward the society that has accompanied and supported their activities since its inception.

Both establishments provided the trainees with the opportunity to explore different departments and involve them in practical training, different activities and supportive workshops to help the young generation grasp the spirit of working as a team. Achieve the highest standard of excellent hospitality which adds valuable work experience to their knowledge and build a successful future as well as youth development potential and investment of the leisure time they have.



We believe that the primary role of young people is to get a good education in order to become better citizens of tomorrow. They need to learn skills to do the job that their country's economy needs. The entire success of the nation depends on the youths. However, in order for continuous success to take place: it is our social responsibility to provide the youth with proper facilities for, getting equipped with the knowledge of the modern era. No better time than summer vacation to gain a wide range of knowledge

and expertise that increase their creativity and develop their ways of thinking about the promising future.

On this occasion, Fahed Abu Shaar, Complex General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait, praised the importance of the great relation and support that binds the hotels with Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC), because it aims to provide the youth of today with a way to use their time more productively to benefit themselves and the society in advance.



## Marina Hotel Kuwait welcomes interns from LOYAC

Marina Hotel Kuwait collaborated with LOYAC, a non-profit organization working towards the overall development of the youth. The collaboration aimed to provide an overall knowledge of the hospitality sector and to help interns grow as individuals, both professionally and personally through an extensive training program which lasted 1 month.

The internship program included 3 students aged between 18 -21 years. It started on 8th July 2018 until 9th August 2018. A dedicated team of professionals were involved to enhance the needed skills in this industry with a focus on housekeeping and front office. The continuous collaboration between Marina Hotel and LOYAC reflects the hotel's involvement to encouraging and inspiring youth by giving them the chance to gain exposure and experience different areas of interest.

Both students were trained in the Housekeeping and Front Office Department and covered a total of 120 hours respectively. They found the hotel's team very friendly and helpful

and commented that they are truly grateful for this opportunity. Nabil Hammoud, General Manager of Marina Hotel said: "We are happy to continue collaborating with LOYAC and help building the interns' future careers."

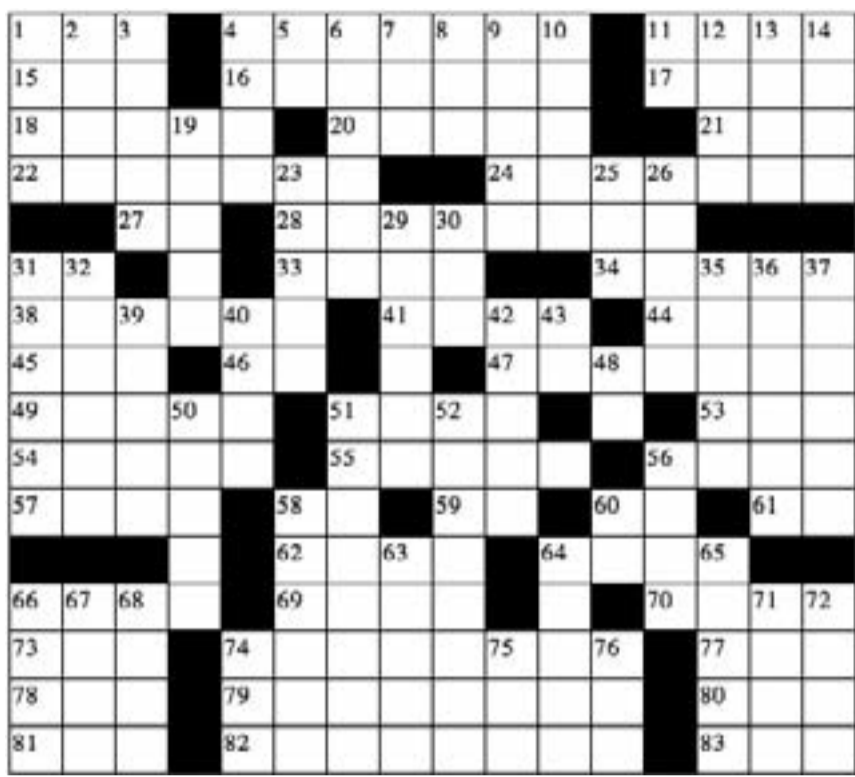
"Encouraging young nationals to acquire knowledge has always been a part of our agenda. We want to give them the opportunity to understand the essentials of the hospitality sector as allowing them to work with a team will help them develop required skills," he added. The interns were given tasks and provided with hands on experience of a professional ambience with its daily functionalities.

They gained invaluable insight into work-life while benefitting from a professional service orientation. At the end of their internship period, the interns were assessed and given feedback on their performance by their direct mentor. This collaboration is repeated annually and offers college, university and high school students the opportunity to acquire first-hand experience in the hospitality industry.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2015



ACROSS

1. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
4. 4th President of the United States.
11. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
15. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
16. The outline of objects seen against the sky.
17. Not only so, but.
18. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
20. A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe on the western side of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
21. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
22. (Old Testament) Wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau.
24. A colorless water-soluble glutinous protein obtained from animal tissues such as bone and skin.
27. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
28. Red Asian weaverbirds often kept as cage birds.
31. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
33. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
34. Arboreal snake of central and southern Africa whose bite is often fatal.
38. The cardinal number that is the sum of seven and one.
41. In addition.
44. A city of central China.
45. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
46. Functioning correctly and ready for action.
47. Temporarily inactive.
49. A form of Japanese poetry.
53. A unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch.
54. Duck of the northern hemisphere much valued for the fine soft down of the females.
55. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
57. The time during which someone's life continues.
59. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
61. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
62. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
66. A carriage consisting of two wheels and calash top.
69. Any plant disease characterized by drooping and shriveling.
70. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
73. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
77. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
78. Used of a single unit or thing.
79. Fabric covered with glittering ornaments such as sequins or rhinestones.
80. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus Iva with small greenish flowers.
81. A doctor's degree in education.
82. The quality of being physically deep.
83. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.

DOWN

1. The sixth month of the civil year.
2. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
3. Jordan's port.
4. One thousandth of a second.
5. A state in northwestern North America.
6. Generator consisting of a coil (the armature) that rotates between the poles of an electromagnet (the field magnet) causing a current to flow in the armature.
7. The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.
8. Term of address for a man.
9. Lake in northwestern Russia near the border with Finland.
10. A desert in southern Israel.
11. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
12. (informal) Very tired.
13. (New Testament) The sages who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born.
14. A branch of the Tai languages.
19. Any of various small chiefly tropical and usually nocturnal insectivorous terrestrial lizards typically with immovable eyelids.
23. A group of Plains Indians formerly living in what is now North and South Dakota and Nebraska and Kansas and Arkansas and Louisiana and Oklahoma and Texas.
25. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
26. Inability to coordinate voluntary muscle movements.
29. Any member of Athapaskan tribes that migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
30. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
32. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
35. A member of the extinct Algonquian people formerly living in northern Indiana and southern Michigan.
36. Expel from a community or group.
37. A faint constellation in the southern hemisphere near Hydra and Vela.
39. (informal) Very good.
40. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
42. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
43. A Russian river.
48. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
50. United States writer whose best-known novel was based on his experiences as an attendant in a mental hospital (born in 1935).
51. Bubble shells.
52. Surgical removal of a body part or tissue.
56. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
58. Any of numerous tropical marine gastropods of the genus Cypraea having highly polished usually brightly marked shells.
60. Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.
63. A device (used by carpenters) that holds things firmly together v l.
64. United States playwright (1906-1963).
65. One of the two branches of the Finno-Ugric family of languages.
67. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
68. Advanced in years.
71. Rock that in its molten form (as magma) issues from volcanoes.
72. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
74. Not divisible by two.
75. The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.
76. A potent estrogen used in medicine and in feed for livestock and poultry.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself entering a period of soul-searching. You may feel as if you are feeding off of the mystical, emotional, and instinctive qualities you possess. There is great depth to these feelings. You feel led to be forgiving, understanding, and compassionate to all in your life. You may experience relationships being mended today and barriers dissolving. Aries. This is a time of peace in your life and you may find yourself to be extremely sensitive. This can work to your advantage as others find you caring and someone they look up to. You are admired today. Whether you choose to see it as intuition or psychic ability, now is the time to follow your hunches. Listen to that inner voice. Let your gut feeling guide you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

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



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Imaging can be a powerful tool for attaining your goal. Remember when you were a child and could be anybody you wanted to be just by pretending? Some athletes have found that imagining themselves shooting long shots or hitting the baseball out of the park is a good substitute when they can't physically practice. Find a quiet place and image yourself being the person you wish you were. Pretend you are being assertive when someone takes advantage of you. Image yourself telling a coworker what you need from her. With a little practice, you will find yourself doing those things naturally.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find your priorities shifting today. You may be determined to make all right in your world. Forgiveness and understanding others seems to take the front seat today. You may be finding yourself looking deeper when it comes to other's feelings. You desire to know what makes them act and react to situations the way they do. You start to realize everyone has a story and everyone has a past and just as your past guides your decisions they are allowing theirs to lead them. When you start to put this into perspective you find yourself being more tolerant to others around you. It is much easier to forgive when you feel you have been done wrong when you realize the reasons for other's actions.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

The unique and different ways of people start to appeal to you. This is in a way a wake-up call for you realizing your way is not necessarily always the right way nor the only way. You find this a great day of mental clarity as you face it with an open mind your own thoughts become very clear and you find yourself extremely productive and eager to be surrounded with your peers. This is a wonderful time for you to make any decisions you have been putting off. Leo. Enjoy this day and all it brings your way!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today may find you not feeling quite satisfied with your surroundings. You may not be in a very loving mood are you may feel as though you're not being loved. You may feel a sort of disconnect, and desire to spend some time alone. You may find yourself just not being able to put your heart into the projects set before you. This sense of independence you are feeling may put you at odds with others. You are usually a people person and eager to take part in group projects. Today finds you being more of a loner and keeping to yourself. You may feel as every interaction with others lead to some kind of conflict of frustration. Do not lead to frustration get the best if you as they can cause you to make bad decisions today.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

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



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are feeling some financial stress. That's because you have trouble distinguishing between "Needs" and "Wants." Solve the problem by listing your expenditures in the two categories. To assure objectivity, you may want to enlist the help of a friend to verify the lists. (Utilities are Needs, that new purse is a Want.) Set aside money for Needs, including payments on current debts. Allow yourself the balance to spend on wants. Resisting the temptation to spend more than you have will be difficult at first, but it will soon become habit. And you will be surprised at how quickly you will feel freer, less stressed.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today may find you feeling a need to reevaluate many aspects of your life. Do not push yourself too hard as this time could find you highly emotional. You feel as if you need to make changes. Become more focused and push yourself more. Self-discipline is needed and beginning to exercise a form of this may be just what you need to get in gear and move forward. You will find when making up your mind and devoting yourself you will be able to move mountains today. Spend some time this evening getting to know yourself again and discovering what drives you emotionally. You are headed in the right direction.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

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



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

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



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today you may feel led by your heart maybe even more loving and emotional than usual. Today is a great day to spend time with someone you love. This closeness is something you long for. Intimacy and love are driving factors for you today. You could be extremely sensitive and emotionally unable to express your feelings to someone very close to you. This is something unfamiliar to you as your words usually flow with grace and style. Pisces. This may leave you feeling somewhat vulnerable.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Chocolate

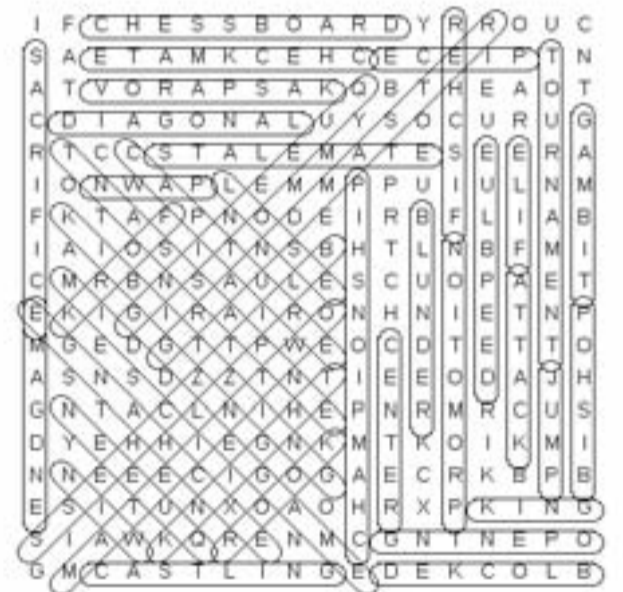
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 55 letters spell a secret message.



- |              |               |            |             |
|--------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| ADDICTIVE    | CONFECTIONERY | FILLING    | PUDDING     |
| BAKING       | COOKIES       | FONDUE     | SEMISWEET   |
| BARS         | CREAM PIE     | FOOD       | SUGAR       |
| BITTERSWEET  | CUPCAKE       | FUDGE      | SWISS       |
| BROWNIES     | DARK          | ICE CREAM  | SYRUP       |
| CAKES        | DECADENT      | ICING      | TREAT       |
| CANDY        | DELICIOUS     | INGREDIENT | TRUFFLES    |
| CHIPS        | DESSERT       | MILK       | UNSWEETENED |
| CHOCOLATIERS | DRINKS        | MOUSSE     | WHITE       |
| COCOA        |               |            |             |

Friday's Solution

Chess



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

Hidden sentence: IF YOU CAN'T BEAT YOUR COMPUTER AT CHESS, TRY KICKBOXING

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018



A model presents a creation during the fourth outdoor fashion show at Nea Paralia organized by the 'Friends of the New Waterfront' in Thessaloniki. — AFP

## VIRTUAL OR REAL? FASHION WORLD SPLIT OVER DIGITAL SUPERMODELS

The three women gazing into the camera in an advert for French luxury label Balmain look like they could fit in at any high-end shoot, but Shudu, Margot and Zhi are "digital models" whose rise is dividing the fashion world. The computer-generated trio at the centre of Balmain's new campaign is the latest example of fashion brands embracing technology to lure digital-savvy younger clients.

