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# Kuwait condemns deadly Ahvaz attack, Amir sends condolences

## Guards vow revenge • Iran warns UAE over 'offensive remarks'; official denies allegations

KUWAIT/TEHRAN: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday sent a cable to President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani to express sincere condolences on the deadly assault on a military parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz. In his cable, HH the Amir condemned the terrorist attack which resulted in dozens of casualties. He prayed for the victims and wished speedy recovery and wellness for the injured. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent similar cables of condolences to the Iranian president.

Kuwait's foreign ministry also condemned the deadly assault on Saturday. An official source at the ministry said Kuwait condemned the attack out of its principled stance rejecting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The source extended Kuwait's condolences to

families of the victims and all Iranian people, wishing a speedy recovery to the wounded. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem on Saturday sent a cable to his Iranian counterpart Ali Larijani to offer condolences on the deadly attack. Ghanem condoled with families of the victims and denounced the terrorist act. He also prayed for the dead and wished the wounded speedy recovery.

Rouhani yesterday pointed blame at Arab separatists for the deadly attack and accused an unnamed US-backed Gulf state of supporting them. Tehran also summoned diplomats from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain for allegedly hosting members of the group suspected of links to Saturday's attack that killed 24 people, according to a revised death toll. Four militants attacked the parade commemorating the start of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, capital of the border province of Khuzestan.

Officials and an eyewitness said the gunmen were clad in Iranian military uniforms and had sprayed the crowd with gunfire using weapons they had stashed in a nearby park. The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the rare assault. But Iranian authorities see an Arab separatist movement, the Ahwazi Democratic Popular Front (ADPF) or Al-Ahwazi, as the main suspect. "One of the countries in the south of the...Gulf took care of their financial, weaponry and political needs," said President Rouhani. "All these little mercenary countries we see in this region are backed by America. It is the Americans who incite them." The United States condemned the attack, with its UN envoy saying it had happened because Rouhani has "oppressed his people for a long time". "He needs to look at his own base to figure out where that's coming from."

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TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani waves during a ceremony at Mehrabad airport before leaving for the UN General Assembly in New York yesterday. — AFP

### News in brief

#### 1,251 polygamous marriages

KUWAIT: Recent marriage statistics showed that 2017 witnessed 1,251 incidences of polygamous marriages, mainly by Kuwaiti men, 764 of whom already had one to three wives. Statistics issued by the Central Statistical Bureau said 1,156 men - 689 citizens and 467 expats - got married to second wives in 2017, while 80 married third wives, including 62 citizens and 18 expats. Statistics also showed that 15 men - 13 citizens and two expats - got married to fourth wives. Moreover, statistics showed that 465 Kuwaiti and 691 non-Kuwaiti women got married in 2017, of whom 35 Kuwaiti and 45 non-Kuwaiti women became their husbands' third wives, while nine Kuwaiti and six non-Kuwaiti women got married as fourth wives. — Al-Qabas

#### Bank robbery suspect arrested

KUWAIT: A Jordanian in his 20s was arrested over an armed robbery at a Gulf Bank branch a few days ago. Police sources said detectives found the gloves the suspect had worn, adding he had stashed a large part of the KD 4,500 he stole in his Filipina girlfriend's apartment in Salmiya. Detectives said the suspect had spent KD 250 from the stolen money. Police said he had discarded the abaya and niqab he had worn during the heist in a dumpster, adding the pistol he had used was a toy. — Al-Anbaa

## No green cards eyed for those on US benefits

WASHINGTON: US immigrants who get public benefits like food stamps or housing vouchers could be denied green cards, under a new proposal from President Donald Trump's administration. Trump came to power pledging to make immigration to the United States more difficult, and reduce the number of people allowed to stay in the country. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said Saturday that under the proposed rule change, being a current or previous recipient of certain public aid would be seen as a "heavily weighed negative factor" in considering an application for lawful permanent residency.

"This proposed rule will implement a law passed by Congress intended to promote immigrant self-sufficiency and protect finite resources by ensuring that they are not likely to become burdens on American taxpayers," Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said. Immigrants applying for green cards are already required to prove they will not become a so-called "public charge", with receipt of cash benefits considered.

But the latest rules set out a wide range of non-cash public benefits that could be disqualifying, including food stamps, housing vouchers and the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy which helps with prescription costs. DHS estimated the rule would affect just over 382,200 immigrants applying to adjust their status to lawful permanent residents each year. The rule would primarily affect legal immigrants or people seeking to come to the US legally, as undocumented immigrants are already ineligible for most means-tested public benefits. — Agencies

## India launches world's biggest health scheme

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday launched the world's biggest health insurance scheme, promising free coverage for half a billion of India's poorest citizens ahead of national elections next year. The bottom 40 percent of India's 1.25 billion people will be covered under the flagship program, dubbed "Modicare", unveiled in the federal budget earlier this year. The 100 million lowest-income families will be provided 500,000 rupees (\$6,900) - a sizeable sum in India

## OPEC, Russia rebuff Trump call for boost to oil output

ALGIERS: OPEC's leader Saudi Arabia and its biggest oil-producer ally outside the group, Russia, ruled out yesterday any immediate, additional increase in crude output, effectively rebuffing US President Donald Trump's calls for action to cool the market. "I do not influence prices," Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih told reporters as OPEC and non-OPEC energy ministers gathered in Algiers for a meeting that ended with no formal recommendation for any additional supply boost.

Benchmark Brent oil reached \$80 a barrel this month, prompting Trump to reiterate on Thursday his demand that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries lower prices. The price rally mainly stemmed from a decline in oil exports from OPEC member Iran due to fresh US sanctions. "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!" Trump wrote on Twitter. Falih said Saudi Arabia had spare

## Lamjarred case reopens Morocco violence against women debate

RABAT: Still adored at home despite three separate rape charges in France, Moroccan pop star Saad Lamjarred's latest arrest has reignited a debate on violence against women in the North African kingdom. Following similar accusations in Oct 2016 and April 2017, Lamjarred was re-arrested last week in southern France on charges he had raped a woman in a Riviera hotel. The superstar's detention comes just days after Morocco was rocked by claims from a teenage girl, Khadija Okkarou, that she had been kidnapped and gang-raped by a group of men from her village.

Lamjarred's detention has sparked a social media campaign seeking to ban his songs from Morocco's airwaves using the hashtags #masaktach ("we will not be silenced") and #LamjarredOut.

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- in annual health insurance to treat serious ailments.

Modi handed medical cards out at the launch in Ranchi, capital of the eastern state of Jharkhand, calling it a historic day for India. "We want to strengthen the hands of the poor and stand shoulder to shoulder with them in pursuit of good health," he posted on Twitter. The scheme is expected to cost the central and 29 state governments \$1.6 billion per year in total. Funding will be increased gradually according to demand.

India's overburdened public health system is plagued by a shortage of facilities and doctors and most people use private clinics and hospitals if they can afford to. But a private consultation can cost 1,000 rupees (\$15), a huge sum for millions living on less than \$2 a day. More than 60 percent of the average family's spending goes on medicines and healthcare, the government estimates. Many of the poorest just go without

capacity to increase oil output but no such move was needed at the moment. "My information is that the markets are adequately supplied. I don't know of any refiner in the world who is looking for oil and is not able to get it," Falih said. However, he signaled Saudi Arabia stood ready to increase supply if Iran's output fell: "Whatever takes place between now and the end of the year in terms of supply changes will be addressed."

The statement from Trump, meanwhile, was not his first criticism of OPEC. Higher gasoline prices for US consumers could create a political headache for Republican Trump before midterm congressional elections in November. Iran, OPEC's third-largest producer, has accused Trump of orchestrating the oil price rally by imposing sanctions on Tehran and accused its regional archrival Saudi Arabia of bowing to US pressure. Yesterday, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said Trump's tweet "was the biggest insult to Washington's allies in the Middle East".

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said no immediate output increase was necessary, although he believed a trade war between China and the United States as well as US sanctions on Iran were creating new challenges for oil markets. "Oil demand will be declining in the fourth quarter of this year and the first quarter of next year. So far, we have decided to stick to our June agreements," Novak said.

Seeking to reverse a downturn in oil prices that

care. A report published this month by The Lancet medical journal found substandard healthcare was responsible for an estimated 1.6 million deaths a year in India - the highest anywhere in the world.

Critics have questioned how the government plans to fund such an enormous safety net, and suggested it was little more than a sop ahead of elections next May. Modi will be seeking a second term on a platform of pro-poor policies and "Modicare" is a key plank of his pitch to low-income Indians. "This is going to be another scam. It will benefit only private insurance companies. The citizen of the country will realize later that it is nothing but an election gimmick," said Sanjay Nirupam from India's main opposition Congress Party. But K K Aggarwal, a cardiologist and former president of the Indian Medical Association, said "politicizing over the scheme should stop".

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ALGIERS: Khalid Al-Falih, Saudi Energy and Oil Minister and Chairman of OPEC's Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMCC), speaks to journalists during the 10th JMCC meeting yesterday. — AFP

began in 2014, OPEC, Russia and other allies decided in late 2016 to reduce supply by some 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd). In June this year, however, after months of cutting by more than their pact had called for, largely due to involuntary reductions from Venezuela and other producers, they agreed to boost output by returning to 100 percent compliance.

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Saad Lamjarred

## Russia 'misled' by Israel over jet downing in Syria

MOSCOW: Russia's military yesterday blamed "misleading" information from the Israeli air force for the downing of one of its planes in Syria last week, and denounced the "adventurism" of Israeli pilots. Israel strongly disputed the assertion and vowed it will continue to act against Iranian targets in neighboring Syria. A Syrian air defense missile downed the Russian Ilyushin Il-20 military plane on Sept 17, killing all 15 soldiers aboard and threatening to damage relations between Russia and Israel, which three years ago set up a hotline to avoid accidental clashes in Syria.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to seek to move past the incident in spite of strong statements from the Russian military.

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# Amir expresses condolences over Tanzanian ferry victims



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Al-Habib Al-Sayid, the special envoy of Tunisian President Beji Caïd Essebsi, the latter's political advisor (with ministerial degree) and an ex-premier.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to Tanzanian President John Magufuli, expressing his sorrow over the victims of the sunken ferry in Victoria Lake. HH the Amir expressed deep sorrow over those who perished in the accident and wished swift recovery for the injured. 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 to President Magufuli.

In related news, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received at Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. HH the Amir also received the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The Prime Minister had asked HH the Amir's permission to attend the 73rd session of the United

Nations General Assembly in New York City on his behalf. HH the Amir also received the special envoy of President of the Republic of Tunisia Beji Caïd Essebsi, Former Prime Minister and the Minister of Political Advisor Al-Habib Al-Sayid. The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace the Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. He also received HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and hosted Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. Elsewhere, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday received the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Al-Nemsh who presented the speaker with the bi-annual report about the authority tasks in 2017. — KUNA



Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Al-Nemsh presents the speaker with the bi-annual report about the authority tasks in 2017.

## Kuwaiti hospital launches smartphone app for antibiotic treatment

**KUWAIT:** Apple and Android users can now access an electronic guidebook for the most optimal use of modern antibiotics, Kuwait's Infectious Diseases Hospital said on Saturday. The manual has been assembled by a group of infectious disease specialists, the hospital's medical director Dr Jamal Al-Duaji told KUNA on the sidelines of an international conference over contagious diseases in Kuwait.

He said that the medical facility is in

the process of introducing vaccinations against Shingles, a disease triggered by a dormant chickenpox virus. On other health statistics in Kuwait, the physician revealed that around 400 people have been infected with HIV in the country, a figure that pales in comparison with other nations bearing the brunt of a global AIDS epidemic. Meanwhile, digestive disorders and respiratory ailments have also been on the rise in Kuwait, he pointed out. — KUNA



## Kuwait central bank looks to regulate e-payment system

**KUWAIT:** The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has issued instructions for all service providers, including companies and institutions, to register in its electronic payment system. All service providers are required to regulate their e-payment transactions in line with established regulations, CBK said in a statement posted on its official website.

All e-payment methods are subject to the scrutiny of CBK, the statement added, citing the bank's governor Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel as saying that the new instructions are part of plans to propel the local banking sector. On these plans for growth, Al-Hashel said that a team of experts and specialists has been assembled to look into the most cutting-edge financial services and products. He highlighted the widespread use of e-payment methods in Kuwait, assuring clients of foolproof security despite the alarming rise in global banking fraud. Further details are available on CBK's official website, www.cbk.gov.kw, he said.

## New regulations on private nurseries

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Hind Al-Sabeeh recently endorsed a decision on regulating private nurseries. This is to prevent owners from utilizing the nursery quarters or a part of it for activities other than those specified in the license during or outside official working hours.

The decision also authorized MSAL's women and children department to receive license applications and the undersecretary to issue them within a maximum period of 60 days as well as renew existing ones within 30 days. This decision banned anyone from residing in a nursery or hiring men, except as security guards and officers. It also mandates nurseries to organize sports, cultural and recreational activities for the kids during the summer vacation and banned all operations in afternoon periods. Moreover, the decision urged licensees to apply for renewal three months before their licenses expire. — Al-Anbaa

## Art build bridges among Arabs: Kuwaiti artist

**TUNIS:** Plastic arts are an essential area of human culture as it builds bridges of communication among Arab countries, Kuwaiti artist Adel Khalaf said yesterday. This came while speaking to KUNA on sidelines of his participation with artists from Iraq and Lebanon in the first Carthage days of contemporary arts, concluded today at Culture City in Tunis.

This exhibition, which is organized by Kuwait's Boushahri Gallery, provides an opportunity for different audiences to discover the arts and leading Arab artists, as it presents the effects of community life on the artist's work and the challenges of conflict in the Arab world, Khalaf said. The exhibition includes paintings by artists from Kuwait and some Arab countries, where his participation is a result of prior cooperation with their Tunisian counterparts.

Boushahri Gallery had also issued a special book on the paintings, which makes this exhibition so special. The Tunisian Ministry of Culture opened on Wednesday and is the first session of the Carthage days of contemporary art with the participation of wings and galleries from Kuwait, Tunisia, Turkey, Libya, France and others. — KUNA



Kuwaiti artist Adel Khalaf



Kuwait's Boushahri gallery

Local

# Kuwait eyes closer economic ties with Republic of Guyana

‘We want investors that can help connect different parts of Guyana’



David Patterson, Minister of Infrastructure



Winston Jordan, Minister of Finance



The attendees at the reception. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Two ministers from Guyana are in Kuwait to appeal for a possible writing-off of debt borrowed from Kuwait around 40 years ago. Finance Minister Winston Jordan and Minister of Public Infrastructure David Patterson hope to get the much-needed relief from the Kuwaiti government. “We had borrowed around \$10 million from Kuwait in the 1970s. It was during a time when we really needed help and Kuwait was very generous to reach out and give the money we needed. But now, the amount has grown to about \$70 million because of interest. This is the reason why we

are here,” Jordan said. The two ministers visited Saudi Arabia before coming to Kuwait.

Jordan lauded his country’s much-improved and long-standing relations with Kuwait. He also urged Kuwaiti businessmen to invest in his country’s growing economy and met the Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Saqer in this regard. “For investors, we will give generous concessions. We are a country almost equal to the UK in terms of size, but not too many people (700,000 plus), so there are huge developmental challenges. We want investors that can help connect different parts of Guyana,” he said.

Guyana is considered part of the Caribbean region and according to Jordan, the country is known as the “land of many waters” because it is surrounded by water. “My country is a melting pot of several races - a land surrounded with forest. I am also very keen to tell our brothers in Kuwait that the Muslim population in Guyana is the fastest growing - it is now about 12 percent,” Jordan said. He added the South American sovereign state offers ample opportunities for investment as a result of its large reserves of natural gas and water resources.

Patterson also said Guyana is open and ready for business, especially for investors from Kuwait. “We

are the only English-speaking country in South America, which is good for the business community. We are a rich country in terms of natural resources and minerals. We have abundant water, so agricultural businesses are thriving. Recently, we discovered that Guyana is also rich in oil - in fact in the next two years, the country expects to begin production. Despite this, we are committed to renewable energy and would like to power our country with renewable energy by 2025,” he said.

Guyana’s Ambassador to Kuwait Prof Dr Shamir Ally welcomed visitors at the reception held at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Farwaniya.

## Kuwait partakes in Malian President’s inauguration



BAMAKO: Non-resident Ambassador to Mali Mohammad Al-Failakawi.



BAMAKO: Parts of the inauguration ceremony of Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. — KUNA photos

**BAMAKO:** Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait’s non-resident Ambassador to Mali Mohammad Al-Failakawi recently took part in the inauguration ceremony of Ibrahim Boubacar Keita as the President of Mali for a second term, in addition to the country’s 58th Independence anniversary celebrations.

The events took place in Bamako, Mali on Saturday in the presence of President Keita, several world leaders, and senior officials, Kuwaiti embassy in Ghana said in a statement yesterday. Al-Failakawi, also Kuwait’s Ambassador to Ghana, conveyed congratulations and greetings of HHI the Amir and HHI the Crown Prince to the Malian President, wishing him and his people further progress and prosperity. — KUNA

## Crown Prince Camel Festival concludes in Saudi Arabia

**RIYADH:** The Crown Prince Camel Festival concluded on Saturday in the presence of sheikhs and dignitaries from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. The closing ceremony patronized and attended by the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, was organized by the General Authority for Sports, represented by the Saudi Federation of Camels, at the racetrack of Ta’if governorate, west Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait was represented at the event by Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah - representative of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Fahad Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Sheikh Hamad Khaled Al-Malek Al-Sabah under an invitation from Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

Addressing the gathering, Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal, Vice President of the General Sport Authority, thanked King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince for their support and care for sport events and athletes. He said the patronage of the event by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman materializes his care for traditional sports and folklore activities, and encourages Saudi athletes to make outstanding achievements at local, regional and international sports events. “The camel festival, which kicked off on August 11, has made a resounding success with 11,187 camels competing in 787 races in the four stages of the festival,” he added. Yesterday, the Guinness World Records rated the Crown Prince Camel Festival as the world’s largest camel event.

## Modern cafes: The new taste in Kuwait



KUWAIT: A few of the new coffee cafes in Kuwait. — KUNA photos



A coffee roasting machine



A coffee distillation tower

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait has recently witnessed a surge of new, modern coffee shops or “cafes” that are fast becoming one of the main attractions of the youth community in the country. These cafes are in close competition with each other, each trying to one-up the other by providing a larger or more unique variety of coffee to attract bigger crowds. Despite the high prices, these cafes are regularly filled to the brim with customers. Some come in search for new, exciting coffee flavors while others are there to simply update their social media accounts and show off their lavish coffees to friends. —KUNA

## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Flamingos flock along Kuwait's coast. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) organized a workshop recently to train its employees on the safety management system (SMS). CEO Abdullah Al-Sharhan and heads of departments attended the workshop which took place at KAC's headquarters.

## Boursa Kuwait upgrade to emerging market 'vital': Al-Khaled

KUWAIT: Upgrading of Boursa Kuwait, the national stock exchange, to the status of an emerging market is vital for the country's economic development, said the bourse CEO Khaled Al-Khaled yesterday. Speaking to KUNA, Al-Khaled said that the first step in this regard occurred when the FTSE Russell included Boursa Kuwait in its index after a considerable effort exerted by Kuwait Clearing Company and Boursa Kuwait. Another achievement was including Kuwait in the MSCI index in the 2019 review, another step towards the emerging market recognition, said Al-Khaled.

Meanwhile, Al-Khaled said that healthy

and vial monetary and financial markets depended majorly on transparency and trust, stressing that Boursa Kuwait urged all traders and shareholders to focus on the upcoming steps towards an emerging market status. The Boursa Kuwait CEO touched on the upcoming plans for the market, saying that the focus will be on tools related to the family companies market, institutions of individual nature, in addition to profitable real estate funds and the REITs index.

Al-Khaled touched on Kuwait 2035 vision, affirming that the state's ambitious plans must be accompanied by thriving and strong national market able to assist the country's future plans. Since April 2016, Boursa Kuwait had taken strong strides towards comprehensive development with various milestones reached, said Al-Khaled who indicated that listing companies and other measures at the stock market had veered in a more international and professional direction up to global standards.

He indicated that Boursa Kuwait is keen on facilitating the transport of capital via a transparent and streamlined method, which

include an adequate division of the market as well as the inclusion of several indices such as the XBRL. Last Thursday, Boursa Kuwait announced that it has completed the first phase of its listing in the FTSE Russell Index for emerging markets. The bourse said in a statement that this accession signified the growing investor confidence in the Kuwaiti market, as well as the rapid and successful implementation of reforms and wide-ranging developments that have enhanced international investors' access to the bourse.

It added that attracting foreign capital would undoubtedly require enormous efforts from any emerging market. The inclusion is expected to lead to a significant inflow of foreign investment, which will boost liquidity support in the domestic capital market and contribute to a more balanced market condition and stability. It said that such measure required that international investors be notified about the luring opportunities in the country, adding that the bourse has participated in several promotional campaigns for global investors. — KUNA

## Agility Public Warehouses forced to evict by PAI

KUWAIT: Agility Public Warehouses Company was recently notified to evict their warehouses after its lease contract made on November, 29, 1998 expired. The warehouses are located in Southern Amgharah and cover over 1.057 million square meters. The notification was made upon an administrative resolution

made by PAI director on September 9, 2018 and had the company evict the site and hand over all legal documents and contracts signed within one week from the notification date in order to avoid daily fines mentioned in the contract or any further legal actions.

Notably, PAI had contacted Agility on June 27, 2018 and requested them to hand over all documents, contracts and plans related to the site because the contract signed was near expiry. PAI then sent another letter on July 1, 2018 requesting the same on the contract expiry, which was later officially published in the official gazette urging all those contracting with the company to stop dealing with them before officially warning the company on July 19. — (Al-Qabas)

## 21,000 citizens not issued passports since 1990

KUWAIT: Well informed security sources announced that around 21,000 citizens have not been issued passports going as far back as the Iraqi invasion in 1990. They added that none of them were tracked while travelling on passport systems. "It is unknown whether these people are even still alive," the sources noted. Furthermore, the sources elaborated that these people's children and elder siblings' transactions with the passports department have been blocked to force them to check with the

department and inquire about their relatives.

In a related concern, the sources added that the total number of e-passports issued to citizens till September 15, 2018 totalled up to 1.25 million. The sources also said that the citizenship and passports department urged the Ministry of Health not to issue birth certificates for preterm babies until they are completely discharged from hospitals, because these certificates are being manipulated and used in forgery cases. — Al-Jarida

## Third American arrested on drug charges

KUWAIT: A few days after the arrest of two Americans on drugs charges, a third was arrested by detectives with 13 kg of marijuana, 11 bottles of liquor and wine, a sensitive scale, a pistol, 42 rounds and three magazines. The suspect confessed to bringing the drugs through the US military air cargo. Detectives learned the suspect was keeping the drugs in his house, so the house was raided and the illicit material was found. He was sent to the public prosecution.

### Beggars arrested

Residency affairs detectives arrested more than 10 persons for begging in Farwaniya. Detectives manned various mobile checkpoints to arrest the violators, adding that such campaigns will continue daily.

### Gas thief caught

Detectives spotted a citizen wanted on charges of stealing gas cylinders in Ahmadi, so they followed and arrested him. He was also found wanted over a KD 21,000 debt and to serve a five-year jail sentence on drugs charges.

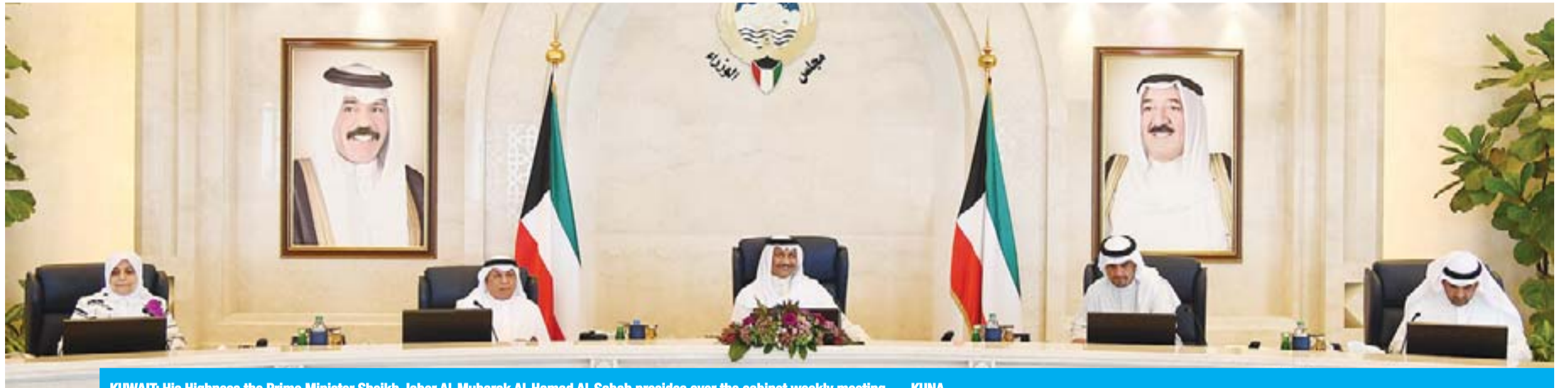
### On the seafloor

A bedoon was arrested for stealing the contents of a car parked by the seafloor. Police found several mobile phones with him belonging to the car owners. — Al-Anbaa

Local

# Kuwait welcomes Saudi Crown Prince's visit, sets date for parliament resumption

Great opportunity to exchange views over issues of mutual interest



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah presides over the cabinet weekly meeting. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** The government of Kuwait yesterday congratulated the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the Saudi people for the Kingdom's national day and welcomed Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's upcoming visit to Kuwait. The visit is part of deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and would be a great opportunity to exchange views over a host of issues of mutual interest, as well as further cementing cooperation at different levels, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said in a statement after the cabinet meeting.

The meeting was chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The cabinet members were informed about His Highness the Prime Minister's trip to New York to represent His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the UN General Assembly's 73rd Session. HH the Prime Minister will be accompanied by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, Minister of

Health Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi.

In other news, the date for the start of the National Assembly's third regular session of the 15th legislative term has been finalized for October 30th, Kuwait's top lawmaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday. "After much consultation with all lawmakers and the government, we have agreed that parliament will officially resume on October 30," Al-Ghanim told the press.

The cabinet, meanwhile, approved a draft law over the

right to have access to information with the aim of boost in transparency and fighting corruption, as well as the executive bylaw of the conflict of interest law.

The cabinet assigned several government bodies to tackle water ponds in Sabah Al-Ahmad Area and took note of a KD 2 million donation from the Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa company to buy medicine for cancer patients and approved a draft decree to hold the 3rd term of the 15th legislative session of the parliament on October 30. — KUNA

In my view

## Why is there a war on expats?



By Talal Al-Ghannam

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**G**ood day to my honorable brothers and sisters. It has been long since I wrote my last article and in today's column I would like to talk about Kuwait's ongoing war on the honorable expatriates who have come here to earn a decent living. In the past few months, expatriates have been subjected to a fierce war by many citizens who call for deporting a large number of foreign workers as Kuwait has become an ever growing center for such labor.

In every country, there are big portions of expatriates who come to the country legally and with the consent of the official authorities to seek a decent living. They didn't enter the country illegally to be deported under extremely stressful conditions. The majority of expats have come here according to authenticated contracts either as domestic helpers, laborers or are seeking jobs in the private sector. It is a shame to see so many citizens call for reduction of the number of expatriate workers even when the majority of their jobs do not suit them.

The blame should not be put on the legal expatriates who come here to serve the country and get salaries in return for their service. The blame must be put on the sponsors who brought them here while refusing to provide them with decent jobs or the proper paperwork. They can't be blamed because officially they are here with authentic contracts and entered the country through legal ports. So how come we are so eager to deport them?

Another point I want to elaborate on is that if such a foreign labor force becomes absent from the country, who then would take their place? I am talking about some professions a Kuwaiti would never do such as domestic helpers, public road cleaners, gas station dispenser and so many other jobs that an expat is willing to handle. So, for the sake of Almighty Allah, give those people a chance to work peacefully, serve Kuwait and fight those who wish to harm the country through ignorance.

## Limited reshuffling in a few hospitals

**KUWAIT:** MOH undersecretary, Dr Mustafa Redha recently approved a limited reshuffling in some hospitals and polyclinics' assistant managers, said informed sources noting that reshuffling included appointing Bader Fahad Al-Mutairi as assistant manager at Kuwait Psychiatric Health Center, Meshaal Salem Al-Thefeiri as assistant manager at Jaber Al-Ahmed Molecular medicine center, Anwar Misfer Al-Otaibi to NBK hospital, Meshaal Soud Al-Rasheed to the physiotherapy hospital, Musaed Sabah Al-Shemmari to KCCC, Nashi Abdullah Al-Rasheed to Farwaniya hospital, Ahmed Moussa Al-Ramadhan to Adan hospital, Abdullah Omar Al-Otaibi to Sabah Al-Ahmed Kidney and urology center and Meshaal Nahar Al-Mutairi to Al-Razi hospital. — Al-Anbaa

## Municipality celebrates Saudi national day



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality celebrated Saudi Arabia's 88th National Day by raising Saudi flags in Mubarakiya market. The municipality prepared a program in cooperation with the information ministry that included several activities including folkloric bands shows and Saudi patriotic songs. Saudi flags were distributed to those in the market along with a display broadcasting from Sheikh Mubarak kiosk yard live on Kuwait television.



