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# Kuwait: US decision to remove anti-missile systems 'routine'

## Army assures own Patriots cover and protect all geographical borders

KUWAIT/WASHINGTON: A US decision to remove anti-missile systems from Kuwait and several Arab allies was an "internal and routine procedure", Kuwait said yesterday, adding that its defenses would not be affected. A US defense official told Reuters that Washington was pulling four Patriot missile systems from Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain in line with a Pentagon shift in focus away from the fight against Islamist militants in order to address tensions with China and Russia.

"Kuwait's Patriot missile system, independently, protects and covers all its geographical borders," Kuwait's army chief of staff said a statement. It added that the US decision had been coordinated with Kuwait's military. Two Patriot systems, which are used to shoot down mis-

siles and planes, will be redeployed from Kuwait, and one each from Jordan and Bahrain, the US official said. The decision was made some time ago and the removal is scheduled for next month, the official added.

The move follows rising rhetoric against Iran from the United States, which earlier this year pulled out of the 2015 deal in which Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear work in return for the lifting of most Western sanctions. "Due to operational security concerns, we're not going to discuss the movement of specific capabilities into and out of the US Central Command area of responsibility," a US Central Command spokesman said in a statement. The news was first reported by the Wall Street Journal. There was no immediate comment from Jordan and

Bahrain did not respond immediately to a Reuters' request for a comment.

In June this year, Britain agreed to deploy military troops in Kuwait in response to a request from the government, according to media reports. The consent followed talks of a Kuwaiti-British cooperation committee in June and a visit by Kuwait's foreign minister to London, a source said, expecting the deployment to take place later this year. British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport said in an interview then the planned troop presence will not be large, describing defense links as a mainstay of relations between his country and Kuwait. Kuwait has also signed military agreements with Turkey and China.

Wealthy Gulf states have stepped up their defense spending amid higher tensions in the region, where Iran and Saudi Arabia are locked in a tussle for influence, backing rival forces in political struggles or wars in Lebanon, Bahrain, Syria and Yemen. Relations between United States and Russia face a number of strains, including over Russian support for President Bashar Al-Assad in the Syrian civil war and US allegations that Russia meddled in the 2016 US presidential election. Russia denies any wrongdoing. Beijing and Washington are locked in an increasingly bitter trade war and are at odds over other issues, such as US support for self-ruled Taiwan which China claims, and US sanctions on China's military for buying Russian weapons. — Agencies

### News in brief

#### MEW installs 1,000 smart meters

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Electricity and Water Ministry Mohammad Boushehri said yesterday the ministry has installed nearly 1,000 smart meters in various areas in the country, starting from Abdullah Al-Mubarak, adding the ministry will activate the system officially by Q1 2019. The smart meters will facilitate the reading of energy consumption by consumers and the ministry, and consumption can be tracked round-the-clock via mobile phones. The smart units will also measure consumption volumes and calculate bills, he said, adding payments can be made via the ministry's smartphone app and the official website, in addition to its several branches around the country. — KUNA

#### Qatar to boost gas production

DOHA: Qatar announced yesterday plans to boost natural gas production for the second time since a Gulf diplomatic crisis erupted last year pitting the energy-rich emirate against a rival Saudi-led bloc. The head of state-owned Qatar Petroleum, Saad Al-Kaabi, told a press conference that the country intends to raise production by a further 10 percent by 2024, to 110 million tonnes per year. It follows the promise of a 30 percent boost last year. "This new capacity will further strengthen our leading position as the world's largest liquefied natural gas producer and exporter," said Kaabi. — AFP

#### Bahrain arrests 15 for 'chaos'

DUBAI: Bahrain has arrested 15 people it accuses of attempting to "cause chaos" during Shiite religious commemorations that culminated last Thursday, police said. Officers detained "15 vandals for indulging in abusive activities to cause chaos" over the 10 days of Ashoura with funding from Iran, a police statement said late Tuesday. Police released the names and photographs of the 15 detainees, all of them apparently young. The statement alleged that the accused had received funds from Shiite Iran through Bahraini political exiles. — AFP

#### Baby dies on flight to India

MUMBAI: Qatar Airways said yesterday that a baby had died following a flight from Doha to the Indian city of Hyderabad. "We are aware of the very sad news that a young child passed away at Hyderabad International Airport this morning," the airline said in a statement. A spokesperson said the baby was an 11-month-old boy who had been on the flight, whose parents became aware that their child was having breathing problems after the plane had landed as they made their way to the immigration counter. A spokeswoman for Hyderabad airport denied that the baby had died at the airport. — AFP

#### Germany, Saudis to restore envoys

UNITED NATIONS: Germany and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday agreed to return ambassadors some 10 months after the kingdom fumed over criticism about its role in Lebanon. Following the resignation of Saad Hariri as Lebanon's prime minister, Sigmar Gabriel, who was then Germany's foreign minister, said Lebanon's neighbors should let the recovering country decide its own fate, angering Saudi Arabia. Gabriel's successor Heiko Maas, meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly, voiced regret and said the two countries would send back ambassadors. — AFP

## MoI vows action against graft; deports 13,000 expats in 2018

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah yesterday said after checking the ministry's financial contracts and tenders recently, abuse of public funds was detected in an aircraft refueling contract, adding such a violation led to squandering of public funds. The ministry conducted a thorough investigation of the incident, he said in a press statement, adding the case was

referred to the public prosecution for necessary legal action against the suspects. Sheikh Khaled lauded all efforts exerted by the ministry's leadership and staff to defend public funds, commending, at the same time, the supervisory role of MPs and parliamentary committees in cooperating with state ministries and bodies to protect public funds.

Sheikh Khaled also affirmed that his ministry is inspecting financial and administrative violations and abuses. The ministry's action is part of implementing the directions of H.H. the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to hold abusers of public funds accountable regardless of their posts or ranks, Sheikh Khaled said in the statement. It is also part of the government's ongoing anti-corruption procedures, he said, affirming the ministry's keenness on preserving and protecting public funds and boosting transparency

in tenders' transactions.

Meanwhile, the interior ministry has deported 13,000 expats since the beginning of 2018, said informed security sources, noting that deportees included labor law violators and those involved in criminal cases, traffic violations and other cases. The sources added that some of the deportees were medically unfit and infected with hepatitis C and AIDS.

"Many of them held university degrees," the sources said, noting that 80 male and 20 female inmates are currently awaiting deportation. "The deportation process is much faster now and deportees no longer spend more than a week at the deportation prison unless wanted over cases still being tried in courts," the sources explained. The sources added Indians formed the majority of deportees, followed by Filipinos, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah

## Kavanaugh hit by new claims of sexual abuse

WASHINGTON: A new woman came forward yesterday with explosive revelations about Brett Kavanaugh, saying she witnessed sexually abusive behavior by the Supreme Court nominee and claiming that she was gang-raped at a party he attended in the early 1980s. Lawyer Michael Avenatti sent the allegations made by his client, Julie Swetnick, to the Senate Judiciary Committee conducting Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing and demanded an FBI investigation into the claims.

The Senate committee is scheduled to hear testimony today from another woman who accuses Kavanaugh of sexual assault and conduct a vote on his nomination

tomorrow, but the latest revelations threaten to derail the already turbulent process. A spokesman for the Senate Judiciary Committee said lawyers for the panel were reviewing the declaration submitted by Swetnick, who said she has worked extensively for the federal government including the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service.

Kavanaugh categorically denied Swetnick's claims. "This is ridiculous and from the Twilight Zone," said the 53-year-old judge, in a statement issued by the White House. "I don't know who this is and this never happened." Swetnick, in a sworn statement released by Avenatti, said she attended more than 10 parties also attended by Kavanaugh while they were high school students in the early 1980s in suburban Maryland.

She said she saw Kavanaugh behave as a "mean drunk" at the parties and witnessed the "fondling and grabbing of girls without their consent".

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CHEVY CHASE, Maryland: US Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh leaves his home yesterday. — AFP

## Cinemas and fast fashion: Reforms change Saudi shopping habits

DUBAI/RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's malls and bazaars are changing as retailers embrace a shift in shopping habits brought about by reforms to diversify the economy away from oil. Designer clothes stores and high-end chocolate and flower shops are shutting and fast-fashion, fast-food, budget stores and cinemas are moving in. Cuts to electricity and petrol subsidies and a rise in VAT have eaten into household budgets and many are making savings by switching from luxury to budget goods.

At the same time, reforms to bring women into the work force and encourage entertainment has lifted other types of spending. The departure of thousands of foreign workers has hurt local bazaars and led to other changes. The reforms are part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's push to wean the economy off oil. He wants to create 1.2 million jobs for Saudis by 2022, with many in the retail sector. "People are opting for budget goods and reforms enabling the re-opening of cinemas, greater recreational activities, as well as

women being allowed to drive, may mean there is a shift in how consumers are spending," said Jason Tuvey, an analyst at Capital Economics.

Saudi retail giants such as Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair Co and Savola Group are having to adapt. "Retailers are reviewing their portfolios, be it products or stores, to reflect changing consumer patterns," said an executive of one major Saudi retailer. Alhokair closed over 200 stores in the 12 months to end-June but it also added 70 to 80 stores over the same period. It plans to close a further 55 stores this financial year while adding another 60, according to a source familiar with the matter.

The shift is partly aimed at bringing more affordable brands to shopping malls, that source said. A spokesman for Alhokair did not respond to a request for comment. The company has the Saudi license for the Zara fast-fashion chain, part of Spain's Inditex group, and plans to increase the number of stores to 45 by 2020 from around 30. It also opened the first Saudi branch of Inditex's affordable store Lefties last year.

One of Alhokair's businesses also recently secured a \$1.9 billion loan to be used in part to build new malls. The company has not detailed how it will fill those malls, but bankers expect them to include more entertainment offerings, such as cinemas and restaurants, in addition to stores. The kingdom lifted a nearly 40-year ban on cinemas earlier this year to create an entertainment sector from scratch.

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## Top India court upholds Aadhar, but slaps curbs

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court yesterday upheld the validity of a controversial biometric identity system, but flagged privacy concerns and reined in a government push to make it mandatory for everything from banking to telecom services. The ruling was cheered by critics of the system, known as Aadhaar, which has already provided biometric ID for more than a billion people, making it the world's biggest biometric identity project. Critics had expressed fears it could spawn a surveillance state and smooth the way for companies to profile clients.