Best known of the three is Shudu, a black digital model created by visual artist Cameron-James Wilson last year. She has her own Instagram account with 145,000 followers which describes her as "the world's first digital supermodel". Modeling shots include her wearing Tiffany jewelry for Vogue Australia. Responses from the industry during New York and London fashion weeks were mixed, with designer Michael Kors among those critical of computer-generated imagery (CGI) being used in this way.



Designer Alice Temperley poses backstage following her show at London Fashion Week in London. — Reuters photos

"I am not into a digital model. I am into real people with personalities and opinions," Kors said at his show in New York. "The idea of digital models is something that I hope does not gain popularity." But British designer Alice Temperley believes using CGI could help cut costs. "I quite like the idea of doing some of that for the commercial and then spending the money on doing events," Temperley said at London Fashion Week.

"I think CGI for computer, for website, for selling purposes, for walking backwards and forwards and showing a product on a website is genius, but not necessarily to bring life and flavor into a brand, because that's much more personal." Shudu's creator said the rise of CGI in fashion was inevitable. "After all we see CGI being used in almost every other industry," Wilson said in an emailed statement. "3D and fashion were two worlds destined to collide."

### "I don't want to lose my job"

#### Replacing models?

Virtual "influencer" Miquela has gained 1.4 million Instagram followers since she was created in 2016. Pictures show her in everyday scenarios wearing designer labels and she promoted Prada clothes on the social media platform during February's Milan Fashion Week. "I think it's good that things change once in a while," model Gisele Alicea during New York Fashion Week. "But I don't think they're ever going to replace models. But then again, the world changes all the time. But I would wish that they would use real models, I don't want to lose my job."

Model Ashanti Hildreth said she did not feel threatened. "Virtual reality is going to cost way more than using a real model ... you have to have to pay for someone to edit," she said. "With real people, the clothes just look better." In London, model Aweng Choul said the use of digital models took "the humanity" away from modeling. "Paying a digital model when you should be paying a real model takes away from reality and what human is," she said.

Shudu, Zhi and Margot - who are black, Asian and white respectively - have also reignited a debate about diversity in the fashion world, which is frequently criticized for the



Designer Michael Kors waves after the showing of his Spring/Summer 2019 collection during New York Fashion Week in New York.

lack of racially-diverse models on the catwalks. "Where we are in society right now, I think we need to be uplifting real people and people who deserve the representation that modeling can provide," model Hunter Schafer said. Shudu creator Wilson said CGI could address the issue.

"I think it's important to explore diversity across as many media as possible, and the (Balmain) campaign was the start of really embracing that," he said. This season, several designers have used a wider range of women for shows. Rihanna's Savage X Fenty lingerie line show featured models of different sizes and races while Temperley had women of various ages.

"It's cool and interesting, but we feel like ... it's sort of a form of animation," David Blond, creative director of The Blonds, said of CGI models. "I'm sure it can be amazing to utilize at some point but for now we prefer humans." — Reuters

## Italy's fashion industry says it is tackling low pay problem

Italy's fashion industry responded Friday to accusations of widespread underpaid and undeclared subcontracted work in a New York Times article, saying that the problem is limited and already being dealt with. "The problem of irregular employment exists in the world and luxury businesses are the most active in the fight against the phenomenon," said Carlo Capasa, head of the Italian chamber of fashion commerce.

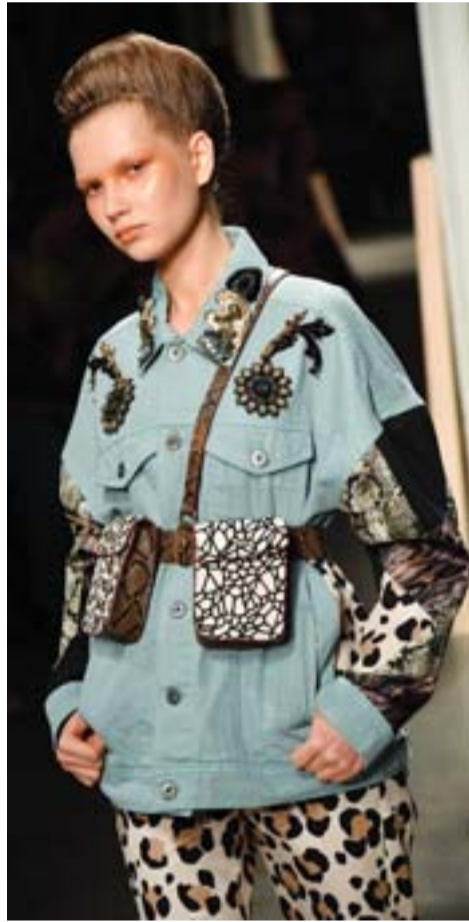
"Taking a few units that go underneath the radar seems a little pretentious," he said at Milan Fashion Week after the NYT front-page investigation headlined "Inside Italy's Shadow Economy". The article says "thousands of low-paid home workers create luxury garments without contracts or insurance" and quotes one unnamed woman who is paid around one euro an hour to sew at home. Two other unnamed workers are quoted, one of whom only talks about conditions 10 years ago and the other who does not say how much she is paid.

The Italian fashion chamber of commerce put out a statement late Friday in response to the article, saying that the only information about the scale of the problem in the article quoted Tania Toffanin, author of the 2016 book "Fabbriche Invisibili" (Invisible Factories). She "estimated that there are 2,000 to 4,000 irregular home workers in apparel production" in Italy, the NYT wrote. "In the context of an big industry which employs 620,000 people in 67,000 companies, it is clear that irregular workers represent an anomaly," the chamber said. Capasa said that the aim was to have zero irregular workers in the industry. "It will take time but we are doing it."

Roberto Manzonni, head of the Italian fashion federation Fismo, meanwhile blamed low wages on the constant drive for consumers to be able to buy more for less. "It's the tyranny of consumers' choice that pushes businesses in the sector to find the least expensive solutions to remain competitive, notably with Asia which manufactures at a low cost," he said.—AFP



This file photo shows Head of the Italian chamber of fashion commerce Carlo Capasa with his wife, actress Stefania Rocca, at the Venice Film Festival.—AFP



Models present creation for Marras fashion house.



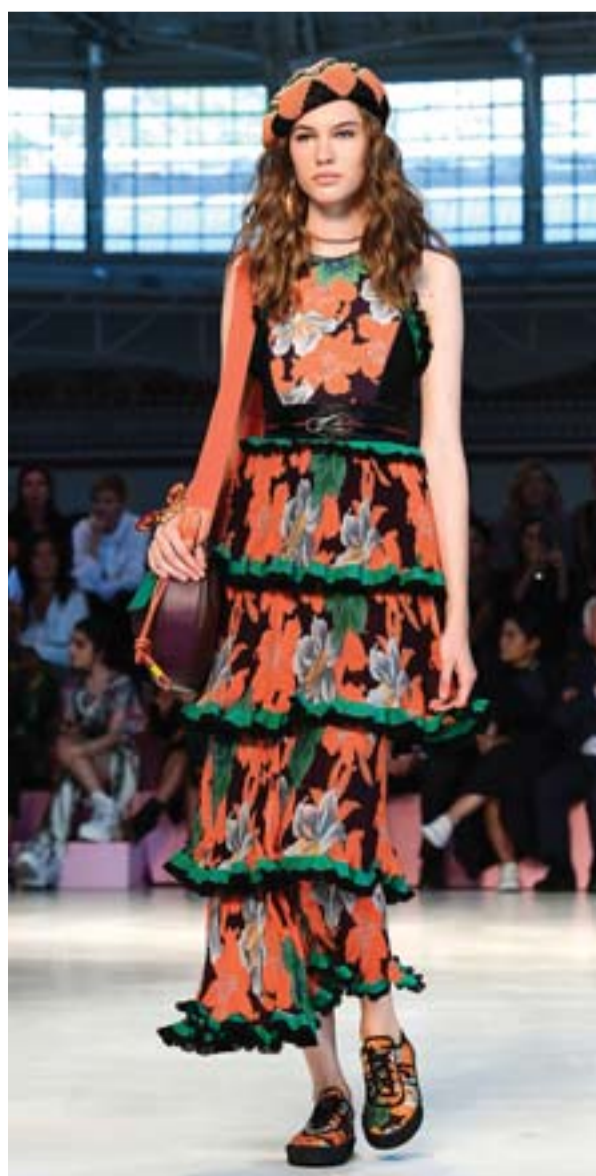
# MARRAS, ETRO, VERSACE TAKE WOMEN ON A SENSUAL ADVENTURE IN MILAN



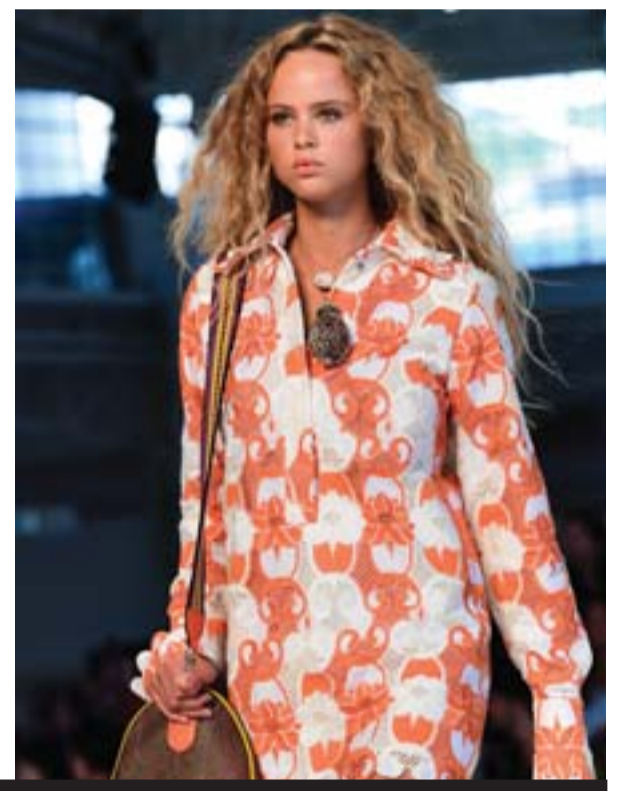
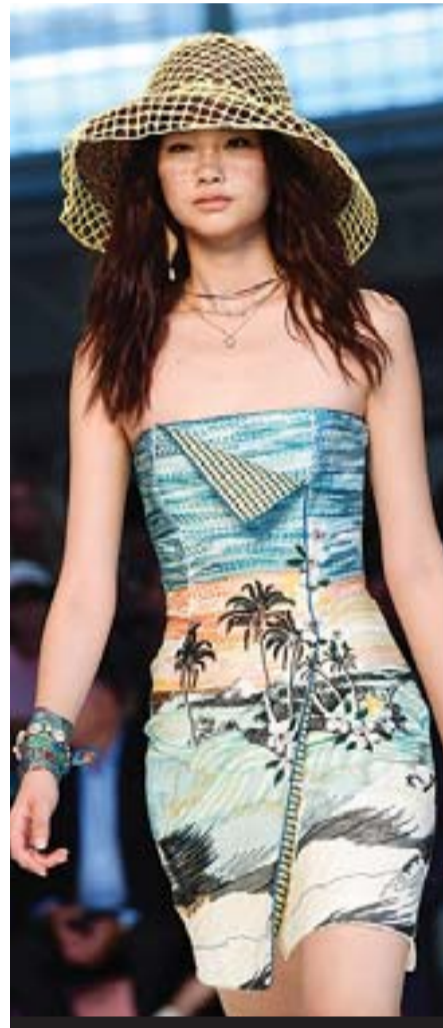
Italian fashion designer Antonio Marras acknowledges applause following the presentation of the Marras fashion house collection, as part of the Women's Spring/Summer 2019 fashion shows in Milan. — AFP photos

Italian designer Antonio Marras unleashed a procession of fauvist travelers on the catwalk Friday in a collection dedicated to "those who have still not left and those who are forced to leave". Models wore animal skin motifs from around the world, mingled with delicate translucent fabrics as they walked through a series of wooden doorways resembling airport metal detectors, on the third day of Milan Fashion Week.

Enormous hats with plants or butterflies sprouting from them could barely fit through the doorways in a collection dedicated also to French 19th century poet Arthur Rimbaud: "The man with wind beneath his feet." Referencing migration but also Italy's ill-fated 1930s occupation of Ethiopia, the famously experimental and theatrical designer used emotive soul music to heighten the experience.



Models wore geographically distinctive dresses and jackets, south east Asian inspired hats, African animal prints and even a nod to US high-school football jackets. Hats resembled those worn by beekeepers for protection, while cheetah and snake skin patterns mingled with gracefully sown flowers. At the climax of a heavily symbolic presentation, a group of men wearing only white Y-fronts with army boots tied around their necks stumbled through the same door frames, embracing each other before cleansing themselves under a shower of white sand.



Models present creation for Etro fashion house.