## 27 reports listed on parliamentary agenda

By A Saleh / Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Well-informed government sources said 27 reports were listed on parliamentary committee agendas, of which nine, including expats' health insurance, advocates' profession, contesting cassation court verdicts and organizing the import of energy foods, are those that both executives and lawmakers have already agreed upon.

The sources added that five reports are being discussed, while 10 others are disputed, including taxing expat remittances, increasing public service fees, the state's public debt, nomination for leading positions, shortening detention periods, reducing the interest on social security loans, amending the citizenship law, turning Kuwait Airways into a company, amending the Municipal Council con-

stituencies and amending the parliament's rules of procedure.

### Unfinished topics

Head of the parliamentary budgets and final statements committee Adnan Abdulsamad said the committee met to discuss some unfinished topics on the committee's agenda and follow up the most important issues to adopt in the next parliamentary term. Abdulsamad added that the topics include having more control on monitoring the exceptional armament budget, linking educational system outcomes to local market needs, collecting the government's overdue debts and depositing government profits in the future generations fund.

### Control units at municipality

The Municipal Council's environment affairs committee approved a proposal made on establishing control units at the municipality and various government bodies in collaboration with EPA to monitor environmental performance.

### Criminal court

The criminal court yesterday sentenced a bedoon to five years in jail with labor and abstained from punishing a number of male and female citizens over charges of forging medical reports.

## New recruitment strategy for citizens in MEW

**KUWAIT:** Oil Minister, Electricity and Water Minister Eng Bakheet Al-Rashidi said MEW finished a new strategy that aims at qualified Kuwaitis to get more involved in MEW's works and activities.

He said that the general aim of the new strategy is to encourage Kuwaitis to serve Kuwait and its people in addition to providing more jobs for them. Al-Rashidi said the strategy includes increasing training programs at the main manufacturers that the ministry deals with in important and technical fields, so that the training programs take place at the same manufacturing environment, to ensure trainees the best training quality. —Al-Anbaa

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Tanzania buries disaster victims as toll hits 224

## The significance of attack on military parade in Iran

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MONTREAL: In this file photo, Women Foreign Ministers' pose for a picture during their meeting in Montreal, Canada. Female foreign ministers meeting for the first summit of its kind vowed to bring a "women's perspective" to foreign policy. — AFP (See Page 8)

# Swiss region votes for 'burqa ban'

## Islamic Central Council of Switzerland slams ban as 'Islamophobic'

GENEVA: A second Swiss canton will introduce a regional "burqa ban", after voters in St Gallen yesterday emphatically backed prohibiting all face-covering garments in public spaces. At the same time, voters across Switzerland resoundingly rejected initiatives aimed at boosting local farming and promoting more ethical and environmental standards in food production, amid fears of cost hikes and reduced consumer choice.

In the northeastern canton of St Gallen, nearly 67 percent of voters came out in favor of introducing the implicit "burqa ban", according to official results, which showed turnout was 36 percent. That paves the way for the canton to follow the example of the southern region of Ticino, where a law was introduced two years ago that appeared to be aimed at burqas and other Muslim veils. Three other cantons-Zurich, Solothurn and Glarus-have rejected introducing such bans in recent years.

A text stipulating that "any person who renders themselves unrecognizable by covering their face in a public space, and thus endangers public security or social and religious peace will be fined" was adopted by lawmakers in St Gallen late last year. That law passed the regional parliament with support from the populist right and centre parties-but the issue was put to the people after the

Green and Green Liberal parties demanded a referendum. Supporters of the ban insisted in campaign literature that "it is integral to our culture and our values to be able to look each other in the eyes without hiding".

### 'Islamophobic'

The Islamic Central Council of Switzerland yesterday slammed the ban as "Islamophobic". Other opponents have insisted the ban was useless, stressing that very few women wear burqas or other face-covering veils in St Gallen. Opponents have also pointed out that the canton already has a law prohibiting face-covering during demonstrations that require police authorization as well as at sporting events.

A review published recently on the effect of the law introduced in Ticino in 2016 meanwhile showed that football fans had felt the most impact, while fines for burqa-use could be counted on one hand, the ATS news agency reported. Switzerland's government last year



### Canton becomes second to ban burqas in public

opposed an initiative aimed at creating a nationwide burqa ban, saying it should be up to the regions to determine if such measures are appropriate. Voters across Switzerland are however expected to be called to vote on the issue next year after the populist rightwing Swiss People's Party gathered the 100,000 signatures needed to put any subject to a referendum as part of Switzerland's famous direct democratic system.

### Swiss snub 'fair food'

At the national level, the Swiss meanwhile overwhelmingly rejected two schemes linked to agriculture and food security which urged a shift towards more ethical and environmentally friendly food production, as well as protection for Swiss farmers against cheap food imports. The final results showed that 61 and 68 percent of voters respectively rejected the "Fair Food" and "Food Sovereignty" initiatives. The "Food Sovereignty" initiative, which had the backing of

Switzerland's powerful farmers' union, had among other things called for turning a moratorium on genetically modified organisms (GMO) into a total ban.

Early polls had suggested strong backing for both initiatives, but support fell after the government, parliament and other opponents argued they could send prices skyrocketing, limit consumer choice and might violate Switzerland's international trade obligations. Geneva and three other French-speaking cantons supported both initiatives, but the German-speaking part of the country voted massively against them. Also yesterday, Swiss voters overwhelmingly backed a proposal to enshrine support for cycling in the constitution.

All 26 cantons and nearly 74 percent of voters came out in favor of adding an article to the constitution giving federal authorities more responsibility for developing cycling paths across the country. The text meanwhile only provides federal authorities with the possibility of stepping in on matters related to promoting cycling without obliging them to do so, and the cantons are expected to remain largely in charge. The national votes this time failed to garner much excitement, resulting in below-average turnout, with only 37 percent of eligible voters casting their ballots. — Reuters

## Torrential rains kill 4 in Tunisia

NABEUL: Flash floods in Tunisia's Cap Bon peninsula have killed at least four people, authorities said yesterday, as surging waters caused by heavy rains carried away homes, cars and chunks of road. Among the four dead were two sisters, swept away as they left work at a factory in Bou Argoub, 45 kilometers southeast of the capital, the interior ministry said. A 60-year-old man drowned near the town of Takilsa and another man was found dead in Bir Bouregba, close to the town of Hammamet, ministry spokesman Sofiene Zaag said.

Saturday's storm caused water levels in some areas to rise as much as 1.7 meters, as bridges and roads were damaged in record rains that dropped the equivalent of nearly six months of average precipitation. "It was raining since noon and (in the afternoon) it became torrential. The water flooded over the bridge and onto the road," Moncef Barouni, a resident in the coastal town of Nabeul, told AFP. In just minutes, "the water swept away the fence, then the

boiler room, the summer kitchen and a part of the house," he said. "I was scared for my life."

The storm dumped 200 millimetres (7.9 inches) of rain on Nabeul and up to 225 millimetres in the city of Beni Khalled, in the peninsula's centre, according to Tunisia's National Institute of Meteorology. It was the heaviest rainfall since the institute began keeping a record in 1995, the institute said, adding that it had issued a warning about the storms on Friday. Videos posted to social networks showed surging waters carrying cars and pieces of road in the north of the peninsula.

Tunisian authorities said they had dispatched police, army and rescue teams to the region on Saturday afternoon, in addition to mobilizing ambulances and two helicopters. Authorities also took preventative measures in the Sahel region further south in anticipation of further rains, but yesterday they appeared to have subsided. The sun was out yesterday and receding water levels meant most of the area's roads were passable by car, Zaag said, although the region's telephone networks were still largely out of service. Severe thunderstorms have hit the North African country since the middle of last week, flooding roads and damaging property, sparking anger against the authorities for allegedly failing to maintain drainage systems. —AFP



NABEUL, Tunisia: A picture taken yesterday in the Tunisian coastal governate of Nabeul shows people gathering at the site of collapsed bridge following deadly flash flooding in the town of Bir Challouf. — AFP

## Paradise, power and polls: Five questions as Maldives votes

NEW DELHI: The Maldives-a country of 1,200 islands in the Indian Ocean best known for its white beaches and blue lagoons-voted yesterday in a presidential election. The archipelago of 260,000 people has seen political opposition suppressed and press freedom curtailed in recent years under its strongman leader. Will the poll nudge the Maldives back toward democracy, or further its spiral into autocracy? Here are five things to know:

### Who is the incumbent?

Abdulla Yameen, a once mild-mannered civil servant turned strongman president, is seeking a second term in office. The 59-year-old has ruled with an iron fist since 2013. The free press has been cowed, the military used to stave off impeachment, and most opponents-even Yameen's own half-brother-have been jailed. In a power struggle in February, Yameen launched what the UN called an "all-out assault on democracy", declaring a state of emergency. At its height, he sent soldiers to storm the Supreme Court and arrest judges who had ordered the release of political prisoners. Emergency rule was not lifted for 45 days.

### Who are the opposition?

The opposition have fielded a joint candidate, the little-known Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, 54. But campaigning has been difficult, with many key figures in exile. Mohamed Nasheed, an exiled

opposition figure and former president, withdrew his candidacy after being barred from running. He was convicted of terrorism in 2015 in a trial widely viewed as politically motivated.

### Do they stand a chance?

The odds are stacked in Yameen's favor. Rights groups say his regime has used harsh fines and vague decrees to silence dissent and impose censorship in the lead-up to polling day. Even wearing T-shirts emblazoned with pictures of opposition figures is out of bounds, local journalists say. Human Rights Watch says new vote-counting rules adopted just days before the poll favor Yameen and may deny Maldivians a right to choose. The opposition has publicly expressed confidence that voters-at home and abroad-will come out against the regime. But it has accused Yameen of laying the groundwork to "steal" this election.

### Why does it matter?

There are broader geopolitical concerns at play. The Maldives, like other smaller regional countries once firmly in India's orbit, has drifted closer to China in recent years, which has given hundreds of millions of dollars in loans to the atoll nation. Beijing has been accused of seeking to develop facilities around the Indian Ocean-a so-called "string of pearls"-to counter the rise of its rival and secure its own economic interests. The tropical archipelago is also a hugely popular holiday destination, attracting nearly 1.4 million foreigners in 2017.

### What could happen next?

Election irregularities, or a repeat of February's constitutional hijinks, could see sanctions imposed. The European Union said in July it was ready to impose travel bans and asset freezes on individuals if the situation did not improve. The US State Department this month warned it would "consider appropriate measures" if the election was not free and fair. — AFP

## International

# The significance of attack on military parade in Iran

## A stunning blow to Iran's security establishment

**TEHRAN:** A deadly assault on an Iranian Revolutionary Guards parade dealt a stunning blow to Iran's security establishment, which has often said it can repel any threat no matter how big, even from the United States and its chief Middle East ally Israel. Saturday's shooting attack, among the worst ever on the Guards, illustrated that Iran's elite force, which answers directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, can be vulnerable to guerrilla-style operations. Iran had enjoyed relative stability compared to Arab neighbors who have grappled with political and economic upheaval touched off by popular uprisings in 2011. The Guards have vowed to retaliate for the attack.

### Who was responsible?

Iran blamed the United States and its Gulf Arab neighbors for the bloodshed. But it has presented no evidence. 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. So did Islamic State, who also claimed responsibility for a 2017 attack at the Iranian parliament and the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, which left 18 dead. Neither group has presented proof of their involvement. Arab opposition groups have a long list of grievances against Iranian leaders and their frustrations are growing.

The city of Ahvaz, where the attack took place, is the capital of Khuzestan, a region bordering Iraq where the majority of Iran's Arab minority lives. The community has long felt neglected by the Persian-dominated central government in Tehran. The area has been hit particularly hard by the economic problems afflicting the entire country and the unemployment rate in Khuzestan is 14.5 percent, higher than the national rate of 11.8 percent. Poor living standards have been compounded by electricity shortages and a severe drought, which locals blame on mismanagement by the central government. Residents of Ahvaz have been forced to stay inside their homes on some days because of severe sandstorms linked to drought in the past year.

Armed opposition groups have played on this discontent to attempt to drum up support for their actions which have included attacks on oil pipelines in the region. Civil

rights activists say these violent attacks undermine their peaceful efforts to help the community and lead to widespread arrests. The Kurds in western Iran and the Baluch in the southeast, both prominent minority groups, also complain of central government neglect. Armed Kurdish opposition groups have clashed with the Guards in the border area with Iraq in recent months, leading to several



### Guards vow to retaliate

dead and wounded on both sides. In early September, the Guards fired seven missiles at a base of a Kurdish opposition group in northern Iraq, killing at least 11 people.

### What has been the reaction?

Such attacks tend to unite Iranian reformers and hardliners despite sharp differences over domestic and foreign policies. President Hassan Rouhani has pushed back against the growing economic and political influence of the Guards in recent years but, after the Ahvaz attack, it will be difficult for Rouhani to challenge them. The violence has led to a boost in support for the Guards, according to analysts, which they will likely use to silence their critics, including Rouhani. President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from an international nuclear deal from Iran will also give hardliners more political leverage because they argued that the United States should not be trusted.

### Revolutionary guards

Senior commanders have said the Ahvaz attack was carried out by militants trained by Gulf states and Israel



**AHVAZ, Iran:** Iranian soldiers take cover in a rain gutter off a street at the scene of an attack on a military parade that was marking the anniversary of the outbreak of its devastating 1980-1988 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq. — AFP

and backed by America. But it is unlikely that the Guards will strike any of these foes directly. They will probably present a show of strength by launching missiles at groups operating in Iraq or Syria that may be linked to the militants who carried out the attack.

After the Tehran attack by Islamic State in 2017, the Guards launched missiles at militant groups in eastern

Syria days later. And after a series of clashes with Kurdish opposition groups in recent months, the Guards unleashed missiles at a Kurdish opposition base in northern Iraq in early September. The Guards are also likely to enforce a tight security policy in Khuzestan province for the foreseeable future, arresting any perceived domestic opponents including civil rights activists. — Reuters

## Pirates kidnap 12 on Swiss cargo ship off Nigeria

**GENEVA:** A gang of pirates took hostage 12 crew members from a Swiss cargo ship they attacked in Nigerian waters, the vessel's operator has said. Massoel Shipping said its bulk carrier MV Glarus, with 19 crew, came under attack early Saturday morning as it transported bulk wheat from Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos to the southern oil hub of Port Harcourt. During the attack, 45 nautical miles southwest of Bonny Island, "the pirate gang boarded the Glarus by means of long ladders and cut the razor wire on deck to gain access to the vessel and eventually the bridge," the company said in a statement sent to AFP.

"Having destroyed much of the vessel's communications equipment, the criminal gang departed taking 12 of the 19 crew complement as hostage," it added. Massoel spokesman Patrick Adamson told AFP it was the second largest number of people taken from a ship in the oil delta southeast of Nigeria this year. "Pirates usually don't make contacts in the first 48 hours, so we don't have any news on that," he added. For safety reasons, neither the identities nor nationalities of the hostages would be released, he said.

More than 60 crew were reported kidnapped last year in waters off Nigeria, Africa's leading crude producer, although many attacks are not reported. The Geneva-based shipping company said "all the appropriate authorities have been notified" and specialists have been called in to "secure the speedy and safe release of those being held." "Families are being kept closely informed of the situation," Switzerland's foreign ministry said it "has been informed of the attack on Glarus, a vessel sailing under a Swiss flag along the Nigerian coast." The Swiss Maritime Navigation Office was in contact with the vessel's operator, it added. — AFP

## Armenian capital holds snap polls

**YEREVAN:** Residents of Yerevan took to municipal polls yesterday, the first vote held in the ex-Soviet country since mass protests pushed its former leader to resign, and a major test for the new government. The election of the city council or Council of Elders and mayor in the capital, where almost half the national population lives, is crucial for Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who was swept into his new role after spearheading weeks of protests in May. Pashinyan, whose popularity is based on his anti-corruption and economic reform stance, still faces an Armenian parliament mostly comprised of members of the formerly ruling Republican party.

Ahead of the polls, he urged citizens to cast ballots for his allies, saying the outcome will determine whether he has enough public support to negotiate holding snap parliamentary election. The mayoral seat has been empty since former mayor Taron Margaryan resigned on July 9 over corruption allegations and protests urging him to quit. Snap polls were triggered when the city council was unable to select a new mayor. By Armenian law, the mayor is selected based on election results for the council: if one party gains more than half of the votes, the party's candidate becomes mayor.

In case of a different outcome, the new council selects the mayor via secret ballot. Twelve parties and alliances are running for council seats. At the top of the list of Pashinyan's alliance My Step is popular actor and comedian Hayk Marutyan. Thirty-two-year-old construction worker Sargis Hakobyan said he backed Pashinyan's party "to continue the revolution, reform". — AFP

## Jihadist group rejects deal for Syria's Idlib

**BEIRUT:** A jihadist faction in the Idlib region of northwestern Syria has rejected a Turkish-Russian deal that requires "radical" insurgents to withdraw from a demilitarized zone, and urged rebels to launch new military operations. While the Huras al-Din faction is not the main Islamist militant group in Idlib, its statement points to objections that may complicate the implementation of the agreement clinched last week by Russia and Turkey.

The most powerful jihadist group in the northwest, Tahrir al-Sham, has yet to declare its stance on the deal, under which insurgents must vacate the demilitarized zone by Oct 15. Tahrir al-Sham is a coalition of Islamist groups dominated by the faction formerly known as the Nusra Front, which was an official wing of the al Qaeda network until 2016. Tahrir al-Sham's position will be critical.

An alliance of Turkey-allied rebel groups, the National Front for Liberation, has declared its "complete cooperation" with the Turkish effort, but has also ruled out disarming or yielding territory. The Huras al-Din group was formed earlier this year by combatants who split from Tahrir al-Sham and the Nusra Front when it cut its ties with al Qaeda. It includes foreign militants. The group declared the agreement part of a plan "to eliminate the jihadist project" in the Levant. "We advise our mujahideen

## Israel gives villagers until end of month to leave

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli authorities issued a notice to residents of a Bedouin village in a strategic spot in the occupied West Bank yesterday informing them they have until the end of the month to leave. The fate of Khan al-Ahmar has drawn international concern, with European countries calling on Israel not to move ahead with plans to demolish it. Israel's Supreme Court on September 5 rejected appeals against demolition, allowing authorities to move ahead.

Israel says the village was built without the proper permits, though it is extremely difficult for Palestinians to receive such permission in that part of the West Bank. The notice given to some 200 residents of Khan al-Ahmar yesterday says they have

until the end of the month to demolish the village themselves. "Pursuant to a supreme court ruling, residents of Khan al-Ahmar received a notice today requiring them to demolish all the structures on the site by October 1st, 2018," a statement from the Israeli defense ministry unit that oversees civilian affairs in the West Bank said. It did not say what will happen if they refuse to do so. Village residents vowed not to leave despite the notice.

"No one will leave. We will have to be expelled by force," said village spokesman Eid Abu Khamis, adding that a residents' meeting would be held later on the issue. "If the Israeli army comes to demolish, it will only be by force." The village is located in a strategic spot east of Jerusalem, near Israeli settlements and along a road leading to the Dead Sea. There have been warnings that continued settlement building in the area would eventually divide the West Bank in two, dealing a death blow to any remaining hopes of a two-state solution. Israeli authorities have offered alternative sites for Khan al-Ahmar residents, but villagers say the first was near a rubbish dump and the latest close to a sewage treatment plant. — AFP



**KHAN AL-AHMAR:** A Palestinian Bedouin school child walks in the village of Khan Al-Ahmar in the Israeli occupied West Bank. — AFP



**ALEPPO:** A fighter from the Nureddine Al-Zinki unit, a moderate Syrian opposition faction affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and made up of former Syrian Free Army fighters, mans a position in a rebel-held part of Aleppo province that lies directly east of the main opposition bastion in Idlib. — AFP

brothers in this decisive and dangerous phase ... (to) begin military operations against the enemies of religion to thwart their plans," it said in a statement released on Saturday.

The demilitarized zone agreed by Turkey and Russia will be 15 to 20 km deep and run along the contact line between rebel and government fighters. It will be patrolled

by Turkish and Russian forces. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that all opposition heavy weapons, mortars, tanks and rocket systems are to be removed from the zone by Oct 10. Close to 3 million people live in Idlib, around half of them Syrians displaced by the war from other parts of Syria, and the United Nations has warned that an offensive would cause a humanitarian catastrophe. — Reuters

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## International

# From reality TV to UN, Trump to wield Security Council gavel

## World leaders look for progress on N Korea, brace for Trump

**UNITED NATIONS:** He has chaired board meetings, cabinet meetings and starred in a reality television show, but on Wednesday US President Donald Trump will wield the gavel in the United Nations Security Council to denounce Iran for what it sees as its malign regional behavior. Trump is able to preside over the 15-member council as the United States holds the monthly rotating presidency, which coincides with the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations in New York this week. "I am sure that's going to be the most watched Security Council meeting ever," US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told reporters.

But despite the unpredictable nature of Trump, some diplomats aren't expecting a reality television performance in the Security Council, where nearly every member is likely to be represented by their prime minister or president except Russia and China, which are expected to send ministers. "I don't think it will be that entertaining at all," said one senior UN diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Even those who don't like him, the attitude of all other heads of state and government in a public meeting when faced with any president of the United States of America is to be on their best behavior," the diplomat said. It is rare for the council - formed in 1945 to maintain international peace and security - to meet at the head-of-state and government level. This will be the third time the body is chaired by a US president. It has the ability to impose sanctions or authorize the use of military force. Trump's predecessor Barack Obama presided over meetings in 2009 and 2014 on nuclear nonproliferation and foreign terrorist fighters. In both cases the council adopted resolutions on the topics under discussion. US Ambassador Nikki Haley said there are no plans to adopt a resolution at Wednesday's meeting. "We want to make sure (Iran) understands the world



### US president takes the podium to face foes

is watching. That's the biggest reason for this meeting," she said earlier this month.

#### 'Thrilled'

The topic of the meeting will be nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, a broad issue that allows leaders around the horse-shoe table to raise a variety of subjects from North Korea to chemical weapons attacks in Syria and Britain. However, Trump signaled on Twitter he will zero in on Iran, when he posted: "I will chair a United Nations Security Council meeting on Iran." Tehran has accused the United States of abusing the power of the Security Council president.

The US concept note on the meeting circulated to Security Council members does not specifically mention any countries. "The purpose of this meeting is to discuss ways the Security Council can better enforce the resolutions it has adopted ... to counter the spread and use of the world's most dangerous weapons," it reads. The role of the Security Council president is typically administrative and neutral. The president is in charge of scheduling and presiding over council meetings and briefing other members states and the press on the council's work.

#### Bracing for Trump

North Korea and Iran will dominate this week's gathering of world leaders at the United Nations, where President Donald Trump will be firmly in the spotlight as he continues to upend global diplomacy. After warming up to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and ditching the Iran nuclear deal, the unpredictable Trump takes the podium tomorrow to face foes and increasingly uneasy allies at the UN General Assembly. On Wednesday, he will for the first time chair a



MISSOURI: US President Donald Trump arrives on stage to speak at a rally at JQH Arena in Springfield, Missouri. —AFP

Security Council meeting on non-proliferation and weapons of mass destruction that will focus heavily on Iran-likely triggering a clash with other big powers.

#### U-turn on North Korea

Trump's address to the assembly will be the "polar opposite of what we heard last year," said Suzanne DiMaggio, an expert on North Korea and Iran at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The president will tout his face-to-

face with Kim as a major diplomatic win but "he should think twice if he plans to repeat his claim that North Korea is no longer a nuclear threat," she said. Despite the Trump-Kim landmark summit in Singapore in June, there has been little concrete progress on denuclearization.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong ho has been invited by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for talks on the sidelines of the assembly meeting. Ri is scheduled to deliver his address on September 29. —Agencies

## Pope honors Holocaust victims in Lithuania

**KAUNAS:** Pope Francis yesterday paid homage to Holocaust victims who perished in the Vilnius ghetto, 75 years to the day after the Nazis liquidated it, and warned 100,000 Lithuanians gathered for mass against "pernicious attitudes" leading to genocide. "Seventy-five years ago, this nation witnessed the final destruction of the Vilnius Ghetto; this was the climax of the killing of thousands of Jews that had started two years earlier," the pontiff told faithful in a homily in Kaunas, Lithuania's second city.

Pre-war Lithuania was home to a thriving Jewish community of more than 200,000 people, with its capital Vilnius a hub of learning known as the "Jerusalem of the North". According to historians, around 195,000 — nearly the entire Jewish population — perished at the hands of the Nazis and local collaborators under the 1941-44 German occupation. Today around 3,000 Jews live in the EU and NATO member state which has a population of 2.9 million, the majority of whom are Catholic.

Recalling the Holocaust, Francis prayed for divine "discernment" to alert the faithful to any reappearance of "that pernicious attitude, any whiff of it that can taint the heart of generations that did not experience those times and can sometimes be taken in by such siren songs." The pope also said he would pay tribute to Holocaust victims at the Vilnius ghetto memorial later on at ceremonies marking the 75th anniversary of its liquidation.

"In these days, I reserve a special thought for the Jewish community," the pontiff said, calling for "dialogue and the shared commitment for justice and peace". Francis will travel to mainly Protestant Latvia today and secular Estonia tomorrow as all three Baltic states mark 100 years of independence this year.

#### Soviet-era repression

The last century of Baltic history was marked by both the Nazi invasion and then decades of persecution under Soviet occupation during the Cold War. Vilnius estimates that more than 50,000 Lithuanians died under Soviet occupation in camps, prisons, and during deportations between 1944 and 1953. Another 20,000 partisans and supporters were killed in anti-Soviet guerrilla warfare.

"Kaunas knows about this; Lithuania as a whole can testify to it, still shuddering at the mention of Siberia, or the ghettos of Vilnius and Kaunas, among others," Francis told the faithful. The Argentine pontiff will also honor victims of Soviet-era persecution later on during a visit to a museum in the former KGB building in Vilnius where regime opponents were tortured and killed. Behind the Iron Curtain, the Catholic Church played a key role in the non-violent anti-Soviet resistance, especially in Lithuania, the only Catholic-majority country of the three. As a result, it was persecuted with both priests and bishops jailed, sent to Siberia or killed by totalitarian authorities. —AFP

## Popularity of French leader hits record lows

**PARIS:** The popularity of French President Emmanuel Macron has hit its lowest level since the start of his term, according to a major tracker poll published yesterday, with just 29 percent of respondents satisfied with his leadership. The poll by research group Ifo and published in the Journal du Dimanche showed an overall fall of five points in September compared with August, reflecting the 40-year-old's battle with a series of domestic and foreign setbacks. The results of the widely watched Ifo poll are broadly in line with other surveys that have shown the approval ratings of the centrist falling sharply following a scandal involving a security aide in July.

A separate poll by the Kantar Sofres Onepoint group published on September 17 showed that only 19 percent of French people had a positive

view of Macron's record, while another survey on September 11 showed only 29 percent thought he was a "good president." The results reinforce a longer-term trend of French voters turning quickly on their presidents soon after their election-something suffered by Macron's predecessors Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy.

But many analysts also believe Macron has made a series of political errors, including failing to address the scandals over the summer quickly enough and repeatedly creating negative headlines with harsh or condescending remarks. His leadership style was again questioned last week when he told an unemployed gardener that he should look for a job in a restaurant or on a building site and implied he was not searching hard enough. Macron's biggest challenge remains the economy, however, with his pro-business reforms failing so far to produce a significant fall in unemployment or a major uptick in growth.

His government will unveil its draft budget for 2019 on Monday, which is set to see fresh efforts to rein in France's chronic overspending via cuts

## Tanzania buries disaster victims as toll hits 224

**UKARA:** Tanzania declared the whole nation was in mourning yesterday as the first dozen bodies were buried from a devastating ferry capsized on Lake Victoria that left 224 people dead. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa led "national funerals" on the island of Ukara, where the MV Nyerere had been coming in to dock on Thursday. He spoke of "great mourning by the whole nation" as the first coffins were placed in individual graves, many of the victims unidentified.

The remainder of the dead were to be lain to rest later or taken away by families wishing for private funerals. The prime minister said a memorial would be built on Ukara. Hopes had faded of finding any more survivors three days after the disaster, even after rescuers pulled out an engineer on Saturday who had holed up in an

air pocket in the upturned vessel. But Majaliwa said divers would continue the grim search in the waters around the boat. The ferry would also be refloated. He updated the death toll to 126 women, 71 men, 17 girls and 10 boys. Just 41 people survived.

#### 'Overloading' blamed for tragedy

Transport Minister Isack Kamwelwe said 265 people had been on board the ferry, which had an official capacity of 100 or 101 passengers. The prime minister said initial investigations suggested overloading was one of the causes of the accident. "We have already arrested all those people in charge of operating and supervising the MV Nyerere. Questioning has begun," he said.

A broader commission of inquiry into the disaster would also be set up, Majaliwa added. One survivor was an engineer who shut himself into a "special room" with enough air for him to stay alive until he was found, said local lawmaker Joseph Mkundi.