"This is a fabulous judgment," said lawyer Kapil Sibal, a member of the opposition Congress party. "It takes care of citizens' rights and it ensures we don't have a surveillance state in place, it ensures that our privacy is not intruded into, and at the same time, it protects the rights of the marginalized," he told television channel CNN-IBN. A majority ruling by a panel of five judges cleared the use of Aadhaar

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## Local

# Amir congratulates Saudi King on the launch of Haramain high-speed railway

## Railway will provide a convenience for pilgrims during their Hajj and Umrah rituals



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



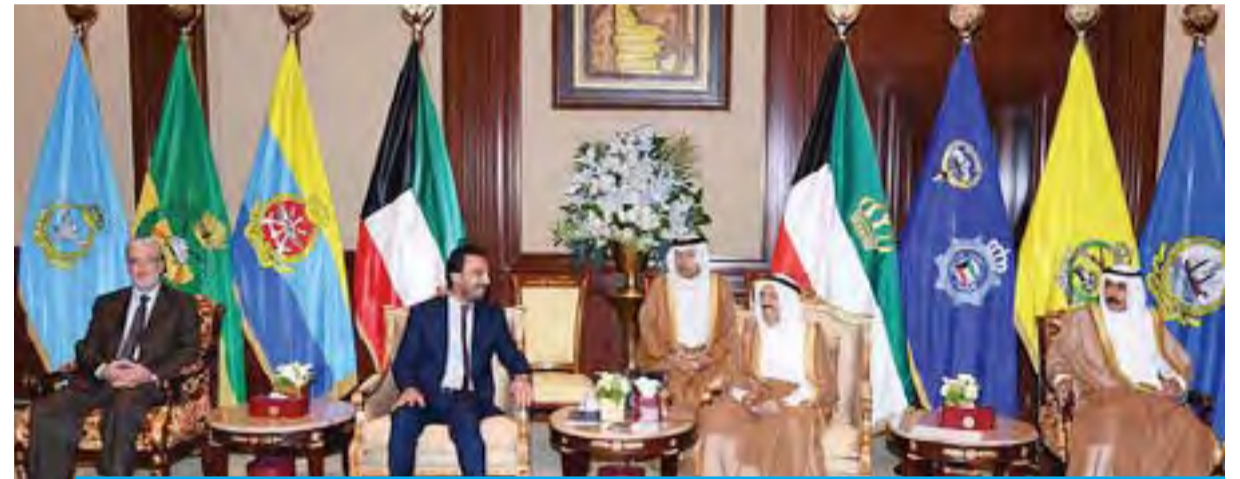
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Kuwait Tatang Budie Utama Razak.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a congratulatory cable to Saudi Arabia King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the occasion of the inauguration of the "High-speed Train of the Two Holy Mosques". In his cable, HH the Amir, on behalf of the Kuwaiti government and people, expressed his sincere congratulations on the launching of the express train which connects the city of Jeddah with the two holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, under the patronage of his brother, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

HH the Amir affirmed that the completion of this great project, which coincided with the celebrations of the brotherly country's national day, will contribute, with the help of God, in facilitating the convenience of pilgrims and their Hajj and Umrah rituals in the framework of the continuous service the kingdom offers to pilgrims. HH wished the Saudi king good health and well-being to achieve the progress and prosperity of the kingdom and its people under his wise leadership. 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 also sent similar cables of congratulations.

In other news, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday at Bayan Palace. HH the Amir, and in presence of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, had also received the Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq, Mohammed Rikan Al-Halbusi and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of his official visit to the country. HH the Amir later received the Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Kuwait Tatang Budie Utama Razak on the occasion of the end of his tenure. The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq, Mohammed Rikan Al-Halbusi.

## KOC satisfied with solar power plant performance

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company yesterday said that one of its key solar power stations in western Kuwait is operating efficiently with 31,000 barrels of oil per day. The "Sedra 500" power plant generates 10 megawatts of electricity per day, with seven to nine megawatts going to some 29 oil-pumping stations, Imad Safar, a KOC engineer, told the press on the sidelines of a seminar organized by the Kuwaiti oil ministry.

The cost of solar energy has largely declined as a result of advancements in technology, Yousef Al-Khaldi, another KOC engineer, said, putting the cost of the "Sedra 500" power station at USD 28 million. Meanwhile, on seminars over oil-related issues, the ministry's public relations officer Sheikh Tamdur Al-Sabah said that the aim was to educate the public and spread knowledge.

She added that the seminars offer all of the latest information relating to renewable and alternative energy, given His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's plan to have 15 percent of domestic power generation come from renewables by the year 2030. "With one of the highest rates of power consumption per capita in the world, Kuwait will reap the biggest benefits from adopting renewable production technologies", she said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A photo taken at the seminar organized by the Kuwaiti oil ministry. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: The ministry's public relations officer Sheikh Tamdur Al-Sabah with KOC engineer Imad Safar.

## Kuwait slams UN inquiry on Yemen

GENEVA: Kuwait was highly critical of a report prepared by UN experts yesterday over the alleged human rights abuses in war-torn Yemen. "The report is deeply flawed in many ways and seems to hurl false accusations towards the Saudi-led Coalition," Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim told the 39th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

He singled out the UN experts for holding the coalition of Arab states fighting against Yemen's Iran-allied Houthi militia accountable for the lion's share of human rights violations in Yemen. "The Arab Coalition never ceased to cooperate with UN specialists in Yemen to ensure that civilian casualties are averted," the Kuwaiti diplomat emphasized. He went on to give the Arab alliance credit for their



Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim

"efforts to restore normalcy and hope to the lives of the Yemeni people," lamenting the adversity they have had to withstand since the war in Yemen broke out.

The Kuwaiti envoy excoriated the Houthis for their wanton acts of aggression that flagrantly violate international humanitarian laws and cited the more than USD 350 million worth of Kuwaiti aid that has poured into Yemen in recent years. Amid the UN Human Rights Council session, a bevy of experts and specialists engage in compelling discussions over human rights conditions across the world. — KUNA

## Kuwait Embassy in Bangladesh assures safety of relief team

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait Embassy in Bangladesh yesterday assured the safety of the Tarahum Voluntary team following an emergency landing of an US-Bangla Airliner at Shah Amanat International airport in the southern city of Chittagong due to a technical tire fault. An embassy statement said that the plane, which took off from the capital Dhaka, was en route to the city of Cox's Bazar carrying a Kuwaiti team heading to the Cox's Bazar camps to distribute relief aid for Rohingya refugees. The statement added that it has contacted the team members who assured their safety. — KUNA

## Protection of marine environment vital: EPA

KUWAIT: The Director General and Chairman of the Board of Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday stressed on the importance of protecting the marine environment and finding proper solutions to environmental issues in the GCC. The remarks were made in a speech Sheikh Abdullah gave during the consulatory meeting between GCC countries and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), hosted by Kuwait and represented by EPA.

This meeting comes in accordance with GCC targets in achieving comprehensive developments between member countries as well as protecting their environments and natural resources in cooperation with the United Kingdom. "The marine environment in the Gulf region encounters many threats due to the wars this part of the world witnesses along with chemical oil pollution" he said. "The meeting tackled every environmental factor affecting the coastal region in order to reach the most appropriate recommendations to protect the coral reefs and marine organisms the Arabian Gulf cherishes" he added.



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

During the meeting, British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport said that the aim is to discuss a means of cooperation between UK and GCC to support the management of marine environment in the Gulf region, as well as reaching a road map on that matter. The diplomat offered his thanks to Kuwait for hosting the meeting and expressed his pride that the UK has a deep-rooted cultural and historical connection with GCC countries regarding environmental issues.

The GCC General Secretariat Advisor Adel Bastaki said in a similar speech during the meeting that the GCC is keen to develop their relations with regional and international countries and blocs, especially with the UK that shares historical ties and mutual interests with the Gulf region. "This meeting was a great chance to exchange expertise and information between experts in the field as well as training national cadres to lay the pillars of a sustainable comprehensive development" he said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The consulatory meeting between GCC countries and the centre for environment, fisheries and aquaculture science (CEFAS). — KUNA photos

## Local

# KAC signs contract with Incheon International Airport to operate T4

## Daily flight operations to begin next Sunday



KUWAIT: KAC Chairman of the Board of Directors Yousif Al-Jasem shakes hands with Incheon International Airport project manager Lee Kwang-Soo during the signing of the agreement. —KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) yesterday announced the signing of the contract with Incheon International Airport Corporation (IAC) Korea to operate the new T4 in addition to a Service Level Agreement. The contracts were signed by KAC chairman of the board Yousif Abdul Hameed Al-Jasem and Incheon International Airport project manager Lee Kwang-Soo. According to the 5-year contract, IAC is to operate T4 which will be exclusively used for KAC flights starting next Sunday. The signing ceremony was attended by DGCA gen-

eral manager Yousif Al-Fauzan, KAC CEO Abdullah Al-Sharhan and a number of officials from both sides.

After the signing, Al-Jasem told KUNA that by signing this agreement, Kuwait Airways will be able to operate all its flights heading to all of the GCC starting from next Sunday. "There will be 26-34 flights per day both coming to and departing from Kuwait. The agreement with IAC will be valid for 5 years and will include the handling of operations for daily flights as well as any future increase in operation capacity with the

co-ordination of the general department of civil aviation", he said.

He added that flight operations will begin with the GCC but will expand to the rest of the Arab nations, Europe, USA, the Indian subcontinent and South East Asia in the future. DGCA general manager Yousif Al-Fauzan also spoke to KUNA after the signing ceremony. "It takes 12-24 months to get an airport terminal to reach its maximum operations levels. But the DGCA managed to start operations in a shorter than average time according to International standards", he said. —KUNA

## SADC Cultural Week 'brings Southern Africa to Kuwait'

By Chidi Emmanuel

KUWAIT: The embassies of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Kuwait is set to hold a cultural week in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) from 30th September to 4th October 2018. The SADC Cultural Week - the first of its kind in Kuwait is organized to enhance relations between the SADC region and Kuwait through cultural exchanges and to promote people to people cooperation, trade, investment and tourism as encapsulated under the SADC Protocol and SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

"SADC's mission is to provide strategic expertise and coordinate the harmonization of policies and strategies to accelerate regional integration and sustainable development. The protocol on culture, information and sports

promotes the participation in cultural and sporting activities by all the nationals of SADC countries while the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan enhances sustainable economic development for the benefit of the people in the region." Botswana Ambassador to Kuwait Manyepedza P Lesetedi said.