## “Mystic powers, ever-powerful persona”

Milan's Etro also took on a travel theme, with surf bum models carrying surfboards and skateboards down the runway as part of the “Pacific Zen” collection. The designs that made Etro famous—paisley, preferably psychedelic—featured large, with floral motifs and Japanese calligraphy printed on baggy silk, crowned with enormous, floppy hats. Etro, which celebrates its 50th birthday this week, deployed lime, mandarin, coral, cream and a smattering of black for this season.

The brand is still family run and will launch an exhibition on Saturday about its history. “A good age but especially a starting point for another 50 years,” said Veronica Etro, director of the women's and girls' collection and daughter of founder Gimmo Etro. The day concluded with Versace, another Milan designer renowned for its bright colors and popular with Millennials who thronged outside the show.

Donatella Versace sent instantly recognizable yet original outfits down the longest catwalk, mingling boldness and sensuality with effortless layering. Skin-tight outfits mingled with flamenco-flared leggings marched

along brightly colored carpet, while a new take on the tuxedo draped bodies in seductive black satin. The brand with the famed Medusa logo said that her “mystic powers and ever-powerful persona are evident now more than ever”. Fake snakeskin, flowers, polished leather and layer upon layer, the Versace collection was eclectic and refined.—AFP



Model Kaia Gerber



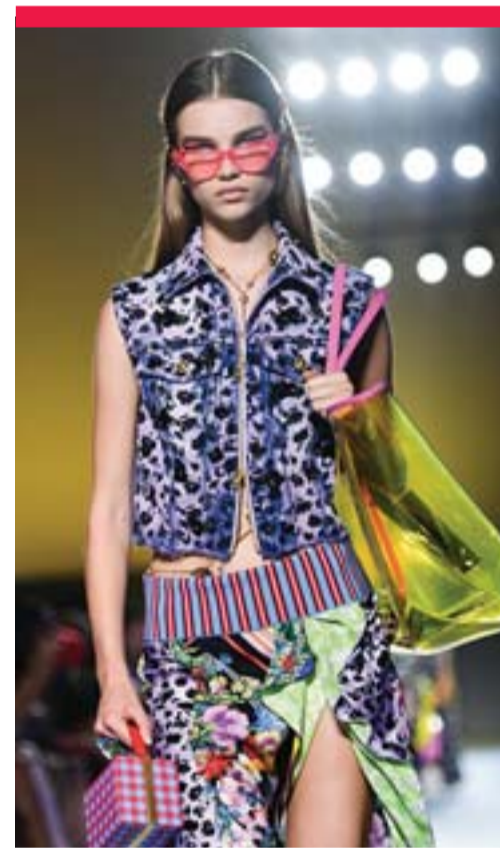
Model Emily Ratajkowski



Model Gigi Hadid



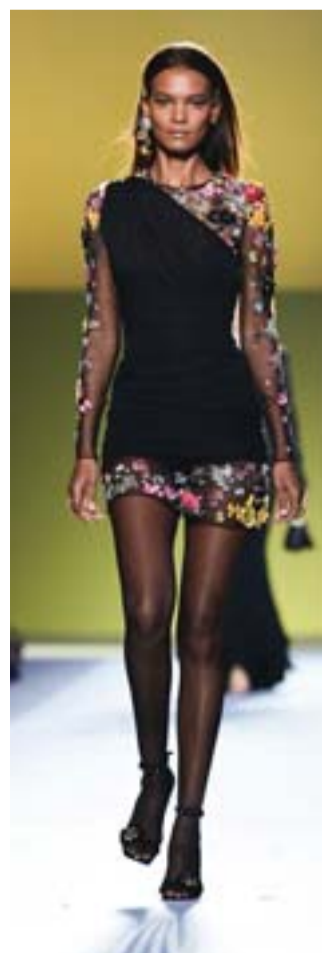
Model Irina Shayk



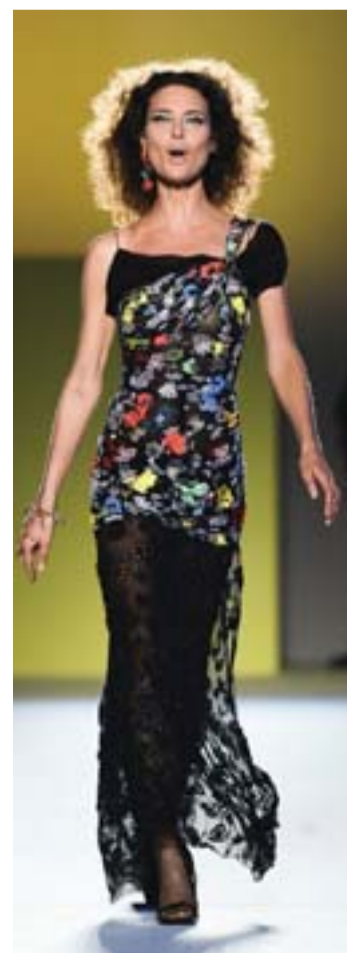
Model Bella Hadid



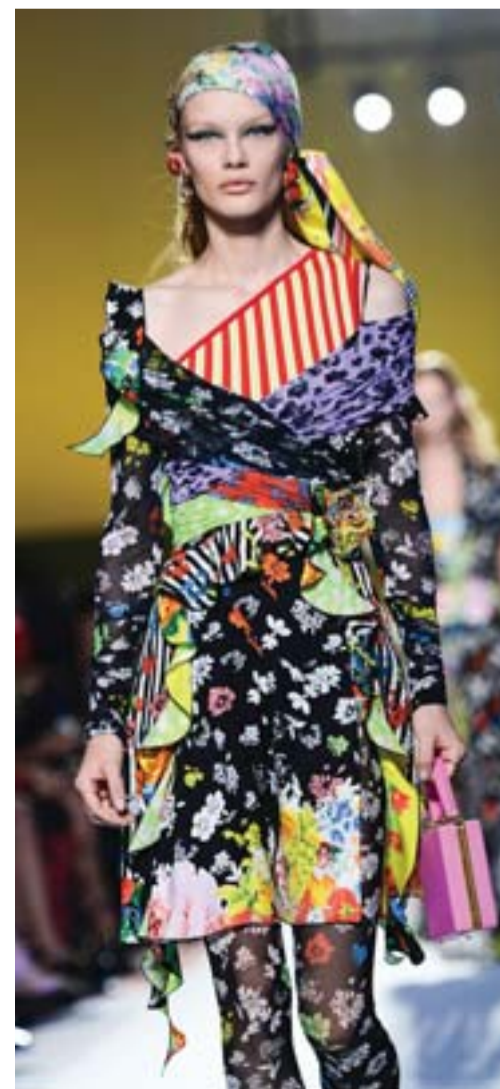
Model Imaan Hammam



Model Liya Kebede



Model Shalom Harlow



Models present creation for Versace fashion house.



## Questions raised about US museum's Abraham Lincoln hat

It has been a question plaguing the museum dedicated to one of America's greatest presidents: Is the hat real? The hat in question is of the stovepipe variety that adorned the head of Abraham Lincoln—recognized for his fashion sense and lauded for ending slavery. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Illinois had displayed the chocolate brown, beaver fur hat as one that had in fact been on the 16th US president's head.

It is a prized possession, a big visitor draw, and valued at \$6.5 million—one of only three such Lincoln hats displayed at an American museum. But it may not be Lincoln's hat after all. FBI analysts and curators at the national Smithsonian Institution have analyzed the hat at the unpublished request of the Illinois museum's foundation, an independent organization responsible for fundraising and acquiring objects.

Even DNA testing was done—comparing samples taken from the hat to Lincoln's blood recovered from the night of his assassination in 1865. The result: inconclusive. Historians wrote a report telling the museum it "might want to soften its claim about the hat" given the fact that its origins cannot be definitively authenticated. The results were not shared with the public until Chicago radio station WBEZ uncovered them this week.

Museum chief Alan Lowe expressed frustration over the foundation's secrecy, but downplayed the DNA test results, saying it would be hard to get a perfect match from an 180-year-old item handled by many people. "It is important to understand that neither of these initiatives produced new evidence about the hat's origins," Lowe said in a statement. Thanks to the publicity, the museum will begin a new search for evidence about the hat's past, he added.

"What we learn, no matter what it says about the hat's origins, will be shared with the public." For now, the hat is stowed away. The museum will decide how to present it to visitors once the additional research is completed.—AFP



This undated image courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Chicago, Illinois, show a stovepipe hat reportedly belonging to US President Abraham Lincoln.—AFP



A patron looks at Government of California (1969) by Peter Saul during an exhibition at the Met Breuer, Metropolitan Museum of Art titled 'Everything is Connected: Art and Conspiracy' in New York.—AFP

## NY's Met to sublease modern art annex in surprise move

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art made a surprise announcement Friday it would reboot stalled renovations of its modern and contemporary wing, and temporarily turn over the building housing the works to the nearby Frick Collection. In 2014, the Met had announced it would rebuild its southwest wing that runs along Fifth Avenue at an estimated cost of \$600 million—but its deteriorating financial situation forced the museum to rein in its plans.

Despite pulling in record crowds, the storied institution—one of the world's largest art museums with collections spanning the globe from antiquity onward—was forced to cut costs by curbing hiring, announcing voluntary buyouts and postponing the renovation project by several years. Thomas Campbell, who had led the Met since 2009, then stepped down in 2017, with some accusing him of trying to do too much too soon.

During his tenure, the museum had opened a modern and contemporary art annex, the Met Breuer, in the Madison Avenue building formerly home to the Whitney Museum of American Art. Critics admonished the move, saying the Met was dividing its resources in an already financially strapped time. Under the new arrangement, the Met will essentially sublease the building to another mainstay of the Upper East Side, the Frick Collection, as that museum renovates its own building, a Gilded Age mansion.

Letting the Frick finish off the last several years of the building's eight-year lease would allow the Met to save some \$18 million, according to The New York Times. A spokeswoman for the Frick told AFP its own construction would take an estimated two years. The Met's lease for the Breuer building will expire in 2023. It remains unclear what will happen next to the concrete, inverted pyramid-shaped museum opened in 1966. A spokesman for the Whitney, which still owns the modernist building designed by Bauhaus-trained architect Marcel Breuer, declined to comment on what might next be in store for the space.—AFP

## LUXURY THEATER BY RHODES OPENS IN KUWAIT

By Ben Garcia

If you are fascinated by luxury ambiance and taste, try Theater by Rhodes. This place is not a hotel, but a cinema and a restaurant in one. This is a place that defines real essence of comfort and luxury. Kuwait Times interviewed Gary Rhodes, the man behind this new concept in Kuwait.



**Kuwait Times: Tell us about your visit to Kuwait.**

**Rhodes:** This is my third visit to Kuwait - it's nice to come back again for the opening of Theater by Rhodes. Cooking at another place is really fascinating - more so at one of my Rhodes projects. We started in Dubai at the Mall of the Emirates. Now I am here in Kuwait and we are growing. This place is unique and beautiful, and will create a very impressive touch from the concept to the ambiance and food. This is something that is going to appeal to a mass audience. We use fresh ingredients and cook right here in our kitchen from scratch.

**KT: How are people going to eat inside the theater - isn't it quite dark?**



**Rhodes:** Here's the way we do it. Customers will come first to the lounge. You will be served your appetizer and drinks, then ushered to reclining seats by our staff. While seated, you will enjoy popcorn, then our staff will get your main course. You will enjoy it while watching the movie - it is a completely different set-up of a theater with the best recipes by Rhodes. Dessert will be served as well. The staff will never block the screen because it is designed not to disturb customers watching movies. We are glad to have partnered with Vox Cinema to realize this concept. Our seats are limited to 18 to 24.

**KT: Who has been your greatest inspiration?**

**Rhodes:** It's the people I worked with who are my real inspirations - people that come across my journey and gave a bit of what they've got and I absorb it. The greatest of them is my Rhodes family - they changed the whole approach and concept of food. I am learning every day, and you never stop learning in this industry.

**KT: How did you derive this particular concept?**

**Rhodes:** When I came to Kuwait, I got the opportunity to meet the Vox Cinema CEO.

Maybe four years ago we discussed the Theater by Rhodes. The CEO understands quality food and luxury space. I share a similar passion with the CEO, so I didn't have a hard time in introducing my cinema concept combined with food. Soon we will be in Saudi Arabia, but one step at a time.

**KT: How is the menu different from the rest?**

**Rhodes:** We want to add a fresh edge to the recipes. People come not just for movies, but they come because they like our food. We have several signature foods offered here like the famous and most prestigious New York daily burger. This burger is made from scratch. We have salads, main courses, desserts and beverages. We make them all by hand - the flavor is great. The dishes are also not very expensive - people can afford and enjoy them.

**KT: How do you foresee the concept to work in Kuwait?**

**Rhodes:** We know that Kuwaitis love to eat good food. People also want to go to a movie and enjoy. Now you will not just enjoy the movie, you will enjoy food consumed in a most comfortable venue. The cinema offers not just pure entertainment and comfort, but a soft reclining seat too. So it's not just the experience but the luxury and quality we offer our customers. We will be changing the menu perhaps three times a year to maintain a fresh look.

**KT: What are your plans for Rhodes in Kuwait?**

**Rhodes:** Maybe open more venues of this concept in Kuwait and the rest of the Middle East. As mentioned, I am not in a hurry, but of course we will expand. We already have plans in Saudi Arabia.



## Dubai Design Week introduces new element within Downtown Design

Kuwait Times spoke to Rawan Kashkoush, Head of programming at Dubai Design Week about the upcoming event which will take place on November 12 - 17, 2018. Hundreds of designers from all over the world participate every year to showcase their unique artistic designs, but this year Downtown Design has added a new element to the mix.