Transport minister Kamwelwe said on Saturday that 172 of the bodies had been identified by relatives. State

## Women foreign ministers promise fresh perspective

**MONTREAL:** Female foreign ministers meeting for the first summit of its kind vowed Saturday to bring a "women's perspective" to foreign policy. The two-day meeting, which began Friday in Montreal and brought together more than half of the world's top women diplomats, focused on topics such as conflict prevention, democratic growth and eliminating gender-based violence.

"This meeting represented a historic occasion," said Canada's top diplomat Chrystia Freeland, who also took the opportunity to announce the creation of Canada's first ambassador for women, peace and security. "This is not about creating a pink ghetto. This is quite to the contrary. This is about highlighting the importance and the role and the rights of women and girls in the world," Freeland said.

"It's about talking about the ways women in leadership positions can be particularly engaged in championing those rights." The ministers will share their takeaways from the event during meetings taking place as part of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in the coming week. The diplomatic chiefs from 17 countries promised to meet regularly-albeit informally-

within the next year. "We planted a seed that will grow into, I believe, a plant with beautiful flowers," said European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini, who co-led the meeting with Freeland.

In addition to Freeland and Mogherini, the conference brought together ministers from Andorra, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, South Africa and Sweden. At the end of the summit, a dozen of the participants symbolically placed flowers on headstones erected in a Montreal park to commemorate 14 women killed in 1989 at the Ecole Polytechnique engineering school. The killer, who targeted women in what was classified as a hate crime, wounded 14 others. —AFP



SALZBURG, Austria: France's President Emmanuel Macron addresses a press conference at the end of the EU Informal Summit of Heads of State or Government at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Austria. —AFP

to the public sector payroll and caps on pensions. The survey by Ifo published yesterday was conducted between September 14-22 on 1,964 people. Macron's approval rating of 29 percent includes 3.0 percent of people who

declared themselves "very satisfied" and 26 percent who said they were "mostly satisfied." Hollande had an inferior rating of 23 percent at the same time of his term and Sarkozy had a rating of 34 percent. —AFP



MWANZA: Relatives of the victims of a ferry accident carry the wreath during the burial service at the shore of lake Victoria at Ukara, Ukerewe district, Mwanza region yesterday. —AFP

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.

Witnesses told AFP that 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. —AFP



International

# Hong Kong and Taiwan Catholics upbeat over Vatican-China deal

## China's Catholic Church pledges loyalty to Party

**HONG KONG:** Worshippers at masses in Hong Kong and Taiwan were largely upbeat yesterday about a new deal between China and the Vatican, despite fears Beijing is trying to increase control over the Church. Cardinal Joseph Zen, the outspoken former Bishop of Hong Kong, accused Vatican officials of "selling out" ahead of Saturday's agreement and in a blog post shortly after the announcement he raised concern over its impact. "What will the government say to Catholics in China? 'Obey us, the Holy See is already in agreement with us?'" Zen wrote. Comments on social media accused the Vatican of turning a blind eye to a "silent cultural revolution" in China, where churches have been destroyed in recent months and there has been a clampdown on Bible sales.

But churchgoers in Hong Kong gave the deal a cautious welcome. A parishioner who gave her name as Teresa at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Hong Kong said: "More contact is positive," adding she was not worried warming ties between Beijing and the Vatican would lead to interference in the semi-autonomous city's Catholic churches. Another who gave her name as Nikki said: "Any cooperation between the two sides has to be a good thing, as long as it's equal cooperation." In Taiwan, some worshippers worried the new deal meant the island would lose its only official ally in Europe.

Beijing sees self-ruling Taiwan as part of its territory and demands its allies sever official relations. The Vatican is one of only 17 countries that maintain diplomatic ties with Taipei instead of with Beijing. Online comments on Taiwan's Liberty Times

Facebook page accused the Vatican of "dealing with the devil". But churchgoers remained confident. "I think the pope's consideration in signing the agreement is to promote religious freedom rather than establishing diplomatic relations with China, so there is no need to politicize him," said parishioner Yuan Shi-min at Our Lady of Fatima in Taipei.

The Chinese Communist Party is officially atheist and religious groups are tightly controlled by the state. China's roughly 12 million Catholics are divided between a state-run association whose clergy are chosen by the government and an unofficial church which swears allegiance to the pope. The agreement struck Saturday aimed at resolving a decades-old dispute over who gets to name bishops, and could lead to a rapprochement for the first time since diplomatic ties were severed in 1951. Shortly after the deal was unveiled, Pope Francis recognized seven clergy appointed by Beijing.

### Loyalty to Party

Meanwhile, China's Catholic Church reaffirmed

its loyalty to the country's ruling Communist Party yesterday, while welcoming a landmark deal struck with the Vatican on appointing new bishops. The Vatican on Saturday signed an agreement giving it a long-desired and decisive say in the appointment of bishops in China, though critics labeled it a sellout to the government. China's around 12 million Catholics have been split between an underground Church swearing loyalty to the Vatican and the state-supervised Catholic Patriotic Association. The Catholic Church in China said it would "persevere to walk a path suited to a socialist society, under the leadership



**TAIPEI:** Worshippers receive communion at the Mother of Fatima Church in Taipei yesterday. Worshippers at masses in Hong Kong and Taiwan were largely upbeat about a new deal between China and the Vatican despite fears Beijing is trying to up control of the Church. —AFP

of the Chinese Communist Party."

It "deeply loved the motherland" and "sincerely endorsed" the agreement, hoping relations between China and the Vatican would improve further, it added in comments on its website. The Vatican has said the accord, a breakthrough after years of negotiations, was "not political but pastoral", and

hoped it would lead 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. —Agencies



### Cardinal accuses Vatican officials of 'selling out'

## Maoist rebels kill Indian lawmaker

**NEW DELHI:** Maoist rebels were accused yesterday of assassinating a south Indian lawmaker and another former legislator in a brazen daytime ambush on their vehicle, police and media reports said. Kidari Sarveswara Rao, a member of the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh state, was shot dead near the coastal city of Visakhapatnam in what police say was a targeted hit on the sitting legislator.

Former lawmaker S Soma, who was accompanying Rao, was also gunned down in the attack blamed on Maoist fighters active in a forested belt of central and eastern India. E Naidu, a local police official, told AFP that Rao was on a Maoist "hit list" of powerful figures accused of having ties to bauxite miners in the mineral-rich state. "There were some 30 Maoists in hiding. They attacked suddenly, giving no time for them (Rao and Soma) to react," he said.

The Press Trust of India reported that a large group blocked the car and overpowered the bodyguards escorting the two officials, before turning their weapons on them. It was the first such attack in many years in Andhra Pradesh, once a hotbed for insurgents fighting for what they say are the land rights of marginalized tribal communities. —AFP

## Maldives' Yameen eyes new term in controversial poll

**COLOMBO:** Voting began in a controversial presidential election in the Maldives yesterday, amid fears that the process has been rigged in China-friendly strongman Abdulla Yameen's favor. Yameen has imprisoned or forced into exile all his main rivals, and is expected to retain his hold on power in the Indian Ocean island nation. Foreign monitors and the opposition have slammed his government for its crackdown on opponents and the media, and urged the international community not to recognize the results of the election.

Before polls opened, police raided the campaign headquarters of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), searched the building for several hours in a bid to stop what they called "illegal activities". There were no arrests. Despite the crackdown, hundreds of Maldivians headed to polling booths before voting began in the capital Male. "There is a lot of enthusiasm. Voters lined up to vote despite overcast weather," MDP party worker Shauna Aminath said.

Yameen has borrowed hundreds of millions of dollars from China to build up infrastructure, alarming the nation's long-time backer India. The European Union has

said it is ready to impose travel bans and asset freezes on individuals "if the situation does not improve", while the United States has warned it would "consider appropriate measures" against those undermining democracy in the country of 1,200 islands.

Some 262,000 people in the archipelago-famed for its white beaches and blue lagoons-can vote in an election from which independent international monitors have been barred. Only a handful of foreign media have been allowed in. The Asian Network for Free Elections, a foreign monitoring group, said the campaign was heavily tilted in favor of the 59-year-old Yameen. The network said it did not expect a fair contest. "In the absence of any scrutiny (of the elections) or pressure (on the government), sombre events surely loom ahead for the people of Maldives," it said on the eve of the vote.

### Silencing dissent

In February, Yameen alarmed the international community by imposing a state of emergency, suspending the constitution and sending troops to stop members of parliament who were trying to impeach him. The chief justice and a judge of the Supreme Court were jailed along with Yameen's half-brother Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president for 30 years until 2008 and the man who helped Yameen come to power in 2013. The UN said the arrest of judges was an "outright assault on democracy".



**MALE:** Maldives President Abdulla Yameen (center) arrives at a polling station in the capital Male yesterday. —AFP

Mohamed Nasheed, the Maldives' first democratically elected president from 2008-12 but now in exile, called Friday for the international community to reject the election results. "Mathematically, it is not possible for Yameen to win because all opposition parties are united against him," said Nasheed, who is based in Sri Lanka. "But the results they will announce will be different to what is actually in the ballot boxes."

Nasheed was forced to withdraw from the presidential race after the Maldives election commission disqualified him because of a 2015 terrorism conviction. The United Nations said the conviction and 13-year jail sentence were politically motivated, but Yameen's government has refused to abide by the UN ruling. The relatively unknown Solih has Nasheed's backing. There are no other candidates. —AFP

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## Venezuela banks on cryptocurrency, but it remains 'non-transferable'

Venezuela's controversial cryptocurrency was launched six months ago but has been left in limbo ever since. Now, though, President Nicolas Maduro's government insists it will start working. That wasn't Armando's experience when he tried to make a transaction using the petro. "Non-transferable" was the message that came up on his telephone, shown to AFP, when Armando - not his real name - tried to use the half petro he bought earlier this year.

Maduro launched the petro to try to circumvent debilitating United States sanctions - but the problem is that it can't be exchanged for money, goods or even other cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin. It is also not listed on virtual exchanges, although the Venezuelan government has set its value at \$60, anchoring it to the price of a barrel of oil. "It still doesn't exist," Moises Rendon, from the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP.

However, Maduro says that from October 1 "the petro will start functioning as a currency of exchange of purchase and conversion". It will be offered in auctions through which private companies can access currencies, within the framework of an exchange control that has been operating since 2003. This way, Maduro says, "it will be immersed in the global market."

### 'Too late to save'

However, Rendon says "it's too late to save the petro. There's no confidence and it won't get any" while the government prevents its value from fluctuating freely. Venezuela is in desperate need of liquidity due to its struggling oil industry - currently producing a 30-year low of 1.4 million barrels a day, compared to the record high of 3.2 million 10 years ago - and an external debt of \$150 billion. Washington's economic sanctions are strangling the country, preventing the government from getting its hands on the foreign capital it desperately needs.

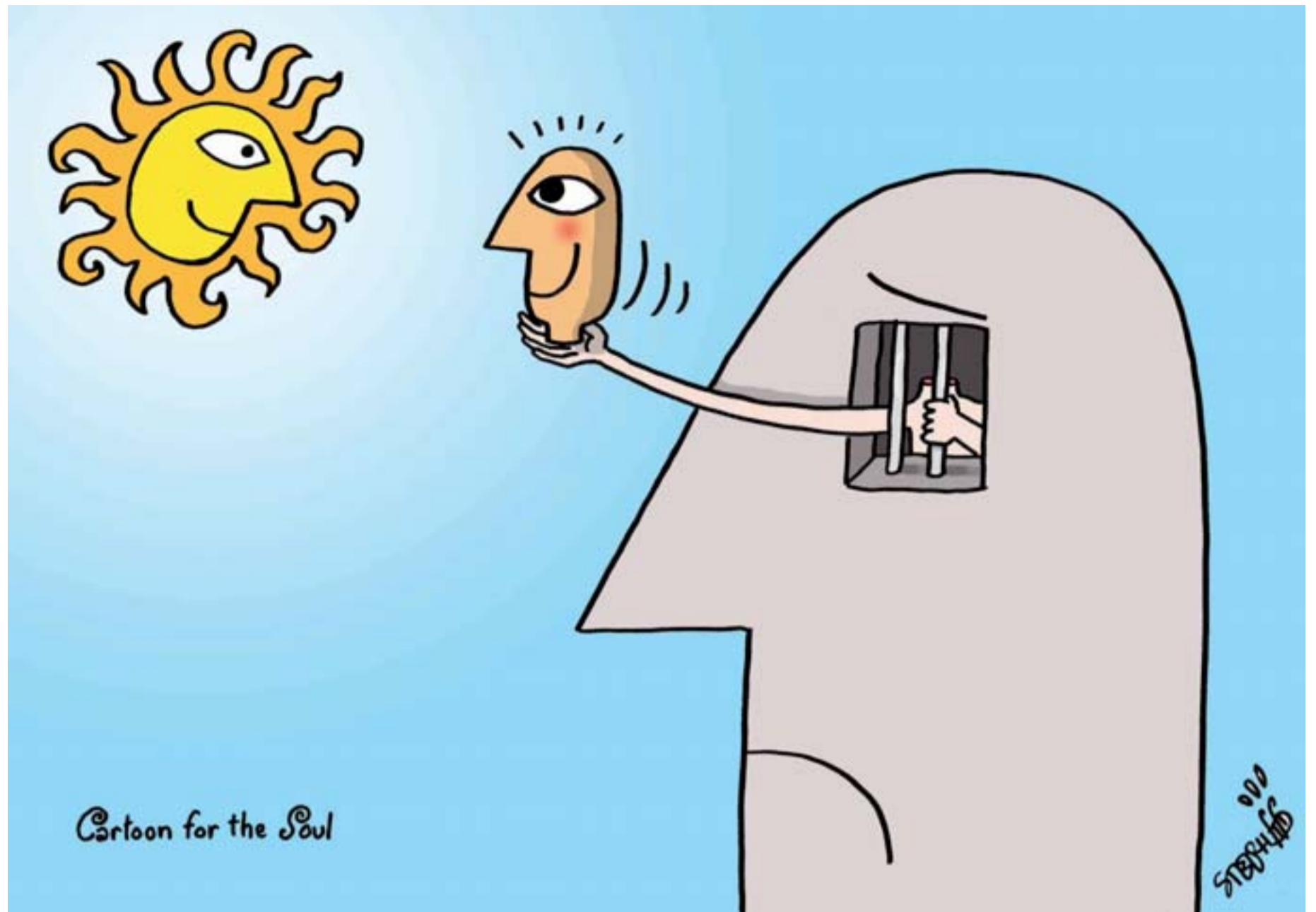
But after the emission of 100 million petros announced by Maduro amid much pomp and ceremony in March, only a handful of blockchain transactions have taken place. Maduro claimed Venezuela had received "offers of purchase intention" worth \$5 billion but the petro blockchain on the NEM platform registered transactions amounting to just over 2,250 units, the equivalent of around \$136,000 between March 25 and May 6. There was supposed to be a private pre-sale launch of 38.4 million petros in February and a public sale of another 44 million in March, with the government reserving 17.6 million.

### 'Very risky'

Buying petros "is very risky," according to Armando, who lives off cryptocurrencies. He lists his small petro investment as a loss. The government says it is supporting the petro with an as-yet-unexploited crude field in the Orinoco Belt, the largest crude reserve in the world. But "it doesn't know how to exercise its rights" over that reserve, said oil specialist Luis Oliveros. But while the petro has failed to engender investor confidence, other cryptocurrencies have proved hugely popular in Venezuela as a guard against hyperinflation, expected to reach a mind-blowing one million percent this year.

Venezuela is the country that conducts the fourth largest amount of its transactions, 12 percent, with bitcoin, said Rendon. Jose Angel Alvarez, president of the private National Cryptocurrency Association, believes the petro could rebound if it was left to float freely and subject to "clear rules". But that is an unlikely scenario, given Washington has banned petro transactions, while risk rating websites such as icodex.com describe the petro as a "scam".

The petro holds a central role in a series of economic reforms launched by Maduro to try to bring an end to four years of recession that have left the country suffering from shortages of basic necessities such as food and medicines. Another was devaluing the currency by 96 percent and hiking the minimum salary by more than 34 times. With industry operating at just 30 percent and Venezuela almost entirely dependent on its oil sales, long-suffering citizens have yet to see any evidence that the petro will be the answer to their prayers. —AFP



## Challenges mount for India's Modi

Narendra Modi swept India's 2014 general election with the slogan "Achhe din (good days) are coming". Four years later, as Prime Minister Modi mobilises to win re-election in May, he and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are being buffeted for a lack of jobs, falling farm prices and rural wages, a tax reform that led to unemployment and a demonetization exercise that sapped liquidity. Despite high economic growth, the fall of the rupee currency to record lows this year has led to a surge in prices of largely imported fuel, which is feeding into inflation. Nationwide protests have broken out because of the price rise.

"There's no improvement in our life - we eat two basic meals a day but struggle to save for soap and detergent," Misri Lal, 52, said in Bhomada village in central India's Madhya Pradesh state, where he earns \$2 a day watching over a yellowish-green soybean farm. In a series of interviews in India's political heartland, the northern and central plains, many people said they had been disappointed by Modi's government. But in a nation of 1.3 billion people, it was difficult to estimate how far the disillusionment had spread and how much it could affect Modi and the BJP at the next general election.

Despite its fitful performance on the economy, the BJP remains robustly Hindu nationalist, which plays well among many voters. Modi's aides insist that the party will not suffer in the election next year and will repeat the 2014 performance. They also say the BJP will do well in three big state elections due later in 2018, which could signal how things will go in the general election. Opinion polls predict Modi will return to power next year, but said the gap against the opposition was narrowing.

But "achhe din", which has become synonymous with Modi and his rule, is being mocked on social media in India. A cartoon widely distributed on Facebook's WhatsApp messaging platform had a man looking through a telescope for "good days". Another had Modi sitting in front of a spinning wheel weaving "achhe din" stories.

Some BJP officials privately say they are not quite sure of sentiment in the small towns and villages of rural India, where two-thirds of the people live. Lal, the farm hand, said he was a long-time BJP supporter but it was time for change. "We have always voted for them but people are angry now. It appears things will change this time around," Lal said, his wife and two grandchildren looking on from near their tin shed in the middle of the unfenced soybean fields.

### Rural pain

The Modi administration has acknowledged that farmers are suffering in a country where agriculture is

## France reverses car tyre sea sanctuary - an environmental flop

What seemed like a crazy idea turned out to be just that: a 1980s experiment that saw 25,000 car tyres dumped into the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean to create a sanctuary for sealife off the French coast is being cleaned up after it was found to be polluting. Since the start of last week, divers and a specially equipped boat with lifting gear have been fishing out hundreds of the old loops of rubber about 500 m from an exclusive coastline between the towns of Cannes and Antibes. The original vision, backed by local French authorities at the time and fishermen, was that the tyres would become populated by coral and other sea creatures in a conservation area where fishing was off limits. In France, the idea of a "tyre reef" was tried only here, but a local academic working on the clean-up operation said authorities in other countries, particularly the United States, had tried the same failed idea. "We hoped (back in the 1980s) that we could restore aquatic life there, but it didn't work," the deputy mayor of Antibes, Eric Duplay told AFP. "It turns out that the tyre reef was not a prolific place for biomass." Denis Genovese, the head of an association of local fishermen, confirmed that most Mediterranean lifeforms had shunned the idea of living inside mad-made products manufactured out of rubber, resins, oil and other chemicals.

the biggest employer, engaging 263 million people or 55 percent of the total number of workers. "Trends in inflation clearly show that farmers are under distress due to un-remunerative prices and need to be compensated appropriately," India's farm ministry said in a report sent to states last month and seen by Reuters.

Rural wages have weakened across India compared to a high growth period during the rule of the center-left Congress party which aggressively promoted a rural jobs scheme that guaranteed every citizen paid work for at least 100 days in a year. Economists say its impact has now levelled out. A boom in the construction sector had sustained the growth in wages but that has since slowed down dramatically, dragged by Modi's November 2016 move to suck high value currency notes out of the system to combat corruption and then a sweeping goods and services tax (GST) that businesses are struggling to adapt to.

Average inflation-adjusted growth in rural wages fell to 0.45 percent between 2015/16 and 2017/18, com-



### Where are the 'good days'?

pared with 11.18 percent between 2012/13 and 2014/15, said India Ratings & Research, a unit of international agency Fitch. The Reserve Bank of India says that high growth in rural wages from 2007/08 to 2012/13 was followed by a phase of "significant deceleration".

"GST and demonetization have really depressed the construction industry. I get only 20 percent of the work I used to get before demonetization," said Chotelal Rajput, a construction contractor in the Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, as he stopped by a busy roundabout where dozens of laborers gathered to be hired for daily wages. In Wai, a small town south of Mumbai, migrant worker Mithlesh Yadav said he voted for Modi at the last election but would not do so again. "The BJP was talking about bringing down inflation, bringing down petrol and diesel prices, but instead they are raising prices every day," the 26-year-old said. "All tall claims made by Modi were just advertising and we fell for it. I won't commit the mistake again."

### Leaking toxic chemicals

Sedentary creatures such as the local scorpion fish didn't use them, Genovese said, while "grouper fish, conger eels and sea bream swim around them, but no species really got used to it". Worse, a study in 2005 by researchers at the University of Nice showed that the tyres were leaking toxic chemicals into the environment, including heavy metals, which are a threat to human life. Authorities were also worried that the tyres could degrade further, nearly 40 years after they sank to the seabed, and break up into smaller pieces which would be a risk for nearby seagrass meadows.

In 2015, a first mission to remove 2,500 tyres was undertaken to show that they could be extracted safely, with the work underway at the moment a second and more important phase of the clean-up operation. Around 10,000 are set to be lifted by the divers and boat crew over the next few weeks, with the remaining 12,500 extracted in the second quarter of 2019.

### Regeneration hopes

AFP hopped aboard the vessel last week to watch the progress in action as dozens of tyres were hauled from the sea, with the luxury holiday villas of the French Riviera visible on the coastline behind. The Saudi royal family own a huge villa on a small stretch of beach opposite the site, which was the focus of a scandal in 2015 when King Salman tried to privatize the sand for his holiday and caused an uproar among locals.

The fine white sand is a problem for the clean-up team of divers, which struggle with low visibility as they find the tyres and thread them on to wire cables which are then lifted to the surface. "In the morning, it's easy, the water's clear," crew member Morgan Postic on board the Ocea vessel said. "But as we stir it all up down at the bottom, you can't see anything and it gets much more complicated."

### It's jobs

Many political analysts say Modi's failure to create tens of millions of jobs for the country's youth - a promise which helped him secure the largest mandate in three decades in 2014 - would be the biggest threat to his bid for another term. "No one here will vote for Modi," said Rakesh Kumar, a college graduate in the town of Kasba Bonli in northern Rajasthan state who says he has worked as a house painter because he could not get any other employment. Kumar said he finally found a job as a teacher in a private college last month but his paltry monthly salary of 8,000 rupees (about \$111) meant his six brothers worked as manual laborers. The town voted overwhelmingly for the BJP in 2014.

In Panipat, a town north of the capital Delhi, workers in textile mills said hundreds had been laid off because many small business owners could not cope with the complexities of the new GST regime and had shut shop. Gopal Krishna Agarwal, a BJP spokesman, said the country could not expect the Modi government to resolve all its problems in so short a time. "India has been independent for more than 70 years and we can't say that problems that have persisted for around 65 years would go away in four and half years," he said. "We're not saying every problem has been solved but our focus and direction are correct."

The BJP is also confident about its prospects next year because of the fractured opposition. Rahul Gandhi of the Congress is Modi's main opponent, but there are a host of regional parties that are likely to divide the opposition vote. India Today news magazine published a survey last month predicting the BJP would lose seats compared to 2014, but retain just enough to form a government with allies if the opposition remained divided. It predicted the BJP would win 36 percent of the vote and Congress 31 percent, but said smaller parties would get 33 percent.

Gandhi told a group of journalists last month that a "robust opposition alliance" would be in place before the 2019 election and that a candidate of a unified opposition would go up against the BJP in each constituency. "More damage has been done to India by this government than any in the past and everyone recognizes the over-riding need to thwart them," Gandhi said, referring to the BJP's Hindu nationalist agenda that critics say has targeted the country's minorities. Subhanshu Sethia, a college student in the northern town of Meerut, said Modi's singular failure had been the lack of jobs. "Achhe din is only for the rich, the businessmen who get fat contracts, for the rest of us it has been a letdown," he said. "There is a war out there for jobs." —Reuters



Crewmembers of the Ocea vessel take part in an operation to remove tyres from the Mediterranean Sea on Sept 21, 2018 in Vallauris, southeastern France. —AFP

The tyres will be sent to the nearby city of Nice and then to recycling centers where they will be broken up into granules that can be used in construction projects. "After that we'll leave the seabed to restore itself naturally and we'll continue to monitor with sensors," said marine scientist Patrice Francour from the University of Nice, who is working on the issue.

Francour said the clean-up would end France's one and only experiment with a "tyre reef", but that other countries still had to deal with the legacy of the failed idea, notably the United States. A million euros has been provided by the French state to finance the French clean-up, while French tyre company Michelin has contributed euro 200,000 (\$235,000). —AFP

## Business

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

**12** Trade wars continue to handicap dollar; markets shrug off threat**13** Fear and fanfare as Hong Kong launches China railway project**14** US ports fear they will be big losers in trade war

ALGIERS: Iran's OPEC envoy Hossein Kazempour Ardebili (left) speaks to journalists during the 10th JMMC meeting in Algiers yesterday. — AFP

# KAMCO acquires majority stake in Global

## Purchase extends KAMCO's control over Global in key areas

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company ("KAMCO"), a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced that it has completed the previously announced purchase of 396,426,434 shares in Global Investment House ("Global"), equivalent to a 69.528 percent stake, from NCH Ventures S.P.C (NCH), a Bahrain domiciled entity representing the interests of more than 50 financial institutions.

KAMCO has successfully concluded the purchase after receiving all required approvals from the CMA Kuwait and other appropriate regulatory authorities. This purchase of the stake in the parent entity extends control over Global's existing investment products and services, managed real estate, asset management business, Global's brokerage subsidiary and physical infrastructure in Kuwait, as well as

Global's international offices in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey.

Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO Faisal Mansour Sarkhou said, "KAMCO and Global have a combined four decades worth of experience in the investment sector and are considered key players in the local and regional investment communities. Completing this transaction is a great milestone for us as it validates all our hard work over the past few months.

We are pleased by the successful outcome and would like to thank our valued clients and stakeholders as this historic moment for KAMCO would not be possible without them. We also extend our gratitude and appreciation towards the collaborative efforts of all those who were involved in making this transaction a seam-



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

less and successful one. We would like to thank the current and previous board of directors of Global for steering it into recovery following its reorganization a number of years ago, our advisory team Alvarez and Marsal, as the integration advisor for the acquisition, and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP as our legal adviser."

He also said, "The last two decades witnessed massive shifts in the financial industry. Throughout this time, we have been tuning the dials to adjust to market conditions while

grasping fresh opportunities and adapting valuable insights. KAMCO remains dedicated to enhancing and building upon its innovative investment strategy to cater to our corporate and individual clients, as we plan to offer a wider array of quality investment products and expand our range of financial services. This transaction will further advance KAMCO's technological platforms and capabilities, while developing our workforce through a core competency framework, giving us a competitive advantage in the local and regional market. We believe that this step will strengthen our position as a leading investment firm while providing our clients with the best guidance and resources to help them invest their money smarter, more efficiently, and within the most suitable asset classes to meet their long-term investment goals."

## Comcast eclipses Murdoch's Fox with £30bn Sky bid

**LONDON:** US cable giant Comcast outbid Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox in a blind auction for the European TV operator Sky on Saturday that all but settled a titanic battle between the two media empires. Britain's takeover regulator said the secret process ended with Comcast offering to pay £30.4 billion (\$39.7 billion, 33.8 billion euros).

Fox's highest offer was worth £27.6 billion. The pan-European TV operator's shareholders will have until October 11 to decide which bid to accept. But Comcast's chief executive Brian Roberts quickly hailed the outcome as "a great day" for his company. "Sky is a wonderful company with a great platform, tremendous brand, and accomplished management team," he said in a statement.

"This acquisition will allow us to quickly, efficiently and meaningfully increase our customer base and expand internationally." Sky's subscription base of 23 million and lucrative rights to English Premier League football make it one of Europe's most profitable and powerful TV companies. The nearly two-year battle for Sky has reshaped the global media-entertainment landscape and put Comcast in pole position to take on emerging online rivals.

### Murdoch's ambitions

The auction pitted two old media behemoths against each other, both needing a way to boost content in order

to keep viewers from switching to streaming services such as Netflix. Saturday's outcome dealt a potentially fatal blow to Murdoch's attempts to acquire the 61 percent stake in Sky he did not already have but has long sought.

The 87-year-old global media mogul has been a dominant presence on the British market since first forming the BSkyB broadcaster in 1990. Murdoch made his first determined attempt to take over Sky in 2010-11. That effort was scuttled by public uproar over a phone hacking scandal at his British newspaper holdings. Critics had argued that allowing Murdoch—who owns major British newspaper titles The Times and The Sun—full control of Sky News would have given him too much influence in the UK news business.

Fox proposed remedying this by selling the rolling TV news channel to Disney should it win full control of Sky.

### Proxy battle

The fight over Sky has also altered how Americans get to watch their broadcasts and movies. Comcast was forced to drop its bid to take over Fox itself because it needed the money to go after Sky.