There will be several activities including: an art exhibition, a food festival and community service and musical performances by musicians from the region among others. The art exhibition will feature some designers, sculptors, painters and crafters from the region who will have the opportunity to share with the members of the public the inspiration behind their artworks.

On Sunday, 30 September 2018 (by 7:00pm) there will be an Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the Modern Art Museum in Kuwait City. The Musical Festival will be at Abdulhussain Abdulleedah Theatre (Salmiya Theatre) on Monday, 01 October 2018 (by 7:00pm). "SADC Cultural Week is aimed at bringing Southern Africa to Kuwait. We hope to enhance the brand of Southern Africa thus promoting tourism and cultural exchanges," South African Ambassador to Kuwait HE Mzolisela Bona said.

"Southern Africa is rich in culture which is a source of pride for our people. Culture plays a critical role in the facilitation of the people to people exchanges and the growth of creative

industries and cultural tourism as well as trade and investments in art which has proven beneficial especially to rural communities. The region provides a huge market of over 286 million people which investors from Kuwait could benefit from. SADC region continues to experience steady inflows of foreign direct investments throughout its member states, owing to its relative stability and attractive investment climate," Botswana Ambassador added.

SADC is a Southern Africa regional organization. It was founded in 17th August 1992 with a mandate - to promote and advance regional integration and economic development of the region. The regional body is headquartered in Gaborone Botswana. It comprises of 16 member state namely: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRCO), Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The main objectives of the SADC are to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration. "These objectives are to be achieved through increased regional integration, built on democratic principles, and equitable and sustainable development," Ambassador Lesetedi said.



KUWAIT: The Botswana Ambassador to Kuwait Manyepedza P Lesetedi (center) addresses the media as ambassadors of SADC's countries in Kuwait look on during a press conference yesterday. —Photo Joseph Shagra

## Traditional media needs new approach

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Traditional media around the globe are facing a crisis, according to Dr Julia Cage, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics at Sciences Po Paris. She was speaking at the Kuwait Fund for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) yesterday. Cage, who has studied the economics of media, said during her talk on 'Rethinking Governance and Funding of High Quality News in the Digital Age' that traditional media are facing a range of challenges, including disruptive digital technologies and changing advertising landscapes.

She warned that if the situation persists, many more in the mass media industry will be affected, including journalists. The result will be a reduction in reliable, fact-checked and unbiased news and in-depth, investigative journalism. Without well-funded news organizations, citizens around the world will be less informed and as a consequence democracy will be threatened.

Dr Cage offered a new business model solution which she said can cope with the crisis. She said a nonprofit media organization (NMO) and joint stock company can save the media industry, rather than relying on traditional shareholders, advertisers and government support. "The new model relies on readers, employees and innovative methods of financing and crowdfunding, just like some newspapers in the West like the UK's Guardian, which relies on donations and subscriptions," she explained. "There are newspapers in Europe that rely on crowd funding in order to sustain operations. Decline in readership and advertising will continue and we do not know what is coming next."

Dr Cage also discussed the impact of digital media on IPR and copyright. "People now are into copy-pasting information that is available seconds after posting. Whatever you say or write will automatically be available for copy-pasting. The problem is that reporters gather information that costs money and effort, only to be consumed and shared by anyone for free. We need to pay and that is what exactly is happening with The Guardian. We need to find a way to produce information without advertisers. The decline in advertising



KUWAIT: Julia Cage, speaking at KFAS yesterday. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

revenues [for traditional media] is a worldwide trend," she said. Cage explained that investigative journalism is important as it plays a role in supporting democracies and serves as a part of the 'knowledge economy'. Media is central to functioning democratic institutions. "I recommend de-commercializing or stopping commercialization of information. The government must create a better policy to respond to changing times and technology," she said.

## Statement by the Palestinian community in Kuwait

Almighty Allah said: Those to whom hypocrites said, "indeed, the people have gathered against you, so fear them." But it [merely] increased them in faith, and they said, "sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best disposer of affairs." (3:173).

The Zionist behavior by the occupying state is to implement its settlement projects in the Palestinian territories, particularly Jerusalem, in Khan Al-Ahmar area, its continued siege of Gaza, its Judaization of Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the state of Palestine, the cradle of faiths, and all that it has of Islamic and Christian spirituality, and the practices of settlers storming and desecrating Al-Aqsa mosque along with attacks on the elderly, women and children, depriving them from the basic humanitarian rights to worship freely and in peace.

The decision of the Zionist Knesset passing the racist Zionist nationalism on July 19, 2017, based on ethnic superiority and denial of the existence of the Palestinian people, is only a continuation of the occupation state policy in ignoring the rights of our Palestinian people with

the support of the United States of America, which disclaimed its international obligations and stepped over traditions and laws in its support of the occupation state by the transfer of its embassy to Jerusalem and its hard attempts to dismantle UNRWA and financial restrictions against it, and to halt its functioning as a prelude to bypass the right of refugees' repatriation, the latest of which was stopping support to hospitals in occupied Jerusalem and the closure of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) offices in Washington.

We, the Palestinian community in our beloved Kuwait, call upon all Palestinians everywhere to stand as one in support of President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) during his address to the United Nations in its 73rd session, and affirm the support of Palestinian legitimacy in presenting a national and patriotic strategy through the achievement of the rights and longings of our people in the form of freedom, independence and establishment of the Palestinian state with its eternal capital Jerusalem, which without it, there will not be a solution and peace.

We, the Palestinian community in Kuwait, affirm our support of our leadership, represented by PLO, in its confrontation of suspicious deals. Our people, who have the longest popular revolution of modern history, announce that our leadership will not bargain over the rights of our people, and peace starts from Palestine and there is no peace without Jerusalem and the right to return.

### Al-Jamiat

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- University of Arkansas
- University of Arizona
- University of Florida
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- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)
- West Virginia University
- Western Kentucky University

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Kuwait

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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A night view of Kuwait City showing the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center and several key city towers. —KUNA photo

# Al Sayer holds 'Read & Save Lives' book reading marathon at Aafaq

In association with Patients Helping Fund Society and Aafaq Bookstore

**KUWAIT:** Inspired by values of social commitment, Al Sayer Holding held a book reading marathon in association with Patients Helping Fund Society and Aafaq Bookstore. The "Read & Save Lives" reading marathon campaign connected people and community towards reading books, and moreover to express their empathy through supporting patients suffering with chronic kidney disease who are undergoing dialysis.

For every 10 pages read by the participants Al Sayer Holding donated 1 Kuwait Dinar to offer a financial support to deserving patients for managing its high cost. Meanwhile Aafaq Bookstore facilitated

the place and allocated 10% of the days book sales to the Patients Helping Fund Society. The event which was held previous Saturday between 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM witnessed 137 participants who collectively read 7400 pages.

Many authors and influential figures from the Kuwait society joined to support this noble cause including Jamal Al-Fouzani Chairman of Patients Helping Fund Society, Hessa Al-Hashash International Trainer Human Development, Manayer Al-Awwad Author, Faisal Hmuod Al-Shammari Kuwait Radio Announcer, Ahmad El-Issawi Deputy Group Manager Toyota Group Service Division.

"The positive spirit among the community is overwhelming. Such marathon is part of our sustainable efforts to develop reading and educational habits, at the same time to bring community to act towards critical issues that require their attention and moral support. At Al Sayer we are keen to associate with the like-minded partners to develop & execute effective social care," said Shibu Mohamed Manager CSR at Al Sayer Holding.

Hamad Al-Shammari Deputy General Manager of Aafaq Bookstore mentioned "We are glad to work on this program for key benefits, encouraging people to dedicate time out of their busy schedule to read and

support the society. The initiative is also an attempt to recapture the reading habits specially among youth, towards building an intellectual community with competitive skills."

According to Khaled Al-Hendy Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Patients Helping Fund Society "We saw people from various age and gender category visiting on their weekends to support other fellow human beings. Such empathy shows the great culture and community bond Kuwait promotes. We are glad for the support from Kuwait community and our partners Al Sayer Holding and Aafaq Bookstore to make this experience most rewarding".



## US Educational Group University Fair returns to Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** The US Educational Group (USEG) will return to Kuwait to promote US colleges and universities, at the Marina Hotel in Salmiya on Saturday, September 29, from 6:00-9:00 pm. US Embassy Cultural and Consular officers will be present to address students' questions about education in the United States and the student visa process. The university fair is free of charge and open to the public. Representatives from USEG will provide information about admission standards, financial aid opportunities, summer programs, and student life at different US universities. The 27 US universities that will be represented at the event include:

American University of Cairo, Ball State University, Clemson University, DePaul University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, George Mason University, Hofstra University, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Kent State University, Marquette University, North Carolina State University (NC State), Purdue University, Slippery Rock University, State University of New York - University at Buffalo, University of Alabama, University of Arizona, University of Hartford, University of Miami, University of Michigan Flint, University of Missouri, University of Missouri - Kansas City, University of Rhode Island, University of New Hampshire, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), West Virginia University and Western Kentucky University.



Local

# The French department at KU: Source of enlightenment for active languages

Established in 2014, it now includes over 300 students

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti people have always been interested in learning about various cultures and civilizations, and are always keen to learn new active languages, including French. The French language is one of the world's richest languages and that is reflected in the Francophonie culture present in several countries all over the world. This is also felt in Kuwait when it takes part in celebrating the International Francophonie Day which falls on March 20 every year.

The French Language Department at Kuwait University's Faculty of Arts, established in 2014, is one of the newest sections at the Faculty. It includes over 300 students and six teaching staff members, reflecting the care the country attaches to the French language. The foundation stage at the department starts with subjects related to reading, comprehension, speaking and writing skills, and the second stage moves to linguistics and literature subjects. The department also includes a supporting sub-major in translation.