**Kuwait Times: From which countries are the participants who will be introducing their designs and projects during Dubai Design Week?**

**Rawan Kashkoush:** Global Grad Show is the world's largest exhibition of graduate students' design from over 100 universities from all over the world. Downtown Design hosts over 100 brands and designers from the region and beyond including the Portuguese, Italian and the Polish Pavilions. Design weeks from the region, including Amman, Beirut and Casablanca, will unite within Downtown Editions, a new element introduced this year within Downtown Design.

Abwab, a showcase of design from the Middle East will host explorations of design in 5 individual pavilions design by UAE-based architects; the pavilions are from Amman, Beirut, Dubai, KSA and Kuwait City. Le French Design is an exhibition from France, Vitra is a Swiss company showing the works of design classics from the US and Europe. d3 Design Stories will naturally showcase a local design force, and UAE Modern will host a sustainability conference including speakers from Italy, Taiwan, Lebanon, and Australia, amongst many more. The diversity of designers is a reflection of the essence of Dubai, a gateway city that belongs to everyone.

**KT: Is the registration still open for potential participants?**

**Kashkoush:** Our deadline for submissions was on August 1, 2018. Dubai Design Week invites all those interested to visit the event between November 12 - 17, 2018 in order to experience the full program and plan ways to participate for the 2019 edition. The platform is for all interested designers, with a focus on regional creative innovation.

**KT: Are there certain conditions and rules to accept the participation or their projects?**

**Kashkoush:** None at all, all ideas are welcome as long as they are original. Dubai Design Week's program team will receive all ideas however young or fully formed they are. We do request that participants always be mindful of how they plan to cover the costs of manufacturing their product, installation, or covering flights and accommodation should they want to participate in a talk or workshop.

**KT: What is the expected number of visitors for this year?**

**Kashkoush:** Considering our annual growth, the last attendance recorded at 60,000, we expect to see this number grow by 25 percent this year.

**KT: What's the percentage of GCC visitors out of the total number?**

**Kashkoush:** 35 percent with a majority from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait City and some from Bahrain.



**KT: Are the activities free of charge?**

**Kashkoush:** Yes, almost all activities are free to attend. Certain workshops may require a small fee to cover the material costs. The entrance ticket for Downtown Design, our commercial furniture and product trade show, is AED 55 at the door, however if you register online for a ticket, it is free of charge.

**KT: Will all or some of the artworks and projects be for sale?**

**Kashkoush:** Dubai Design Week is undoubtedly internationally recognized as a window to creative innovation from the region. Downtown Design, the Middle East's leading design trade fair, including its new element Downtown Editions, offers products and furniture that visitors can purchase. The objects vary from furniture created for wider consumption, and a selection of limited edition and specially crafted. The trade show is especially devised to promote design as a purchasable commodity. Ripe Market, which takes place on the weekend, also smaller objects to take home.

**KT: In which location will the Dubai Design week be held?**

**Kashkoush:** Dubai Design District (d3) is the hub of activity for major exhibitions of Dubai Design Week such as Global Grad Show, Downtown Design and Downtown Editions, and Abwab, amongst a diverse array of participants who will build temporary exhibits in the outdoor spaces of the district, however Dubai Design Week is a city-wide event, with activities taking place at Alserkal Avenue, and even at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park; the Solar Decathlon.

# Classifieds

Sunday, September 23, 2018

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

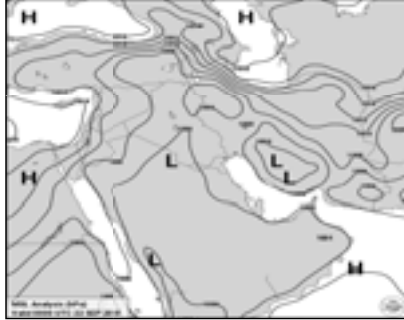
**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

**BY DAY:** Hot with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h with a chance for dust over northern areas and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	32 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	26 °C
ABDALY	46 °C	28 °C
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C
JAHRA	46 °C	31 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	29 °C
SALMIYAH	41 °C	31 °C
AHMADI	38 °C	33 °C
NUWAISIB	41 °C	29 °C
WAFRA	44 °C	28 °C
SALMY	46 °C	28 °C

## SFC. CHART 22/09/2018 0000 UTC



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	09/23	Hot	46 °C	29 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 28 km/h
Monday	09/24	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	43 °C	26 °C	NW-N	06 - 30 km/h
Tuesday	09/25	Hot	43 °C	28 °C	NW	10 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	09/26	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	42 °C	27 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:17
Sunrise	05:37
Zuhr	11:41
Asr	15:08
Sunset	17:45
Isha	19:02

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	63 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	N 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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**NOTICE**  
 September 19, 2018

Mr. Derek Noronha son of Mr. Agnel Gilbert Noronha, resident of 704, Anita Azzad, Lakhanswala Complex, Akurdi RD, Kandivli, East Mumbai 401, Maharashtra and Ms. Liya Mariam Eppan daughter of Mr. Eppan Parasagotta Mathew, resident of Parangal House, Perumpuzha PO, Kottayam, Kerala - 686078, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email ([welfare2@indembarkat.gov.in](mailto:welfare2@indembarkat.gov.in), [welfaresection@indembarkat.org](mailto:welfaresection@indembarkat.org)) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550073, 00965 - 22533125).

(District Collector)  
 Embassy of India, Kuwait  
 \*Second Secretary (FC/Cons/CS)  
 and Marriage Officer.

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

**EMERGENCY**  
**112**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I. BURLAKUNTA SUBBARAJU, 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 SUBBARAJU, S/o SINGARAJU BALARAJU, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. 17-9-2018**

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## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 23/9/2018				Departure Flights on Sunday 23/9/2018			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:15
KAC	102	London	00:50	WAN	965	Tbilisi	00:15
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	417	Manila	00:25
JZ	R539	Cairo	01:00	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	MSR	2615	Sohag	00:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JXR	502	Luxor	01:55
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
WAN	714	AGP	02:45	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	AEE	957	ATH	03:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:20
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	WAN	351	Luxor	03:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
THY	1414	TXZ	05:05	JZR	902	Baku	05:30
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	103	London	05:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05
QTR	8511	Doha	05:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	530	Asyut	06:45
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	07:00
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	RJA	649	Amman	07:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	QTR	8512	Doha	07:00
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
WAN	966	Tbilisi	06:30	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:55
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	JZR	238	Amman	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	MSR	2617	Cairo	08:05
MSR	2616	Sohag	07:05	WAN	713	AGP	08:10
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	165	Vienna	08:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	177	Vienna	08:30
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	WAN	963	Tbilisi	09:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:25	KAC	784	Jeddah	09:05
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	KAC	117	New York	09:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	WAN	133	Doha	09:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
WAN	352	Luxor	09:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
ABW	9022	SVO	10:15	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
SAW	703	Damascus	10:30	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	101	London	10:00
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	WAN	873	Istanbul	10:15
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	617	Doha	10:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	JZR	124	Bahrain	11:20
JZR	531	Asyut	13:10	SAW	704	Damascus	11:30

# US Supreme Court nominee storm fans #MeToo flames

**WASHINGTON:** When US President Donald Trump demanded to know why his Supreme Court nominee's sexual assault accuser did not come forward sooner, he sought to cast doubt over her claims. His argument? If her story were true, Christine Blasey Ford would have spoken out back in the 1980s, when she says Brett Kavanaugh pinned her down and muffled her cries as he tried to pull off her clothes at a high school party. Nonsense, replied his detractors, from women in his own party to thousands of ordinary women who flooded the internet to tell the stories of trauma, under a viral hashtag: #WhyIDidntReport.

"Because I was 18" and "I was scared" and "I didn't want to be defined by someone else's violent criminal act," Gretchen Whitmer, who is running for governor of the US state of Michigan, tweeted using the hashtag. Ford, a California professor, initially made the accusation in a confidential letter and only came out publicly because she felt her "civic responsibility" was "outweighing my anguish and terror about retaliation," she told The Washington Post. But Republicans have alleged the last-minute allegation was a deliberate bid to prevent conservative Kavanaugh's appointment before crucial midterm elections in November.

After days of relative restraint, Trump - himself the

subject of groping and other sexual harassment allegations by multiple women, launched an all-out attack on Ford's credibility. "I have no doubt that, if the attack on Dr Ford was as bad as she says, charges would have been immediately filed," he tweeted Friday. The US women's movement, simmering since worldwide anti-Trump marches the day after his inauguration, has already mobilized against Kavanaugh's conservative stances on abortion and birth control - and is firmly behind Ford.

The Women's March organizers and other groups coordinated protesters to disrupt Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings, which began in early September. Ford's lawyers allege she has received death threats since her identity became public, and one crowdfunding effort to cover her security costs raised more than \$200,000 in three days. Nearly 1,200 women who attended her all-girls high school signed a public letter of support. But the president's skepticism unleashed a fresh wave of social media outrage, echoing that of last year's #MeToo movement.

#### Stories shared

A phrase of solidarity through empathy first used by activist Tarana Burke in 2006, #MeToo spread virally

warehouse and is full to bursting point. Not a single plastic chair is free, nor a space on the pallets piled up into makeshift seating. Many of the 300 people crammed inside are forced to stand. "What are you going to do to stop us missing class because of shoot-outs?" asks 14-year-old Ellen. Her question, though, is not directed at the right people.

Only three of the 12 gubernatorial candidates bothered to turn up for the debate, all from leftwing parties and two of whom were polling less than one percent of the vote in opinion surveys. Four candidates cancelled at the last minute, while one was represented by his running mate. Even World Cup winning former football star Romario, himself born in a Rio slum, hasn't made an appearance.

#### 'Disappointed'

"Where are the candidates? I don't know anyone here," says Daniel Lima, a 21-year-old who was hoping to see the big-hitters such as Romario and former Rio mayor Eduardo Paes. Karla Rodrigues, 35, who like most of those living in Mare is black, adds: "I'm disappointed. This says a lot about the candidates. It's important that they can go into the favelas, to make contact with the population so they can get a different idea to what you see on television."

Every day, politicians highlight the numerous shoot-outs in favelas, and not without reason. The Mare debate is interrupted for a few seconds by the sound

and other allies decided in late 2016 to reduce supply by some 1.8 million bpd.

In June this year, however, after months of cutting by more than their pact had called for amid involuntary reductions from Venezuela and other producers, they agreed to boost output by returning to 100 percent compliance. That equates to an increase of about 1 million bpd, but the latest figures show they are some way from achieving that target. Oil reached \$80 a barrel this month, prompting Trump to demand again that OPEC bring down prices.

"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! We will remember. The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!" he wrote on Twitter. Higher gasoline prices for US consumers could create a political headache for Trump before November mid-term congressional elections. OPEC sources said any official action to raise output would require OPEC to hold what it calls an extraordinary meeting - a proposal that is not on the table yet. But the joint OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial committee known as the JMMC, which meets today, can still recommend a further increase in output if needed, the sources said. — Reuters

French Govt had any say in the commercial decision."

Reliance did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Dassault denied the report, saying it had picked Reliance as a partner for industrial reasons. "This is Dassault Aviation's choice, as (Dassault) CEO Eric Trappier explained in an interview published in MINT newspaper on April 17," the company, which also makes Falcon business planes, said in a statement. "Dassault Aviation and Reliance have built a plant in Nagpur for manufacturing parts for Falcon and Rafale aircraft. The Nagpur site was chosen because of the availability of land with direct access to an airport runway, an essential condition (for) aeronautic activities."

The French foreign ministry published a statement saying French authorities were not involved in the choice of Indian industrial partners involved in the Rafale deal. "The French government is in no way involved in the choice of the Indian industrial partners which have been, are or will be, chosen by French companies," the statement said. "In accordance with the Indian procedure, French companies have full freedom to choose the Indian industrial partners they consider to be most pertinent and then to propose to the Indian government for approval the offset projects they want to carry out in India with local partners to respect their obligations," it added.

The deal with Dassault was expected to deepen strategic ties with France and the company itself has hoped it would lead to a larger order for combat jets that the Indian air force says it needs to face a perceived twin threat from China and Pakistan. India picked the Rafale plane to replace its ageing fleet of Russian aircraft from a field that included Lockheed Martin's F-16, Saab's Gripen, the Eurofighter Typhoon, Boeing's F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and the Russian MiG-35.

Hollande also denied any conflict of interest with Reliance, which partially financed a film by his partner Julie Gayet in 2016. "That is why, moreover, this group (Reliance) did not have to give me any thanks for anything. I could not even imagine that there was any connection to a film by Julie Gayet," Hollande said. — Agencies

as a hashtag when a flood of allegations against Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein forced a global reckoning on sexual misconduct in the workplace and beyond. This time, it was solidarity through attempted education, as sexual assault survivors furiously hit back at Trump and Ford's other detractors with the reasons why they, like Ford, kept their trauma to themselves for so long.

Within the #WhyIDidntReport tweets, themes jumped out: fears of not being believed, or of repercussions for speaking out; feelings of shame or embarrassment. And for all the stories shared, there were no doubt countless others still left untold. "Because I didn't want people to think I made it up for attention. Because I didn't want my boyfriend to look at me differently. Because I just wanted to make it go away. Because I was ashamed. #WhyIDidntReport," wrote Andi Hoyt, whose Twitter profile identifies her as a law student. "I was 8 and he was the 'cool guy' in the neighborhood. I didn't tell anyone until I was 17. Also, guys can't be sexually assaulted #WhyIDidntReport," tweeted Andy McNeese.