This allowed Walt Disney Co. to complete a mega-merger with Fox that should close next year.

Saturday's auction thus turned into a proxy battle between Comcast and Disney for Sky. Comcast viewed Sky as a way to win a foothold in Europe and end its sole dependence on the United States.

And Disney was looking for a way to feed its content directly to viewers without having to rely on cable providers. Sky offered a way out for both.

The emerging alliances means the coming years might be dominated by offerings from two traditional sources: Disney-Fox and Comcast-Sky. Comcast's holdings already include Universal Studios and the US television



LONDON: A man walks past the entrance to the offices of television broadcaster Sky in Ilseworth, west London on Friday. — AFP

channels NBC and CNBC. Disney's empire stretches from its film studio and theme parks to the US television network ABC and the various ESPN sport channels.

But Sky shareholders still have the option of backing

the Disney-Fox offer. And the Disney-Fox alliance must still clear some regulatory hurdles. Sky ended the day Friday trading at £15.85 — below Comcast's Saturday offer price of £17.28 per share. — AFP

## Business

## NBK Money Market Report

# Trade wars continue to handicap dollar; markets shrug off threat

## EU snubs May's Brexit plan as Britain govt grapples with new challenges

**KUWAIT:** US President Trump has imposed a 10 percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports starting this week, adding a threat of increasing the rate to 25 percent if no deal is reached with China by 2019. The US has already imposed tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports this year, with the addition of \$200 billion bringing the total amount to half of all Chinese imports. The latest move by the Trump administration has left China vowing to reply with its own retaliatory levies, representing a sharp escalation in the trade war which can have dire effects on the global economy.

China has announced its retaliation as previously threatened on \$60 billion of US goods. Ranging on items from meat to wheat to textiles, the said tariffs will take effect today. Trump continued his crusade on China on Thursday "It's time to take a stand on China," and "We have no choice. It's been a long time. They're hurting us." The Trump administration hasn't put a process in place for companies to get exemptions from the most recent tariffs it's imposing, unlike earlier rounds of the duties.

Global markets seem to have shrugged off the escalating trade war between the US and China. Equities globally rose amid a sell-off in treasuries sending the US 10-year Treasury to a 4-month high of 3.08 percent. Economists also attribute the increase in treasury yields as solid economic data. In the labor market, weekly jobless claims fell to the lowest levels in nearly 49 years totaling 201,000 claims only.

Additionally the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Manufacturing index rose to 22.9 in September from August's 11.9 reading.

On the FX front, the US dollar had a volatile week reacting to developments in the trade war rhetoric reaching a 2-month low of 93.960. Nevertheless, the market is pricing in a 100 percent chance of an interest rate hike at this week's Fed meeting.

### Eurozone PMI slows down

Eurozone business activity grew in September at the second-weakest rate since late-2016, according to preliminary PMI survey data, as manufacturing growth was subdued by export orders stagnating for the first time in over five years. The IHS Markit Eurozone PMI fell from 54.5 in August to 54.2 in September, according to the flash reading. The slowdown was driven by weaker growth in the manufacturing sector, where production increased at the slowest rate since May 2016. New orders received by factories showed the joint-weakest rise since February 2015 as new export orders failed to grow for the first time since June 2013.

On the FX side, the euro started the week at 1.1623 and kept gaining ground on the subdued dollar amid tensions with the US's trade partners. The single currency gained as much as 1.55 percent hitting a 3-month high of 1.1803.

### Unexpected inflation

UK inflation unexpectedly rose to a six month high from 2.5 percent to 2.7 percent,

foregoing expectations of a downward trend. Last month, the central bank increased the interest rate in an effort to tame price pressures, which led to expectations of a drop in inflation to 2.4 percent. The largest contributors to the upward movement were higher prices of transport services and clothing. Wages grew by 2.9 percent in the three months to July, illustrating that wages are still rising more than inflation.

British Prime Minister Theresa May warned EU leaders that their plan to create a customs border between Britain and Northern Ireland was "not credible", claiming she would reject the offer from EU's chief negotiator Michel Barnier. The future of the Irish border once Britain leaves the EU remains unclear, as it is estimated that at least 30,000 people cross the border every day for work, and around 2.4 billion pounds worth of Northern Ireland goods cross the border yearly.

After the EU summit in Salzburg, Theresa May promised to achieve breakthroughs in the Brexit negotiations with the EU after the leaders of the union bluntly rejected her blueprint. In 10 days she will face down her Conservative party at its annual conference in Birmingham where she will need to hold her grounds and have her party continue supporting her Brexit strategy.

The sterling continued its bullish momentum this week and climbed to a 2-month high of 1.3298 against the US dollar. The recent developments in the Brexit have



created a volatile cable movement, as a result of the EU leaders rejecting the proposed Brexit deal the cable fell below 1.32 levels on Friday. The currency closed the week at 1.3076.

### BOJ maintains status quo

The Bank of Japan announced it is keeping its monetary policy unchanged and reaffirmed its commitment to reaching 2 percent inflation during Wednesday's meeting. Japan's central bank promised to keep extremely low rates for an "extended period", maintaining shorter term interest rates at -0.1 percent, and an annual goal for gov-

ernment purchases at 80 trillion yen per year. Some members of the BOJ's policy board have voiced concern in regards to commercial banks, whose lending margins have been tightened by low interest rates. Central bank Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda said that the banking industry was sound and would not resort to unwise lending, claiming there are no signs of overheating asset prices.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30250  
The USDKWD opened at 0.30250 yesterday morning.

## Bayt.com weekly report

## How your body language will make or break your interview

**D**o you know that your body language is an important part of any job interview? There are many people who fear job interviews and aren't aware of their body language or know how to control their gestures. Body language can give the interviewer a first impression, a favorable or an unfavorable one. The nervousness and anxiety in your body language can deliver a negative message to the person in front of you. "Fake it till you make it", that's what they say, keep practicing your body language and be aware of your gestures and moves during the interview. Bayt.com has gathered all the tips you need to ease the job interview process in terms of body language:

### 1. Maintain eye contact

A rule of thumb is to make sure you maintain eye contact with the interviewer during the interview, and specifically when they are talking to you. However, avoid staring at the person in front of you; rather a soft glance is enough to deliver the body language message through the eyes. Keep the interviewer comfortable. You can think

of it as you are meeting a potential friend for the first time, you want to keep it friendly but also give them your full attention.

An important note, in case you are interviewing a panel, keep in mind that you must balance the eye contact with all members. While a panel member takes their turn to speak, shift your focus with what they are saying. In every panel interview, you will always find one person who will make you feel more comfortable during the interview, so whenever you feel nervous, look at that person to make you feel calmer.

Eye contact goes along with your facial expressions, make sure your face is relaxed and avoid glaring and staring. Check that you have neutral facial expressions when listening to others, and pay attention that you look interested, rather than confused.

### 2. A firm handshake with a greeting

As soon as you enter the room and face the interviewer, make sure you greet them in a friendly way, and never forget the others in case it is a panel interview. Thank them all for their time and shake hands as you greet them. This will boost your self-confidence and give you more power to engage in the interview. Also, this way will make you seem more friendly and approachable to the interviewer. Healthy posture and a firm hand shake is your key to show self-confidence.

### 3. Smile, smile, and keep smiling

Everyone hates a grumpy face, specifically in a tensed environment. Start your interview with a

smile, you will feel more comfortable and give the chance to the interviewer or the panel to feel more at ease during the interview. Remember, negotiating and explaining yourself doesn't mean you have to frown and be grumpy, that can be done with a smile too!

### 4. Nod your head while listening to the interviewer/panel

Nodding your head can be understood differently in other countries and cultures, however, in Arab countries it is known as accepting and understanding what you are hearing and will follow what the interviewer or other person has to say in terms of questions and information. This will indicate to the interviewer that you are attentive, focused and interested in what they are saying.

### 5. Hand gestures while speaking

Some people don't really know what to do with their hands during an interview. The best place for your hands is on top of the table in front of you. If it happens and there isn't a table, then place them on the arm rests of your chair. Moving your hands as you are explaining and saying something makes you look more expressive, however, be careful of overreacting as it can distract the interviewer. Make it unplanned! Avoid over-acting and focusing only on the body language. Keep it spontaneous as you want to seem as natural as possible. However, practice in front of a mirror ahead of time to make sure you got the basics mastered.

## Swiss voters reject more aid for farmers

**ZURICH:** Swiss voters decisively rejected more help for farmers in two referendums yesterday, heeding the government's warnings that the measures would send food prices rocketing and hurt the economy, projections for broadcaster SRF showed. Opinion polls had shown early widespread support for more farm aid was fading as the vote neared and more details about likely costs emerged.

Economy Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann had called the proposals "dangerous" and said they could trigger tariff increases and other reprisals from trading partners.

One proposal, called the Fair Food initiative, called for all food in Switzerland to come from sustainable sources and for labelling to be more exact. It aimed to improve animal welfare by banning imports of factory-farmed products and ensuring food imports met higher Swiss standards.

Voters were set to reject the measure by a 63-37 percent margin, projections by polling outfit gfs.bern showed. The margin of error was two percentage points.

Supporters such as the Green Party and Social Democrats argued that consumers, animals, the environment and farmers would all benefit. The other proposal wanted to increase state aid to Swiss farmers, whose numbers have halved since 1985 in a country where three farming businesses close every day.

That was set to fail by a 70-30 percent margin, the projections showed. Agriculture's contribution to the Swiss economy has fallen from 2 percent in 1985 to under 1 percent. The referendums were held after farming groups and environmentalists gathered the more than 100,000 signatures needed to trigger a vote under Switzerland's system of direct democracy. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.390274	0.404174
Czech Koruna	0.006001	0.015301
Danish Krone	0.043899	0.048899
Euro	0.349522	0.363222
Georgian Lari	0.134511	0.134511
Hungarian O.001143	0.001333	0.001333
Norwegian Krone	0.033281	0.038481
Romanian Leu	0.064947	0.081797
Russian ruble	0.004568	0.004568
Slovakia	0.009051	0.019051
Swedish Krona	0.030578	0.035578
Swiss Franc	0.310414	0.321414

Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264
Jordanian Dinar	0.423552	0.432552
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022392	0.046392
Omani Riyal	0.781604	0.787284
Qatar Riyal	0.079033	0.083973
Saudi Riyal	0.079807	0.081107
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.105456	0.113456
Turkish Lira	0.042372	0.053872
UAE Dirhams	0.081166	0.082866
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.213388	0.225388
New Zealand Dollar	0.197078	0.206578
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.229794	0.238794
US Dollars	0.299250	0.304550
US Dollars Mint	0.299750	0.304550
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002964	0.003765
Chinese Yuan	0.042779	0.046279
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036901	0.039651
Indian Rupee	0.003645	0.004417
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002613	0.002793
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070179	0.076179
Nepalese Rupee	0.002622	0.002962
Pakistan Rupee	0.001878	0.002648
Philippine Peso	0.005505	0.005805
Singapore Dollar	0.217422	0.227422
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001518	0.002086
Taiwan	0.010409	0.010589
Thai Baht	0.009012	0.009562
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.789966	0.806466
Egyptian Pound	0.014319	0.020037

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.990
Canadian Dollar	235.389
Sterling Pound	403.286
Euro	358.634
Swiss Frank	293.072
Bahraini Dinar	805.761
UAE Dirhams	82.984
Qatari Riyals	84.129
Saudi Riyals	81.695
Jordanian Dinar	428.633
Egyptian Pound	16.943
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.802
Indian Rupees	4.192
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.438
Bangladesh Taka	3.624
Philippines Peso	5.612
Cyprus pound	18.027
Japanese Yen	3.683
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.611
Malaysian Ringgit	74.268
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.738
Thai Bhat	10.345
Turkish Lira	48.916
Singapore dollars	220.869

## As US raises interest rates, Fed may turn more hawkish

**WASHINGTON:** Under the cloud of an escalating trade war, the US Federal Reserve this week will raise the benchmark lending rate for the third time this year, moving to prevent inflation from mounting too quickly as the world's largest economy continues brisk growth.

The Fed's two-day policy meeting will begin Tuesday-barely 24 hours after President Donald Trump is due to target another \$200 billion in Chinese imports with punitive tariffs, bringing the total to over \$250 billion. That will deliver a blow to trade relations between the world's top two economies and cast a pall of uncertainty over the global economic outlook.

But analysts say, so far at least, that the trade war has yet to make much of a dent in the US economic data that central bankers watch so closely.

Since the Fed's last meeting, job creation and GDP numbers have shown robust health, wages have risen and inflation has firmed, while measures of industrial activity and the housing market are among the few that have softened. Among those sounding a warning, the International Monetary Fund has warned the escalating trade war could come at "significant economic cost," hitting US and China's growth.

But with the US economy robust, the Fed has repeatedly signaled it expects to continue "gradual" increases in the rate used to set everything from car loans to mortgages. By year end, the central bank is likely to have raised the key interest rate a total of four times and three more increases are expected in 2019.

This will mean the target rate will reach a range of 3.0-3.25 percent by December 2019 — a notch above what policymakers currently view as "neutral," meaning it neither stimulates nor restrains the economy, which is the goal. But will the Fed stop there?

Moving to stay neutral - If there are signs inflation is accelerating, the Fed would certainly move to tighten policy to dampen prices. But even staying at neutral may be a moving target.

Fed Governor Lael Brainard, an intellectual center of gravity at the central bank who had long called for the Fed to proceed slowly with rate hikes, described an important change in her thinking in a speech earlier this month.

"With government stimulus in the pipeline providing tailwinds to demand over the next two years, it appears reasonable to expect the shorter-run neutral rate to rise somewhat," Brainard said.

This suggests she may not want the Fed to stop at 3.0-3.25 percent, but continue nudging the rate higher.

"It was a very important shift," Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, told AFP. But Swonk said it remains unclear whether the Fed will move more aggressively next year, raising rates faster, or continue the gradual increases for longer.

"We don't yet know. I know it won't be resolved at this meeting," she said.

### New hawks

Meanwhile, some policymakers who in January will take a turn as voting members of the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee also have begun to send more hawkish signals.

Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren, who favored the Fed's near-zero rate policy of in the years after the financial crisis, like Brainard has said in recent interviews FOMC estimates of neutral could go up. He also noted that very low unemployment rates of the kind the United States is currently experiencing are historical harbingers of recession. And even the Chicago Fed's Charles Evans, a longtime dove who will rotate onto the FOMC in 2019, has suggested monetary policy may need to become "restrictive." —AFP



Jerome Powell, Federal Reserve Board Governor

Business

# Fear and fanfare as Hong Kong launches China railway project

## Critics say HK gives away part of city's territory to Beijing

HONG KONG: A new high-speed rail link between Hong Kong and mainland China launched Sunday, a multi-billion-dollar project that critics say gives away part of the city's territory to an increasingly assertive Beijing.

Chinese security have been stationed in semi-autonomous Hong Kong for the first time at the harbor-front West Kowloon rail terminus, as part of a new "special port area" that is subject to mainland law.

Despite critics' fears over passenger safety in the mainland zones, hundreds gathered at the terminus, with the first train leaving for the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen at 7:00 am (2300 GMT Saturday).

"I'm not worried about the (mainland security) issue. They're only here to work, the joint checkpoints are just to make things more convenient and make border-crossing clearance faster," one 39-year-old passenger who gave his name as Mr. Chan told AFP.

Travellers cross through immigration and customs into the mainland-controlled portion of the station, which includes the platforms and the trains, even though West Kowloon is miles from the border further north. Under Hong Kong's mini-constitution-the Basic Law-China's national laws do not apply to the city apart from in limited areas, including defense.

Hong Kong also enjoys rights unseen on the mainland, including freedom of speech, protected by a deal made before the city was handed back to China by Britain in 1997. But there are growing fears those liberties are being eroded.

Officials argue joint checkpoints will make journeys easier as passengers need no further clearance after crossing into the mainland. The bullet trains to southern China promise to be far quicker than existing cross-border rail links, and long-haul services will cut journey times to Beijing from 24 hours to nine hours.

"This is definitely convenient in terms of time," said

one passenger who gave his name as Mr. Kwok and was taking a train to visit his ancestral home in the southern Chinese city of Chaozhou.

But he added that tickets were expensive and the purchasing system inefficient, having queued for four hours ahead of Sunday to buy them.

A second-class ticket to Shenzhen costs HK\$86 (\$11), while travelling to Guangzhou costs HK\$247 and to Beijing HK\$1,237.

### 'Imperialist attitude'

Opponents warn that giving away control of land in the heart of Hong Kong is a dangerous precedent as Beijing seeks to tighten its grip on the city following mass pro-democracy protests in 2014 and the emergence of an independence movement.

"It's almost like an imperialist attitude on the part of Beijing," pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo told AFP. There are also questions over how Hong Kong citizens will be required to behave in the zones subject to Chinese law, whether they will be punished for using Facebook and Twitter-banned on the mainland-or targeted for wearing clothing with political slogans.

AFP journalists in the station yesterday could still access social media and websites, even when using a mainland Chinese WiFi provider. On the train, passengers had to switch to a registered Chinese mobile number or WeChat account to access WiFi once they crossed into Shenzhen. There are concerns too over the sharing of personal information with Chinese authorities.

However, pro-establishment lawmaker Regina Ip described the fears as "overblown". "(The rail link) provides unprecedented convenience of travel," she said. Travellers on the first service out of Hong Kong grappled with reversible seats that were pointing the wrong way,



GUANGZHOU: Passengers gesture as the first train of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link departs from Hong Kong on the first day of service yesterday. — AFP

but the train left promptly, with doors closing at 6:59 am.

Mainland passengers arriving on early trains were greeted with "I love Hong Kong" mugs in goodie bags and signs welcoming them to the city.

One arrival who gave her name as Mrs. Tian, 64, said it was her first time in Hong Kong. "It was too fast!" she

said of the train, adding the journey had been "very comfortable". The special port area was quietly handed over to mainland personnel earlier in September. The hush-hush ceremony took place at midnight and was not announced by the Hong Kong government until it was over. There was no media access. —AFP

## Porsche first German carmaker to abandon diesel engines

BERLIN: Sports carmaker Porsche said yesterday it would become the first German auto giant to abandon the diesel engine, reacting to parent company Volkswagen's emissions cheating scandal and urban driving bans.

"There won't be any Porsche diesels in the future," CEO Oliver Blume told the newspaper Bild am Sonntag.

Instead, the luxury sports car brand would concentrate on what he called its core strength, "powerful petrol, hybrid and, from 2019, purely electric vehicles". The Porsche chief conceded the step was a result of the three-year-old "dieselgate" scandal at auto giant Volkswagen.

VW in 2015 admitted to US regulators to having installed so-called "defeat devices" in 11 million cars worldwide to dupe emissions tests and obscure its much higher emissions on the road.

It has so far paid out more than 27 billion euros in fines, vehicle buybacks, recalls and legal costs and remains mired in legal woes at home and abroad. Diesel car sales have dropped sharply as several German cities have banned them to bring down air pollution — a trend that Chancellor Angela Merkel was due to discuss with car company chiefs in Berlin later Sunday.

"The diesel crisis has caused us a lot of



The Porsche chief Oliver Blume conceded the step was a result of the three-year-old 'dieselgate' scandal at auto giant Volkswagen. — AFP

trouble," Blume said, months after Germany's Federal Transport Authority ordered the recall of nearly 60,000 Porsche SUVs in Europe.

### City driving bans

Stuttgart-based Porsche in February stopped taking orders for diesel models, which it had sold for nearly a decade. Blume said Porsche had "never developed and produced diesel engines", having used Audi motors, yet the image of the brand had suffered.

He promised that the company would keep servicing diesel models on the road now. Blume also defended diesel as a viable technology, which the broader VW group

plans to keep using. "I think modern diesel engines are highly attractive and environmentally friendly," he said. "They will continue to be of great importance to the auto industry in the future."

However, he added, "for us as a sports car manufacturer, where the diesel has traditionally played a subordinate role, we believe that we can do without diesel in the future." According to the paper, Porsche also faces new claims of having manipulated engines to produce a more powerful sound with a technique that was deactivated during testing. Blume acknowledged that German regulators had pointed to irregularities in the 8-cylinder Cayenne EU5, affecting some 13,500 units. — AFP

## Asian firms shuffle production around the region as China tariffs hit

SEOUL/TOKYO: A growing number of Asian manufacturers of products ranging from memory chips to machines tools are moving to shift production from China to other factories in the region in the wake of US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports.

Companies including SK Hynix of South Korea and Mitsubishi Electric, Toshiba Machine Co and Komatsu of Japan began plotting production moves since July, when the first tariffs hit, and the shifts are now under way, company representatives and others with knowledge of the plans told Reuters. Others, such as Taiwanese computer-maker Compal Electronics and South Korea's LG Electronics, are making contingency plans in case the trade war continues or deepens.

The company representatives and other sources spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. The quick reactions to the US tariffs are possible because many large manufacturers have facilities in multiple countries and can move at least small amounts of production without building new factories. Some governments, notably in Taiwan and Thailand, are actively encouraging companies to move work from China.



BANGKOK: A worker monitors a spinning machine at a textile factory in Pathum Thani, in Thailand yesterday. — AFP

The United States imposed 25 percent duties covering \$50 billion of Chinese-made goods in July, and a second round of 10 percent tariffs covering another \$200 billion of Chinese exports will come into effect next week. The latter rate will jump to 25 percent at the end of the year, and Trump has threatened a third round of tariffs on \$267 billion of goods, which would bring all of China's exports to the United States into the tariff regime.

The tariffs threaten China's status as a low-cost production base that, along with the appeal of the fast-growing China market, drew many companies to build factories and supply chains in the country over the past several decades. At SK Hynix, which makes

computer memory chips, work is under way to move production of certain chip modules back to South Korea from China. Like its US rival Micron Technology, which is also moving some memory-chip work from China to other Asian locations, SK Hynix does some of its packaging and testing of chips in China, with the chips themselves mostly made elsewhere.

"There are a few DRAM module products made in China that are exported to the United States," said a source with direct knowledge of the situation, referring to widely used dynamic random-access memory chips. "SK Hynix is planning on bringing those DRAM module products to South Korea to avoid the tariff hit." — Reuters

## Burgan Bank announces Yawmi draw winners

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

### The lucky winners are:

1. Haydar Hasan Abdullah Almuhanna
2. Naser Abdulaziz Abdullah Alawadhi
3. Mohammad Alkhalaf
4. Ahmad Yousef Hasan Alhaddad

### 5. Abass Mahmoud Saeed

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

## In Nigeria, Shell's onshore roots still run deep

BODO, Nigeria: Royal Dutch Shell wants to reweight its footprint in Nigeria to focus on oil and gas fields far offshore, away from the theft, spills, corruption and unrest that have plagued the West African country's onshore industry for decades. But for the company that pioneered Nigeria's oil industry in the 1950s, the Niger Delta remains as important-and problematic-as ever.

While Shell has cut onshore oil production and sold some onshore assets, it continues to invest in others. In fact, onshore production has risen in recent years as a share of Shell's output in Nigeria, an analysis of company data over the past decade shows. Much of the increase comes from less polluting gas, used mainly in power generation, which Shell thinks will be key to the transition to lower carbon energy. Gas made up 70 percent of onshore production in 2017, up from 47 percent in 2008.

The company still controls thousands of kilometers of pipelines connecting inland fields to coastal terminals through its subsidiary, Shell Petroleum Development Co of Nigeria (SPDC), however.

So while SPDC has cut oil production in the Delta by 70 percent since 2011, when it first started reporting data on spills, the incidence of spills and theft from pipelines has fallen at a much lower rate and has picked up again recently, the data shows. Shell's Nigeria Country Chair Osagie Okunbor hinted it was a

sensitive balancing act. "We are too big just to see ourselves as 'there is a problem and we have to run'. That is not what we are thinking of doing," he told reporters on a media trip to the country in July. "But at the same time we don't want to spread our footprint."

Two pipeline spills in 2008 in the small community of Bodo in Ogoniland are emblematic of the problems in the Delta, a vast maze of creeks and mangrove swamps criss-crossed by pipelines and blighted by poverty and oil-fueled violence.

On a speedboat trip to the site of a clean-up operation launched by Shell last year, a makeshift oil refinery stood idle on a charred landing. The ground was soaked with oil, the air heavy with petrol fumes and slicks glistened in the water nearby. There were few signs of birds or fish.

So far this year, 85 crude spills have been recorded, already higher than the previous two years. In 2016, militant attacks pushed the volume of spills to more than 30,000 barrels, a high since 2011.

Oil theft from SPDC rose to around 9,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2017 - a loss of nearly \$180 million for the year - from 6,000 bpd the year before.

Despite all the problems and costs, however, Nigerian onshore operations generate billions of dollars annually. Shell does not break down profits by country, but a report on payments to governments that the company publishes annually showed it paid around \$1.1 billion in royalties, taxes and fees to the Nigerian government in 2017.

That means Shell earned more than \$4 billion from oil and gas production in Nigeria in 2017 - around 7 percent of its total global output.

A Shell spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of Reuters' data analysis. — Reuters

## Business

# US ports fear they will be big losers in trade war

## Tit-for-tat tariffs will crimp shipments, denting port revenues

**NEW YORK:** America's ports are fearful that they will be big losers as the escalating trade fight between Washington and Beijing bites into business. The anxiety is that tit-for-tat tariffs between the two economic superpowers will crimp shipments, denting port revenues.

Kurt Nagle, head of the American Association of Port Authorities, called the state of play "concerning," following the latest back-and-forth this week between the United States and China.

"The total amount of tariffs and international retaliation affect 10 percent of the total trade in American ports," or about \$160 billion in revenues, Nagle said. The various trade wars thus far have had a mixed effect, with some ports seeing sharp declines in some products, even as others report a surge in activity intended to beat the new levies. The mammoth US economy is sustained by about 100 ports around the country that manage the flow of goods inward and outbound at points of embarkation along the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes.

In the first six months of 2018, the port of New Orleans saw a drop of 350,000 tons of steel compared with the year-ago period, a big hit for a flagship product that is used in a petroleum-focused region.

"It represents between three and five million dollars," said Robert Landry, vice president of the Port of New Orleans. "For us it's very big." Major sources of the steel include Turkey, China and South Korea. All but South Korea were affected by a 25 percent

tariff on steel imposed by US President Donald Trump this spring.

The New Orleans port also suffered a 10 percent drop in aluminum imports, which was also included in the same tariff action, while retaliatory Chinese tariffs on poultry have hit those exports.

### Los Angeles surge

Meanwhile, with new tariffs looming in the US-China standoff, the Port of Los Angeles has seen a surge in some products. "In May, June and July, cargo owners tried to beat the volumes," said Phillip Sanfield, a spokesman for the port, for which China is a key market, accounting last year for about half its trade in total value.

But the acceleration earlier this year may not last after the United States this week announced tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, a move quickly followed by the Chinese rebuttal to impose levies on \$60 billion in US goods.

Trade war fears are also a source of unease for port workers, particularly in areas like southern California where the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach account for one in nine jobs. There are about three million port workers nationwide. But that angst extends to other regions.

"The East Coast ports in New York, New Jersey, Georgia and Virginia will also be very affected," Sanfield said. The trade war has also worried the maritime shipping industry, which deals in \$4.6 trillion worth of goods annually, employs 23 million people and



Trade conflict so far have had a mixed effect, with some ports seeing sharp declines, even as others report a surge. —AFP

pays \$320 billion in taxes each year, according to the AAPA. Landry of the New Orleans port said he was "optimistic" of an eventual solution.

"I just don't know how long it's gonna take," he said. "We can probably take another six months, but at some point it's going to be very hard to face the situation." —AFP

## IOM and Turkish Airlines sign up to promote 'MigApp'

**KUWAIT:** The promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration is at the heart of the long-term partnership agreement signed between The UN Migration Agency (IOM) and Turkish Airlines, one of the largest carriers in the world.

Signed by IOM Director General William Swing, and Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayçi, the cooperation will focus initially on the Organization's Migration Application (MigApp), which leverages the widespread use of telecommunications technology to provide practical information about services available to migrants globally.

The agreement opens a whole range of possibilities for cooperation both in terms of Turkish Airlines' commitment to social responsibility and our own commitments to migrants and refugees," said Swing.

"It is in many ways an ideal partnership as it will allow us to do a lot more in terms of informing migrants, in terms of promoting migrant rights, in terms of training to sensitize airline officials to smuggling and trafficking in persons which is one of the heinous crimes of our times," he added.

"As the national flag carrier of Turkey, a leading country today that tries to extend its hand to the helpless communities in the world, we are glad to strengthen our collaboration with IOM. Through this agreement we see a way to promote the idea of living together in peace and traveling freely and legally as envisioned under the Sustainable



Development Goals of the United Nations," Chairman Ayçi said of the accord.

IOM hopes that the agreement will lead to further collaborations on awareness raising campaigns on safe travel in countries of origin to help counter the trafficking of migrants as well as on cooperation on border support and documentation - including the possible training of Turkish Airlines employees and partners.

In addition, IOM will share its work on migrant health, including travel health assistance/pre-departure health screening services with Turkish Airlines with a view to future cooperation. Finally, it is expected that Turkish Airlines will provide in kind support for IOM's Global Film Festival on Migration which this year attracted 870 film submissions and will take place in over 100 countries in November-December 2018.