In February 2017, member of the teaching staff at the French department Dr Hani Qotoub came up with a suggestion to issue a Francophonie magazine that would be the first of its kind in the Gulf region, and such a proposal was received with encouragement and support from the French Department. The magazine was issued on March 20 last year in celebration of the



The Francophonie magazines.— KUNA photos



KUWAIT: The French Language Department at Kuwait University's Faculty of Arts.

International Francophonie Day, and the staff members of the magazine were chosen from the department's students. The magazine is to be issued annually in March and will include various sections of translation, culture sports, and lifestyle articles.

The magazine aims at allowing students to participate and interact in French to boost their academic performance in the language, as well as developing their jour-

nalistic skills while offering Francophonie readers interesting information about the history of Kuwait. Dr Qotoub told KUNA that publishing such a magazine came to enhance the writing skills of the department's students, as priority is given to youth related issues but faced numerous financial strains during its publication. "We wish that the magazine would spread more widely in the region in order to attract French-speak-

ing people to the Gulf", he added.

Administrative coordinator at the faculty Fatma Al-Nasser said that there is a remarkable turnout for registrations at the French Department. The Civil Service Diwan in Kuwait offers various opportunities in the labor market for French language graduates such as a translator, a French language teacher or an administrative coordinator. Dana, a student at the

French Department told KUNA that choosing this major reflects her passion of translation and learning new languages. "Learning the French language is witnessing higher number of students currently", she added. Kuwait also hosts the French Centre of Archaeology and Social Science that works in studying and inspecting ancient civilizations of the Arab Peninsula. — KUNA

## Driver attempts to smuggle 550k US dollars to Iraq

**KUWAIT:** Abdally customs officers foiled the attempt of an Iraqi driver to smuggle out 550,000 US dollars by hiding the money in his car. He was sent to the concerned authorities to question him on why the money was hidden and not declared.

### Falcon trainer fined

Environment police arrested a citizen for possession of dead pigeons which he used to train his falcon for hunting. Policemen spotted the man in an open area training the falcon and saw the dead birds. He was

charged for being in clear violation of the environmental law. He claimed he was not aware that it is illegal to keep dead birds. Both the falcon and dead birds were kept by authorities. The punishment of such offense is up to one year in jail and a KD 5000 fine.

### Juvenile gunman caught

Detectives arrested a juvenile in possession of an air rifle and for shooting an Indian from the roof of his family's home. The Indian was hit in his foot while walking home from work. The juvenile claimed he was hunting when the incident took place and the police questioned what he was hunting in residential area.

### Sleeping drug user

Policemen woke up a drug user when they found him sleeping next to his car on the highway after having a flat tire. He also had the drug called "chemical" by its street name on him. He was arrested and sent to concerned authorities. —Al-Anbaa/Al-Rai



## Municipality's public relations processes 187 transactions

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Municipality's public relations department said the engineering inspection and follow-up department processed 187 transactions during August. Department Director Khalid Al-Sunaideh said he pre-

pared a working plan to follow the work of all companies and contractors handling projects and all construction, demolition, restoration and renovation works.

### Prevention sector

Deputy Director General for Prevention at Kuwait Fire Directorate Service Maj Gen Khalid Fahd said the work in the prevention sector was changed from the traditional to the developed system in order to achieve the best results. He was speaking during a workshop held by the prevention sector in the presence of members of the engineering offices union and consultation offices.

### 'Office without paper' project

National Guard Undersecretary Lt Gen Hashim Al-

Refae opened the Al-Sumoud Data Center as part of the "office without paper" project, which was designed according to the highest international standards and has received the "Tier III" certificate. Refae spoke about the importance of the "office without paper" project to create a quality move in the daily work of the National Guard and hasten production by providing the most modern technologies in cooperation with international companies. He said the project enjoys the support of the higher command of head of the National Guard HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali and his deputy Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber. Meanwhile, head of the systems projects branch Col Thamer Ahmad said the center consists of a data center, power room, UPS, NOC, SOC and service desk.

## MoE exempts teachers from working in Sabah Al-Ahmed

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MoE exempted teachers working in Sabah Al-Ahmed and Ali Sabah Al-Salem from an earlier decision banning their transfer outside these areas. Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi decided amending the second article of the ministerial decision number 220/2018 issued in this regard. In another educational concern, MoE set today as the deadline to transfer teachers amongst various schools, said informed sources, noting that a meeting was held yesterday between educational area directors and MoE's assistant undersecretary for public education Fatima Al-Kandari to discuss facilitating registering bedoon students and the grandchildren of military per-

sonnel in schools in the areas they reside in.

### Fake degrees

The criminal court yesterday heard the case of fake university degrees in which an Egyptian and some citizens are accused. Speaking before the court, the Egyptian defendant denied all charges on grounds that he was not in charge of endorsing citizens' degrees. "I only endorsed expats' degrees", he argued. Notably, the case started when a citizen reported that an Egyptian working for the ministry of higher education took money from him to endorse a fake degree he brought from an Egyptian university, adding that the defendant later started stalling and told him that he could not do it although he had done the same with other citizens. Investigating the matter, ministry of higher education found the defendant and other Kuwaiti employees guilty, in addition to other accomplices in Cairo, which made Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi refer the entire file to the public prosecution. In another legal concern, the criminal court yesterday adjourned hearing of a case filed against some sport authority employees and others over charges of public

fund violations related to Jaber Stadium's tender.

### MP membership cancellations

Well-informed sources stressed that the government is currently preparing a request to be passed to the parliament before opening the new term on Oct 30 to discuss cancelling the membership of MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaci and Jamaan Al-Harbash in the first session and prior to discussing grilling motions pending against III the PM, the minister of state for Assembly affairs and any others. The sources added that the government believes that the court of cassation's verdict sentencing the MPs to 40 months in prison was final and this calls for annulling both MPs' membership. The sources said some lawmakers had been stalling and delaying the vote on cancelling the two MPs' membership with hopes that they could get a general amnesty first. "The government notified certain MPs that rejecting the vote would mean going directly to the constitutional court," the sources added, noting that the government totally rejects the amnesty bill and deems it unconstitutional. Moreover, the sources said that the government will call for by-elections to elect substitutes for Tabtabaci and Al-Harbash by April.



KUWAIT: The Friday Market or "Souq Al-Jomaa" is the most popular market in Kuwait. People from all over the world are lured to visit this bustling marketplace to buy a variety of different items. The market is open from Thursday afternoon until Saturday night weekly. — KUNA

Legalese

## Registering with the MGRP

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed



There has been a lot of debate in the last week on the amounts received by Kuwaiti employees in the private sector from the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program, and whether it should be paid from the date of joining or from the day the paperwork is completed and accepted. The governmental requirements in Kuwait are not as simple as they could be, and therefore the process of registering both a Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employee may be tiring at times for both the employer and the employee. This week's article is focused on the government process or documents needed for Kuwaiti employees to register. I have simplified the process as much as possible, as follows:

1) What are the documents and procedures required for registering with PIFSS?

The PIFSS is the public social security institute in Kuwait and it is important for all Kuwaitis and GCC citizens to be registered for social security. The registration process depends on whether you are an employee or an employer.

If you are an employee, you require the following documents:

1. Copy of your nationality certificate.
2. Copy of your birth certificate or certificate of age assessment.
3. Copy of the decision of appointment at government agencies.
4. Copy of your civil ID.

After providing the required documents, fill out the requested form and wait until the certificate is authorized. You can find the applicable forms on their website.

2) After obtaining my PIFSS certificate, what other governmental processes would I have to undergo?

After obtaining the PIFSS certificate, you should ask your employer to register you at the ministry of labor and social affairs in order for you to have a work permit. The employer may be asked to provide or submit several documents, mentioned below:

1. Certificate of education.
  2. Copy of the civil ID of the employer or the authorized signatory.
  3. Copy of the employment contract signed by the employer and the worker.
  4. Copy of the worker's passport and the original passport.
- 3) What are the procedures and documents required at MGRP?

At the MGRP, you would need to apply personally by providing the following documents:

1. Certificate from the company.
  2. Copy of company license.
  3. Copy of civil ID.
  4. Certificate of education.
  5. Work permit
  6. Salary transfer certificate from the bank.
- For questions or queries, please email us at info@tl-legal.com.



New Zealand's PM makes history with 'first baby'

## From torture to high school, a refugee's tale of survival

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NEW YORK: President Donald Trump speaks with his United Nations (UN) ambassador Nikki Haley while chairing a United Nations Security Council meeting yesterday in New York City. —AFP

# US-EU rift cracks wide open over Iran

## Europeans announce plans to evade new US sanctions

**NEW YORK:** Tensions between the United States and the European Union over Iran soared into the open yesterday after the Europeans announced plans for a legal framework to preserve business with Tehran and evade new US sanctions. In rhetorical exchanges that brought back memories of the feud over the 2003 Iraq invasion, the United States denounced the Europeans who in turn made clear they would not back down on diplomacy.

Britain, France and Germany—along with Russia and China—had all pleaded unsuccessfully for President Donald Trump to remain in the six countries' 2015 accord with Iran on ending its nuclear program. Full US sanctions are set to hit Iran in November and the country's economy is already taking a beating. After talks Monday with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the Europeans would set up a "legal entity" for businesses to transfer money without coming under Washington's scanner.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, addressing a pressure group on the sidelines of annual UN meetings, said he was "disturbed and indeed deeply disappointed"

by the EU announcement. "This is one of the of the most counterproductive measures imaginable for regional and global peace and security," Pompeo said in a speech that was interrupted several times by anti-war protesters. "By sustaining revenues to the regime, you are solidifying Iran's ranking as the number-one state sponsor of terror," said Pompeo, who quipped that Iran's "corrupt ayatollahs" and elite Revolutionary Guards had to be "laughing this morning."

### 'Hell to pay'

John Bolton, Trump's hawkish national security adviser, mocked the European Union for its lack of detail on the planned mechanism. "The European Union is strong on rhetoric and weak on follow-through," he told the United Against a Nuclear Iran campaign. "We do not intend to allow our sanctions to be evaded by Europe or anybody

else," he said. Bolton also issued unsubtle warnings to Iran's leaders: "We are watching, and we will come after you." "If you cross us, our allies or our partners, if you harm our citizens, if you continue to lie, cheat and deceive, there will be hell to pay," Bolton has denied that the United States is seeking to overthrow the regime but before taking office had called for efforts to destabilize the country.