In an op-ed for The Washington Post, late president Ronald Reagan's daughter, Patti Davis, said she told nobody "for decades" about her rape by a music execu-

gunfire, chilling the blood of those present. Nonetheless, residents feel they are often viewed as criminals rather than the victims of favela violence, simply because that's where they live. Arthur Viana de Andrade, 21, is getting ready to vote for the first time. While he hasn't made up his mind yet, he knows who won't be getting his vote. "When I hear someone saying: 'The only good bandit is a dead bandit,' that scares me because as a black man living in a favela, I know I'll be a target," he says, in reference to frontrunner Bolsonaro, an ex-army captain.

#### 'No shame'

Debate organizers chose "security" as the central theme for the meeting, but that's not what locals most want to discuss. Their interest is more in health and education. "They need to build a big hospital here, in this neighborhood," says Lucia Gomes, 49, who was selling cakes at the entrance to the cultural center. "This business of public safety in favelas doesn't exist. Health is what is most important."

Political disillusionment is rife right across Brazil where voting is obligatory but where recent opinion polls have suggested as many as a quarter of voters will either abstain or spoil their ballot papers. "Here, people have lost all faith in politicians and complain that they're all corrupt, they're all thieves. But me, I want to listen to the candidates' proposals. Abstention is not a solution," says Sheyla Amaral, 42. Another problem,

## Over the boundary! Cricket-loving...

Continued from Page 1

Pakistan and South Africa in the UAE, where Pakistan hosts games owing to the risk of terror attacks on home soil. "I went to watch a match between Pakistan and South Africa in 2014 where I met Ghazala's father which became the first step towards our proposal," said Kasim, a former college-level fast bowler in Mumbai. "I would not have imagined watching Pakistani cricketers like Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razaq and Mohammad Amir before my own eyes but it became possible since UAE became a neutral venue for the Pakistan team."

Ghazala, who works in human resources, said watching India and Pakistan play made her think of home. India thrashed Pakistan by eight wickets in the group stage and

## Iran vows 'crushing response'...

Continued from Page 1

Ahvaz lies in Khuzestan, a province bordering Iraq that has a large ethnic Arab community and has seen separatist violence in the past that Iran has blamed on its regional rivals. IS militants said via their propaganda mouthpiece Amaq that "Islamic State fighters attacked a gathering of Iranian forces" in Ahvaz. State television gave a casualty toll of 29 dead and 57 wounded, while the official news agency IRNA said those killed included women and children who were spectators at the rally. Many of the wounded were in critical condition. Zarif did not specify which regional government he held responsible for the shooting.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also blamed Iran's pro-US rivals, saying the attack was part of "the conspiracy of regional governments that are American lackeys and who aim to create insecurity in our dear country". Armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said the dead included a young girl and a former serviceman in a wheelchair. He told state television three attackers were killed at the scene and the fourth died later of his injuries. Khuzestan deputy governor Ali-Hossein Hosseinzadeh told ISNA that "eight to nine" troops were among those killed, as well as a journalist.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp (IRGC) has been the sword and shield of Shiite clerical rule in Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. The Guards have a big say in Iran's regional interests and a vast stake worth billions of dollars in Iran's economy. A video distributed to Iranian media showed soldiers crawling to escape gunfire. One picked up a gun and scrambled to his feet as women and children fled for their lives. A video on state television's website showed confused soldiers. Standing in front of the stand, one asked: "Where did they come from?" Another responded: "From behind us." Activists said the Revolutionary Guards had arrested several people in Ahvaz after the attack.

In a message of condolence to Russia's close regional ally, President Vladimir Putin said he was "appalled by this bloody crime" which was a reminder of the "necessity of an



SPRINGFIELD, Missouri: US President Donald Trump arrives onstage to speak at a rally at JQH Arena on Friday. — AFP

utive, Davis also addressed accusations that Ford's story lacks key details. Your memory "blacks out other parts of the story that really don't matter much," she wrote. It "snaps photos of the details that will haunt you forever, that will change your life and live under your skin". — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Candidate of the United Socialist Workers Party (PSTU) Dayse Oliveira for the governorship of the state of Rio de Janeiro talks to the attendees during a debate organized by an NGO with the candidates at the Cultural Centre Bela Mare in the Mare favela on Sept 13, 2018. — AFP

according to Eliana Sousa Silva, a director of the Mare Network that organized the debate, is that favela voters can be too easily manipulated. Drug gangs also hold undue sway and sometimes candidates must ask their permission or even pay for the right to campaign in certain neighborhoods. "Recently, I saw candidates handing out half-rotten fish to people or offering free haircuts. They have no shame," adds Shyrlei Rosendo, another charity worker. — AFP

they are set to meet again in the Super Fours today. "Now with India and Pakistan playing in UAE for the Asian title it has given us double joy as we get to see players from both the countries which gives us a nostalgic feeling," said Ghazala. India is playing in the Emirates for the first time since 2006, sparking huge interest among the country's large number of Indian expats. Club-level cricketer Naveed Siraj hails from Srinagar in Indian-administered Kashmir, while his wife, Nida, is from the Pakistani capital Islamabad. "My uncle and aunty lived in Kuwait and Nida's family were their neighbors so they initiated the talk for our marriage," said Naveed. "UAE is a neutral venue for all the expats from Pakistan and India so everyone lives here in comfort and enjoys everything including cricket."

Dubai taxi driver Sunil Manohar, from India's Karnataka state, married Nunda from Pakistan's Sindh province after their families met in the UAE. "UAE is a nice place for cross-border families," he said. "In the past, a few couples were stuck in Pakistan because they were not getting an Indian visa." — AFP

uncompromising battle against terrorism". Syria, another ally, said it stood in "full sympathy and solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran", while neighboring Turkey expressed "great sorrow" at what it called "a heinous terrorist attack".

Khuzestan was a major battleground of the 1980s war with Iraq and the province saw unrest in 2005 and 2011, but has since been largely quiet. Attacks by Kurdish rebels on military patrols are relatively common along the border further north. But attacks on regime targets inside major cities are far more rare. On June 7, 2017, 17 people were killed and dozens wounded in simultaneous attacks in Tehran on the parliament and on the tomb of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini - the first inside Iran claimed by IS. In April, 26 alleged members of the Sunni extremist group went on trial on charges connected with that twin attack.

The attack in Ahvaz came as Rouhani and other dignitaries attended the main anniversary parade in Tehran. In a keynote speech, he vowed to boost Iran's ballistic missile capabilities, despite Western concerns that were cited by his US counterpart Donald Trump in May when he abandoned a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran. "We will never decrease our defensive capabilities... we will increase them day by day," Rouhani said at a military parade. "The fact that the missiles anger (the West) shows they are our most effective weapons," he said.

The United States re-imposed crippling sanctions on Iran last month, and a new round of even harsher sanctions targeting Iran's vital oil sector is set to go back into effect on Nov 5. Washington has said it is ready to open talks on a new agreement to replace the July 2015 accord, but Tehran has repeatedly said it cannot negotiate under pressure from sanctions.

Rouhani leaves today for New York to attend next week's United Nations General Assembly along with Trump, but Iran has repeatedly ruled out any meeting. "Rouhani will use the terrorist attack to justify Iran's presence in the Middle East... The attack will strengthen the IRGC's position inside Iran and in the region," Tehran-based political analyst Hamid Farahvashian said. Iran will face pressure to respond to the high-profile attack, which has hurt the security establishment's prestige. "The attacks are doubtlessly meant to tarnish the prestige of the IRGC, but I believe the terrorist incidents will strengthen the IRGC's standing and even mobilize some public support," said Ali Afshar, senior fellow at the Gulf Arab States Institute in Washington. — Agencies

## Brazil's favelas: Overlooked election hunting grounds

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** A quarter of Rio de Janeiro's population lives in slums, or favelas, yet too often those very people are left feeling marginalized. Wracked by drug and gang-related violence and stricken with poverty, favelas are more often considered part of the problem than woven into a political solution. On October 7, Brazil will go to the polls to choose a new president - a race led by rightwing candidate Jair Bolsonaro - along with all members of the lower chamber of Congress, two-thirds of the Senate and governors and legislators in the 26 states and the federal district home to the capital Brasilia.

To attract voters, politicians blame favelas for rising crime but rarely do they set foot in one to listen to the inhabitants' own concerns. A case in point is the densely populated Mare favela, home to 140,000 people, where in June a 14-year-old boy called Marcos Vinicius was gunned down on his way to school during a police operation. Ahead of the elections, local charities have organized a candidate debate in Mare.

The cultural center where it is held resembles a

## OPEC, allies struggle to pump more oil...

Continued from Page 1

"If an increase in production is proposed there will be plenty of market counter-argument that it reduces even further the available spare capacity," Olivier Jakob from consultancy Petromatrix said. "Saudi Arabia has made the mistake of trying to compensate for the loss of Iranian supplies with just-in-time replacement; but the oil market is looking for greater supply security than that. As a result, the strength of oil prices is now putting oil demand growth at risk," he added.

An OPEC and non-OPEC monitoring committee gathering in the Algerian capital this weekend found that oil producers' compliance with a supply-reduction agreement reached 129 percent in August, two committee delegates said. This compares with a compliance level of 109 percent for July, indicating that the group over-achieved on its agreed cut. Seeking to reverse a downturn in oil prices that began in 2014, OPEC, Russia

## Modi faces calls for resignation...

Continued from Page 1

The comments were front-page news in Indian newspapers yesterday and was the top trending topic on Twitter. "An ex-president of France is calling him (the prime minister of India) a thief. It's a question of the dignity of the office of the prime minister," he told a news conference in New Delhi. "The PM personally negotiated and changed the Rafale deal behind closed doors. Thanks to Francois Hollande, we now know he personally delivered a deal worth billions of dollars to ...Anil Ambani. The PM has betrayed India. He has dishonored the blood of our soldiers," Gandhi, scion of India's Gandhi-Nehru political dynasty, added on Twitter.

Ravi Shankar Prasad, a close Modi ally and minister, hit back at Gandhi, accusing him playing into the hands of India's rivals Pakistan and China. "Never before in the history of independent India has a party president used such words for a PM," he told a news conference yesterday. "We can't expect anything else from Rahul Gandhi. He has no quality or ability."

Modi, who stormed to power in 2014 promising to rid India of deep-seated corruption, had no "moral right" to remain in power after the revelations from Hollande, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said. Smaller parties also joined the attack on Modi who is already under pressure to shore up his political base ahead of a series of state elections this year followed by a national election in 2019.

Modi's office did not respond to a request for comment. The defense ministry said in a tweet that neither the French nor Indian government had had a say in the matter. "The report referring to fmr French president Mr Hollande's statement that Gol (government of India) insisted upon a particular firm as offset partner for the Dassault Aviation in Rafale is being verified. It is reiterated that neither Gol nor



## Sports

# McIlroy hoping to provide spark for Europe in Ryder Cup showdown

## Bjorn would love to see a McIlroy breakthrough in France

PARIS: Four-time major champion Rory McIlroy's most important drive leading to the Ryder Cup might have come in a car instead of with a golf club. The 29-year-old Northern Irishman made a prank phone call to European captain Thomas Bjorn while driving with teammates Ian Poulter, Henrik Stenson and Tommy Fleetwood in what became a laugh-filled social media post.

Whether its building camaraderie through trying to get Bjorn to spring for "cryotherapy chambers" at the biennial team showdown against the United States, or shotmaking to lead Europe's top players, McIlroy will be a key figure in the September 28-30 showdown at Le Golf National if Bjorn isn't too upset.

"He's in big trouble. He might not play until today now," Bjorn said of McIlroy to Sky Sports in mock outrage before laughing at himself. "That's OK. They looked like they had fun. It's never fun when you get done on the prank but have to take it in the spirit it is. It was a good moment."

A Europe team with five rookies and five players with four or more prior Cup starts will try to deny the US holders their first victory in Europe since 1993, with McIlroy stressing experience is crucial. "It creates a really good team dynamic," McIlroy said. "It's a continuity that's within the team if you have experience, guys that have been there before, know what goes on."

"You've got all this stuff to do and like gala dinners and opening ceremonies and it's like, 'Really?' All the guys know what they need to do to prepare the best way. I just think continuity in the team room and knowing what to expect as the week goes on is a big thing."

It's a contrast to the uncertainty McIlroy has had about his game for much of the season. After a winless

2017, McIlroy won at Bay Hill in March, then shared fifth at the Masters as he attempted to complete a career Grand Slam.

After missing the cut at the Players and US Open, he shared second at the British Open at Carnoustie and had top-six efforts at the WGC Bridgestone and BMW Championship. Rory ready for breakthrough

McIlroy hasn't won a major since back-to-back wins at the 2014 British Open and PGA Championship, but he likes where his game is as the Ryder Cup nears. "I've given myself some half-chances at majors," he said. "In golf you just have to be an eternal optimist. I feel like I've done as well as I could with what I have. It's still a work in progress."

Bjorn would love to see a McIlroy breakthrough in France. "I just think he's in a place where it's going to go boom and then he's going to start winning a lot of golf tournaments again and that's actually pretty good fun to watch." While McIlroy might get a singles rematch of his thrilling showdown with Patrick Reed at Hazeltine, he might also find himself pitted against Tiger Woods, the resurgent 14-time major winner who has only one team win in seven Ryder Cup appearances.

"Whoever goes up against him in Paris, with us being at home, he's playing against the crowd where it's usually the other way around," McIlroy said. "It's not very often the crowd is against him. This will be a very rare occasion in France. Probably still be some people cheering for him but, for the most part, they'll be cheering for the European team."