This agreement comes against the backdrop of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) which recognizes the need for safer, orderly and regular migration (Goal 10.7), and as part of the forthcoming Global Compact on Migration acknowledges that a cooperative approach is needed to optimize

the overall benefits of migration, while addressing the risks and challenges facing individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

IOM's MigApp, which was launched in December 2017 as part of IOM's transition to digital mobility, seeks to offset the enormous volume of misinformation on migration circulating today by providing migrants with information in English about visas, health and travel regulations, alerts on global incidents arising from conflict or natural disasters, and the contact numbers of counter-trafficking hotlines around the world. A May 2018 update expanded coverage to French, Spanish and Arabic.

MigApp <https://www.iom.int/migapp> was updated at that time with new migration-related information and services. For example, self-paying migrants travelling to the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and United States from South Africa, Nepal, Pakistan and Egypt, can now book their medical appointments through MigApp. MigApp was developed thanks to financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

## NBK holds mega day filled with activities and prizes

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait will hold its annual Mega Day at the Grand Avenue, The Avenues, on September 28, at 4pm, giving visitors a chance to win valuable prizes in the activities planned for the day in addition to announcing the five winners in the Summer Campaign's "Win a Car of Your Choice". Al-Jawhara's quarterly draw and Zlatan campaign.

The Mega Day will excite the crowds with a series of fun-filled activities targeting children and adults alike, comprising competitions, stage and music shows, parades, interactive activities for children held in partnership with KidZania, as well as valuable instant prizes and giveaways all-day-long.

Gathering thousands of visitors each year, the Mega Day will see the announcement of the five winners in the "Win a Car of Your Choice" draw as part of NBK's Summer Campaign which will award them an NBK gift Prepaid Card loaded with KD 20,000 to be spent on the car of the winner's choice at any vehicle dealership inside Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account's quarterly draw will also be held live and the winner of KD 250,000 will be announced live, in addition to the winners in the Zlatan campaign exclusive to holders of the FIFA World Cup Prepaid Card, in which the winners will take home a jersey signed by the famed football player, Zlatan Ibrahimovi.

In addition, the bank will present

the latest digital innovations provided to customers. Sharing the excitement of the much anticipated NBK's Mega Day, Mohammed Al-Othman, General Manager of Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait, said: "NBK's Mega Day is one of our most important events held during the year, in which we ensure to reward our customers through activities that target every member of the family. This year's event is even more exciting with the variety of activities, competitions and prizes that await our customers and visitors with live draws held to announce the five winners in the Summer Campaign and winner of KD 250,000 in Al-Jawhara account's quarterly draw."

Al-Othman added, "We invite our customers to join us with their families on Friday, September 28, to see what we have planned for them and win big."

NBK holds the Mega Draw Day every year to reward its customers through an entertaining day for the whole family, in addition to announcing the winners of NBK's largest campaigns during the year. Providing innovative and technologically-advanced products and services for personal, private and corporate banking, NBK Group has the widest banking network covering four continents. NBK is present in the MENA region, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, in addition to Turkey and leading International capitals and cities such as London, Paris, Geneva, New York, Singapore and Shanghai.



## Irresistible offer on Nissan Patrol V8 by Nissan Al-Babtain

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in Kuwait, drives its customers with excitement with new and irresistible offer on one of the world's toughest off-road vehicles. Hailing from the Nissan Patrol family, the Nissan Patrol V8 is available for only KD 15,999 for the first time in Kuwait, making it a dream come true for many fans.

Backed by a proven legacy as one of the most reliable, rugged and versatile 4x4s available, the Nissan Patrol V8 is equipped with an immense 400 HP, 560Nm of torque, direct injection gasoline and variable valve event and lift technologies to give the driver all the power. The V8 is furnished with a luxurious interior, leather seats, wooden panel and chrome trims to convey a premium comfort that caters to the unique tastes of its customers.

A classic drive for families, the V8 is integrated with superior levels of styling, and cutting edge technology that boasts a multi



system entertainment DVD screen featuring home LCD quality in-vehicle with the 8-inch WVGA monitors for 2nd row passengers along with the 8-inch class-leading navigation system. Followed by an 8-inch LCD color screen that comes with a multi-function drive computer. The King of the off-road can deliver 8 passengers safely, quickly and swiftly through sandy terrains.

Incorporating dynamic safety mechanisms for a peaceful driving experience, the V8 also maintains substantial fuel efficiency and reduced emissions, with a 5.6 L engine tuned

to offer enhanced performance, and fitted with 18 - inch forged alloy wheels along with a dual SRS airbag for the driver and front passenger.

The V8 exterior comes with dynamic front and rear end sporting LED combination lamps in addition to rear view cameras, a remote engine starter, sunroof and a front and rear parking sensors.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its showrooms located in Al-Rai and Ahmadi to seize this exclusive opportunity and enjoy the Hero of All Terrains.

## Al-Tijari announces winner of weekly draw for Al-Najma

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows: -Weekly draw prize KD 5,000- Motlaq Faleh Al-Azmi.

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jean.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to

enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank's branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit an account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange a visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

## Technology

# Late to the party, German carmakers join race against Tesla

## US tech firm face major hurdles, struggle to stem losses

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** After years watching Tesla's electric cars speed ahead while they have been on the defensive over an industry-wide diesel emissions scandal, German high-end manufacturers have finally unveiled their first challengers to the Californian upstart. Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler, BMW and Volkswagen's Audi and Porsche subsidiaries between them control some 80 percent of the worldwide premium car market.

But until recently they offered little battery-powered, zero-emission competition to Tesla and its bombastic chief executive Elon Musk. That changed this month, with all three groups unveiling their first all-electric SUVs slated for release over the next two years. Audi rolled out its "E-Tron", BMW its "iNext" and Mercedes its "EQC", while Porsche presented an electric coupe, the "Mission E".

In total, German carmakers have vowed a total of almost 40 billion euros (\$46.7 billion) of investment in battery-powered vehicles in the coming three years, industry association VDA says. With a market share of around eight percent in Germany—compared with Tesla's 0.1 percent—Audi hopes electric cars will account for around one in three sales by 2025.

"Finally, it's getting started!" auto industry expert Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer said. Time is pressing, as sales of engines powered by automakers' longtime growth driver

diesel have plummeted in the face of plans by many large cities to ban them to bring down air pollution.

### Wild ride for Tesla

The entrance of the three German behemoths into the electric race is far more consequential for Tesla than smaller fish like Britain's Jaguar, whose "I-PACE" is already on sale in the UK. And the US tech firm faces major hurdles of its own, struggling to stem losses that have been going on for years while trying to reassure investors and customers of its chief executive's mental health. Musk was filmed drinking whisky and smoking cannabis (which is legal in California) with radio host Joe Rogan earlier this month, and in August revealed he was suffering from intense stress and fatigue in an interview with the New York Times.

On Tuesday, Tesla confirmed that the US Department of Justice was investigating the

company over Musk's tweet announcing a plan to remove its shares from the stock market. Also on Twitter, the South African entrepreneur admitted Tuesday that after months spent overcoming "production hell" on the firm's mass-market Model 3, it was now in "delivery logistics hell" struggling to get cars to buyers—while promising "rapid progress".

For expert Dudenhoeffer, "Tesla is the market leader and has great strength in innovation, but the coming six to nine months will be a decisive test" for its chief executive. "If he doesn't manage to stabilize the Model 3 and make the firm profitable, it will get very complicated for him, including with regard to his investors."

### Battery gamble

The German government hopes to see one million fully electric and hybrid vehicles on the road by 2022, up from fewer than 100,000 at the start of this year. But the spread of the technology is constrained by a number of factors, including a limited range of models for sale, slow expansion of charging infrastructure and limited capacity for building new batteries. A government commission on electric mobility recently found Germany would need to increase the number of charging points available more than five-fold to serve a million drivers.

And while they are perfecting electric motors and other electric-drive components, German carmakers have so far balked at direct investment in costly battery production, aware that they would have to catch up on a



SHANGHAI: In this file photo, an Audi e-tron Sportback Concept car is displayed during the 17th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in Shanghai. — AFP

head start enjoyed by Asian industry leaders and unwilling to gamble on an adventure in the unfamiliar territory of cell chemistry.

European Commissioner Maros Sefcovic said recently that the EU should be open to state aid for a long-hoped-for "Airbus of batteries", while business daily Handelsblatt reported the German economy ministry is

cobbling together a consortium of companies and research institutes. For now the most conspicuous progress comes from China's CATL. The challenger for global battery leadership against the alliance of Japanese Panasonic and Tesla announced in July a mammoth new factory in central Germany to supply European customers. — AFP

## Al Sayer Medical holds workshop on dental implant

**A**l Sayer Medical, a subsidiary of Al Sayer Holding and the exclusive distributor of the German dental implant system (BEGO Implant Systems) in Kuwait held a scientific lecture and workshop on the latest technology in the field of dental implant in cooperation with Kuwait Dental Association. Dr. Andreas Barbetseas, Specialist in Oral Surgery and Dental Implant, University of New York, USA, delivered the lecture and supervised the workshop.



Both lecture and workshop were highly attended by dentist from public and private sectors and has been very successful showcasing the latest dental implants products from BEGO, the high-quality German Company. Dr. Hossam Afify, General Manager of Al Sayer Medical said, "We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Dental Administration at Kuwait

Ministry of Health and Kuwait Dental Association for their cooperation in organizing this event. At Al Sayer, we are keen to provide the latest and high quality medical products by exclusively presenting a number of global medical companies. Organizing such scientific lectures and workshops is part of our interest in providing high level of scientific support to the users of our medical products."



## Ivory Coast looks to solar vehicles to replace bush taxis

**JACQUEVILLE, Ivory Coast:** Hi-tech, cheap-and quiet. The Ivorian resort of Jacquville just outside Abidjan is betting on solar-powered three-wheelers as it looks to replace traditional but noisy and dirty bush taxis. "It's cheaper and relaxing!" says local trader Sandrine Tetelo, of the Chinese-made "Saloni" or "Antara" trikes, which could eventually spell the end for old-school "woro-woro" four-wheelers as Jacquville looks to make itself Ivory Coast's premier eco city.

The mini-cars, 2.7 metres (8.8 feet) long and two metres high, are covered in solar panels each fitted out with six 12-volt batteries, giving the vehicles a range of 140 kilometers. Returning from a visit to China, the solar cars' promoter Marc Togbe pitched his plan to mayor Joachim Beugre, who was immediately sold. "We are used to seeing (typically old and beaten up) bush taxis pollute the atmosphere and the environment. We said to ourselves, if we could only replace them by solar trikes," said Beugre.

### Solar pioneers?

"The adventure started in January with two little cars," added Togbe, who has created a partnership with local businessman Balla Konate. "I went to China with a friend," says Konate, "and afterwards I sent four youngsters to Lome for training with a friend who had spoken to me about the project." He wants to extend operations to Odieme and Korhogo, towns in the north, the country's sunniest region.

"Today, a dozen cars are up and running. We are right in the test phase. More and more people are asking for them," says Beugre, seeing a chance to kill several birds with one solar stone. Long isolated, his town, nestled between a lagoon and the sea, has flourished in terms of real estate and tourism since the 2015 inauguration of a bridge linking Jacquville to the mainland and cutting transit time to Abidjan to less than an hour.

For the start of the school year in October, Jacquville plans to bring on stream a 22-seater "solar coach" designed to help deal with "the thorny issue of pupils' transport". Many schoolchildren typically have to travel



JACQUEVILLE: Electric three-wheeler taxis with solar panels on the roof drive in Ivory Coast's coastal city of Jacquville. — AFP

tens of kilometers from their home village to urban schools. So far, the trikes have also provided work for around 20 people including drivers and mechanics. "We're on the go from six in the morning and finish around 10 or even midnight, weekends too," says Philippe Aka Koffi, a 24-year-old who has been working as a driver for five months.

### Price pull

"It's pleasant for doing your shopping more quickly," says an impressed passenger, Aholia Guy Landry, after riding in a vehicle which can carry four people, driver included. A big plus is the 100 CFA francs price of a trip—half a typical downtown "woro-woro" fare—helping to attract between 500 and 1,000 people a day, according to the town hall and promoter. A switch to solar and durables may appear paradoxical in Jacquville, however, as the area produces the lion's share of the country's gas and oil. The wells outside the town produce 235 million cubic feet of gas per day, while several foreign firms run pipelines taking oil and gas across the town to feed the refineries at Abidjan.

But the municipality—total budget 140 million CFA francs — sees none of the profits, an issue which has drawn public ire in the past. The 50-million-CFA trike project is just one piece in a much larger jigsaw which includes the construction of a new eco city on a 240-hectare (600-acre) site among coconut trees. "It will not be a city for the rich," insists Beugre, showing off a blue-print replete with cycle paths and a university. — AFP

## Trump weighs draft order targeting Google, Facebook

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump is weighing an executive order that would open federal antitrust and criminal probes into Google, Facebook and other social media firms, US media said Saturday, though the White House promptly distanced itself from the reports. Last month, Trump stepped up his attacks on big tech companies, warning them to be "careful," and slamming what he called "rigged" internet search results.

The US president had complained that Google searches for "Trump news" brought up mostly negative stories about him. Google strongly rejected any bias claims. The White House's draft executive order focuses on alleged "bias" at the companies. "Executive departments and agencies with authorities that could be used to enhance competition among online platforms (agencies) shall... use those authorities to promote competition and ensure that no online platform exercises market power in a way that harms consumers, including through the exercise of bias," read a draft of the report circulated by US media.

"Not later than 30 days from the date of this order, agencies shall submit to the Director of the National Economic Council an initial list of (1) actions each agency can potentially take to protect competition among online platforms and address online platform bias." The text also demands that federal agencies investigate any potential "violation of the antitrust laws" by an online platform. However, The Washington Post cited three White House aides as saying they did not write the draft order and did not know its origins, while a senior official said the document existed but had yet to go through the formal process controlled by the staff secretary. "Although the White House is concerned about the conduct of online platforms and their impact on society, this document is not the result of an official White House policymaking process," deputy White House spokeswoman Lindsey Waters was quoted as saying. — AFP

## Ether cryptocurrency, a victim of blockchain success

**LONDON:** For all the attention afforded bitcoin, it is its rival ether that is hitting the headlines, with the popularity of its blockchain technology Ethereum driving concerns that have sent investors fleeing. Virtual currencies have struggled across the board this month after US investment banking giant Goldman Sachs pulled back from its plans to open a trading desk for bitcoin, damaging sentiment for the entire sector.

Ether has slid 20 percent in value, taking a further hit from comments made by Vitalik Buterin, co-founder of Ethereum, which powers the cryptocurrency.

Earlier this month, the 24-year-old Russian-Canadian programmer told Bloomberg that "the (Ethereum) blockchain space is getting to the point where there's a ceiling in sight".

A blockchain is essentially a ledger for recording transactions, which is both open to all who use it but extremely secure, and has enabled the rise of cryptocurrency trading. A multimillionaire thanks to Ethereum, Buterin has previously spoken about "scalability" probably being the number one challenge facing the sector.

### Blockchain traffic jam

Unlike bitcoin's blockchain, which carries out transactions involving only the cryptocurrency, Ethereum can host different virtual tokens and also enable certain digital applications and so-called smart contracts. Such programs can for example automatically trigger payments without the use of a third party when pre-defined conditions are met, such as winning a sports bet.

Ethereum is also home to two-thirds of initial coin offerings (ICOs), essentially a fundraising tool for companies which issue the tokens against cryptocurrencies much like issuing shares on a stock market. An explosion in the number of ICOs in 2017, two years after ether's launch, resulted in the cryptocurrency's price rocketing 160 times in value over a 12-month period.

The craze surrounding ICOs has also caused congestion to Ethereum's network, contributing to ether's price collapse beginning in January. "The more it's demanded, the more likely you are to clog the network," said Jerome de Tychey, president of Asseth, an association promoting the use of Ethereum. A clogged Ethereum results in higher charges for clients wanting their transactions prioritized—and average fees briefly hit a record \$5.50 in July according to bitinfocharts.com. Generally though, fees fluctuate around a few cents.

Delays to a planned overhaul of Ethereum's scalability have meanwhile likely discouraged some investors from using the blockchain, according to de Tychey. Naeem Aslam, an analyst at traders Think Markets, said Buterin "isn't doing the job which he is supposed to do"—that is, to make companies "trust the technology and provide them (with) what they need".

### Virtual currency, real plunge

The plunge in the value of ether has indeed been dramatic. Since the start of August, it has lost more than half its value. Going back to May, the drop is 75 percent, with the total value of the virtual currency tumbling to about \$23 billion from \$82.5 billion. Yet the huge drop has only taken ether back to its value of a little over a year ago, at some \$20 for one token.

Another factor weighing on ether's price has been the success of ICOs. The companies which raised funding in ether with ICOs now need to sell to them to cover operating expenses in fiat currencies. According to sector analysts Diar the companies that raised funding before the price boom at the end of last year have sold off some 20 percent of their ether holdings since April, weighing on its price. — AFP

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- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

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**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

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- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

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

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

daralshifa  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

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

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

**Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368**  
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

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

**Academic Certificates - Training**

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

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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



What's On



# Lulu Hypermarket launches Annual Pinoy Fiesta 2018



**L**ulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched their annual Pinoy Fiesta promotion on September 19, 2018 at their Salmiya outlet. The 11-day promotion was inaugurated by Charlson C Hermosura, Vice council at the Embassy of Philippines in Kuwait, accompanied by the Embassy's Labor Attache in the presence of top management of Lulu Hypermarket in Kuwait, a large gathering of customers, well-wishers and media personnel.

Pinoy Fiesta 2018, which will end on September 29, 2018 is being held across all Lulu Hypermarkets in the country and provides great discounts and value offerings on exclusive products. A wide range of products of popular brands from the Philippines, such as C2, Century, Datu Puti, Delmonte, Dole,

Golden Mie, Hermano, Jufan, Ladies Choice, Mama Sita's, Newton, STAR, Super and UFC are on offer at special discounts.

An attractive aspect of the 'Pinoy Fiesta 2018' promotion is the large cutouts of traditional attractions from around the Philippines that are prominently displayed in all branches of Lulu Hypermarket. Close interaction with customers through promotions and active participation in local festivities has always been a priority for Lulu Hypermarket. The 'Pinoy Fiesta 2018' promotion once again reinforces this customer-centric approach, and the Hypermarket's continued commitment to creating an engaging and fun experience for shoppers, while simultaneously providing them with the widest range of high quality products at the most competitive prices.



## Embassy of Belgium in Kuwait holds concert

By Faten Omar

**T**he embassy of Belgium in Kuwait held a concert and food festival at Crowne Plaza Hotel at Al Thuraya (Silk Restaurant) on Friday, with crossbones collective and Chef Eddy Govaert on the occasion of the Belgian week. On the sideline of the concert, The Ambassador of Belgium to Kuwait H E Piet Heirbaut said that the embassy is happy to introduce the Belgium culture to Kuwait during the Belgian Week, which includes many musical, artistic, food and exhibition events, which provide an idea for the Kuwaiti people about Belgian culture.

"The Belgium week started on September 20 to 26, 2018 when we opened the Smurfs exhibition to let people of Kuwait discover 60 years of Smurf history and the most lovable comic book characters. For the next few days we will continue the exhibition and Belgian Culinary Days at Crowne Plaza Hotel with Belgian Chef Eddy Govaert. We call such cultural events as people to



people diplomacy where there is food, comic books which is part of our culture and music that brings people together," he added.

— Photos by Joseph Shagra



## ICSK students make voluntary donations

**T**he Indian Community School (ICSK) senior takes pride not only in academic success, but also in creating a school ethos with relationships and community at its heart. As part of this, the students have been making voluntary donations through our novel charity program for the past three years. The students wholeheartedly contribute on their own and this fund is distributed to the ones suffering from serious ailments on a monthly basis. This is done to instill a sense of empathy in the hearts and minds of the students.

On September 17, 2018, under the leadership of Principal Dr V Binumon, a substantial amount was collected and monetary aid was presented to Shyni Abraham, Christina Cayavo, Kafor Sahib Shiek and Sreemalu Sunkara. Dr. V. Binumon also appreciated the efforts of the students of ICSK senior and encouraged all to contribute actively and willingly as charity should come from the heart.

Giving is not just about making a donation; it is about making a difference. It was also decided that special funds will be collected as part of the Relief Fund Collection Week in order to lend our helping hands to those who are adversely affected by the recent flood that washed away the homes and dreams of many in Kerala.

Stars

CROSSWORD 2016



ACROSS

1. A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.
4. A white crystalline oxide.
12. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
15. Any thick messy substance.
16. Extremely hungry.
17. The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
18. Accumulation in the blood of nitrogen-bearing waste products (urea) that are usually excreted in the urine.
20. Isolated from others.
21. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
22. A large fleet.
23. Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
25. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
28. An associate degree in nursing.
29. A dress worn primarily by Hindu women.
33. (Norse mythology) The heavenly dwelling of the Norse gods (the Aesir) and slain war heroes.
34. A musical notation written on a staff indicating the pitch of the notes following it.
36. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
39. Living in a particular place.
44. The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.
46. Of or relating to exocrine glands or their secretions.
47. A small piece of cloth.
49. Having leadership guidance.
50. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
51. The sixth month of the civil year.
52. Give an education to.
54. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
56. In bed.
58. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
59. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
61. Squash bugs.
63. The highest level or degree attainable.
68. State in northeastern India.
72. The part of a coal seam that is being cut.
74. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
75. Type genus of the Carriamidae comprising only the crested caria.
78. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
79. A small narrow pointed missile that is thrown or shot.
80. A festival featuring African-American culture.
81. The fatty flesh of eel.

6. A rare polyvalent metallic element of the platinum group.
7. Decapod having eyes on short stalks and a broad flattened carapace with a small abdomen folded under the thorax and pincers.
8. A slippery or viscous liquid or liquefiable substance not miscible with water.
9. A genus of Soricidae.
10. A period of play in baseball during which each team has a turn at bat.
11. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
12. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
13. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
14. An Oscan-speaking member of an ancient people of Campania.
19. Having or exerting a malignant influence.
24. The third canonical hour.
26. A shape that sags.
27. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
30. Inability to perceive written words.
31. Undergo resorption.
32. Any plant of the genus Canna having large sheathing leaves and clusters of large showy flowers.
35. Scottish philosopher of common sense who opposed the ideas of David Hume (1710-1796).
37. The 8th letter of the Greek alphabet.
38. (from a combination of MIOdulate and DEModulate) Electronic equipment consisting of a device used to connect computers by a telephone line.
40. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus Draba having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
41. A three-tone Chadic language.
42. Similar to the color of fresh grass.
43. A genus of Ploceidae.
45. Wearing or provided with clothing.
48. Of or related to the genital and urinary organs or their functions.
53. ('cease' is a noun only in the phrase 'without cease') End v. i.
55. Nocturnal wildcat of Central and South America having a dark-spotted buff-brown coat.
57. The cry made by sheep.
60. Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.
62. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
64. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
65. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
66. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
67. Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
69. A rare chronic progressive encephalitis caused by the measles virus and occurring primarily in children and young adults.
70. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
71. Work hard.
73. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
76. Not out.
77. The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.

DOWN

1. Largest known toad species.
2. A unit of pressure equal to 0.001316 atmosphere.
3. A composition written in metrical feet forming rhythmical lines.
4. A family of fish in the order Zeomorphi.
5. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you make a mistake today, you will learn from it and be a better person as a result. You take your work seriously. It's a trait that will help you advance in your career but may be a stumbling block in personal relationships. People are not as disciplined as you may be. Be patient with them. Your good manners and self-control will overcome.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Call it intuition or psychic ability. Whatever label you choose, now is a time you clearly see what the future holds, the next move others are about to make, and the consequences before the action occurs. You are in touch with your spiritual side. You are extremely sensitive to all that is around you. The feelings of others seem to weigh heavily on you, as if they were your own. You may feel as if you are weighed down with emotional baggage. This is not from personal issues, rather from the negative energy you seem to be absorbing from others. This is a good time for you to make arrangements to spend some time alone. This is a time to remember, the only person you can change is you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are highly imaginative when it comes to your thoughts and ideas. There are no limits to the thoughts and ideas that are going through your mind now. You may seem to be emotionally detached now. Ideas are what count for you now. Narrow minded personal concerns seem trivial and you dismiss them all together. You have no tolerance for others who do not operate at this level. The new, unusual, and avant garde are the things that instinctively appeal to you now. You have taken a giant step outside of your normal comfort zone.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a time of healing in your life. You may see barriers seem to dissolve and relationships repaired. Life is to short to hold grudges and you seem to be willing to do whatever it takes with anyone you feel has wronged you. This will bring peace and harmony into your life. Work through any misunderstandings and focus on peace and harmony. In the long run a life without conflict and stress will be very beneficial to your health and well being.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

They say you live and you learn. The cycle you are entering now involves just this. You have successfully turned stumbling blocks into stepping stones your entire life. Now is the time to reflect and apply your experiences to your current situation. You are wise beyond your years. This is a time to tend to all matters in your life you have been avoiding and focus on your future. A great understanding of life and the strength you possess come to light at this time.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Repetition is key to making a practice second nature. The change you are considering may seem hard at first. And it will be. But as you consciously practice doing it over and over, it will become a habit. The habit will become second nature. Ta da! It's ingrained in your character. Which is what you are aiming for.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

In your world there is a place for everything and everything has a place. Today the desire to have everything around you organized is very strong. People are no exception to this. You have a talent when it comes to choosing the perfect person for the perfect position. This makes you unstoppable in the work place as no project, no matter how large, is a challenge when you are able to delegate duties to those surrounding you. Today finds you ambitious and determined. This is a great day to set goals and make them happen. You will sleep peacefully tonight knowing everything is in its place.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are a natural when it comes to fitting in. You not only love others, but others love you. You are the friend everyone wants to not only have but others want to be more like. You may find yourself hitting a brick wall today. Sometimes you are so driven you have a hard time stopping a regrouping. Not all obstacles are meant to be destroyed and conquered. Remember sometimes we all encounter something that is meant to stop us in our tracks, so we will be forced to make a turn and find a new way. The is one such obstacle. Do not get hurt by trying to force things today. Today you may want to regroup and think smarter instead of harder. Be cautious today and choose your battles wisely.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Those sentences that start with, "I am not supposed to say anything, but..." may be just what you want to hear today. You seem to be drawn to hear the gossip others have to tell. Knowing what is going on in the lives of others seems to draw you in. You may find comfort in knowing your problems seem minimal when listening to what others are going through. Whether it is right or wrong, it is comforting to know your problems aren't as big as they seem. It seems ideas are what really count for you now. You are becoming drawn to all that is new and unusual. This may be a great time of change for you. Out with the old and in with the new.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are highly imaginative when it comes to your thoughts and ideas. There are no limits to the thoughts and ideas that are going through your mind now. You may seem to be emotionally detached now. Ideas are what count for you now. Narrow minded personal concerns seem trivial and you dismiss them all together. You have no tolerance for others who do not operate at this level. The new, unusual, and avant garde are the things that instinctively appeal to you now. You have taken a giant step outside of your normal comfort zone.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be feeling an emotional detachment from everyone and everything around you. Ideas are what count for you now. You may find yourself wanting to be surrounded with like-minded individuals. Those who don't seem to see things from your point of view get on your nerves. You have zero tolerance for drama and for any trivial matters that seem present. It seems, the new, unusual, and avant garde are the things that appeal to you now. Aquarius. A new outlook on life and new interest seem to turn up the excitement for you. This is a good time to take a step out of your comfort zone and live a little.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Now is a time that your health seems to be a major concern for you. You feel the need to get serious about getting healthy. Join the gym, start meal planning, or just get up and get moving. These will be the things that can be new habits for you. You want to feel as good about your self as you feel about the things in your life. Today is the first day of the new healthy way of life for you. You may seem to be feeling emotionally detached from those close to you. You are entering a phase in your life where you place much emphasis on idealism. You may find that you are not very tolerant of others who do not look at life this way.