### Clash at UN

The feud came as Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani addressed the United Nations General Assembly, offering diametrically opposed messages. Trump, while vowing that the United States is determined to act alone, urged all nations to isolate Iran—whose arch-enemies Saudi Arabia and Israel are close to his administration. Rouhani voiced regret that the deal,

negotiated under former president Barack Obama, had become a "toy" of US domestic politics and accused Trump of seeking to overthrow his government.

French President Emmanuel Macron called for continued sales of oil by Iran, saying the flow would lower global prices and also benefit peace efforts. "What will bring a real solution to the situation in Iran and what has already stabilized it? The law of the strongest? Pressure from only one side? No!" Macron said in his address.

He said the nuclear deal put Western powers in a stronger position to raise other concerns highlighted by Washington including Iran's support of militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. The Europeans highlight that UN inspectors have repeatedly found that Iran is in compliance with the 2015 deal, under which it scraps the bulk of its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters there was "strong unity" with Iran on minimizing the impact of US sanctions. Nonetheless, a number of prominent European businesses, including French energy giant Total and German automaker Daimler, have already said they will exit Iran to avoid US sanctions.—AFP



**US 'disturbed, indeed deeply disappointed'**

## India's billion-strong biometric database

**NEW DELHI:** More than a billion Indians have uploaded their biometric details to a national database in exchange for a unique 12-digit ID that authorities say will transform how citizens interact with government and propel the world's second-most populous country into the digital age. But the scheme has faced vocal opposition, with critics claiming the software guarding citizens' personal information is shoddy and vulnerable to cyber attacks, while others fear the scheme risks turning India into a surveillance state. Yesterday the Supreme Court said the ID would be mandatory for accessing government services, but also ruled that private corporations could not force customers to hand over their cards. Here is the lowdown on "Aadhaar", the world's largest biometric database.

### What is Aadhaar?

Aadhaar, ("foundation" in Hindi), is a 12-digit unique identification number that holds the personal details of an Indian citizen, including their biometric data from photos, fingerprints and iris scans. Citizens use the ID for everything from filing tax returns, to accessing pensions or welfare as the government seeks to put more of its services on an online platform. An Aadhaar number is also recognized as valid proof of identity and residence. Each ID is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). The details are stored in a single centralized server centre. The first Aadhaar cards were distributed in September 2010 and a mammoth information campaign then prompted vast numbers of Indians to enroll at thousands of registration centers. More than 1.2 billion Indians, some 90 percent of the population, now hold an Aadhaar number. More than 21 billion banking and other digital transactions now take place annually under the scheme.

### What's the problem?

The scheme has been dogged by controversy from its inception. There were cases of Indians finding their

social security payments, or access to food and fuel rations, blocked despite possessing an Aadhaar number. The government has also faced flak over privacy and data protection. In January, a journalist exposed how the UIDAI database could be hacked and Aadhaar cards printed for the equivalent of a few dollars. She found herself facing criminal proceedings. Having an Aadhaar card had in practice become a growing pre-requisite to get anything from a mobile phone contract to a bank account. This had effectively made it compulsory, violating citizens' right to privacy, opponents argued. They were emboldened by a landmark 2017 Supreme Court ruling recognizing privacy as a fundamental right.

### Government response?

The government has consistently defended its big data program, including its cyber-security measures. Ravi Shankar Prasad, minister for information technology, recently told local media that the biometric records in the Aadhaar data vault could not be hacked "even with the billionth effort." Meanwhile, India's Attorney General K K Venugopal raised eyebrows after he told the Supreme Court that Aadhaar data would be safe from hackers as it was stored behind tall, four-meter-thick protective walls.

### What do experts say?

Amber Sinha, who works for the Bangalore-based non-profit Center for Internet and Society, says that the Aadhaar system is porous because of weak security infrastructure. "Although the centralized server of the UIDAI seems to be fairly secure from all accounts, other government databases linked to the Aadhaar numbers create points of failure," he said. "This is because the same standards of security and privacy do not apply to them," he said.

Sinha said the creation of laws alone could not fix the irreversible damage resulting from personal data breaches. "If something is broken by technology, the law cannot fix that. You need both robust laws to protect the system and privacy enhancing technologies which reflect those principles." "Rather than continuing the expansion of a project which lacks technical and legal backbone, its scope and use should be limited till these structural reforms are incorporated." —AFP

## 5 die as building collapses in Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** Five people were killed yesterday when an apartment block collapsed in New Delhi, crushing residents beneath mountains of concrete, in the latest building accident to hit India. Rescuers combed the wreckage with sniffer dogs in Delhi's north pulled out at least a dozen people who were trapped beneath the rubble.

"We can confirm the deaths of five people. Rescue teams at the site are still clearing the debris," local police official Sarat Chandra Nirmal told AFP. An AFP photographer at the scene saw the bodies of two chil-

dren being pulled from the rubble. The block was located in a cramped, middle-class neighborhood where many buildings share common walls. The Press Trust of India quoted an unnamed local official saying the building was 20-years-old and structurally unsound.

Other local media reported the fourth floor of the block was illegally constructed. It is just the latest in a string of deadly building collapses in India. In July, a six-storey building collapsed on the outskirts of Delhi, killing nine. Last year, a wall collapsed onto guests celebrating a wedding in Rajasthan state, killing two dozen people. A massive influx of people to cities in search of jobs and a shortage of cheap housing has fuelled the construction of illegal buildings across India. Many are built with sub-standard materials. Millions also live in dilapidated old buildings, many of which are susceptible to collapse during rain. —AFP



NEW DELHI: Members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) search for victims after a building collapsed in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP

International

# New Zealand's PM makes history with UN 'first baby'

## First time a woman leader takes newborn into assembly room

**UNITED NATIONS:** New Zealand's prime minister has been proclaimed a history maker for taking "first baby"-daughter Neve-into the United Nations General Assembly hall, shaking up what is still a boys' club of world leaders. Photographs of Jacinda Ardern, 38, kissing and bouncing her three-month-old in the main hall at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit on the eve of the General Assembly have gone around the world and taken the internet by storm.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric confirmed yesterday that it had been the first time in the organization's 73-year history that a woman leader had taken her newborn into the assembly room. "It's altogether a good thing and we were delighted to have Neve in the General Assembly hall. With only five percent of world leaders women, we should do everything to make them feel as welcome as possible," he added. The sight of Neve and her father, who is her chief care giver, watching Ardern at work has attracted plenty of positive commentary in a United States, where many worry the Trump administration imperils women's rights.

"I cannot stress how much the @UN-and the governments that comprise it-need this," tweeted former US ambassador to the United Nations turned Harvard professor Samantha Power, herself a mother of two. Ardern, currently the youngest woman leader in the world, is only the second female prime minister to give birth while serving in office, after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto in 1990. She says she wants to blaze a trail for other women. "I want to normalize it," Ardern told CNN. "If we want to make work places more open, we need to acknowledge logistical challenges... by being more open it might create a path for other women." She's also the first to admit she's not a typical working mother.

### Media darling

"What I consistently acknowledge is that I have assistants who help Clarke with the ability to juggle his career and be our primary



**UNITED NATIONS:** Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, and National Security and Intelligence of New Zealand holds her son Neve Te Aroha Ardern Gayford, as her husband Clarke Gayford looks on during the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit. —AFP

caregiver," she was quoted as saying by CNN. Her television presenting partner has also been feted on American social media, fueling the love by tweeting a photograph of his daughter's UN ID designating her "New



### The sight of Neve, dad attracts lots of positive remarks

Zealand First Baby."

"I wish I could have captured the startled look on a Japanese delegation inside UN yesterday who walked into a meeting room in the middle of a nappy change. Great yarn for her

21st," he wrote. Pregnancy, motherhood and governing have turned her into a poster child for feminism against the backdrop of the #MeToo movement in the United States. Her first UN General Assembly outing has turned her into something of a media darling, conducting a whirlwind of television interviews, with a slot on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" still to come Wednesday.

Through it all, she has chosen to champion the modernity of a country of fewer than five million residents, already on its third female premier. "I never grew up believing my gender would stand in the way of doing anything I wanted," she said. "I credit the women who came before me and credit New Zealanders for welcoming me having a child... I'm proud of the nation." Its a popularity she's no doubt enjoying. In power just under a year, she has been troubled by political difficulties at home in recent weeks following the resignation of two cabinet ministers. —AFP

## Junta chief installs ally as the mayor of Thai 'Sin City'

**BANGKOK:** Thailand's junta leader has appointed the scion of a notorious political clan to run the country's money-spinning 'Sin City' of Pattaya, as he woos allies ahead of an anticipated run in next year's elections. With its beaches, myriad hotels and raucous nightlife, Pattaya is a lucrative tourist hub and the heart of Thailand's massive sex industry. Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who leads the ruling junta, boot-ed out the current mayor of the free-wheeling resort and installed Sonthaya Khunpluem to the influential post, an announcement in the Royal Gazette said.

Pattaya also serves as the administrative centre of the multi-billion-dollar Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), the country's biggest ever investment project. "It is necessary to have a high potential, experienced, and competent Pattaya city administrator in order to benefit and support the activities in the EEC," the Royal Gazette announcement said late Tuesday explaining the sudden personnel change.

Sonthaya is the frontman for an independent political party in Chonburi-one of the three provinces covered by the EEC. The Khunpluems

are led by patriarch Somchai, dubbed the "godfather of the East" of Thailand, a shadowy, powerful businessman with vast land and construction interests. He was jailed in 2013 for murder and corruption convictions after a decade on the run, but freed late last year by Prayut's government on health grounds.

His family were formerly aligned to the Shinawatra-the political dynasty who have won all Thai national elections since 2001 — but whose party was toppled by a 2014 coup. Prayut toppled that Shinawatra-led civilian administration, accusing the family of graft and toxifying Thai politics with populist policies and crony-government. The promotion of a Khunpluem to the Pattaya mayoralty points to a "deal" between the clan and junta, according to Paul Chambers, an expert on Thai politics at Naresuan University. It gives the ruling junta "political and economic power in eastern Thailand" in exchange for political support at the next election, Chambers said.