McIlroy, who has claimed three points in each of his last three Ryder Cups, hopes to inspire a few roars of his own in what is likely to be a full run of five matches in three days. "My game feels in really good shape,"



ATLANTA: Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays his shot from the 16th tee during the second round of the TOUR Championship at East Lake Golf Club on Friday in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

McIlroy said. "There are a lot of good signs out there. My approach play, my wedge play has been much better. I'm putting well."

"Ryder Cup is a long week and it's an exhausting week and if you have to play five matches, you feel it at the end. But hopefully it will be worth it." — AFP

## Fury, Wilder to fight December 1

LOS ANGELES: Britain's Tyson Fury will challenge Deontay Wilder for the American's World Boxing Council heavyweight crown on December 1, a statement said Friday. Promoters Haymon Boxing said in a statement reported by US media that Wilder and Fury would meet at a venue to be determined.

The Los Angeles Times reported that the Staples Center in Los Angeles was a potential venue for the fight while Brooklyn's Barclays Center was also in the running.

"WBC Heavyweight World Champion Deontay Wilder will defend his title against lineal champion Tyson Fury in a blockbuster matchup of undefeated heavyweights on Saturday, December 1 live on Pay-Per-View," Haymon boxing said.

"The contracts have been signed and the promotional tour will kick-off in London on October 1. It continues with stops in New York City and Los Angeles." Wilder has 39 knockouts in 40 fights and has scored knockouts in each of his previous seven title defenses.

Fury, 30, is the former IBF, WBA, IBO and WBO heavyweight world champion. He remains undefeated in 27 fights. The outspoken British fighter made his comeback earlier this year after a near two-and-a-half year absence, and immediately set his sights on a showdown with Wilder.

"I'll go to Vegas for free and fight Wilder," Fury said last month. "I'd rather have no money and win than 200 billion pounds (\$261.5 billion) and lose," he added. — AFP

## Lorenzo takes pole for Aragon MotoGP, Rossi struggles

MADRID: Spain's Jorge Lorenzo secured his fourth pole position of the 2018 MotoGP season yesterday by sneaking ahead of Andrea Dovizioso in qualifying at Aragon. Lorenzo beat his Italian Ducati team-mate by 0.014sec, while Honda's Marc Marquez was 0.079sec back in third.

Marquez, who is chasing a fifth top-class world championship title but is without a victory in his last four races, had set the pace with a time of 1.46.960sec. But the Spaniard paid the price for a mistake at Turn 12 on his final run as Lorenzo and Dovizioso both saved their best times until last.

"My rear tire was a bit worn out so I didn't know if I would have anything left to improve in my last attempt," Lorenzo said. "But I managed to do a few thousandths better than Andrea, who also did a great lap."

Yamaha's Valentino Rossi managed to complete only one timed lap during the session. The Italian veteran qualified in a disappointing 18th, his lowest grid position since 2006. Britain's Cal Crutchlow was pushed back into the second row after finishing fourth. He missed the chance to fight for a top-three spot after crashing out during his last lap. Crutchlow sits in front of Spain's Dani Pedrosa, Italian Danilo Petrucci and another Spaniard, Alvaro Bautista, who came in sixth, seventh and eighth respectively. Marquez owns a 67-point lead over Dovizioso in the standings ahead of Sunday's race, with Rossi sitting third, 70 points adrift. The race in Aragon is the 14th round of the championship and third of four events to be held in Spain this season. — AFP

## Zain strategic partner of National Jet Ski team

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership of the Kuwait National Jet Ski team for the eighth consecutive year. The company's support to the team extends during their participation at the upcoming World Jet Ski Championship 2018 to be held next October in Arizona, United States.

During its participation in the press conference held at the Kuwait Sea Sport Club headquarters, Zain explained that this strategic partnership falls under its solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards supporting the youth and sports sectors as well as supporting outstanding Kuwaiti athletes.

Zain expressed its utmost confidence in the talents of the Kuwaiti youth, expressing its wishes of the best of luck to the team on their upcoming participation in the World Jet Ski Championship 2018. The company further expressed its keenness to encouraging Kuwaiti athletes to represent Kuwait in the various internationally renowned championships.

The National Jet Ski team is authorized by the Kuwait Sea Sport Club to officially represent Kuwait in regional and international Jet Ski championships. The team champions won a number of prominent titles during their past participations, most notably many first place titles in the World Jet Ski Championship, as well as many category titles in the UAE Jet Ski Championship and the Jet Ski King's Cup in Thailand.

Zain expressed its pride in all National teams that



Zain officials with the National Jet Ski team.

raise the Kuwaiti flag high by achieving top international titles, and it further confirms its commitment towards Kuwaiti champions, which resembles the company's endless confidence of the competencies of these young athletes and their capabilities in excelling in different fields. As a leading telecommunications company in

Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will continue to put Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve all the recognition they deserve.

## Fear of losing drives Joshua to remain 'best heavyweight'

LONDON: World heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua may have proclaimed himself "the best in the division" ahead of putting his titles on the line against Russia's Alexander Povetkin at Wembley Stadium but he also stressed a defeat would not signal the end of his career. The 28-year-old British boxer has won all 21 of his fights since entering the paid ranks, with 20 by way of knockout, although his last title defence, against New Zealand's Joseph Parker in Cardiff in March, saw him go the distance for the first time as a professional before he secured a unanimous points decision. But Joshua, citing the example of many great boxers, insisted a reverse in front of his home crowd yesterday would not see him bow out of boxing.

"That fear of losing is always there," Joshua, the International Boxing Federation, World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organisation champion, told reporters at Wembley. "Sugar Ray Robinson, the best fighter of all time, can lose. Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns, Roberto, Duran, Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, (all lost). "So who am I to go undefeated?...I have lost before as an amateur and that didn't deter me from getting where I am today," added the London 2012 Olympic champion. When it was put to Joshua that losing would not end his career, he replied: "One hundred percent and I know that it could happen because I know how tough this sport is."

"That's what I say in boxing, there's no league one, league two...You are either the best or you're not." Joshua has a significant height and reach advantage of several inches over Povetkin, the 2004 Olympic champion. Friday's weigh-in also confirmed a significant size difference, with Joshua tipping the scales at 17 stone 8 pounds (111.5 kilograms) compared to the 39-year-old Povetkin's 15st 12lbs. This fight sees Joshua returning to the scene of arguably his greatest triumph, an 11th-round stoppage of former champion Wladimir Klitschko last year.



LONDON: Britain's Anthony Joshua (L) poses by his challenger Russia's Alexander Povetkin during a joint press conference at Wembley stadium in London on Friday ahead of the title defence boxing match. — AFP

Klitschko is the only man to have inflicted a blemish on Povetkin's 35-fight record, with a points win back in 2013. Povetkin, however, served notice of his formidable punching power with a sickening knockout of Britain's David Price on the Joshua-Parker undercard at Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

Nevertheless, Joshua had no doubt his best would be good enough to defeat Povetkin. "Yeah 100 percent," he said. "I am the best in the division. There is no doubt about it. It's been proven. There hasn't been a time in boxing since I've been an amateur that I haven't been on top," added Joshua, whose management have yet to secure a heavyweight unification fight with World Boxing Council champion Deontay Wilder.

Joshua though insisted he was fully focused on the challenge posed by Povetkin. "I'm up against one of the best fighters in the world, he's a top three fighter in the world, so I have got to be on my A game," he explained. But Joshua believes the fact he won a gruelling contest

against Klitschko would stand him in good stead yesterday. "Povetkin says he is not the same fighter he was when he lost to Klitschko, he's stronger," said Joshua. "I can reflect and say I'm the same. When I fought Klitschko, I thought we would have a good boxing match. You know, two tall guys jab, one-two, one-two hook and I'm probably going to knock him out like I did the rest of the fighters. It turned out to be a completely different kind of night."

"Klitschko at the end of his career, he was 39, wanted his hands on the championship belts and he said he was obsessed. "He was probably in good condition, because most fighters are if they train, but he was obsessed. Povetkin, same thing. Back at Wembley at the end of his career, same age, wants his hands on the belts so I have got to be prepared to go through hell and back. "Without that Klitschko fight, I wouldn't be as prepared as I am now," Joshua explained. "I think my well is deep, my heart can definitely go through hell and back." — AFP

## Sports

# Red Sox beat Indians, tie franchise wins record

## Yanks flex home run muscle in outscoring Orioles

**BOSTON:** Tzu-Wei Lin delivered the tie-breaking RBI infield single in the seventh inning Friday night and hit his first major league homer in the ninth as the Boston Red Sox beat the Cleveland Indians, 7-5, in the opener of a three-game series between division champions at Progressive Field. The Red Sox, who clinched the American League East on Thursday, improved to 105-49 despite fielding a lineup that included only two regulars—third baseman Rafael Devers and AL MVP candidate J.D. Martinez. Boston needs just one win to clinch the best record in MLB for the season. The Red Sox's 105th victory tied the franchise record for wins, set by the 1912 team. The Indians, who will be locked into a first-round postseason date with either the Astros or Oakland Athletics as soon as the Red Sox win the top seed, have lost three of five since clinching their third straight AL Central title last Saturday.

### YANKEES 10, ORIOLES 8

Aaron Hicks became the fifth Yankee to reach 25 homers, CC Sabathia rebounded from his shortest outing in over three years by pitching six effective innings, and New York moved closer to clinching a wild-card spot by holding on for a victory over visiting Baltimore. The Yankees lowered their magic number to clinch a wild-card spot to two after nearly blowing a 6-0 lead. Hicks extended the Yankees' lead to 6-0 lead with two outs in the fourth when he reached the second deck in right field by hitting a 3-1 fastball from Yefry Ramirez (1-7). The switch-hitting outfielder hit New York's 249th homer, putting them 14 away from the major league record set by Seattle in 1997.

### A'S 7, TWINS 6 (10 INNINGS)

Khris Davis led off the bottom of the 10th inning with his second home run of the game, delivering Oakland a walk-off victory over visiting Minnesota. A ninth walk-off win of the season kept Oakland 6 1/2 games ahead of Tampa Bay in their battle for the second wild-card spot in the American League. The A's remain 3 1/2 games back of the Astros for the AL West lead. Davis' game-winner, his 45th homer of the season, came on the third pitch of the 10th inning by Matt Magill (3-3), who had stranded the potential winning run at third base to end the ninth. A's closer Blake Treinen (8-2), who worked two perfect innings, was credited with the win.

### ASTROS 11, ANGELS 3

Yuli Gurriel slugged a pair of home runs, including a first-inning grand slam, and drove in seven, and Gerrit Cole worked seven strong innings as reigning World Series champion Houston clinched a postseason berth with a win over visiting Los Angeles. The Astros secured their 12th postseason appearance in club history and shaved their magic number to six to win the American League West for a second consecutive season. Houston (96-57) reached 96 victories for just the fifth time in franchise annals. The Astros finished 96-66 in 1986 before winning a club-record 102 games in 1998, 97 in 1999, and 101 last season.

### CARDINALS 5, GIANTS 3

Pinch hitter Matt Adams stroked a tie-breaking, two-run double with two outs in the eighth inning, sending St. Louis to a victory over visiting San Francisco. The win kept the Cardinals 1 1/2 games ahead of Colorado in the race for the second wild-card spot in the National League. St. Louis also made up a game on the Cubs for the division lead, but remain three games back of the Brewers. After the Giants had scored twice in the seventh to forge a 3-3 tie, Harrison Bader drew a two-out walk from San Francisco's fourth pitcher, Mark Melancon (0-2), in the eighth. After Yairo Munoz singled Bader into scoring position, left-hander Tony Watson replaced Melancon and served up Adams' difference-making double to left field.

### ROCKIES 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2

First baseman Ian Desmond drove in three runs, two on a single to cap a four-run eighth inning, and visiting Colorado received seven strong innings from right-hander German Marquez for a victory over Arizona. DJ LeMahieu had two hits, and Charlie Blackmon extended his hitting streak to 13 games, the longest active streak in the majors, as the Rockies broke a three-game losing streak to remain 1 1/2 games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild-card spot. Colorado also moved within 1 1/2 games of the Dodgers for the NL West lead after L.A. lost to San Diego. Marquez (13-10) gave up a two-run homer to David Peralta in the first inning but did not permit another runner past second base while extending his streak of quality starts to 11.

### PADRES 5, DODGERS 3

Hunter Renfro and Freddy Galvis hit home runs, while left-hander Eric Lauer went five strong innings as San Diego won at Los Angeles. The Dodgers entered with seven victories in their last eight games to take over first place in the National League West, but the last-place Padres held off a late rally. Lauer (6-7) was in control against the Dodgers for a third time this season. The rookie gave up one run on four hits with two walks and five strikeouts. He has now given up just two runs over 19 2/3 innings against the Dodgers this season. Kirby Yates picked up his 10th save.

### BREWERS 8, PIRATES 3

Travis Shaw, Mike Moustakas and Erik Kratz hit homers in a six-run sixth inning for Milwaukee in a win at Pittsburgh. Keon Broxton also homered, and Jesus Aguilar added an RBI double for the Brewers, who moved to within 1 1/2 games of the first-place Cubs in the National League Central. The Brewers kept a three-game lead for the first NL wild-card spot. Josh Bell and Corey Dickerson hit homers for Pittsburgh (77-75), which had its five-game winning streak squashed.

### WHITE SOX 10, CUBS 4

Daniel Palka and Kevan Smith hit home runs to highlight a 19-hit attack as the White Sox cruised to a victory over the visiting Cubs. Palka's two-run homer in the sixth off reliever Dillon Maples was his fifth in five games and



**CLEVELAND:** Josh Donaldson #27 of the Cleveland Indians rounds the bases on a solo home run during the fourth inning against the Boston Red Sox at Progressive Field on Friday in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

27th of the season, tops for any rookie in the majors. It also was his team-record fourth pinch-hit home run this season. Ryan LaMarre, Yoan Moncada and Wellington Castillo each had three hits, and LaMarre and Smith each drove in three runs for the White Sox. Reynaldo Lopez (7-9) allowed one run and five hits over seven innings to pick up the win. He struck out eight and didn't allow a walk.