Wordsearch Puzzle

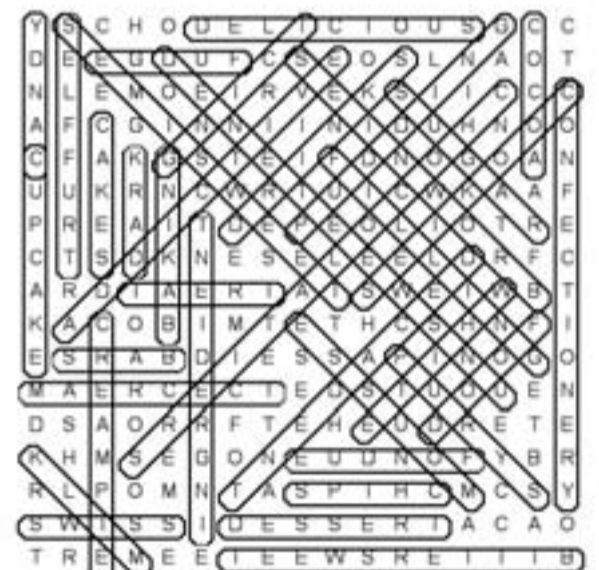
Christmas

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

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

- |              |                |            |                |
|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| ANGEL        | FRUITCAKE      | MANGER     | SNOWFLAKES     |
| BELLS        | GABRIEL        | MARY       | SNOWMAN        |
| BETHLEHEM    | GIFTS          | MISTLETOE  | STABLE         |
| CANDLES      | GOLD           | MYRRH      | STAR           |
| CANDY CANE   | GREETING CARDS | ORNAMENTS  | STOCKING       |
| CARDS        | HOLLY          | POINSETTIA | THREE WISE MEN |
| DECORATIONS  | ICICLES        | SANTA      | TOBOGGAN       |
| EGGNOG       | JESUS          | SHEPHERDS  | TOYS           |
| FAMILY       | JOSEPH         | SKATES     | TREE           |
| FRANKINCENSE | LIGHTS         | SLEIGH     | WREATH         |
| FRIENDS      |                |            |                |

Chocolate



- |             |               |            |             |
|-------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| ADDICTIVE   | CONFECTIONERY | FILLING    | PUDDING     |
| BAKING      | COOKIES       | FONDUE     | SEMI-SWEET  |
| BAR         | 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 |
| CHOCOLATERS | DRINKS        | MOUSSE     | WHITE       |
| COCCA       |               |            |             |

The hidden message is: CHOCOLATE ORIGINATES FROM THE SEEDS OF THE THEOBROMA CACAO TREE

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

# Lifestyle

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018



Ryokou the Australian Shepherd cross dog checks out a mixed media piece by artists Sabrina Clouden and Gali Basel at 'dOCUMENTA', billed as America's first art exhibition for dogs, in Los Angeles, California. The exhibition invited various artists to create works appealing to the canine sensibility through a variety of media, from sound and sculpture to kibble and squeaky toys. — AFP

## Melting ice sculpture protests 'fake news' at US Capitol

Artists melted a ton of ice spelling out the word "truth" in the shadow of the US Capitol on Saturday, in a poetic protest at the caustic state of politics in the era of "fake news" under President Donald Trump. "Truth Be Told," measuring 10 feet wide by seven feet tall, is the sixth sculpture in the "Melted Away" series launched in 2006 by artist duo LigoranoReese. Marshall Reese and Nora Ligorano, both 62 years old, have collaborated on art projects for nearly four decades, including woven fiber optic mesh, video and new media in clocks, mirrors and books.

Their other temporary monuments shaped out of

ice have included the words "democracy," "economy," "middle class," "the future" and "the American dream." The artists decided to take their call for more transparency and honesty to Washington "because ice is a material that disappears, it's an urgent moment and truth is really melting," Ligorano told AFP, as crowds gathered around the sculpture. "It's speaking truth to power." Young and old alike touched the sculpture and snapped photographs under sunny skies.

A frozen T collapsed first. The first T and R then collapsed against one another in a big crash, leaving only "UH" for a moment until those letters, too, vanished. The artists collaborate with locals for their projects and here used sculptors at Ice Lab in nearby Baltimore to carve into the ice.

"It's the first time I've walked into one of these places and was greeted by a woman who was dressed as an Eskimo," Ligorano said of the sculpture's ice carver. The work and its hours-long melting process was streamed live online. On Friday, the artists organized a poetry reading with Washington-based poets and on Sunday will join a panel with journalists, watchdogs and other creatives focused on the "quest to uphold truth." "It's as much a Trump protest as a call for more transparency and a call for more honesty," said Ligorano. — AFP



An ice sculpture is seen spelling out the word "truth" by artist duo Ligorano Reese, with the US Capitol in the background, in Washington, DC. — AFP

## With metal skulls and horns, Turkish artist re-interprets ancient stories

In a disused hangar in Istanbul, Turkish artist Ahmet Gunestekin uses thousands of metal human skulls and twisting, spiky animal horns to re-tell some ancient myths in a towering, fearsome installation. Gunestekin says his work "Chamber of Immortality" draws on the Epic of Gilgamesh - the Sumerian king who tried in vain to find the secret of everlasting life, and on the closely related Biblical story of Noah, whose ark some believe landed on Mount Ararat, Turkey's highest peak. The centerpiece is an enormous metal skull with a twisting animal horn jutting from its mouth, made up of 11,000 smaller skulls, all crafted by hand. Around it sit two curved walls made of yet more skulls, some of which sprout animal horns from their ears, temples and mouths.

The large skull represents Noah, while the tongue-like

horn that spills from its mouth represents animals, Gunestekin said. "In a way, it shows how the concepts of human and animal are nested within one another," he said. The structure, which took 4-1/2 years and \$1 million to create, is inspired by Gobekli-tepe, a 12,000 year-old temple in Turkey that this year became a UNESCO World Heritage site.

A self-taught artist, he is known for unconventional techniques to depict oral narratives, myth and legends mainly from Anatolian and Greek civilizations. "Chamber of Immortality" will travel to London, Berlin and New York after being exhibited in Contemporary Istanbul on Sept 20. — Reuters



Turkish artist Ahmet Gunestekin's artwork "Chamber of Immortality" is pictured in Istanbul, Turkey. — Reuters

## IN STRIKING DEBUT, NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC MAESTRO EMBRACES NEW

Opening his era in charge of the New York Philharmonic, Jaap van Zweden could not have been clearer that he welcomes fresh ideas. The Dutch maestro started his tenure as the 26th music director of the leading US orchestra on Thursday with a bold statement—the world premiere of a stirring experimental piece that challenges the physical restrictions of music. "Filament," composed by 36-year-old Ashley Fure, is marked by haunting whispers from 15 "moving voices"—a

choir that circulates through the hall with megaphones, first on the balconies and finally in a meditative procession toward the orchestra.

Fure, an assistant professor at Dartmouth College who studies the relationship between music and motion, created a striking aural effect for the audience—many in black-tie and cocktail dresses for a season-opening gala—with the sound veering from remote and spatial to warm and intimate. "Filament" also took in instrumentation that is

highly unusual for the Philharmonic with a slew of objects to strike the percussion including beads, brushes and a toy ball.

Bassoon soloist Rebekah Heller performed from within the audience, holding her instrument like a guitar and slapping her tongue against the instrument's bocal tube with the double-reed removed. Van Zweden followed "Filament" with more classic fare—Ravel's "Piano Concerto in G Major," with star pianist Daniil Trifanov bringing the second movement to a serene tranquility, and Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring," followed by an unexpected encore of Wagner's crowd-pleasing "Ride of the Valkyries."

### 'Obligation' to new work

Musical adventurousness was not the foremost trait expected of Van Zweden when the New York Philharmonic announced his appointment in 2016. A violinist who while still a teenager rose to concertmaster of Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Van Zweden was predicted to be more interested in exacting performances of the classical canon than testing the frontiers of music. But the 57-year-old, who has also led the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, said he felt a duty in his storied new position, where his predecessors include Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez and Gustav Mahler.

"I think that the New York Philharmonic is still a leading orchestra in the world in bringing new music. If you compare it to some European top orchestras, they are still very much ahead," Van Zweden told AFP ahead of opening night. "At least we tried to make a healthy balance between the new works and old works, and the New York Philharmonic has an obligation, I think, and a great history of bringing new works," he said.

Van Zweden said he considered the leader in promoting new work to be the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the longtime home of the New York Philharmonic's new CEO Deborah Borda, who has quickly shored up the orchestra's long-uncertain finances.

### Broadening audience

In a season full of new works, next week the Philharmonic will perform a new work by piano and violin prodigy Conrad Tao, which will transition immediately—without giving time for crowd applause—into Bruckner's explosive Symphony No. 8. In a new feature for the Philharmonic, the 24-year-old Tao will follow his premiere with a smaller, late-night concert—billed as featuring synthesizers and tap dancing—over drinks. Later in the season, the Philharmonic will offer \$5 tickets to New York-based first responders and community workers in a bid to broaden the orchestra's reach.—AFP



Music Director Jaap van Zweden performs at David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center in New York. — AFP photos



Music Director Jaap van Zweden (left) and Russian pianist Daniil Trifanov receive the applause from the crowd at David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center in New York.



# In Milan, Fendi and Prada dress strong women, Armani invades airport

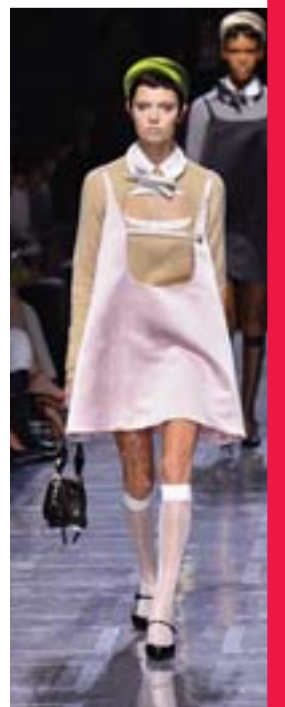
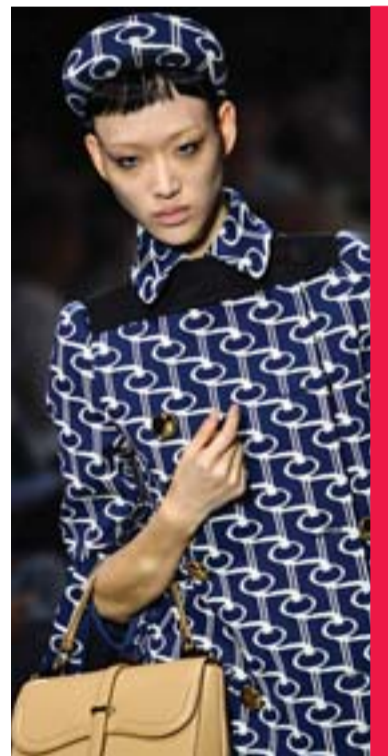
Models present creations for Prada fashion house during the Women's Spring/Summer 2019 fashion shows in Milan. — AFP photos



Fendi presented a jungle-themed collection aimed at the inner Lara Croft, Prada shone with its own impression of strong women and Emporio Armani invaded an airport on the second day of Milan Fashion Week on Thursday. The show at the Prada foundation began with techno beats and the models soon paraded in clothes showing off stylized cracks, cuts and openings. "I wanted to play with all the classic cliches of women's clothes, the tennis skirts, short coats, hair bands, chiffon blouses... and tear them at the elbow, on the back to show the contrast of the strong woman that Prada has always sought to inspire and represent," Miuccia Prada told AFP.

As ever, Prada's expression was political and feminist, "against the conservatism that is rampant in the world," said Miuccia. Influencers and celebrities were in abundance at the Fendi show, from Italy's Chiara Ferragni, who has 15 million Instagram followers, to the uniquely-styled US hip-hop star Niki Minaj. But they could not overshadow the creative duo of Karl Lagerfeld and Silvia Venturini Fendi, themselves watched over by Fendi's chairman and CEO Serge Brunschwig.

Fendi's jungle-themed Spring/Summer 2019 women's collection was worn by a host of urban warrioresses, mixing pragmatism and the exotic as they marched up the catwalk. Jackets and even belts were adorned with pockets big and small, as well as chunky zips. The fabrics were micro-perforated so they can breathe, while the lines, including broad shoulders, were masculine. Nevertheless, there were plenty of leather and poplin corsets to emphasize a more feminine silhouette.





Fendi is still flirting with sportswear after last year's collaboration with Fila, showing off sports bras and cycling shorts, worn under flowing blouses. Long and short bomber jackets, pleated skirts and embossed FF-logo leather as well as imaginatively-used PVC were finished in a mineral palette of sage, cognac burgundy and tangerine. "I like the collection's mix of rigidity, structure and fluidity, designed for a woman who is high-performing, practical and at the same time sensual," Silvia Fendi's daughter, Delfina Delettrez-Fendi, creative director of her own eponymous brand, told AFP.

Earlier in the day, Max Mara also presented an Amazonian-themed collection, ready to be deployed in the jungle or savannah: bedouin-style layers, in ochre, green and grey. Some of the models wore face veils reminiscent of the hijab, while handbags were strapped on to the body, ready for adventure. Supermodel sisters Bella and Gigi Hadid were both on the catwalk on Thursday, Bella for Fendi and her older sister for Max Mara. The sisters were later joined by Kendall Jenner on the catwalk of the Moschino show in an industrial area across

town, where Jeremy Scott produced a playful collection inspired by marker pens.

Brilliant white dresses and elegant wats with nautical, summer and fruity themes appeared to have been scrawled all over with a black felt tip. Models dragged and carried bolts of material up the catwalk, still attached to their own clothes, while Gigi finished off the show in a puffyball wedding dress, black-clad puppet masters using butterflies to help carry her train. The day ended with Emporio Armani's mega-show at the still-operating Milan-Linate airport, where guests had to check in before heading to a hangar on the tarmac for the collection. With the show already being met with adulation worthy of a rock star, Robbie Williams appeared for a surprise concert. "You might remember me, I'm Robbie Williams from the '90s," he said at the start of the one-hour gig. — AFP



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



Models present creations during the Armani fashion show, as part of the Women's Spring/Summer 2019 fashion week in Milan.



## Lifestyle | Features

# Egypt's ancient temples rescued from the Nile 50 years ago

One of the world's biggest archaeological rescue operations was successfully concluded 50 years ago after a massive ancient Egyptian temple complex was dismantled and hoisted to higher ground to prevent its flooding by the damming of the Nile River. The groundbreaking UNESCO-led project to relocate around 20 gigantic monuments in Abu Simbel complex was officially concluded on September 22, 1968, after an eight-year international effort involving hundreds of workers. Here is a look back at the remarkable feat.

## More than 2,500 years old

The two Abu Simbel temples—named after their village location—were carved out of cliffs overlooking the Nile in the time of Ramses II, the ruler of Egypt from 1298 to 1235 BC. The larger has four colossal statues of a seated Ramses II at the entrance, through which there are succession of rooms and galleries stretching back 63 meters (207 feet).

The temples are among the jewels of the ancient Nubia region that extended down the Nile from Aswan in southern Egypt to present-day Sudan.

## Threatened by Nile dam

In the 1950s, Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser launched a project to dam the mighty Nile at Aswan in order to generate electricity for the region, increase cultivable land and reduce flood-

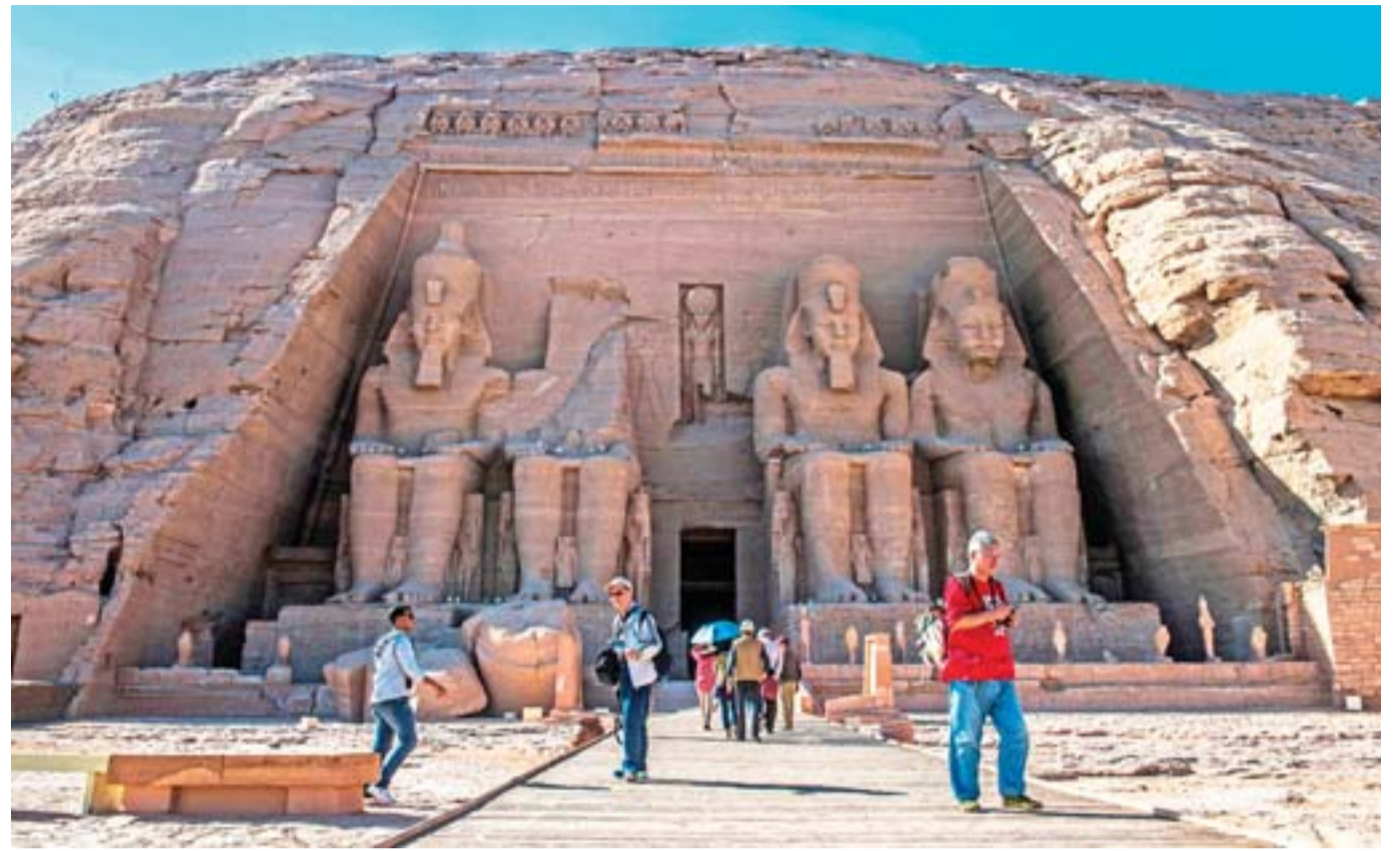
ing. The construction would create a huge artificial lake behind the dam wall, requiring the resettlement of tens of thousands of indigenous Nubians from villages in the area and also threatening monuments. Pharaonic and Greco-Roman temples including those of Abu Simbel risked being submerged.

## Technical feat

In 1960, UNESCO, the UN organization dedicated to preservation of culture, launched an appeal to save the temples. Several projects were put on the table but, too costly, they were quickly put aside. Eventually a Swedish-Egyptian proposal was selected. Work was launched on April 1, 1964 with the construction of a temporary dam to protect the site and the excavation of the cliff around the two temples.

The Abu Simbel temples were cut into 1,035 blocks each weighing between 20 and 30 tons. The four seated statues of Ramses II and six others of the king standing up were sawn into pieces. Jacks, cranes and powerful winches hoisted the enormous stone weights to the top of the cliff, 64 meters (210 feet) from their original location. There the blocks were reassembled to reconstitute the two temples exactly as they were.

Artificial hills were then created around the site as a protective barrier against the river. For four years about 800 laborers and 100 technicians worked in the desert under a red-hot sun to complete the project, which cost 36 millions dollars.



## An international effort

At a ceremony on September 22, 1968 to mark the completion, UNESCO director general Rene Maheu said it was "the first time that we have seen international cooperation in action on such a scale in the sphere of culture." It was an "unparalleled undertaking, in which over fifty countries... have combined their efforts to save the artistic and historical treasures of the temples of Abu Simbel." The original site is today completely submerged by Lake Nasser.

## Follow-up rescue

An operation—also part of UNESCO's Nubia Campaign—to save the temple complex on Philae island, around dozen kilometers upstream from Aswan, started in 1972. Involving 40 archaeologi-

cal missions from around the world, it ran for eight years and cost more than 30 million dollars. About 20 temples, statues and monuments known as "the jewel of the Nile" were dismantled and transported, stone-by-stone, to the nearby Agilkia island, on higher ground.

UNESCO director general Amadou Mahtar M'Bow praised the "wealth of talent, energy, experience and capital" mobilized to save the Nubia monuments. "Nowhere, perhaps, has the sacred art of Egypt defied time so majestically as in Nubia, part of which is vanishing before our eyes today," he said. — AFP

In this file photo tourists visit the Ramses II complex at the ancient Egyptian temple of Abu Simbel, some 1120 kilometers south of the Egyptian capital Cairo.—AFP



A picture shows Lend Mustafa a transgender man carrying a banner reading "I Promise To Be Your Voice" while marching on Kosovo's first pride parade in Pristina.

## Being LGBT in Kosovo: A battle to come out from the shadows

On paper, the legal request was small: changing his name from Blerta to Bert. But it was a big—and risky—move by Bert Morina, a transgender man trying to bring Kosovo's marginalized LGBT community out of the shadows. The request to change his name to the more masculine version, and his gender to male, was rejected by authorities in the tiny Balkan democracy, where a gay and trans community is forced underground despite progressive laws in its 10-year-old constitution.



Lend Mustafa a transgender man speaks for AFP in Pristina.— AFP photos

There are no gay clubs or bars in the capital Pristina, and only two coffee shops are considered safe in the city of half a million. There have been reports of owners of other cafes kicking gay customers out on the street. Determined to change this way of life, Morina has filed a case with the Constitutional Court, despite the dangers that come with going public. The 28-year-old only knows a few openly gay people in Kosovo, where the majority of the population are Muslim ethnic Albanians.

"For me it is very important to continue this route, because it is the first case (of its kind), we need to prove that you can push this till the end," he said, speaking inside a secret "safe house" in the capital. It is the headquarters of his NGO, Centre for Equality and Liberty (CEL), which pur-

posefully does not list the address on its website. The details are shared by word of mouth among members, a network estimated to be around 1,800, according to the NGO. "I am out therefore I am," reads a banner above the entrance to the living room.

## 'We will burn you'

A 2015 study of the US-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) found that Kosovo is the most homophobic country in the Balkans, a region that is not known for tolerant views on sexuality. More than 80 percent of LGBT Kosovars interviewed said they had been subjected to psychological abuse because of their sexual orientation, while 29 percent reported being victims of physical violence. Lend Mustafa, another transgender man who works with Morina, rattles off the threats he has received for his own transition and broader LGBT rights campaigning. "After being the main speaker at last year's pride parade I personally received hundreds of threats from religious extremists, including life-threatening ones," he said.

"Most of them are: we will eradicate you, we will burn you, you are ruining our society, what is this perversion that you are advertising in the media, etc." Despite a high number of threats and even physical attacks in recent years, only around 20 cases have been reported to the police since 2012, according to the Center for Social Group Development, an LGBT advocacy group in Kosovo. "This happens either as a result of fear of retaliation, fear of exposure, or fear of no proper investigation and treatment of the case by law enforcement authorities," the group said in a 2016 report.

## 'Shadow life'

Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is outlawed by Kosovo's 2008 constitution, which was written after the former province split from Serbia in a bloody separatist war. It is "one of the most advanced constitutions in the region in terms of human rights and in particular LGBT rights", said Habit Hajredini, who leads a government office in charge of minority rights.

But the letter of the law has little bearing on reality. "We need to work hard in raising awareness to understand the importance and rights of this community," Hajredini said. There are also public figures who espouse openly homophobic views. Fuad Ramiqi, a leader of the Islamic Movement to Unite political party, has said that LGBT people should seek medical care because "they have deviated from their reality". "If (accepting them) is a condition (for European integration) it is better for Kosovo not to enter Europe than to fulfill it," he said.—AFP

## Kenya's gay community revels in screening of lesbian love story, 'Rafiki'

The lights dim in the packed cinema as the holding music fades. The film title "Rafiki" flashes up on the screen, and some 230 hushed spectators burst out in euphoric applause. After being banned for months due to a lesbian love theme, the film whose title means "Friend" in Swahili was screened for the first time yesterday in its country of origin, Kenya. "It is really a victory," said Nairobi resident Daisy Oriiri, 24, who attended the historic showing at a movie house near the city center with a female friend. "This is the kind of movie that makes it possible for mentalities to evolve, that makes people understand that we have rights and that we are human beings," she told AFP, clearly moved. "It was a beautiful movie, it tells a part of my life."

Earlier this year, Rafiki became the first Kenyan film ever selected for showing at France's prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Director Wanuri Kahiu went to court after the Kenya Film Classification Board banned Rafiki for "promoting lesbianism", a decision that rendered it ineligible for the Oscars. A judge ruled on Friday that the film can be shown to "willing adults only" for a period of seven days—the minimum requirement for a film to qualify for



In this file photo (from left) Kenyan actress Samantha Mugatsia, Kenyan director Wanuri Kahiu and Kenyan actress Sheila Munyiva pose as they arrive at the screening of the film 'Rafiki' at the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.— AFP

Oscar consideration. Yesterday's showing happened in a fun, relaxed environment in a country where homophobia is rife, with youngsters taking selfies to capture the memory. Laughs and boos met the censorship board's logo and announcement that the film is restricted to over-18s. Theatre manager Celcius Aloo said Sunday: "I expect it to be full every day."—AFP

## America's first art exhibition for dogs



Ryokou the Australian Shepherd cross dog and Big Bear the Pit Bull check out a dog sculpture (not seen) by artist Alex Sheriff at "dOCUMENTA".



Pico the long haired Chihuahua checks out a dog sculpture (not seen) by artist Alex Sheriff at "dOCUMENTA".



Pico and Mickey J are pictured beside a mural by artist Ruben Rojas at "dOCUMENTA", billed as America's first art exhibition for dogs.



Ryokou the Australian Shepard cross dog checks out a dog sculpture by artist Tibi Tibi Neuspil at "dOCUMENTA", billed as America's first art exhibition for dogs, in Los Angeles, California. The exhibition invited various artists to create works appealing to the canine sensibility through a variety of media, from sound and sculpture to kibble and squeaky toys.— AFP photos

# Classifieds

Monday, September 24, 2018

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### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for haze over some areas and some scattered clouds will appear later on.

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

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 23/09/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	47 °C	34 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	28 °C		
ABDALY	45 °C	29 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	47 °C	32 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	28 °C		
SALMIYAH	43 °C	33 °C		
AHMADI	42 °C	35 °C		
NUWAISIB	44 °C	30 °C		
WAFRA	45 °C	29 °C		
SALMY	45 °C	31 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	09/24	Hot	45 °C	28 °C	NW-VRB	10 - 32 km/h
Tuesday	09/25	Hot and rising dust over open areas	44 °C	27 °C	NW	12 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	09/26	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear later on	45 °C	29 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 26 km/h
Thursday	09/27	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	43 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:17
Sunrise	05:37
Zuhr	11:41
Asr	15:08
Sunset	17:44
Isha	19:01

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	30 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	N 36 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

**STORES & OFFICES FOR RENT SAHARA AIR-CONDITIONING CO.**  
**ANNOUNCES TO RENT CLOSED STORES & OFFICES OF AREA 100, 150, 250, 400 & 500 SQ METERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENT IN EAST AHMADI, INTERESTED PARTIES CAN CONTACT MR. NADEEM ON MOBILE NO. 97861063 / 23981915 EXT. 105**

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
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

**Required Career Opportunities for Teachers at Private American School for the 2018-19 Academic Year**  
**Positions include:**  
 Middle and High School:  
 • Vice Principal  
 • Dean of Students  
 • Counselor  
 • English Teacher  
 • Math Teacher  
 • Social Studies Teacher  
 • female PE Teacher  
 To apply for this position, submit your resume, covering letter and recent photograph to recruitment@abs.edu.kw

**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  
 Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**  
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## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

### Flight Schedule

**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Monday 24/9/2018					Departure Flights on Monday 24/9/2018				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	GFA	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	JZR	176
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	417	Manila	00:25	JZR	144
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FDB	573	Mumbai	00:30	MSR	611
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	2615	Cairo	00:30	UAE	872
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC	072	Dubai	00:30	FEG	342
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC	206	Lahore	01:00	IAW	158A
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05	KAC	673
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	JZR	789	Sohag	01:05	KNE	382
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SVA	500	Dubai	01:30	GFA	222
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	788	Istanbul	01:45	FDB	060
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	ETD	303	Colombo	01:50	QTR	1079
ETH	620	Ababa	02:15	KAC	304	Frankfurt	01:50	SVA	501
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	412	Dhaka	01:50	KAC	775
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KNE	529	Luxor	01:55	KNE	530
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	KAC	562	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	785
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	OMA	645	Istanbul	02:50	JZR	606
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	ABY	127	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	743
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	502	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	563
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	03:30	ABY	619
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	SAW	705	Doha	03:45	ETD	304
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	KAC	118	Damascus	03:45	OMA	646
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	535	New York	04:05	KAC	615
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1072	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	547
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FDB	051	Sohag	04:10	SAW	706
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	NIA	361	Doha	04:15	FDB	052
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	KAC	542	Cairo	04:15	QTR	1073
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	SVA	510	Istanbul	04:25	KA	C361
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	GFA	215	Cairo	04:40	UAE	858
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	JZR	777	Mumbai	05:00	KAC	381
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	145	Doha	05:15	NIA	362
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	177	Mumbai	05:35	KAC	331
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	1080	Dubai	06:00	KAC	283
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	QTR	1080	Istanbul	06:30	SVA	511
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	483	Bahrain	06:50	GFA	216
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	MSR	620	JZR	07:00	JZR	184
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	RJA	640	Dubai	07:15	JZR	608
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	GFA	217	Paris	07:30	JZR	266
BAW	157	London	06:10	UAE	875	Munich	07:35	JZR	240
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	744	Dubai	07:40	JZR	538
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	FDB	063	Dammam	08:00	QTR	1081
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	ABY	123	Dubai	08:00	KAC	345
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	156	London	08:20	KAC	151
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	776	Dubai	08:35	MSR	621
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	674	Muscat	09:00	GFA	218
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	FDB	057	Jeddah	09:05	FDB	064
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	174	New York	09:05	RJA	641
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	616	Geneva	09:05	ABY	124
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	OMA	647	Dubai	09:15	JZR	552D
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	DLH	624	Al Najaf	09:30	KAC	357
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KNE	381	Amman	09:40	JZR	602
IAW	157	Al Najaf	08:30	MEA	402	Sharjah	09:40	FDB	058
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	620	Cairo	09:45	UAE	876
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	09:45	DLH	624
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KLM	445	Istanbul	09:50	KAC	353
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	AZQ	4565	Dubai	09:55	KNE	232
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Cairo	10:00	OMA	648
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ALK	229	Bahrain	10:00	MEA	403
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	10:00	KAC	301
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC	168	London	10:00	DHX	171
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	162	Madinah	10:15	QTR	1089
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	219	Esfahan	10:15	KAC	203
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	564	Doha	10:20	ETD	308
JZR	1539	Cairo	11:05	QTR	1082	Istanbul	10:25	KLM	445
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	ETD	309	Doha	10:40	KAC	1543
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	786	Dubai	10:40	ALK	230
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	786	Al Najaf	11:00	KAC	383
JZR	125	Bahrain	12:55	AIC	975	Sohag	11:15	UAE	860
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	SVA	502	Riyadh	11:20	JZR	604
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	JZR	185	Mangalore	11:20	GFA	220
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:30	JAI	574	Bahrain	11:35	KAC	783
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	MSR	2614	Beirut	11:55	ETD	310
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55	FDB	071	Jeddah	12:05	QTR	1083
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	JZR	241	Doha	12:10	SVA	503
				KAC	548	Alexandria	13:10	JZR	560



Castellers de Vilafranca prepare the base of their next human tower during the XXVI Concurs de Castells in Tarragona, Spain in this Oct 2, 2016 file photo. — Red Bull Content Pool

## OPEC, Russia rebuff Trump call for...

Continued from Page 1

That equates to an increase of about 1 million bpd, but the latest data shows they are some way from achieving that target. In August, OPEC and its allies cut production by 600,000 bpd more than their pact required, mainly as a result of falling output in Iran as customers in Europe and Asia reduced purchases ahead of the US sanctions deadline. OPEC put Iran's current production at 3.58 million bpd, down some 300,000 bpd from the start of the year, according to OPEC's secondary sources such as researchers and ship-trackers.