Prayut earlier this week stopped short of declaring a much-anticipated run in an upcoming election, slated for February. The junta has recently eased some restrictions on political activity after silencing all debate with the coup. Yesterday the former lawmakers toppled Pheu Thai party met at their Bangkok headquarters in the largest opposition gathering in over four years. They met in front of banners vowing to "never surrender to dictatorship". The party hierarchy will choose a new leader in coming months to spearhead the election campaign. —AFP

## From torture to high school, a refugee's tale of survival

**BONNELLES:** Adam Osman is making a new life for himself with the help of a French company, but his young face tenses when he describes what brought him here: the killing of his family, and torture. Every morning the 24-year-old enjoys the walk to work through calm woodland from a migrant shelter in the picturesque town of Bonnelles, an hour's drive south of Paris. In the 18 months since landing a job as a mechanic at Crosnier, a company which sells gardening equipment, Osman has learned a lot-mostly, he says, thanks to the patience of his boss. "He likes helping people and he's explained loads of things to me. It's allowed me to grow as a person, to build a future," he tells AFP.

But the suffering is visible on Osman's face, marked with the fine traditional scars of his tribe, as he recounts the killing of his family during a rebellion in Chad's eastern Ouaddai region a decade ago. "I don't have any family left there," he says briefly. "If I'd stayed, it would have been prison or death. So I went to Libya." His flight to the north African country in 2010 would bring only more suffering. He found work at a junkyard in Sorman, a town west of Tripoli, and then a car garage, only to have his belongings robbed by Libyan gangs. But it was the



**BONNELLES:** Migrants have lunch at a CHUM (centre d'hebergement d'urgence pour migrants - Emergency centre for migrants) in a former monastery in Bonnelles. — AFP

death of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011 that saw all hell break loose.

### Electric shocks

Life in Libya became "as bad as Chad", Osman says. Militias started kidnapping African migrant workers to extort money from their families. Osman was kidnapped three times. The first time he got away by handing over his phone and some money. The other times, the kidnapers tortured him with electric shocks on his legs. "They wanted to get money from my family," he said. "But I didn't have anyone left to call." Both times the kidnapers eventually gave up and let him go, and Osman went back to work at the Sudanese-run garage. But he resolved to join the thousands crossing the Mediterranean, desperate to escape a country where many Africans have been held for ransom like him, or even sold as slaves.

Crammed onto a boat with 30 other people-steered by a Somali who "didn't even know where the coast of Sicily was"-Osman made it to the Italian island in June 2014

after four grueling days at sea. He quickly headed to France, having heard of a place called Calais "where migrants could settle down". But the northern port was hardly the new home he had imagined. He slept outdoors for six months, eventually wandering to other French towns. Osman was finally granted refugee status in 2015, but this was not the end of his troubles: struggling to find work and shelter, he still often slept on the street.

It was an encounter in 2016 with Isabelle Maurette, director of a migrant shelter in Bonnelles, which turned things around for him. He eventually won the job at Crosnier, whose director Julien Fredon was keen to offer work to refugees-something he saw as his "duty as a citizen". "We'd been looking for an extra technician for three years, complaining that there aren't enough well-trained young people in France," Fredon said. Ironically, the hellish years in Libya had left Osman with decent experience as a mechanic-and he was "positive, independent and curious", he added. —AFP

grounds of security violation," the airline added. An airport official told the Press Trust of India news agency that the man, said to be in his mid-thirties, was drunk. Police questioned and then released him without charge, the official added. It was the second bizarre incident involving an Indian domestic flight this week after a passenger tried to open an exit door in mid-air, apparently mistaking it for the toilet.

The man was travelling with GoAir from New Delhi to Patna on Saturday when he attempted to open the aircraft's rear exit, the carrier said. A co-passenger raised the alarm and the man was apprehended by the crew. He was handed to the authorities for questioning on arrival and later released. Indian media reports said he was a first time flier. India's airline sector has seen a six-fold increase in passenger numbers over the past decade as citizens take advantage of better connectivity and cheap flights, with many taking to the skies for the first time. — AFP

## Bad call: Indian trying to charge phone in cockpit

**MUMBAI:** A passenger was kicked off an Indian flight after he tried to access the cockpit to charge his phone, the airline said yesterday. The incident took place as an IndiGo flight was preparing to take off from Mumbai for Kolkata on Monday. "While an IndiGo aircraft being on the ground an unruly passenger tried to enter the cockpit stating that his mobile needs to be charged," IndiGo said in a statement.

"Following standard operating procedures the captain... initiated the offloading of the passenger on

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## International

# Britain's Corbyn makes pitch for power despite divisions

## Airlines angry over 'risky, crazy' EU-Brexit deadlock

**LIVERPOOL:** Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn yesterday presented himself as the man to steer Britain through perilous Brexit negotiations as he pushed his case for a general election. Wrapping up the party's annual conference in Liverpool, Corbyn sought to play down his own party's divisions over Brexit and presented a "radical plan" for government. Corbyn said Labour would support any "sensible deal" for Brexit that Prime Minister Theresa May's government brings back from Brussels but warned that "if you can't negotiate that deal then you need to make a way for a party that can".

He said that an election should be called if parliament fails to approve May's Brexit deal, hours after she told reporters in New York that an election before Britain leaves the EU would "not be in the national interest". If an election is not called, Corbyn said, "all our options are on the table" - a reference to the possibility of advocating a second Brexit referendum. Labour has held back from full-throated backing for a second referendum because many of its supporters voted for Brexit, although younger members and many of the conference delegates have been speaking out in favor of another vote.

### Anti-Semitism row

But the 69-year-old leftist devoted much of his speech to what he called "a radical plan to rebuild and transform our country" with social justice and environmental sustainability, and criticism of the government's austerity program. After being criticized for months for his handling of cases of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party, and his own past associations with Palestinian militants, Corbyn also pledged to fight discrimination

"with every breath I possess".

"The row over anti-Semitism has caused immense hurt and anxiety in the Jewish community and great dismay in the Labour Party. But I hope we can work together to draw a line under it," he told delegates at the meeting in north-west England. Corbyn used his speech to promise 400,000 jobs in the green-energy sector to meet low-carbon targets. He also announced an expansion of free childcare for poor households.

"Ten years ago this month, the whole edifice of greed-is-good, deregulated financial capitalism... came crashing to earth, with devastating consequences," he said. "The old way of running things isn't working any more." Brexit has loomed large over the four-day party event, causing ructions that the leader was keen to avoid yesterday and delegates responded positively to his anti-austerity message. "Too many people are suffering very, very badly in this country," said Tony Loftus, 70, a former prison officer. Carole Grady, a retiree from Lancashire, said: "Brexit has dominated totally. While this has been going on in the last two years, everything has just been left to rot. 'I think we need a general election,'" she said.

### Labour respects referendum

Party delegates voted on Tuesday to support the possibility of a second referendum if May is unable to

get a final deal through parliament. But veteran leftist John McDonnell, Labour's main finance spokesman, went off message on Monday, saying the option of staying in the European Union should not be on any ballot paper. The party's Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer hit back, receiving rapturous applause from members when he also veered off script to insist that remaining in the bloc was still on the table, exposing the power struggle behind the veneer of party unity.

### Airlines angry

The impasse between Britain and the EU in Brexit negotiations is "crazy" and "risky" for airlines with time running out to ensure cross-Channel flights can continue unimpeded, the world's airline body has warned. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents around 290 airlines, raised the alarm after Britain issued new guidance to spell out a worst-case scenario for aviation in the event that it fails to reach a deal with Brussels.

The guidance "clearly exposes the extreme seriousness of what is at stake and underscores the huge amount of work that would be required to maintain vital air links", IATA chief Alexandre de Juniac said in a statement. The government technical paper stressed that without an overarching Brexit deal, airlines will have to seek two different approvals from each of the



**LIVERPOOL:** Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn addresses delegates on the final day of the Labour party conference in Liverpool yesterday. —AFP

rest of the 27 EU members to ensure they have the regulatory framework to fly.

Airlines themselves have warned that their cross-Channel flights may be grounded for lack of insurance if they cannot be sure their pilots' licenses and safety standards are recognized after Britain leaves the EU on March 29. "It is crazy," de Juniac, the former chief of Air France-KLM Group, said in a separate interview with Bloomberg News, warning of the impact now for post-March bookings by passengers. "To think that you could negotiate such technical matters in the last hours on as sensitive a subject as aviation, with the safety issues. 'It's totally unprofessional, risky and disrespectful to the passengers who will have bought a ticket.'" —Agencies

## Kivu, the forgotten war in the heart of Africa

**KINSHASA:** When asked to name a long-running war somewhere the world, many people are likely to point to notorious hotspots such as Afghanistan or Syria.

### How many would name Kivu?

Yet this conflict in the heart of Africa ranks among the longest, bloodiest and potentially most dangerous wars in recent history. Fighting in Kivu, a region in the east of the vast powder-keg state of the Democratic Republic of Congo, first flared a generation ago. It developed into two full-fledged wars that sucked in countries around eastern and southern Africa, claiming millions of lives. Today, the fighting continues at a lower intensity and without direct foreign involvement. But it still reaps a near-daily harvest of killings, rape, maimings and torched villages, coinciding with an ongoing outbreak of Ebola—a mix that adds perilously to the DRC's instability. "The conflict is deliberately being forgotten or played down by the international community, which is showing a kind of willful blindness," said Omar Kavota, head of the Centre of Studies for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights (CEPADHO), a not-for-profit group based in the province of North Kivu.

### 'Blood minerals'

The bloodshed is mainly blamed on militias derived from ethnic groups, many of which fight over Kivu's natural resources—a traffic in so-called "blood minerals" that include coltan, a metallic ore vital for mobile phones and electric cars. According to the Congo Research Group, a study project at New York University, 134 armed groups are active in North and South Kivu, the region's two provinces.

In August alone, it counted 49 violent deaths, 103 kidnappings and 32 clashes. On Saturday, 21 people were killed in the centre of the city of Beni by assailants wielding guns and machetes, prompting aid workers to suspend efforts to roll back an outbreak of deadly Ebola. Two days later, one person was killed and 17 kidnapped in Oicha, a town 30 kilometers to the south. The authorities say the attack was the work of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a group rooted in Ugandan Islamism that has killed hundreds of Kivu civilians since its creation in 1995. The ADF is under UN sanctions.