### BRAVES 6, PHILLIES 5

Johan Camargo's two-run two-out single in the seventh inning capped a five-run rally and helped boost Atlanta to a come-from-behind win over visiting Philadelphia. The win allowed the Braves to extend their lead in the National League East to 7 1/2 games over the Phillies. Atlanta lowered its magic number to two. The Phillies broke open a 1-1 tie by scoring three runs in the top of the seventh, but Atlanta surged back for its 35th comeback victory.

### RAYS 11, BLUE JAYS 3

September callup Austin Meadows had three hits and three RBIs, Tommy Pham added two RBIs and Tampa Bay overcame two home runs by Lourdes Gurriel Jr. to win at Toronto. The Rays (86-67) have split the first two games of a four-game series with the Blue Jays (70-84) as they try to keep their flickering playoff hopes alive. Randal Grichuk also homered for Toronto. Diego Castillo allowed one run on the first Gurriel homer in the first inning as the Rays' opening pitcher. Jalen Beeks (5-1) allowed two hits

and two runs over the next three innings.

### RANGERS 8, MARINERS 3 (SIX-PLUS INNINGS)

Adrian Beltre homered and drove in five runs as Texas defeated visiting Seattle in the rain-shortened debut for interim manager Don Wakamatsu. The Rangers fired Jeff Banister, the 2015 American League Manager of the Year, earlier in the day. Banister was replaced for the rest of the season by Wakamatsu, who managed the Mariners in 2009-10. Beltre, a former Mariner, hit a three-run homer in the first inning and a two-run single in the third, both off right-hander Erasmo Ramirez, to give the Rangers a 5-0 lead. The home run was the 14th of the season for Beltre and the 476th of his career, moving him past Stan Musial and Willie Stargell for 30th place in major league history.

### METS 4, NATIONALS 2

New York ace Jacob deGrom continued his record-breaking season—and his push for the National League Cy Young Award—by beating Washington on the road. DeGrom (9-9) yielded one run on three hits and one walk, while striking out eight over seven innings. The right-hander lowered his MLB-leading ERA to 1.77 and extended his major league single-season record of allowing three runs or fewer to 28 consecutive starts. With one more expected start, deGrom will look to earn a 10th victory and finish above .500. The fewest wins by any starting pitcher to win the Cy Young is 14 by Felix Hernandez of the Seattle Mariners in 2010. — Reuters

## Jadeja shines in Dubai on return to one-day arena

**DUBAI:** India left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja could not have envisaged a better comeback on his return to international limited-overs cricket, shrugging off a 14-month absence by taking four wickets against Bangladesh in an Asia Cup triumph on Friday.

The 29-year-old is a regular in the test side, particularly on home soil, but last played a one-dayer against West Indies in July 2017 and had been overlooked for white-ball cricket since. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who topped the world rankings for test bowlers alongside Jadeja last year, has suffered a similar fate in short-form cricket due to the success of wrist-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav. "During my earlier comebacks the gap was never so long. I will always remember this comeback because I returned to the team after a gap of almost 480 days," Jadeja said after being named man of the match following his 4-29 display. "I was playing only tests but the last two-three series were away and I was not getting many opportunities. I was telling myself that my job is to perform whenever I get an opportunity. 'That's what is in my control and that's how I was motivating myself. I was thinking how I can improve my game in away conditions.'"

Jadeja's heroics with the ball helped India restrict Bangladesh to 173 and they chased down the target with 82 balls and seven wickets to spare with stand-in captain Rohit Sharma remaining unbeaten on 83.

With India on a run of overseas tests in which they generally employ a lone spinner, opportunities had dried up for Jadeja, who is also a brilliant fielder and more-than-capable lower-order batsman.

He was a non-playing member of the touring party for three tests in South Africa in January, waiting until Afghanistan's inaugural test against India in June for his next appearance. Jadeja also warmed the bench in England for the first four tests before being included in the fifth and final match earlier this month. He made an unbeaten 86 in the first innings and took seven wickets as India lost by 118 runs in a 4-1 series defeat.

He was then a late call-up to the Asia Cup squad after all-rounder Hardik Pandya was injured against Pakistan and left-arm spinner Axar Patel hurt his finger during practice. — Reuters



**SYDNEY:** Sutherland's Steve Smith, and Australia's ex-captain, plays a shot during a domestic cricket match against Mosman at Glenn McGrath Oval in Sutherland, a suburb in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

## Smith, Warner make smashing return to Australian cricket

**SYDNEY:** Disgraced cricketers Steve Smith and David Warner made stunning returns to Australian cricket yesterday, with the pair both notching up big scores in front of some of the largest grade-level crowds the country has seen. Former captain Smith looked as though he had not a missed beat, with a classy 85 of 92 deliveries for Sutherland against Mosman in New South Wales grade cricket. He was greeted with loud applause from hundreds of fans when he walked out to the pitch at Sydney's Glenn McGrath Oval, supporters delighted to see a return of his trademark fidgeting at crease. "It's awesome to see him playing," Sutherland teammate Shane Watson told Cricket Australia's official website. "I'd prefer him to be playing for Australia, but the support that he got, the warm applause when he scored runs and also when he got out shows that

everyone is supporting him."

Some 30 kilometres (19 miles) north at Coogee Oval, former Australian vice-captain Warner smashed a century from 98 balls in his Australia return for club side Randwick-Petersham against St George. The impressive innings included a huge six hit out of the ground, to the delight of hundreds of onlookers crammed into the small ground.

"It's great to have him back," cricket fan Kim Perry told AFP. "He's a great entertainer for Australian cricket." Both players took time out in between innings to pose for photos and chat with fans, on a charm offensive as they seek redemption for their part in the ball-tampering scandal against South Africa in March.

The pair are serving one-year suspensions from international and state cricket for the scandal, while opener Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months. "I think they will probably welcome them (Smith and Warner) back after they've done their time. Not before," said 82-year-old cricket fan Don Saunders.

Smith and Warner are expected to spend more time at their respective grade-level clubs in New South Wales this summer if they decide not to join the new Twenty20 competition in the UAE. — AFP

## Pakistan and Afghanistan players fined in Asia Cup

**DUBAI:** Pakistan's paceman Hasan Ali and Afghanistan's Asghar Afghan and Rashid Khan have all been fined yesterday for violating the players' code of conduct, the International Cricket Council said yesterday.

Pakistan narrowly beat Afghanistan by three wickets in a highly charged Asia Cup Super Four match in Abu Dhabi on Friday, with Shoaib Malik hitting a six and four in the last over.

"Hasan, and Afghanistan's duo of Asghar and Rashid have all been fined 15 per cent of their match fees. They have also received one demerit point in separate incidents during the match on Friday," the ICC said.

"After the match, all the three players pleaded guilty to the offences and accepted the sanctions proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees and, as such, there was no need for a formal hearing."

The ICC said: "Rashid was charged and fined for giving a sendoff to Asif Ali in the 47th over of Pakistan's innings by holding up a finger and staring at the batsman, an action that could have provoked an aggressive reaction from the departing batsman."

"Hasan and Asghar were found guilty of 'conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game and using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batsman upon his/her dismissal during an International Match.'"

"While Hasan and Rashid have received demerit points for the first time, it is the second occasion that Asghar has been handed a demerit point within a 24-month period. "The incident involving Hasan happened in the 33rd over of Afghanistan's innings when he threatened to throw the ball towards striker Hashmatullah Shahidi after fielding off his own bowling. "As regards the incident involving Asghar, the Afghanistan captain brushed his shoulder with the bowler Hasan in the 37th over as he passed him while taking a run." — AFP

Sports

# Giroud and Morata battle for Chelsea starting spot

## Hazard has been the star man for Chelsea so far this season

LONDON: Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri has a tough decision to make over whether to pick Alvaro Morata or Olivier Giroud for a testing encounter with West Ham today. The Stamford Bridge club are top of the Premier League table after five wins out of five but the fixture list has been relatively kind to them so far.

West Ham had a miserable start to their campaign but victory against Everton has lifted the mood and they will be further buoyed by last season's results against Chelsea-when they took four points off their London rivals.

Belgian playmaker Eden Hazard has been the star man for Chelsea so far this season, scoring a hat-trick in their 4-1 demolition of Cardiff last week to lead the race for the Premier League Golden Boot. But who will Sarri pick to lead the line at the London Stadium?

Up until last weekend Morata, 25, was getting the nod, with French World Cup winner Giroud-a stronger physical presence-consigned to the bench. But Giroud got his chance against Cardiff and Hazard made no secret of his admiration for his teammate, hailing him as the world's best target man after the Frenchman laid on two goals for Hazard.

"Olivier's a target man, maybe the best in the world-I think so," said Hazard, appearing to make it clear who he would prefer to see in the line-up. "When he gets the ball he can hold the ball and we can go in deep with

him, so for us it's a pleasure to play with him.

"When Alvaro (Morata) was playing it's completely different, he's a different player than Olivier, but they both have great qualities, so I'm happy to have good strikers in the team."

Spanish striker Morata was criticised last season over his lack of a killer touch after a bright start to his career at Chelsea and has only found the net once so far this season. Sarri said he needs goals to boost his fragile confidence following Chelsea's 1-0 win against PAOK of Greece in their Europa League opener on Thursday, for which he was back in the starting line-up.

"Alvaro has to gain confidence with one, two, three goals," Sarri said after the victory, during which Morata missed a number of chances. Giroud, 31, limited to substitute appearances before last week, is yet to score for Chelsea this season but already has three assists in the Premier League. The former Arsenal player, who moved to Chelsea in January, believes the battle with Morata is positive for the team. "It has always been a fair competition between us and we will both try to step up to help the team reach our target," he told London's Evening Standard.

"I'm happy to have a teammate like that, who pushes me to do better," he added. "It's positive for both of us. I want to play as many games as I can and try to be as efficient as I can for the team." — AFP



THESSALONIKI: File photo shows Chelsea's French midfielder N'Golo Kante (C) vies for the ball with PAOK's Egyptian midfielder Amr Warda (L) and PAOK's Swedish midfielder Pontus Wernbloom (R) during the UEFA Europa League Group L first-leg football match between PAOK Thessaloniki and Chelsea at the Toumba stadium in Thessaloniki on September 20, 2018. — AFP

## Tighten up, Emery warns leaky Arsenal

LONDON: Unai Emery has warned his Arsenal stars to fix their leaky defence in time for today's Premier League clash against Everton. Emery's side extended their winning run to four matches in all competitions with a 4-2 victory over Vorskla Poltava in the Europa League on Thursday.

The Gunners raced into a four-goal lead through Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's double and strikes from Danny Welbeck and Mesut Ozil. But Emery was furious that Arsenal switched off in the closing stages to allow minnows Vorskla to score twice.

It was the latest in a long line of defensive disappointments for Arsenal, who have failed to keep a clean-sheet in any of Emery's six matches in charge. Arsenal have endured difficulties at the back for years as Emery's predecessor Arsene Wenger struggled to

find the right players to man his defence.

Emery has made changes of his own, giving a debut to goalkeeper Bernd Leno in midweek in place of Petr Cech, while central defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos arrived in pre-season from Borussia Dortmund.

So far that quick-fix plan hasn't worked, so Emery has called on his team to show some steel and learn from their mistakes. "It's our disappointment. Little by little, we are conceding a few chances to the opposition, the same like in Newcastle," Emery said.

"But we need to continue to improve on this because in the last minute in Newcastle and again today in the last 20 minutes, we conceded two goals. "Our challenge is to be competitive for 90 minutes of each match and this is one thing to improve."

Emery made eight changes for the Europa League clash as he rested his key players for Everton's visit to the Emirates Stadium. But the Spaniard doesn't believe that should be used as an excuse for Arsenal's fragile defence.

"We are speaking before each match to take a mentality of 'don't concede chances easily'," he added.

"I think today is a good opportunity for not accepting goals, but the last 30 minutes, we needed to be better on this competitive aspect." Leno, a close-season signing from Bayer Leverkusen, could be key to

Emery's defensive rebuild.

The German experienced a tricky start to life at Arsenal as he waited for a chance to replace Cech, who has struggled to adapt to Emery's desire for a goalkeeper who can pass out from the back.

Asked if he had been frustrated at being made to wait to make his debut, Leno replied: "Of course, because I came to the club to play every game. "But I think to move to a bigger club, another country, it needs maybe a little bit of time. It is a little bit frustrating but I keep calm and work very hard to improve."

"I think my performances in training are good. I train very hard and maybe it needs a little bit of time. I keep calm. My chance will come." Everton manager Marco Silva could give a debut to Yerry Mina after the former Barcelona defender began training with the rest of the squad last week following a foot injury.

Emery have yet to keep a clean sheet this season and suffered a wretched 3-1 home defeat against West Ham in their previous match. "It's something we analysed during the week. They already know what we did in the wrong way and what I expect in the next game that we don't do the same," Silva said. Everton will be boosted by the return of Brazil forward Richarlison after he completed a three-game ban. — AFP

## World Cup success has given Pogba a boost: Mourinho

MANCHESTER: Paul Pogba's fine form for Manchester United this season is evidence that post-World Cup hangovers are as much mental as physical, according to the club's manager Jose Mourinho.