Iran's OPEC governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili insisted yesterday that Iranian production was steady at 3.8 million bpd but appeared to soften his stance on potential increases in OPEC output. "If there is a fall not only from Iran, but anybody else, it is the responsibility of OPEC and non-OPEC to balance the market,"

Kazempour told reporters. Falih said returning to 100 percent compliance was the main objective and should be achieved in the next two-three months.

Although he refrained from specifying how that could be done, Saudi Arabia is the only oil producer with significant spare capacity. "We have the consensus that we need to offset reductions and achieve 100 percent compliance, which means we can produce significantly more than we are producing today if there is demand," Falih said. "The biggest issue is not with the producing countries, it's with the refiners, it's with the demand. We in Saudi Arabia have not seen demand for any additional barrel that we did not produce."

Falih said the big challenge for 2019 was rising output from non-OPEC producers, which could change the market dynamic and decision-making. The OPEC/non-OPEC monitoring committee next meets on Nov 11 in Abu Dhabi, followed by a full OPEC gathering at its Vienna headquarters on Dec 6-7. Yesterday OPEC also published its long-term outlook, steeply revising production growth projections for non-member the United States and saying OPEC would lose market share to rivals in the next five years despite rising oil demand. — Reuters

authorities will have repercussions for the UAE government," said Ghasemi. The ministry did not disclose the advisor's name or the controversial comments.

A senior UAE official later denied Iranian allegations alluding to the involvement of the UAE in training gunmen that claimed the attack. The "formal incitement against the UAE from within Iran is unfortunate, and has escalated after the Ahvaz attack," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for the United Arab Emirates Anwar Gargash said in a tweet. "The UAE's historical position against terrorism and violence is clear and Tehran's allegations are baseless."

State media gave a toll of 29 dead and 57 wounded in the attack, including women and children who were spectators at the parade. Their funerals will be held today, it said. Three attackers were also killed and the fourth died later of his injuries, the armed forces said. IS had claimed the attack via its propaganda mouthpiece Amaq, and that the attack was in response to Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region.

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards vowed yesterday to exact "deadly and unforgettable" vengeance for the attack. "Considering (the Guards) full knowledge about the centers of deployment of the criminal terrorists' leaders... they will face a deadly and unforgettable vengeance in the near future," the Guards said in a statement carried by state media. Senior commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have said the Ahvaz attack was carried out by militants trained by Gulf states and Israel, and backed by America. But it is unlikely the IRGC will strike any of these foes directly. The Guards could put on a show of strength by firing missiles at opposition groups operating in Iraq or Syria that may be linked to the militants who staged the attack. They are also likely to enforce a tight security policy in Khuzestan province, arresting any perceived domestic opponents including civil rights activists.

Three Arab activists told Reuters that security forces, especially the intelligence branch of the Revolutionary Guards, had detained more activists in Ahvaz. "There are many checkpoints on the streets of Ahvaz, and the security forces are searching cars," said Hossein Bouazar, a member of Ahwazi Centre for Human Rights. "Many people are scared." Reuters could not immediately verify this account. Iran has also been hit by sporadic street protests over economic hardship that have taken on anti-government overtones. — Agencies

## India launches world's biggest...

Continued from Page 1

"It has been launched, and it is going to be a game changer," he told AFP. Some healthcare providers have raised concerns about being left out of pocket, fearing the government has underestimated the cost of certain treatments. Prathap Reddy, chairman of private hospital chain

## Lamjarred case reopens Morocco...

Continued from Page 1

But the push has done little to dampen the popularity of the 33-year-old singer, whose hit "Lmaalem" has been viewed more than 660 million times on YouTube. "The case of Saad Lamjarred is a symbol that brings together everything connected to rape culture and impunity," said Laila Slassi, one of the campaign's initiators.

Despite the string of allegations against him, the singer's tunes have still been played on radio stations and Moroccan media have enthused over the release of his latest singles. In August, he was prominently featured in a video of artists put out for the birthday of King Mohammed VI - who has helped cover the pop star's legal fees. Lamjarred's fans remain convinced the singer, from a family of artists in the capital Rabat, is the target of a conspiracy and that his alleged victims seek to benefit from his fame.

"He's famous, good looking, so we support him... it's an emblematic case of sympathy for the aggressor in a society where we always find excuses for men," psychologist Sanaa El Aji, a specialist in gender issues, told AFP. Slassi said the media was "promoting a man accused of sexual violence" instead of role models. Under pressure, Morocco's Radio 2M has pulled Lamjarred from its airwaves, saying it "no longer promotes (the singer) since the case is in the hands of the judiciary". But Hit Radio, the kingdom's most popular, was less clear about its stance. The station's head Younes

## Russia 'misled' by Israel over jet...

Continued from Page 1

Yesterday, military spokesman Igor Konashenkov presented the results of an investigation. Moscow has accused Israel's fighter pilots of using the bigger Ilyushin as cover, causing Syria's Soviet-era S-200 air defense system to interpret the Russian plane as a target.

Israel denied this version of events and its air force commander flew to Moscow following the incident, which Putin called the result of a "chain of tragic accidental circumstances". It was the deadliest known case of friendly fire between Syria and key backer Russia since Moscow's game-changing 2015 military intervention.

Konashenkov said the Russian military received a call from Israeli command at 1839 GMT on the day of the incident to warn that Israel would be striking "north of Syria", where the Il-20 surveillance aircraft was monitoring the Idlib de-escalation zone. Russia ordered its plane back to base. Then, "one minute" after Israel's call, its F-16 planes struck targets in Latakia in western Syria, he said. "The misleading (information) by the Israeli officer regarding the location of the strikes made it impossible to guide the Il-20 to a safe location," said Konashenkov.

Apollo Hospitals, said the private sector was "rightly worried" about pricing and reimbursements. "While we all work together to ensure the success of this scheme, there are areas that need focus and fine tuning," he said.

Others say it should have included primary day-to-day healthcare instead of just secondary and tertiary care for more serious and long term treatment. "Medicare does not extend to primary healthcare, which, we believe, is the weakest link in the provision of public health in India," Rajiv Lall and Vivek Dehejia of the IDFC Institute think-tank said in a column for the Mint newspaper. — AFP

Boumehti initially said he would not broadcast the superstar's hits, but quickly added the measure would only last until "things calm down". An on-air poll showed 68 percent of Hit Radio's audience wanted to continue listening to the star, regardless of the charges. Ultra-famous in the Arab world, Lamjarred "is still among the most popular on YouTube, and for many of his fans he will remain an icon, even if he is sentenced", Boumehti told AFP. The case has sparked "a lot of emotion because Saad Lamjarred has the image of a modern man with a new message", he said.

Radio Chada FM, which claims to be a leader in Morocco's arts and music scenes, said it would not take Lamjarred off the air "until he has been tried, in the name of the presumption of innocence". But not everyone agrees. "His song lyrics glorify male domination among couples... and the submission of the woman," business leader Mehdi Alami wrote in a post shared widely on social media. "It amounts to discrediting the word of women," said rights activist Betty Lachgar.

Many like Lachgar have drawn comparisons between the #masaktach campaign and the global #metoo movement against sexual harassment. But in Morocco, "most people don't believe in this type of thinking, (for them), the harassers are the victims", said El Aji. Campaign organizer Slassi says the #masaktach movement gained momentum after the "Khadija affair".

The 17-year-old was at the center of a storm last month after she accused a group of men from her village in central Morocco of having kidnapped, raped and tortured her over a two-month period. Her 12 assailants have confessed to having imprisoned and raped her, and of threatening her with death, according to her lawyers. "But for many, she remains the main culprit," said Laila. — AFP

As the Il-20 was landing near Latakia, one of the F-16 planes "began maneuvers" at 1859 GMT "getting closer to the Il-20", which was interpreted as a repeat attack by the Syrian air defence and resulted in it being shot down, he said. "Monitoring the Il-20, the Israeli fighters used it as cover for the anti-aircraft missiles" and continued to patrol the area long after the Russian plane was shot down, he said.

The Israeli pilots' actions "either speak of their unprofessionalism or criminal negligence at the very least," Konashenkov said, reiterating the Israeli air force was fully responsible for the downing of the plane. The "adventurism" of the Israeli military could have endangered civilian planes which use the same airspace to land at the nearby Hmeimim aerodrome, the officer said. "This is a very ungrateful response to everything Russia has done for Israel".

Israel's military said in a statement its jets "did not hide behind any aircraft and that the Israeli aircraft were in Israeli airspace at the time of the downing of the Russian plane". It again offered condolences to Russia. Israel says it was targeting a Syrian military facility where weapons manufacturing systems were "about to be transferred on behalf of Iran" to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. It has pledged to stop Iran, its main enemy, from entrenching itself militarily in the neighboring country and has carried out dozens of attacks on Iranian targets there. Iranian-backed Hezbollah is also an enemy of Israel, which has carried out strikes in Syria to stop what it says are advanced arms deliveries to the Shiite group. — AFP

## Kuwait condemns deadly Ahvaz attack...

Continued from Page 1

I think the Iranian people have had enough," said Nikki Haley. London-based opposition channel Iran International TV aired an interview Saturday with Yaqoub Hor Altostari, presented as a spokesman for ADPF, indirectly claiming responsibility for the attack and calling it "resistance against legitimate targets".

But in a statement on its website, the group denied any involvement, accusing Iranian authorities of ordering the attack to distract from Tehran's support for "militias in the region". Iran summoned diplomats from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain to complain about them "hosting some members of the terrorist group" and "double standards in fighting terrorism," the foreign ministry said.

The British charge d'affaires "was told that it is not acceptable that the spokesman for the mercenary Al-Ahwazi group be allowed to claim responsibility for this terrorist act through a London-based TV network," said ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi. Britain said its diplomat had extended the country's condolences to Tehran and that Iranian officials were planning to lodge a formal complaint with the United Kingdom's media watchdog, Ofcom.

Ghasemi also said Iran expected the Danish and Dutch governments to "hand over the perpetrators of this attack and anyone related to them to Iran for a fair trial". Denmark said there would be consequences if any such links were established, while the Netherlands said it had heard the Iranian version of events and offered its condolences.

Iran also warned the United Arab Emirates over "offensive remarks" attributed to a UAE "political adviser" following the attack. Oman, Kuwait and Qatar issued condemnations of the attack, while Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain had yet to react yesterday. The Emirati charge d'affaires was summoned to the foreign ministry over the advisor's "blatant support" for Saturday's attack, said Ghasemi. "The summoning was over offensive remarks of a (UAE) political advisor," he said in a statement. "The charge d'affaires was warned that blatant support of terrorist acts by those linked to Emirati



## Sports

# World team storms back to cut Europe's lead at Laver Cup

## Anderson's first singles win over Djokovic in a decade

**CHICAGO:** Kevin Anderson avenged a Wimbledon finals loss to Novak Djokovic as Team World dominated the night session Saturday to climb back into contention at the 2018 Laver Cup.

Anderson's surprise win, combined with a doubles victory by World's Jack Sock and Nick Kyrgios over Grigor Dimitrov and David Goffin, slashed Europe's overall lead to 7-5 heading into Sunday's third and final day of the exhibition tournament. Earlier Saturday, Roger Federer and Alexander Zverev powered Europe into a commanding 7-1 lead by winning their singles matches to set a daunting task for the underdog World team in Chicago.

South Africa's Anderson got the fight back started by upsetting reigning Wimbledon and US Open champ Djokovic 7-6, 5-7, 10-6 to earn two points for Team World at the United Center arena.

"We've had some really close matches that haven't gone our way and I really wanted to put us back in there," said Anderson. "It's not easy playing one of the best players of all time, but what an amazing atmosphere. It's just fantastic, for so many reasons. I felt I played a great match - beating Novak on any stage is great and here in Chicago makes it extra special."

Under the scoring system for the Laver Cup, victories on day two are worth two points each, with victories on day three rising to three points.

Defending champion Europe needs 13 points to take the title, which is being held for the second time. Djokovic, who was making his Laver Cup singles debut, partnered with Roger Federer in doubles on Friday night where they lost to Anderson and Sock.

Heading into Saturday's match, 14-time grand slam winner Djokovic held a 6-1 career advantage, including a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) win over Anderson in July at Wimbledon. This was Anderson's first singles win over Djokovic in a decade. On Saturday, they played the fourth 10 point tiebreaker of the tournament and it was the first win for Team World. Under the format being used for the tournament, a tiebreak is used instead of a decisive third set. Anderson closed it out when the Serb fired a forehand into the net and the South African was mobbed by his teammates. "Kevin was so well prepared for this, we needed this bad," said World captain John McEnroe. "It was absolutely awesome."

### FEDERER ON FIRE

World number two Roger Federer was barely ruffled as he cruised to a 6-3, 6-2 win over Kyrgios. "I felt good from the beginning of the match and that's not usual," said Federer. "Usually you need matches to get going and play your best in the third round or quarters of a tournament." Earlier, Zverev saved a match point to defeat John Isner in day two's opening singles rubber.

Zverev, 21, dug deep to hold off the big-serving Isner to win 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 10-7. After dominating Friday's opening day, winning three out of the four matches, Europe's progress looked to be checked after Isner grabbed the first set against Zverev.

But rising German star Zverev showed great determination in saving a match point at 6-5 down in the second-set tie-break to level the contest. Zverev then raced into the lead in the tiebreak before closing out for the win. — AFP



**CHICAGO:** Team World Jack Sock of the United States and Team World Nick Kyrgios of Australia return a shot against Team Europe David Goffin of Belgium and Team Europe Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during their Men's Doubles match on day two of the 2018 Laver Cup at the United Center on Saturday in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

## Tiger Woods takes three-shot lead at Tour Championship

**ATLANTA:** Tiger Woods is one round away from ending his five-year victory drought after storming into a three-shot lead on day three of the Tour Championship here Saturday. Woods, 42 looked in a class of his own as he carded a five-under-par 65 to leave himself on 12 under for the tournament at Atlanta's East Lake Golf Club.

After an opening birdie on the par-four first, Woods went surging clear of the field with a run of five straight birdies from the third hole. The run came with a mix of superb iron play and rock-solid putting, including a 21-foot birdie putt on the fourth.

There was also a moment of magic from the former world number one on the seventh, when he drilled a 172-yard approach shot to five feet and then tapped in for birdie. He was denied a bigger lead after bogeys on the ninth and 16th holes.

"I got off to a nice start and made some nice putts. Good Lord," Woods said afterwards. "I left myself in good spots, too, so I was able to take a run at some of the putts. Other than number three, every putt was uphill, so it was nice. I felt like I could free-wheel it, and they went in."

A Woods victory would be an 80th PGA Tour triumph and take him to within two wins of Sam Snead's all-time 82 Tour victories. "I would love to be able to win this event," he said. "I've got a three-shot lead. I've got a bunch of guys behind me that have been playing well and are playing well, and we'll see what happens tomorrow."

With one round remaining, Woods leads by three from Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose on nine under. "Simple math says that if I play a clean card, the guys behind me have to shoot 67 to force it into extra," Woods added.

"So, that helps. I don't have to shoot 63 or 64 and hope I get help. That's a big difference. "This is a spot I'd much rather be in than certainly four or five back." And having won 106 tournaments around the globe, Woods was quizzed if there was any further room for a 107th victory prize.

"I am sure there would be room somewhere in the house if I happened to go on and win this event," he said. Woods' last victory came 1,875 days ago in August 2013 when he captured the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational.

The 14-time Major winner is a two-time former Tour Championship winner and enjoys a remarkable record of winning 54 of 57 PGA Tour events when holding the 54-hole lead. The 42-year-old returned to golf this season after missing most of the previous two years with a debilitating back injury.

However Woods has progressed steadily during his comeback season, leading the British Open during the final round in July before finishing second at last month's PGA Championship. He fired a 62 earlier this month and has also done enough to force himself into the USA team for next week's Ryder Cup.

Behind Woods, McIlroy is lurking menacingly after carding a four-under-par 66. Overnight leader Rose remains in the hunt but will look to improve on Sunday after a two-under-par 68. Kyle Stanley and Spain's Jon Rahm are a further three shots back on six under, six strokes behind Woods. Paul Casey, Tony Finau and Billy Horschel are seven off the lead on five under. — AFP

## Pliskova pummels tearful Osaka to win Tokyo crown

**TOKYO:** Former world number one Karolina Pliskova stunned Japanese tennis sensation Naomi Osaka in straight sets to capture the Pan Pacific Open yesterday. The fourth seed took just 63 minutes to complete a clinical 6-4, 6-4 victory over the newly crowned US Open champion in Tokyo, bringing Osaka's 10-match winning streak to a shuddering halt.

"I'm just happy it didn't go to three sets," said the Czech, who had been taken the distance in her previous three matches. "My serve is my biggest weapon and it was key today," added Pliskova after scooping an 11th career title. "Naomi was maybe a little bit tired, you could see that. But the future is bright for her and congrats to her for an incredible few weeks." The players had split their previous two meetings, but Osaka started the final as favourite after her historic New York triumph.

And the third seed began in menacing fashion, thumping an ace down the middle on the first point and holding her first two service games to love. But Pliskova slowly turned the screws and broke for 3-2 with a fizzing backhand which her opponent swished well wide.

The world number eight was soon a set to the good after unleashing another brutal drive. Osaka was caught flat-footed and dumped it into the net. Osaka, the runner-up in Tokyo two years ago, climbed to seventh in the rankings after becoming Japan's first grand slam singles champion but she looked lost for ideas against Pliskova.

### 'SO STRESSED OUT!'

The 20-year-old buried her head in a towel during the changeover and things barely improved in the second set, Osaka whacking her racquet against her sneakers in anger at her wastefulness.

## Joshua ready for Wilder but promoter wants no more delay

**LONDON:** Britain's Anthony Joshua believes his long-awaited clash with fellow world heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder will take place as it would be "silly not to". But promoter Eddie Hearn has warned a deal must be agreed quickly if the American is to be Joshua's next opponent. Joshua successfully defended his International Boxing Federation, World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organisation belts with brutal a seventh-round stoppage of Alexander Povetkin at London's Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

He is already booked in to box again at Wembley on April 13, but the question of an opponent has still to be resolved. Joshua has repeatedly stressed he wants to fight fellow undefeated champion Wilder, who holds the World Boxing Council version of the heavyweight title, next. "We have to fight, it would be silly not to" Joshua told reporters after inflicting the first stoppage-loss of Povetkin's professional career. Wilder, however, is next due to face Britain's former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury on December 1. Talks between the Joshua and Wilder camps have stalled and Hearn is worried a fight that will be worth far more than the "peanuts" of an initially offered \$50 million could be derailed. If Fury beats Wilder, the American's re-match clause would likely be activated, delaying both boxers from facing Joshua, the London 2012 Olympic champion who now has a professional record of 22 wins from 22 fights, with 21 knockouts.

### 'TIME-WASTERS'

"Being British, we'd like Fury to win, but for April, Wilder must win if that's going to happen," said Hearn.



**TOKYO:** Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic kisses her trophy after beating Japan's Naomi Osaka in their women's singles final at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

As the strain began to show, a dejected Osaka called for coach Sascha Bajin and groaned: "I feel so stressed out!" Sensing blood, Pliskova broke for 5-4 after a poor Osaka drop shot gifted her an easy put-away. Moments later she delivered the coup de grace with a sixth ace which Osaka barely wafted her racquet at.

"I didn't want to try to overpower her because she just has more power than me," said Pliskova. "I just wanted to be patient and wait for my chances." For Pliskova, it was a first tournament victory since Stuttgart in April-and the

first since wedding long-time partner Michal Hrdlicka in the summer. "The first one this year was before the wedding," smiled the Czech, who reached the top spot in women's tennis in July 2017. "I'm just happy that I also have a title as a married woman."

A tearful Osaka could barely bring herself to speak at the trophy presentation. "I've literally never felt more tired in my entire life," she told reporters, confessing that she needed some time off. "The chances of me playing in the next tournament are very low." — AFP

"We're not willing to wait until December to see. A deal must be done in advance of that, subject to him winning. "But now, after 80,000 (the estimated crowd at Wembley) and the worldwide exposure and after the finish (against Povetkin) that offer (made previously, by the Wilder camp) will look like absolute peanuts when this fight is made."

"That is the biggest fight in boxing: Wilder-Fury is a really good fight to see who's the second best heavyweight in the world. Joshua-Wladimir Klitschko was the biggest fight in British boxing history, and Joshua-Wilder would eclipse that. We want that now."

Hearn insisted: "We're not waiting for time-wasters; we understand if they lose we'll have to find another opponent, but if you win, we're not waiting until December. "These aren't negotiations that will take 24 hours, and Joshua's career is not being slowed down. If they don't want to do that, we'll fight someone else." Fury has previously said on social media that Joshua will never fight him but Hearn witheringly added: "Tyson Fury is the least entertaining fighter I've ever seen. He's never been in a good fight, apart from against Steve Cunningham (in 2013), when he got knocked down."

### 'BURDEN'

Meanwhile the 28-year-old Joshua said he too had no intention of being messed about by Wilder. "If Wilder's not serious, there's other people out there; when he's ready, we're ready." Joshua added: "Good luck to them both (Wilder and Fury) — boxing needs it."

"I've had the burden of the heavyweight division on my back for some years, because it was all about me fighting Wilder, Fury, Klitschko, Dillian (Whyte), Povetkin. That's all they were interested in-me fighting them all. "So I'm happy those two are fighting. April 13 is booked, so whichever heavyweight is serious, we can look at making a deal. I have no interest in who wins; I'm not fussed." Joshua was rocked by Povetkin, the 2004 Olympic champion, in the first round. But he insisted the 39-year-old Russian had not broken his nose.

"These guys the last thing they lose is their power, but it was a good way to wake up," Joshua said. As for what lay behind his own public appeal, Joshua added: "The appeal is losing-who is going to be the man to beat me? Sometimes you have to go in there and really earn your



**LONDON:** Britain's Anthony Joshua (R) throws a punch to knock Russia's Alexander Povetkin against the ropes during their boxing world Heavyweight title fight at Wembley Stadium in north west London on Saturday. — AFP

money. "Povetkin was a tough challenger for sure, but I knew how to break him down. "I wasn't looking for the knockout but the instinct told he was hurt. I knew how to tidy up and I knew it was time to get out of there." — AFP

## Sports

# Braves survive late Philadelphia comeback to clinch NL East title

## Yanks beat Orioles in 11th, clinch AL wild card spot

ATLANTA: Atlanta starter Mike Foltynewicz opened the game with six no-hit innings, and the Braves survived a late Philadelphia comeback for a 5-3 win, clinching the National League East title and sending them back to the playoffs for the first time since 2013. Foltynewicz (12-10) did not allow a hit until Odubel Herrera led off the seventh with a single. The right-hander worked 7 1/3 innings and allowed two runs on two hits and three walks. He struck out five. Aroldys Vizcaino pitched a perfect ninth inning to earn his 16th save. It was his first save since missing 55 games with right shoulder inflammation and being activated from the disabled list on Sept. 14. His last save came June 17 against the New York Mets. The Atlanta offense was led by center fielder Ender Inciarte, who went 2-for-3 and scored three runs. Freddie Freeman and Johan Camargo each drove in two runs.

### YANKEES 3, ORIOLES 2 (11 INNINGS)

Aaron Hicks hit an RBI double with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning, and New York clinched a wild-card spot with a victory over visiting Baltimore. The Yankees are assured of playing in the one-game playoff on Oct. 3 for the second straight season. They entered with a magic number of two over the Tampa Bay Rays, who lost 5-2 to the Toronto Blue Jays in a game that went final while the Yankees were in the eighth inning. Didi Gregorius started the 11th inning by singling on the second pitch from Paul Fry (0-2). After Giancarlo Stanton struck out, Hicks ensured the champagne celebration in the clubhouse by hitting Fry's 2-2 breaking ball down the left field line.

### A'S 3, TWINS 2

Host Oakland recorded its second consecutive walk-off win, scoring the game-ending run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning on a wild pitch by Minnesota reliever Trevor. The result lowered Oakland's magic number for clinching an American League playoff spot to one. A win by the A's on Sunday or a loss by the Tampa Bay Rays at Toronto would assure Oakland's first trip to the playoffs since 2014. Stephen Piscotty led off the ninth in a 2-2 tie with a double, then advanced to third on a one-out throwing error by Twins shortstop Jorge Polanco. After Matt Joyce was intentionally walked to load the bases, Hildenberger (4-5) struck out Mark Canha. With Matt Chapman at the plate, Hildenberger uncorked a wild pitch that allowed Piscotty to scamper home.

### DODGERS 7, PADRES 2

Joc Pederson opened the game with a home run, and Manny Machado capped a five-run third inning with a three-run homer as Los Angeles defeated visiting San Diego to retain a 1 1/2-game lead in the National League West over the second-place Colorado Rockies. Dodgers starter Rich Hill (10-5) limited the Padres to a solo homer by Hunter Renfroe in the sixth. Hill gave up four hits with no walks while striking out seven in seven innings to become the first Dodger pitcher to win 10 games this season. It was also Hill's longest outing since July 26. In the ninth, the Padres scored a run on a Manuel Margot single and had the bases loaded with one out when Kenley

Jansen entered. The Dodgers closer recorded his 37th save by striking out Cory Spangenberg and Travis Jankowski.

### ROCKIES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Chris Iannetta had two hits and three RBIs, and Antonio Senzatela pitched seven strong innings as Colorado topped Arizona in Phoenix. Iannetta's two-out, two-run single highlighted a four-run third inning off Patrick Corbin. Senzatela retired the first 14 batters he faced. He wound up yielding one run on three hits. He struck out four and did not walk a batter while tying a season high for innings pitched.

### INDIANS 5, RED SOX 4 (11 INNINGS)

Michael Brantley's RBI single with no outs in the 11th inning lifted Cleveland past visiting Boston. By winning the middle game of the three-game series, the American League Central champion Indians delayed, perhaps only momentarily, the AL East champion Red Sox clinching the top seed in the AL playoffs. One more win by Boston or one more loss by Houston will lock the Red Sox into the top seed and ensure the Indians and Astros play each other in the AL Division Series.

### CARDINALS 5, GIANTS 4 (10 INNINGS)

Tyler O'Neill hit a two-out, walk-off home run off Mark Melancon in the 10th inning, allowing host St. Louis to top San Francisco. Yadier Molina powered a two-run, game-tying homer in the seventh for the Cardinals, who remain 1 1/2 games up on Colorado in the race for the second National League wild card. St. Louis pulled within two games of the Milwaukee Brewers for the first NL wild card. Melancon (0-3), the losing pitcher Friday when he was charged with two runs in the eighth inning in a 5-3 defeat, retired the first two batters he faced in the 10th inning Saturday before O'Neill hit a 2-2 pitch over the fence in left-center to end the game.