### 24 years of conflict

Kivu, a region bigger than Portugal that borders Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, spiraled into catastrophe in 1994. Hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutus streamed across the border, fearing reprisals after hardline Hutus were ousted from power following a genocide of Tutsis and Hutu moderates. Two years later, the first Congo war flared. Rwanda's new strongman, Paul Kagame, a Tutsi, backed a campaign by rebel Laurent-Desire Kabila to overthrow dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Kagame's forces entered the DRC to settle scores with Hutus who had taken part in the genocide. But civilian refugees—"between 200,000 and 300,000," according to Belgian writer David Van Reybrouck—were the main victims. Once in power, Kabila turned against his Rwandan and Ugandan allies, expelling their forces from the country and the second Congo war ensued.

### Africa's 'Great War'

Nine African countries and more than two dozen armed groups became embroiled in the conflict, which by some estimates caused more than five million deaths from violence, disease and starvation. Some historians have dubbed the conflict "the Great War of Africa." The war formally ended in 2003, but its embers still glow brightly, stirring fears that they could be easily fanned back into greedy flames.

The UN has devoted its biggest peacekeeping mission to the DRC, providing some 17,000 personnel and an annual budget of \$1.153 billion (982 million euros). It issued a warning about instability in Kivu ahead of presidential, legislative and provincial elections on December 23, saying government forces faced "multiple" attacks. The constellation of assailants includes the Liberation Forces of Rwanda, a Rwandan Hutu group, as well as militia derived from Congolese ethnic groups. —AFP

## Turkish president to meet German chancellor amid tension, protests

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will pay a state visit to Germany this week as the two countries seek to rebuild ties after a series of sharp spats but the controversial trip is likely to be overshadowed by protests. It will be Erdogan's first official visit to Germany since becoming president in 2014, and follows a prolonged bout of tensions sparked by Berlin's criticism of his crackdown on opponents in the wake of a failed 2016 coup. "The main goal of this visit is to completely leave behind this period (of tensions)," Erdogan told Turkish media. The Turkish leader, seen as an increasingly authoritarian ruler by detractors, will land in Berlin today and hold talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel over the following two days.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will welcome him with military honors and a state dinner at Bellevue Palace on Friday—which several opposition politicians have vowed to boycott. Merkel too will be notably absent. On Saturday, Erdogan will travel to Cologne to open one of Europe's largest mosques, commissioned by the Turkish-controlled Dittib organization. Commentators have been quick to point out that Erdogan's push for a fresh start comes as the Turkish economy is struggling and relations with the United States have worsened.

## Trump dismisses 'drunk, messed up' Kavanaugh accuser

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump dismissed the latest accuser of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh as "drunk" and "messed up" on Tuesday, as Republicans prepared for a potentially explosive hearing over the judge's suitability. Despite the swirling controversy over the nomination, the Senate Judiciary Committee scheduled a preliminary vote for Friday at 9:30 am. If approved by the panel, Kavanaugh would go on to face a vote in the full Senate.

Taking the political lead in the high-stakes battle over the future of the court, Trump rejected a claim by Deborah Ramirez that Kavanaugh was the person who dropped his pants and thrust his penis in her face at an alcohol-fueled Yale University dorm party about 35 years ago. He said Democratic support for her allegations, as well as those of initial accuser Christine Blasey Ford, amounted to a "con game" to defeat a person he said was perfectly qualified to serve on the Supreme Court bench. "The second accuser has nothing. She thinks maybe it could have been him, maybe not," Trump told reporters in New York. "She admits that she was drunk. She admits that there are time lapses."

"Thirty-six years ago, nobody ever knew about it or heard about it, and now a new charge comes up and she said it might not be him, and there were gaps and she said she was totally inebriated, and she was all messed up," Trump said. "The Democrats are playing a con game. They

### Euro 2024 rivals

Thousands of Erdogan critics have vowed to take to the streets across Germany to protest everything from Turkey's record on human rights and press freedom to its offensive against Kurdish militia in Syria. Some 10,000 people are expected to rally under the motto "Erdogan Not Welcome" in Berlin on Friday alone. With no shortage of political and economic issues hanging over the visit, the shadow of football also looms large. Turkey and Germany are locked in a bitter race to host the Euro 2024 tournament, with the winner to be announced the day Erdogan arrives. Germany's bid has been clouded by Turkish-origin player Mesut Ozil's resignation from the national team over perceived racism—a move praised by Erdogan. "Ozil's comment that he is 'German when I win, an immigrant when I lose' perfectly captures the discrimination in Germany," Erdogan told the Funke Mediengruppe newspaper group.

### 'Too soon'

Relations between the two NATO countries plummeted after Turkish authorities arrested tens of thousands of people in a mass purge over the attempted putsch against Erdogan, including some who were also German nationals. But a gradual rapprochement began after German-Turkish journalist Deniz Yucel was freed earlier this year, while journalist Mesale Tolu was allowed to return to Germany last month. Both still face terror-related charges in Turkey.

Merkel, whose country is home to a three-million-strong Turkish community, has repeatedly stressed the importance of good relations with Ankara, a partner she relies on to help stem the flow of migrants arriving on European shores. But Germany's best-selling Bild daily said it was too soon to roll out the

know it's a con game," he said. "It's a shame that you can do this to a person's life." The committee's top Democrat meanwhile hit back at the decision to schedule a vote before Blasey Ford had been heard. "It's clear to me that Republicans don't want this to be a fair process," said Dianne Feinstein, describing the move as "outrageous."

### Second accuser

Trump's latest attacks came two days before the panel holds a hearing in which Blasey Ford is expected to detail her allegation that Kavanaugh tried to tear her clothes off in an assault during a party around 1982, when both were students at elite private high schools in Washington. Kavanaugh, who has strongly denied the charge, will separately appear at the hearing. With midterm Congressional elections looming in November, the sight of the 11 male Republican committee members cross-examining Blasey Ford had risked appearing disrespectful and a turn-off for female voters.

To skirt the challenge, Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley announced Tuesday he had hired an experienced female prosecutor to question the witnesses during the hearing. "I'm committed to providing a forum to both Dr Ford and Judge Kavanaugh today that is safe, comfortable and dignified," he said. Securing another conservative justice on the bench is crucial to Republican hopes to turn the court sharply to the right for years to come, with huge implications for law on abortion rights and affirmative action programs.

But since Blasey Ford's charges, one and possibly two more women have come forth with similar allegations of sexual assault or abuse when he was young.



**BERLIN:** The flags of Germany, Turkey and the European Union flutter in front of Berlin's landmark the Brandenburg Gate yesterday. —AFP

red carpet for Erdogan, who just 18 months ago accused Berlin of "Nazi practices" for blocking rallies supporting him ahead of a referendum that gave him sweeping new powers. "This is too much pomp and ceremony for Erdogan. We're not there yet," it said in an editorial.

### Big rail project?

Erdogan said he would use the visit to press Germany for "more efficiency" in the fight against "terrorist groups" like the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the movement of Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for the coup. Other topics on the agenda will likely be Turkey's stalled EU membership bid and its role in the

conflict in Syria.

To help smooth over the diplomatic reset, Erdogan could dangle the promise of a major project to modernize Turkey's rail infrastructure. Der Spiegel weekly reported that German giant Siemens was in talks to lead the potential 35-billion-euro deal (\$40 billion), but it was unclear whether Berlin would help finance it. In a sign of the contentious nature of his visit, Erdogan is not scheduled to make any big public speeches in Germany. Die Welt reporter Yucel, who spent over a year behind Turkish bars, slammed Berlin for "inviting a criminal to a banquet". "The German government is betraying all those in Turkey who long for a free, democratic and secular society." —AFP



**WASHINGTON:** US Capitol Police arrest demonstrators during a protest against the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be a Supreme Court Justice on Capitol Hill yesterday. —AFP

On Sunday, The New Yorker published Ramirez's story, which took place at Yale during 1983-84. On Monday, Michael Avenatti, a lawyer who represents a porn star claiming to have had an affair with Trump, has said he is also representing a third Kavanaugh accuser, whose identity and story he said would be revealed today.

### Explosive hearing looms

Republicans said they were determined to push the nomination through the narrowly-divided Senate as soon as possible, rejecting Democratic calls to freeze the process to let the FBI investigate all of the allegations. "What message will we send right now in 2018 and the Me Too movement if the Senate rushes through this?" asked Democratic Senator Patty Murray.

There was no guarantee of full Republican support ahead of the hearing, which could prove to be explosive.

At least four Republican senators, including two women who have been outspoken against sexual abuse, have withheld judgment, acknowledging the potential validity of Blasey Ford's allegation despite the amount of time that has passed and the paucity of hard evidence. But the party's leadership vowed to push ahead. "We're looking for the truth here. I don't think because you happen to be a male you're disqualified from listening to the evidence and making a decision based upon the evidence," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. "I'm confident we're going to win. I'm confident that he will be confirmed in the very near future." —AFP



International

# Pope calls on China Catholics to reconcile after bishop deal

## Vatican will 'abandon' Taiwan, Cardinal warns

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis called yesterday for all Chinese Catholics to reconcile, while admitting that a historic deal with Beijing on nominating bishops may have caused "confusion". "I now invite all Chinese Catholics to work towards reconciliation," the pope wrote in a message to Roman Catholics in the world's most populous country. Saturday's deal has paved the way for rapprochement between the Vatican and the Communist country, despite the fears of some in the persecuted underground Church.

"Some feel doubt and perplexity, while others sense themselves somehow abandoned by the Holy See," the pope wrote. "I am aware that this flurry of thoughts and opinions may have caused a certain confusion and prompted different reactions in the hearts of many." Shortly after the deal, Francis recognized seven clergy appointed by Beijing, which has not had ties with the Vatican since 1951.

Yesterday he called on the bishops to publicly reunite with the Vatican. "Regrettably, as we know, the recent history of the Catholic Church in China has been marked by deep and painful tensions, hurts and divisions, centered especially on the figure of the bishop," he wrote. "I ask them to express with concrete and visible gestures their restored unity with the Apostolic See."