Pogba played a crucial role in France's path to being crowned world champions-scoring a sublime goal in the final against Croatia-in Russia in July. Yet despite a short close-season break, he has been given the captaincy by Mourinho and performed impressively.

The issue of post-World Cup fatigue has been debated extensively by club managers, with Tottenham striker Harry Kane the most high-profile example of those struggling to replicate their best form. Mourinho, though, thinks that Pogba's success with France has given the midfielder an extra surge of energy.

"I think good results, and good performances, they make miracles," said Mourinho at his press conference on Friday. "And bad results and bad performances, they make you look more tired, more upset, more ugly, more everything."

Mourinho's remarks are likely to be welcomed by Pogba especially as the Portuguese had reportedly angered the 25-year-old last month when he implied Pogba played much better for France at the World Cup than he did for United last season as he was not surrounded by his entourage.

"Paul came back from the World Cup, and he was the last one to come because he played the final," said Mourinho. "But I think the happiness, the confidence, the self-esteem was what pushed him to play in our first match against Leicester almost without training and he played a very good match."

"It's more about the moment and the momentum is very important-in both the positive and negative way."

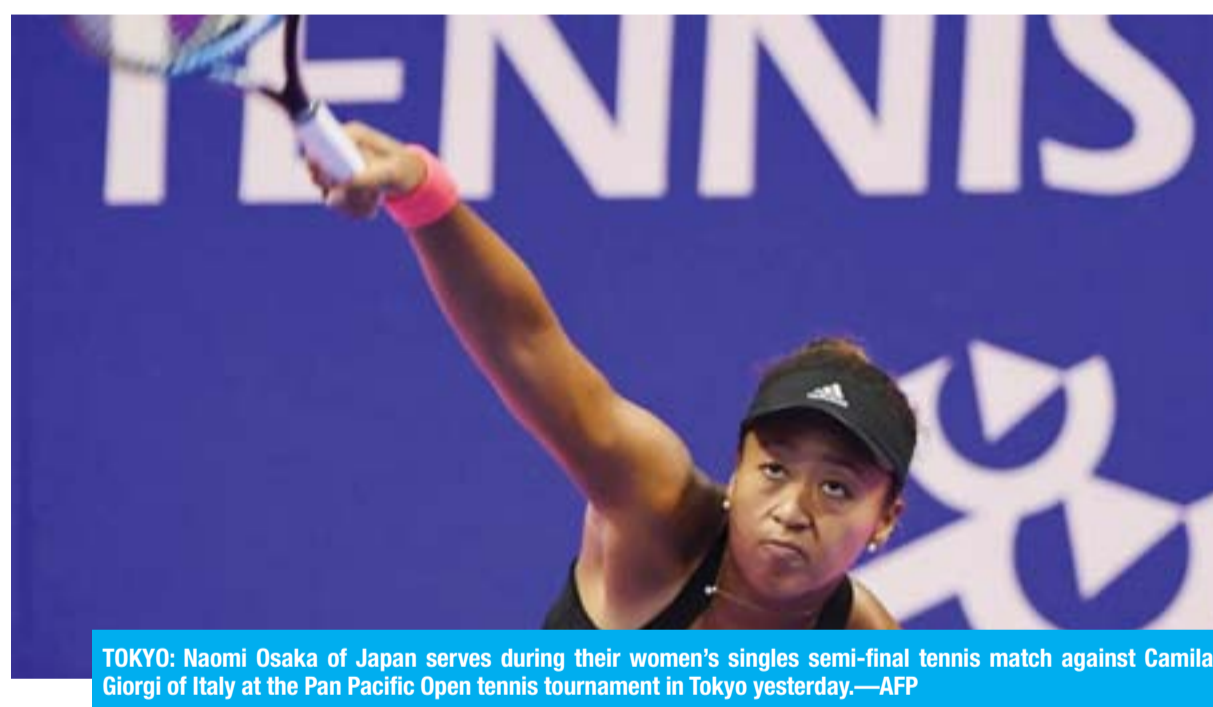
Mourinho has indicated Pogba's compatriot Anthony Martial, despite scoring against Young Boys in the Champions League this week, will drop to the bench against Wolves in the Premier League on Saturday to make way for Alexis Sanchez, who was an unused substitute on Wednesday.

Asked why he was dropping him to bring back the Chilean, the United manager replied Martial had played the whole game and Sanchez not taken part at all. Mourinho's side go into the weekend six points behind leaders Chelsea, having lost two of their opening five matches, at Brighton and at home to Tottenham.

However, with his side having won their past three matches in all competitions, Mourinho believes his team are showing they are better than they were last season, when they finished runners-up to Manchester City in the Premier League. "I am optimistic, but it will be a difficult season, yes," he said.

"I don't change that because we won two matches in the Premier League. "You see the level of the teams-you see Liverpool's squad, Manchester City's squad, Chelsea's squad, Tottenham's squad, and Arsenal are improving. "I am not saying we are going to have more points than last season because last season we collected a very acceptable level of points. But I think we are going to be a better team." —AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>	
West Ham United v Chelsea	15:30
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Arsenal v Everton	18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>	
Levante v Sevilla	13:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Villarreal v Valencia	17:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Real Betis v Athletic de Bilbao	19:30
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Barcelona v Girona	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>	
Torino v SSC Napoli	13:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Bologna v Roma	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Lazio v Genoa	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Chievo Verona v Udinese Calcio	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 9	
Milan v Atalanta	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Frosinone Calcio v Juventus	21:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
<b>GERMAN BUNDESLIGA</b>	
Bayer 04 Leverkusen v FSV Mainz	16:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Eintracht Frankfurt v Leipzig	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
<b>FRENCH LEAGUE</b>	
Stade Rennais v Paris Saint-Germain	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Guingamp v Girondins de Bordeaux	18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Olympique Lyonnais v Olympique Marseille	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	



TOKYO: Naomi Osaka of Japan serves during their women's singles semi-final tennis match against Camila Giorgi of Italy at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday.—AFP

## Red-hot Osaka powers past Giorgi into Tokyo final

TOKYO: US Open champion Naomi Osaka stormed past Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-2 6-3 yesterday to reach the final of the Pan Pacific Open, where she will face Karolina Pliskova. Osaka's victory in front of an expectant home crowd was her 10th in a row and did not look in doubt from the moment the world number seven pounded down a huge ace with her first serve of the match. The 20-year-old, who became Japan's first Grand Slam singles champion in New York two weeks ago, hit a further eight aces to overwhelm world number 37 Giorgi. Osaka has carried the poise and power that saw her overcome Serena Williams in the Flushing Meadows final across the Pacific with her and, helped by eight double-faults from Giorgi, wrapped up the victory in just 72 minutes.

A runner up at this event two years ago, Osaka has not dropped a set so far this week and has had her service broken just once. "It's a bit surprising but I felt kind of calm going into the first round match and a lot of people were surprised because they thought I would be very nervous," Osaka told reporters of her stunning run of form.

"Today was the first match that I felt nervous. But other than that I feel like I've been playing well and I've been trying to set little goals for myself."

"Because if you set a really high goal, than normally, for me at least, I tend to overwhelm myself. I'm trying to stay at a consistent level so hopefully I can keep doing that."

### PLISKOVA BATTLES ON

Osaka advanced to face world number eight Pliskova in the final after the big-serving Czech outlasted Croatia's Donna Vekic 6-2 4-6 6-3 in a topsy-turvy match that lasted more than two hours.

Pliskova has spent more time on court than any other player at this tournament despite a first round bye and was once again dragged into a long contest by a dogged Vekic.

The former world number one started as if intent on finishing the contest as quickly as possible, storming to a 4-0 lead before wrapping up the first set in less than half an hour.

Vekic, though, had defeated top 10 players Sloane Stephens and Caroline Garcia en route to the last four and recovered from an early break in the second set to secure two of her own.

A weary-looking Pliskova dug deep in the decider and the quality of her superior hitting eventually told as she broke Vekic's resolve with a strong start to the third set. "I think tomorrow is a completely different day," said Pliskova, who admitted to feeling tired during the second set. "It's the final, so you just forget about all those minutes that you spent on the court. It's the last match also, so I just want to put in everything, what I have left in body."

Currently just outside the eight qualifying spots for next month's WTA Finals in Singapore, Pliskova has now spent 420 minutes on court in Tokyo compared to 222 minutes for Osaka.

Both players are in the top 10 in terms of number of aces served on the tour this year. "I have played Pliskova twice already and so I know she is a great player," said Osaka, who won their last meeting at Indian Wells. "She has basically every shot and she has a really good serve, so I know it will be a very difficult match." Pliskova added: "I know her game. I have my weapons, she also has hers. It's going to be a lot about serves." — Reuters

**25** McIlroy hoping to provide spark for Europe in Ryder Cup showdown



**26** Smith, Warner make smashing return to Australian cricket



**27** Red-hot Osaka powers past Giorgi into Tokyo final



## Liverpool, Manchester City cruise

Man Utd held on Ferguson's return



CARDIFF: Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero (L) vies with Cardiff City's Irish defender Greg Cunningham during the English Premier League football match between Cardiff City and Manchester City at Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff, south Wales yesterday. — AFP

**LONDON:** Liverpool and Manchester City's shootout for the Premier League title intensified yesterday with comfortable wins over Southampton and Cardiff, while Manchester United were held 1-1 by Wolves on the day Alex Ferguson returned to Old Trafford.

Jürgen Klopp could afford the luxury of handing Xherdan Shaqiri his first Liverpool start for a 3-0 victory at Anfield and Wesley Hoedt turned the Swiss international's deflected shot in for the opener before Joel Matip and Mohamed Salah's first goal in four games sealed Liverpool's seventh straight win in all competitions.

City edged ahead of Chelsea, who travel to West Ham today, into second, two points behind the leaders, as they bounced back from a shock Champions League defeat to Lyon in midweek by thrashing Cardiff 5-0 in the Welsh capital.

United, though, are now eight points off the top as a run of three straight wins to avert an early season crisis came to an end against an impressive Wolves while

Ferguson watched on for the first time since undergoing emergency surgery on a brain haemorrhage in May.

### SHAQIRI STARS

Liverpool's new-found strength in depth was in evidence as Daniel Sturridge netted on his first start of the season against Paris Saint-Germain in midweek, and those coming into the side on Saturday made a big impact again as Klopp made three changes.

The hosts were handed a huge helping hand early on by Saints thanks to a comical own goal by Hoedt as he failed to sort his feet out as Shaqiri's deflected drive trickled across the area.

Matip was another to be making his first start of the campaign and powered home Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner before Salah won the foot race to force the ball over the line after a Shaqiri free-kick came back off the bar. Liverpool's afternoon was soured, though, by a rib injury to Virgil van Dijk that forced the world's most expensive defender off early in the second period

Newcastle lacked any cutting edge up front and were fortunate to avoid defeat at Selhurst Park.

The result left Palace 11th on seven points from six games while the Magpies stayed 18th, ahead of bottom sides Cardiff City and Huddersfield Town on goal difference after another lacklustre performance. Palace have now won only one of their last 16 matches against Newcastle in all competitions, having missed a chance to register a 200th win in the top flight and their 100th in the Premier League.

The home side dominated the opening half and twice came close through captain Luka Milivojevic, who tested Newcastle keeper Martin Dubravka with a curling low shot before his floated free kick came off the

ahead of a demanding run of fixtures.

"Winning seven in a row is cool but challenges will get tougher and tougher. The boys are in good shape and that helps," Klopp said. Klopp's men face Chelsea and City in their next two league games, with a Champions League trip to Napoli in between.

Ferguson was given a standing ovation before kick-off at Old Trafford as he took his seat accompanied by his wife Cathy in the United directors' box. However, the presence of the club's most successful manager failed to inspire United to victory despite Fred's first goal for the club 18 minutes in.

Wolves have thoroughly impressed on their return to the top flight and only a series of fine saves by David de Gea prevented the visitors from being ahead at the break.

However, even the Spain number one was helpless when Joao Moutinho curled into the top corner eight minutes into the second half. "They deserved their point and we deserve the punishment of only getting one

point. They started better, were more aggressive, had more intent and I don't know why but they were more motivated," Mourinho grumbled.

"I was expecting more from my attacking players. There was not enough creativity, movement or dynamism."

Earlier, Leicester City eased the pressure on manag-

er Claude Puel by beating Huddersfield Town 3-1 yesterday to leave the visitors rooted to the foot of the Premier League table. Leicester had lost eight of their last 12 league games but Puel finally had something to smile about as his side ran out comfortable winners at the King Power Stadium.

Huddersfield must have thought their luck was changing when Mathias Jorgensen fired them in front after five minutes. But the lead was short-lived as Kelechi Iheanacho brought the home side level on 19 minutes. James Maddison put Leicester ahead on 65 minutes with a well-taken free kick before Jamie Vardy sealed all three points with a clever finish 15 minutes from time. —Reuters

### CITY CRUISE

City boss Pep Guardiola was back on the touchline after having to watch his side's defeat on Wednesday from the stands as he served a one-match ban. However, there was little chance of a Cardiff side still waiting for their first win back in the top flight also embarrassing the Premier League champions.

Sergio Aguero celebrated signing a new contract till 2021 on Friday by firing home the opener in sodden conditions before Bernardo Silva and Ilkay Gundogan made it 3-0 before half-time. Club record signing Riyad Mahrez then came off the bench to score his first two City goals. —AFP

## Newcastle hold dominant Palace to goalless stalemate

**LONDON:** Newcastle United earned only their second Premier League point of the season after scraping a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace as the home side missed several chances and hit the woodwork in a scrappy game yesterday. Palace were guilty of poor finishing but