### ASTROS 10, ANGELS 5

Helped by a key error, Houston rallied for nine runs in the eighth inning to pull out a victory over visiting Los Angeles. Angels center fielder Mike Trout bashed his 38th home run to key a five-run top of the eighth inning for a 5-1 Los Angeles lead before the Astros responded. Yuli Gurriel, Brian McCann, and Evan Gattis all recorded RBI singles. When Tyler White stepped to the plate with one out and the bases loaded, the Astros trailed 5-4. White hit a sharp grounder to third base that Taylor Ward fielded cleanly before throwing over the head of second baseman Sherman Johnson. The runs scored on the play, and Houston subsequently got a two-run single from George Springer and a two-run homer by Jose Altuve.

### CUBS 8, WHITE SOX 3

Javy Baez homered and drove in three runs, and Ben Zobrist singled home two runs in a three-run fifth inning as the Chicago Cubs beat the host Chicago White Sox. The Cubs extended their lead in the National League Central to 2 1/2 games over the Milwaukee Brewers. The Cubs got a big break in their fifth-inning rally when White Sox left fielder Ryan LaMarre misjudged a fly ball that went as a go-ahead RBI double by Daniel Murphy and left runners on second and third, setting up



ATLANTA: Dansby Swanson #7 of the Atlanta Braves runs past Ozzie Albies #1 to get the force out on Rhys Hoskins #17 of the Philadelphia Phillies during the eighth inning at SunTrust Park on Saturday in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

Zobrist's two-run single.

### PIRATES 3, BREWERS 0

Trevor Williams pitched six scoreless innings, and Starling Marte hit a two-out, two-run double as Pittsburgh beat visiting Milwaukee. Richard Rodriguez, Kyle Crick and Felipe Vazquez (36th save) each pitched an inning of relief to preserve the five-hit shutout for Pittsburgh, which has won six of seven. Williams (14-9) allowed four hits and a walk while striking out seven. He has a 1.00 ERA over his past 12 starts.

### NATIONALS 6, METS 0

Trea Turner hit a two-run homer, Matt Wieters added a three-run shot as five Washington pitchers combined to one-hit New York. The result came hours after the Nationals (78-77) were eliminated from postseason contention when St. Louis defeated San Francisco. Turner hit his two-run shot in the third inning off starter Corey Oswalt (3-3). Wieters went deep in the sixth off Jerry Blevins. Austin Voth (1-1) went five scoreless innings and earned his first major league victory. He allowed only a fourth-inning infield single to Michael Conforto. Matt Grace, Justin Miller, Jimmy Cordero and Austen Williams followed with one hitless inning apiece.

### MARINERS 13, RANGERS 0

Robinson Cano had a three-run homer and four RBIs in a three-hit game, Marco Gonzales allowed one hit in six shutout innings, and visiting Seattle routed Texas. Dee Gordon added a two-run homer, Mike Zunino had a solo shot, Mitch Haniger had two doubles and a single to extend his hit streak to 11 games, and Guillermo Heredia had three hits including an RBI double as the Mariners had a season-

best run total. Gonzales (13-9) issued one walk and struck out three to win for the first time since July 29, a span of six winless starts.

### BLUE JAYS 5, RAYS 2

Rowdy Tellez had three hits, including a two-run homer, and three RBIs, and Thomas Pannone pitched into the seventh inning as Toronto defeated visiting Tampa Bay. Reese McGuire added an RBI double for the Blue Jays in their three-run fourth inning. Pannone (4-1) allowed two runs, six hits and three walks while striking out five in 6 2/3 innings in his fifth career major league start.

### TIGERS 5, ROYALS 4

Mikie Mahtook blasted a go-ahead, two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth, lifting host Detroit over visiting Kansas City. Mahtook followed Niko Goodrum's leadoff single with his ninth long ball of the season to left off Jason Hammel (3-14). Goodrum, who hadn't played since Sept. 12 due to a right quad contusion, had three hits, as did teammate Nicholas Castellanos. Detroit designated hitter Victor Martinez, who announced a day earlier that Saturday's game would be the last of his career, was removed after an infield single in the first.

### MARLINS 5, REDS 1

ROOKIE AUSTIN DEAN HOMERED and drove in three runs to lead host Miami past Cincinnati. It was Dean's fourth homer since making his major league debut on Aug. 15. The three RBIs were his career high. The Reds were led by pinch hitter Gabriel Guerrero, who hit his first major league homer, an eighth-inning blast that ended Miami's hopes of a shutout. — Reuters

## Spanish football should be proud of foreign interest, says La Liga

MADRID: "The world is our playing field," says an inscription on the wall at La Liga's headquarters in Madrid, written in Spanish: "El mundo es nuestro campo de juego." It seems an apt motif, as Spanish football confronts questions about the very essence of its national game, and where it should call home. "If we want to remain competitive, we have to open ourselves to the world," La Liga's director of international development, Oscar Mayo, told AFP. But others are still to be convinced.

La Liga was informed by the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) on Friday that it would not support hosting January's league game between Girona and Barcelona in Miami. The two sides play the reverse fixture at Camp Nou on Sunday. At board level, both clubs have put their names to La Liga's request but key players retain doubts.

Even if the RFEF changed its mind, the plan needs approval from the US Soccer Federation, as well as UEFA and CONCACAF—the governing bodies in charge of European and North American football respectively—and the Spanish sport council. FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Real Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui have expressed reservations while Barcelona's Ernesto Valverde appears a reluctant advocate. "It is our intention, but there is a long way to go," he said. La Liga are not deterred. Mayo said there were two red lines that would not be crossed: "It will never be more than one match (in a season)" and "It will not be the Clásico".

La Liga has a 15-year agreement with Relevent Sports to promote football in the

US and Canada. Some speculate that if the move is blocked this season it would only amount to a postponement, not a cancellation. "It's like when we changed kick-off times," Mayo said. "Whenever you are innovative and make a sudden change it is difficult to adapt, but we also know that as soon as we do, as time passes, we will all agree that it was a wise decision." The partnership with Relevent was one of two deals struck last summer which have excited La Liga. The other was a contract secured with Facebook to begin broadcasting matches free and live in eight countries in South Asia, including to India's population of 1.3 billion. Lurking behind both initiatives is one central goal: to catch up with and then surpass the English Premier League. "We have the ambition to overcome the Premier League. These deals are the two good new stories for us this summer," Mayo said. In terms of television rights, La Liga will collect at least 1.1 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) per year from Spanish broadcast companies between 2019 and 2022, plus 896 million euros from abroad.

These figures still pale in comparison to the English Premier League, which expects to pocket at least 1.6 billion euros per year from its national market alone over the same period.

For La Liga, the difference has to be made up overseas. "In the next four or five years, we should be at least at the same level," predicted Mayo. The shift towards Asia has already begun. Last season, La Liga's showpiece match between Barcelona and Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu kicked off at 13:00, aimed at luring fans in Tokyo, Beijing and Delhi. But a glance at Barca's social media figures shows the challenge ahead. The club's English-language Twitter account has millions of followers, streets ahead of its Indonesian version with 378,000 and Japanese with 235,000, even after Andres Iniesta's groundbreaking move to Vissel Kobe last summer. La Liga believes interest from abroad should be considered not a threat but an opportunity, and a privilege.—AFP

## Pogba not as selfish as people think: Deschamps

LONDON: France manager Didier Deschamps believes the outside world has the wrong image of Paul Pogba, who played a key role in leading Les Bleus to winning the World Cup. At club level the Manchester United midfielder hasn't lived up to expectations since his then world record £89 million (\$116 million) move from Juventus in 2016, although his performances have picked up in recent weeks.

Off the field, Pogba has attracted criticism for spending too much time on social media and frequently changing his hairstyle than concentrating on his football. However, he shone for France in Russia, often sacrificing the attacking side of his game for the good of the team, before scoring in the final against Croatia.

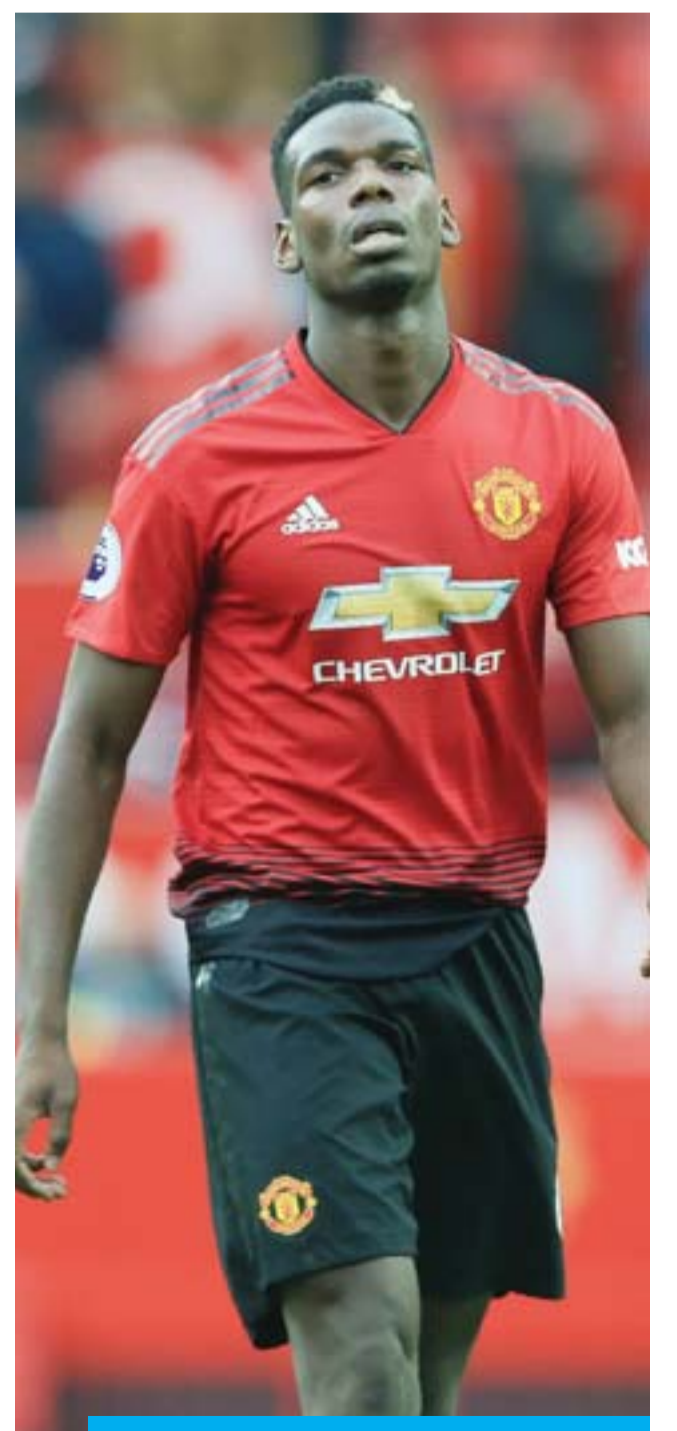
"The rest of the world had an image of Pogba which didn't really reflect who he is," Deschamps told FIFA's coaching conference to review the World Cup. "He's always thinking about the collective. "There is an image of him that he is very individualistic, a bit self-centred, but that's not the true Paul at all."

Pogba's importance as a leader of the French side was revealed in a behind the scenes documentary, which showed the prominent role he took during a team talk at half-time in the final. "He prepared to win. He took on the mantle of leadership both on and off the pitch. He took on the role of spokesman, he can do that because he is a good speaker," added Deschamps, who believes Pogba is now more calm when it comes to dealing with press scrutiny of his performances.

"You can be criticised, the press can be tough on you. Once you take that on board, I think you can become more calm. He has taken that on board and it has had an impact on him on and off the pitch."

"I think it gave him some respect, and that respect he has gained on the field has also had an impact on him as a person." Deschamps is the heavy favourite to win the award for FIFA's best coach of the year at an award ceremony in London today.

However, no Frenchman is in the running for the best player prize as Cristiano Ronaldo faces competition from Croatia and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric and Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah to win FIFA's world player of the year for the sixth time. — AFP



Paul Pogba

## Sports

# Insigne double inspires Napoli as Roma crash in Bologna

## 'The facts condemn us, they condemn me'

**MILAN:** Lorenzo Insigne bagged a brace to inspire Napoli to a 3-1 win over Torino and join Juventus at the top of Serie A yesterday, as Roma plunged further into crisis with a 2-0 loss at Bologna.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli have 12 points from five games, equal with champions Juventus who can pull ahead again when they travel to promoted Frosinone later. But Roma coach Eusebio Di Francesco is under increasing pressure after a fourth league game without a win sees last year's third-placed team slump to 12th with five points from as many games.

Federico Mattiello and Federico Santander scored in either half to give Bologna, who occupy the first relegation spot of 18th position, their first goals and win of the season. "I'm not the type to look for excuses, I need solutions and I can not find them," said Di Francesco. "The facts condemn us, they condemn me."

In Turin, Ancelotti switched things around following Napoli's uninspiring goalless draw at Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League midweek. Insigne played a more central role along with Dries Mertens as defender Sebastiano Luperto got his first start for the Serie A runners-up. "I'm satisfied, we dominated in Belgrade but we couldn't finish things off like we did today," said Ancelotti. "Insigne was decisive, but everyone put in a strong performance." The Italian international got the first after just four minutes when poor Torino defending saw Emiliano Moretti clear to Nicolas N'Koulou with the rebound favouring Insigne, who finished off under the crossbar.

Simone Verdi added the second with a half-volley on 20 minutes, with Torino pulling one back after the

break when Andrea Belotti slotted in a penalty.

But Insigne restored Napoli's two-goal lead after 59 minutes when a Jose Callejon shot bounced off the inside of the far post and into the path of the Italian forward. It gives Napoli a boost ahead of next week's trip to reigning seven-time champions Juventus.

"We won there last season and still finished second," said Insigne. "If we don't win the midweek game with Parma, then the result with Juve is irrelevant, so we have to take it one at a time." Torino are in 13th position with five points from as many games.

### 'NO INNER FIRE'

In Bologna, Roma plunged further into crisis after a summer which saw Di Francesco's side lose goalkeeper Alisson to Liverpool with midfielders Radja Nainggolan and Kevin Strootman also exiting the Italian capital.

Mattiello curled in Bologna's first goal of the season after 36 minutes with Paraguayan Santander adding the second after 59 minutes. Roma-last year's Champions League semi-finalists-also fell 3-0 at Real Madrid midweek, and have not won a league game since their first game against Torino. "There's no inner fire," lamented the Roma coach. "Something is wrong."

Next weekend Roma face bitter city rivals Lazio, who saw off Genoa 4-1 on Sunday with Ciro Immobile scoring a double, to move up to fifth place.

Before the derby Roma will try to boost morale against Frosinone midweek with Lazio heading to Udinese, who won 2-0 at Chievo. Inter Milan snatched a late 1-0 win against Sampdoria in Genoa on Saturday to move up to ninth. — AFP



TURIN: Napoli's Albanian defender Elseid Hysaj (C) vies for the ball during the Italian Serie A football match between Torino and Napoli at the Olimpico Grande Torino stadium, in Turin, yesterday. — AFP

## Neymar gets PSG back on track

**PARIS:** From a deeper than usual playmaker role Brazil's Neymar pulled the strings as Paris Saint-Germain came from behind to beat Rennes 3-1 in Ligue 1 yesterday helping to dispel midweek memories of a European flop at Liverpool. Hosts Rennes took a surprise 11th minute lead when PSG midfielder Adrien Rabiot nodded past his own 'keeper Gianluigi Buffon from a corner before goals from Angel di Maria, Thomas Meunier and Eric Maxim Chupot-Moting gave them a hard-fought sixth straight Ligue 1 win.

PSG critics had suggested the French giants had overspent on strikers and forgotten about the midfield after a tame 3-2 defeat in the Champions League at Anfield this week. With superstar striker Kylian Mbappe banned after his red card there was room for both Di Maria and German winger Julian Draxler in the starting line up with Neymar pulled into the No.10 position, where his passes were a sight to behold, behind Edinson Cavani.

A young fan ran onto the pitch as Neymar was leaving as a late sub and the youngster crumpled in tears as his hero hugged him and gave him his shirt in touching scenes bound to glorify the former Barcelona striker when they go viral on social media.

After Rabiot's earlier upset Neymar seemed to be at the origin of almost everything the visitors threw at

Rennes including when Cavani hit the post from a sumptuous set up. On the stroke of half time Draxler cut back from the by-line and Cavani dummied setting up di Maria to crack a precise jab into the bottom right-hand corner from a good 25 metres out.

The 26-year-old Neymar was at the origin of both Meunier's go ahead goal on 61 and for Chupot-Moting's first goal for the Parisians since joining from Stoke. Buffon had his work cut out in the second half as Rennes playmaker Clement Grenier fed the speedy Senegalese strike-pair M'Baye Niang and the 20-year-old Ismaila Sarr.

Rennes coach Sabri Lamouchi threw on ex-PSG midfielder Hatem Ben Arfa for one last roll of the dice but PSG went home with all three points and ideas about a new format for coach Thomas Tuchel. — AFP

## Real see off gritty Espanyol, Atletico cruise to victory

**MADRID:** Marco Asensio's strike earned Real Madrid a 1-0 win over Espanyol to send them top of La Liga and Thomas Lemar scored his first goal for Atletico Madrid in a 2-0 victory at Getafe on Saturday. Julen Lopetegui's Real were tested by Espanyol at the Santiago Bernabeu, with Borja Iglesias hitting the crossbar, but held on for the victory.

After an emphatic Champions League win over AS Roma on Wednesday, Lopetegui shuffled his pack for the visit of Espanyol, sixth in the table after a good start to the season. The coach rested Gareth Bale, Marcelo and Toni Kroos, handing a debut to defender Alvaro Odriozola in place of the injured Dani Carvajal.

Real dominated possession but Espanyol were a persistent threat on the break. "(The clean sheet) was really important for us, we don't want to let in goals," Real defender Raphael Varane said. "Espanyol played very well but we played as a team and did not concede." The hosts took the lead four minutes before the break, when Luka Modric's pass took a triple deflection but found its way to Asensio, who steered home his first goal in La Liga this season.

The forward had to wait for VAR to prove he was onside before he could celebrate. Espanyol forward Iglesias robbed Real captain Sergio Ramos after the break and chipped Courtois, but his effort bounced back off the crossbar.

"We're furious (about losing), we had chances to score," Iglesias said. "I saw (Courtois) off his line and shot but it hit the crossbar. Maybe next time it will go in." Real held on despite late Espanyol pressure to take top spot before second-placed Barcelona host Girona on Sunday in a Catalan derby.

### STUTTERING START

Atletico's comfortable victory at Getafe eased nerves after a stuttering start to the season during which they gathered five points from their first four



MADRID: Real Madrid's Spanish midfielder Marco Asensio runs with the ball during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and RCD Espanyol at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Saturday. — AFP

games. French winger Lemar struck the crossbar with a powerful long-range effort and the ball bounced back, hitting Soria and crossing the line, to send Atletico ahead after 14 minutes.

The visitors struggled to create openings at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez but Lemar put the finishing touch to a quick counter-attack after an hour to net his first goal since his close season move from Monaco.

Getafe winger Ivan Alejo was sent off for an apparent stamp just four minutes after coming on as a substitute, leaving Atletico to cruise to victory and climb to fifth in the table.

"I wasn't nervous at all when they started to criticise us two weeks ago, as if everything was lost and we

were dead, and now we are the best in the world," said Atletico defender Juanfran.

"Our people, our fans have to know that this Atletico Madrid team will always show up, whether or not results go our way, and they are, bit by bit."

Rayo Vallecano were thrashed 5-1 by third-placed Alaves at Vallecas after Abdoulaye Ba was sent off in the first half. Ba became the first player in Spanish football to be dismissed after VAR flagged an off-the-ball incident, with the officials deciding he elbowed Jonathan Calleri.

Villarreal earned a 3-3 draw at Real Sociedad thanks to Leo Suarez's equaliser in the final minute of stoppage time while Eibar edged Leganes 1-0. — Reuters

## Kane scores as Tottenham return to winning ways

**BRIGHTON:** Harry Kane became Tottenham's joint fifth highest scorer as he helped his side earn a 2-1 Premier League victory over Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday. Kane moved level with Jermain Defoe on 143 goals for the London club as Tottenham put behind them successive defeats by Watford, Liverpool and Inter Milan in all competitions to climb to fifth in the Premier League table.

Kane opened the scoring from the penalty spot on 41 minutes after Glenn Murray handled in the box and the England striker fired the spot-kick into the corner of the net. Brighton had a goal ruled out for offside and substitute Erik Lamela added Tottenham's second with a neat finish on 76 minutes. Anthony Knockaert's stoppage-time effort was a late consolation for the hosts.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino was thrilled with the attitude shown by his players. "Everyone can understand what we are feeling now. The spirit we showed was the most important thing," Pochettino told BT Sport.

"We played some very good football and apart from the last minute which was a little bit embarrassing with the late goal, the performance was great. "The three points was so important for us." Kane was also happy to see his side emerge from the mini slump and hopes they can now maintain their position near the top of the table.

"Today was about mentality, getting around the pitch, pressing high and harder and I think we did that," Kane told the BBC. "We could have put it to bed and won 3-0 or 4-0 but it's good to get back to winning ways. The gaffer will be pleased and we can build on this."

Brighton manager Chris Hughton felt his team created enough chances to take something from the game but praised the clinical finishing from the Tottenham forward line. "On the balance of play, it got a little bit frantic in the last period where they had a few chances, I think we had as many good opportunities as they did," Hughton told BT Sport.

"But with the quality they have, they can be clinical with theirs. I think they showed their quality with the second goal in a high press from us trying to get back in the game. "I don't think anyone can doubt our willingness to get back in it. They're a very expansive team and on a good, wet surface like this, they can move the ball quickly." — Reuters

## Koreas to field joint teams for Paralympic event

**JAKARTA:** North and South Korea have agreed to march under a neutral Korean peninsula flag and form unified teams for some sports at the upcoming Asian Para Games. "This is the first time the two countries have paraded together and competed together at a para-sport event," Majid Rashed, chairman of the Asian Paralympic Committee, said in a statement posted yesterday. About 100 athletes from South Korea and 20

from North Korea will compete at the multi-sport event in the Indonesian capital Jakarta between October 6-13. Flag-bearers from each country will carry a Korean unification flag and competitors will wear the same uniforms at the opening and closing ceremonies, the statement said. The two countries, still technically at war, will field two joint table tennis teams and a mixed team in a men's 40100 metre swimming relay event. North and South Korea formed unified teams for some events at the Asian Games in Jakarta and in Palembang from August 18-September 2, securing one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

Earlier this month the two countries announced a joint bid for the 2032 Olympics, in a deepening sign of rapprochement on the peninsula. Some 3,000 athletes from 43 countries are expected to take part in 15 Paralympic and three non-Paralympic sports during next month's event. —AFP

### English Premier League table

English Premier League table after yesterday's early match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Liverpool	6	6	0	0	14	2	18	Crystal Palace	6	2	1	3	4	6	7
Man City	6	5	1	0	19	3	16	Everton	5	1	3	1	8	9	6
Chelsea	6	5	1	0	14	4	16	Brighton	6	1	2	3	8	11	5
Watford	6	4	1	1	11	6	13	Southampton	6	1	2	3	6	9	5
Tottenham	6	4	0	2	12	7	12	Fulham	6	1	2	3	8	13	5
Man Utd	6	3	1	2	9	9	10	Burnley	6	1	1	4	7	10	4
Bournemouth	6	3	1	2	10	11	10	West Ham	6	1	1	4	5	11	4
Leicester	6	3	0	3	11	10	9	Newcastle	6	0	2	4	4	8	2
Arsenal	5	3	0	2	10	9	9	Cardiff	6	0	2	4	3	14	2
Wolves	6	2	3	1	6	6	9	Huddersfield	6	0	2	4	3	14	2

**25** Pliskova pummels tearful Osaka to win Tokyo crown

**25** Joshua ready for Wilder but promoter wants no more delay

**27** Insigne double inspires Napoli as Roma crash in Bologna



## Chelsea drop first points at West Ham

Lacazette, Aubameyang help Arsenal edge past Everton



LONDON: West Ham United's Ukrainian striker Andriy Yarmolenko clears the ball during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Chelsea at The London Stadium, in east London yesterday. —AFP

**LONDON:** Chelsea lost their 100 percent Premier League record when London rivals West Ham United held them to a 0-0 draw yesterday. Needing a two-goal win to depose Liverpool at the top of the table, Chelsea struggled to make clear chances despite having the majority of possession and stayed third behind the Merseysiders and champions Manchester City.

The home side could have punished them but Michail Antonio, who was deputising for the injured Marko Arnautovic, missed two first-half chances and Andriy Yarmolenko headed wastefully wide.

West Ham, with only one win so far from their six matches, remain 17th, one place above the relegation zone. Despite having barely 30 percent of possession in the first half, West Ham finally came alive after 30 minutes with two good chances for Antonio.

Sent through by record signing Felipe Anderson he shot too high but then forced goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga into a good save after being set up by Yarmolenko. For all their dominance, Chelsea made barely one real opportunity before the interval when N'Golo Kante arrived to head wide from Willian's smart volleyed cross.

In the second half it was two of Chelsea's substitutes who went closest. Alvaro Morata's first attempt hit goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski in the face and later Ross Barkley's curler was also kept out by the home goalkeeper.

Chelsea's third substitute was experienced defender Gary Cahill, getting a first opportunity under new manager Maurizio Sarri when replacing the injured Antonio Rudiger. The best chance of the game, how-

ever, fell West Ham's way when Yarmolenko was alone at the far post to meet a perfect cross from Robert Snodgrass, but put his header wide.

After losing their first four games but winning at Everton last weekend, West Ham are showing signs of improvement. "Signing nine players and with a new manager it was always going to be difficult," Antonio told Sky Sports. "Now we're starting to gel." Chelsea have another chance to knock Liverpool off the top when they play them at Stamford Bridge on Saturday-three days after the clubs meet in the League Cup at Anfield.

Meanwhile, Arsenal broke down a determined Everton defence to win 2-0 on Sunday, with Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scoring two second-half goals in two minutes to give

the Gunners their fourth straight Premier League win.

Everton had created most of the early chances as they looked for their first victory at Arsenal since January 1996, but they were unable to find their way past goalkeeper Petr Cech. French striker Lacazette broke the deadlock just short of the hour mark for the Gunners, running in from the left before elegantly curling the ball into the far corner just beyond the reach of outstretched England keeper Jordan Pickford.

Gabon international Aubameyang doubled the lead two minutes later from what appeared to be an offside position, sending Pickford the wrong way from close range. The win-and Arsenal's first clean sheet of the season-pushes the Gunners up to sixth in the table, while the Toffees stay in 12th place. — Reuters

## Ton-ups Rohit, Dhawan crush Pakistan in Asia Cup

**DUBAI:** Openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan hit punishing centuries to steer an imperious India to a nine wicket win over a listless Pakistan in the Asia Cup match in Dubai yesterday. Sharma notched 119-ball 111 not out for his 19th one-day hundred while Dhawan made a 100-ball 114 for his eighth century as the pair put on 210 for the opening stand-second best in all India-Pakistan one-day internationals.

That super effort from the openers saw India overhaul the target with 10.3 overs to spare. The Super four win is the second for India over arch-rivals following their easy

eighth wicket win in the first round. The win is India's highest against Pakistan in terms of wickets, improving on the eight wicket win over Pakistan in Melbourne in 1985.

Pakistan were steered to 237-7 by Shoaib Malik who made 90-ball 78 after winning the toss and batting but it proved too little for the strong Indian batting line. Pakistan could have got Sharma out in the sixth over but Imam-ul-Haq dropped an easy catch off a luckless Shaheen Shah, giving the colourful Indian power to smash seven boundaries and four sixes. Sharma, who scored back to back fifties in the last two games, also became the ninth Indian batsman to complete 7,000 one-day runs in his 187th match when he reached 94, soon after he was dropped on 81 by Fakhar Zaman off Shadab Khan.

Dhawan matches his skipper shot for shot, firing 100-ball 114 with 16 boundaries and two sixes as Pakistani bowlers had no clue to the rasping and flowing strokes of the Indian openers. Pakistan's pace spearhead Mohammad Amir, brought back in one of two changes after dropped for the Afghanistan match, went wicketless for a fifth match in a

row, leaving the much vaunted Pakistan bowling biteless. Even when Dhawan got out in the 34th over with 38 needed it was through a run out. The best opening stand in Indo-Pak one-day internationals was 224 Mohammad Hafeez and Nasir Jamshed at Dhaka in 2012. Earlier, Malik scored a 90-ball 78 with four boundaries and two sixes, but India kept a tight check on Pakistan's progress.

Pakistan lost Imam (ten), Zaman (31) and Babar Azam (run out for nine) in an unimpressive start to their innings before Malik and skipper Sarfraz Ahmed added 107 for the fourth wicket.

Sarfraz scored a slow 66-ball 44 with only two boundaries before he became one of two Kuldeep Yadav's wicket who finished with 2-41. Pakistan's final over score depended on Malik who crucially fell in the 44th over, caught behind off a leg-side edge off Jasprit Bumrah.

Asif Ali smashed two sixes in his 21-ball 30 before he was bowled by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal who took 2-38 in his nine overs. Bumrah finished with 2-29 in his ten overs. —AFP



DUBAI: Indian batsman Shikhar Dhawan celebrates after scoring a century (100 runs) during the one day international (ODI) Asia Cup cricket match between Pakistan and India at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai yesterday. — AFP