### 'Wounds of the past'

There are an estimated 12 million Catholics in China, divided between a government-run association whose clergy are chosen by the Communist Party and the unofficial church which swears allegiance to the Vatican. Pope Francis has sought to improve relations with China since he took office in 2013, but previous attempts foundered over Beijing's insistence that the Vatican give up recognition of Taiwan and promise not to interfere in domestic

religious issues. The Holy See is one of only 17 countries that recognize Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, instead of having diplomatic ties with Beijing.

"I hope that a new phase can be opened in China, which helps to heal the wounds of the past," the pope wrote. The agreement's aim is "to reestablish and preserve the full and visible unity of the Catholic community in China." The deal was signed as churches have been destroyed in some Chinese regions in recent months, and there has been a clampdown on Bible sales. Crosses have been removed from church tops, printed religious materials and holy items confiscated, and church-run kindergartens closed. The Vatican cut ties with Beijing two years after the founding of the communist People's Republic.

### Cardinal warns

Some have warned that China could use the accord to further crack down on Catholic faithful, and Hong Kong's firebrand Cardinal Joseph Zen warned yesterday that the Vatican would abandon official ties with Taiwan. Zen, the former Bishop of Hong Kong, is well-known for his vocal opposition to political suppression and his support for democratic reform.

"The Holy See, the Vatican, is ready to abandon Taiwan," he told reporters in Hong Kong. Taiwan officials say the Vatican has assured them the agreement will not affect diplomatic ties as Beijing makes a concerted effort to poach their dwindling allies. Zen added the deal had also caused "spiritual suffering" in China's underground church. "They fear that the Holy See is betraying the faith and that they want them to join this betrayal," he said.

The Chinese Communist Party is officially atheist and religious groups are tightly controlled by the state. Asked for more information about the agreement yesterday, the Chinese foreign ministry said it had "no future details"



VATICAN CITY: The wind catches Pope Francis' pellegrina as he addresses faithfuls at St Peter's square at the Vatican for his weekly general audience yesterday. — AFP

beyond what was set out in a statement on Saturday. "China is sincere about wanting to improve our relations with the Vatican and we have taken steps to achieve this," the ministry's spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular

press briefing. "We will continue to maintain friendly dialogue with the Vatican to boost mutual understanding, lower mistrust and continue to move forward the improvement of our relations." — AFP

## Companies falter in global drive to end modern slavery

LONDON: The global drive to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking is faltering as businesses worldwide are failing to increase efforts to clean up their operations, leaving millions of workers at risk of exploitation, analysts said yesterday. Business advisory firm EcoVadis evaluated more than 33,000 companies around the world on issues such as labor and human rights practices, environmental impact and business ethics as part of its annual corporate social responsibility (CSR) index.

The company found that private sector progress on tackling modern slavery came to a halt last year after an uptick in 2016, with human trafficking remaining a common risk across many global industries - from farming to construction. On average, large corporations with more than 1,000 workers fared worse than smaller companies, suggesting that they should invest more in addressing the issue, according to the report.

"Executives at large companies are less likely to have a direct oversight of the labor force and suppliers providing goods and services, and are therefore less aware of potential modern slavery incidents,"

EcoVadis said in its annual report. Modern slavery is increasingly seen as a major global issue - estimated by the United Nations to trap 40 million people worldwide and generate \$150 billion every year for traffickers. Donna Westerman, head of consumer goods at risk analysis company Verisk Maplecroft, said many companies had worked hard to tackle slavery over the last five years but warned that low-skilled, temporary and migrant workers needed better protection.

"In the future, companies are going to have to do more (on modern slavery)," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The starting point is to identify the differing levels of risk affecting your supplier base, depending on where they operate and what they produce, so you can understand where to focus your resources." Businesses also performed poorly on reducing their environmental impact in 2017, with the global average score on the index in this area dropping slightly on the previous year. The dip signaled that firms are failing to live up to the expectations of the 2015 Paris Agreement, to limit the rise in global temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius, EcoVadis said.

"It appears that most businesses still do not see the climate agreement as an opportunity to redesign their activities, and are therefore not improving their environmental impact," the report said. Efforts to reduce plastic waste in particular had been underwhelming, the index found. Eight million tons of plastic - bottles, packaging and other waste - are dumped into the sea every year, killing marine life and entering the human food chain, the United Nations says. — Reuters

## Bangladesh's prof held for Facebook comments on PM

CHITTAGONG: A Bangladeshi university lecturer has been suspended and detained for making allegedly derogatory remarks on Facebook about the prime minister, his lawyer said yesterday. A ruling-party activist filed a case against Maidul Islam under Bangladesh's notorious internet laws, which critics say are aimed at stifling dissent. The assistant sociology professor at Chittagong University posted the comments last month during massive protests over road safety that enraged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government. "He was sent to jail on Monday after he surrendered at a court in Chittagong," his lawyer Vulon Lal Bhowmik told AFP in the southeastern port city. On Tuesday he was suspended by the state-run university, the lawyer and an official of the school said.

The arrest triggered protests by leftist groups who said they would organize a demonstration on Saturday. It came weeks after a top Bangladesh photographer and activist, Shahidul Alam, was arrested and denied bail over charges he made false and provocative comments during the protests in August. Alam had

told Al Jazeera that the protests were the result of pent-up anger at corruption and an "unelected government... clinging on by brute force" that had looted banks and gagged the media. He is also being investigated for allegedly violating Bangladesh's internet laws, enacted in 2006 and sharpened in 2013 in the country of 165 million people.

Alam-whose work has appeared widely in Western media and who founded the renowned Pathshala South Asian Media Institute-faces a maximum 14 years in jail if convicted, along with others detained during the protests. Bangladesh's parliament has since ratified a new digital security law, stipulating harsher punishment, despite widespread criticism by journalists and rights groups. Human Rights Watch on Tuesday said the law strikes a blow to freedom of speech, retaining the most problematic parts of the internet law and adding more provisions criminalizing peaceful speech.

In April, Bangladesh's most prestigious university suspended a professor for writing a column critical of Hasina's father and Bangladesh's first post-independence president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Morshed Hasan Khan was "suspended until further notice" from Dhaka University after he allegedly defamed Rahman, in an article published in a Bengali daily. Teachers have been punished in the past for stances critical of the former president. In August last year 13 high-school teachers were detained and remanded in custody ahead of a trial after being accused of sedition for remarks about him. — AFP

## Beijing charges shuttered church \$170,000

BEIJING: Beijing authorities who shut down a Christian church after its pastor criticized new curbs on religion have now ordered it to pay 1.2 million yuan (\$170,000) in back rent and removal costs. The Zion Church had been one of China's biggest unofficial Protestant churches until it was suddenly shut down earlier this month amid greater pressure on religion in the country. In a list of expenses seen by AFP, the Beijing municipal authority said Jianweitang-the holding company of Zion Church-owes them some 800,000 yuan in back rent.

Other items include: 148,000 yuan for overstaying; 114,000 yuan in moving fees, which included 66 vehicles, 18 people and an additional fee to move six pianos; 8,000 yuan in packing fees; 90,000 yuan for three months of storage; 3,600 yuan for two days of video recording; and 55,000 yuan in overtime pay for 55 "property workers". Zion's founding pastor Jin Mingri confirmed they had been served the notice but said it was "impossible" for them to pay up. "Not only did they not negotiate with us before moving our things, there's no reason in asking us to pay this exorbitant moving cost," Jin said yesterday.

Zion, housed on the third floor of a nondescript commercial building in a northern suburb, had up to 1,600 people attending its services each weekend. But on September 9 some 70 officers stormed into Zion's premises and ordered everyone out, tearing down signs and the church's logo. The local civil affairs bureau said the church was unregistered and its activities were unauthorized. — AFP

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## Demolition on the Nile puts squeeze on Cairo districts

Impoverished residents of red brick homes on an island in the Nile look nervously across the river at another Cairo slum, bulldozed this summer into a wasteland of rubble. Both areas are earmarked for tourism or business developments, part of efforts by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to attract investment and boost an economy still reeling after Egypt's Arab Spring upheaval of 2011. Since taking office in 2014, Sisi has sought to transform Cairo, building a new administrative capital on its outskirts and aiming to turn the city center into an investor's dream. Glossy magazine adverts make Cairo look more like Dubai, with glitzy tower blocks on the banks of the Nile.

But there is an obstacle to that vision: People living there. Many say they do not want to leave, and have not been told what will happen to the districts they have called home for generations. The plan for the Nile island, Warraq, is being overseen by the army and a government housing body. Areas scheduled for development include slums where authorities say residents have built illegally on state or privately owned land for decades, such as Warraq and the nearby area razed this summer, Maspero.

Under pressure from former general Sisi to transform those areas, authorities have either attempted forced evictions or offered compensation in money or property. Officials say the thousands evacuated are making way for projects that will bring prosperity to all Egyptians, and that some residents will return when development is completed. Inhabitants are not convinced. They say their livelihoods, from running shops to farming and fishing, will be destroyed if they are forced to move far away, sometimes to isolated desert compounds. They complain that compensation for vacating prime real estate is small, and believe they will end up worse off.

"Development is great, but we don't think it's meant for us," said Hussein Zeidan, a building contractor living on Warraq, a large green island near downtown Cairo that is home to nearly 100,000 people. Warraq has seen the strongest local resistance to evictions. A protester died in clashes last year between residents and security forces who came to demolish homes. "The demolitions came without warning. Only after the clashes did officials try to reassure us the area is being developed for us," Zeidan said.

Weeks before the violence, Sisi had told government ministers live on TV: "There are islands on the Nile, which legally should not have people on them. Make dealing with them a priority." Authorities have since softened their approach, trying to coax people out with offers to buy their land or provide them with apartments at Asmarat, a sprawling housing complex on Cairo's desert outskirts. "The offers aren't enough - about 1,400 pounds (\$80) per square metre. That's too little to be able to afford other land in Cairo," Zeidan said.

Other residents say prices on the bank opposite the island are closer to 8,000 pounds (\$450) per square metre. Living in Asmarat would put many of the island's inhabitants out of work, they say. "People who work on Warraq are farmers and fishermen, and they want to put them in an apartment in the desert - where would their animals go?" said one woman who declined to be named for fear of reprisals by authorities.

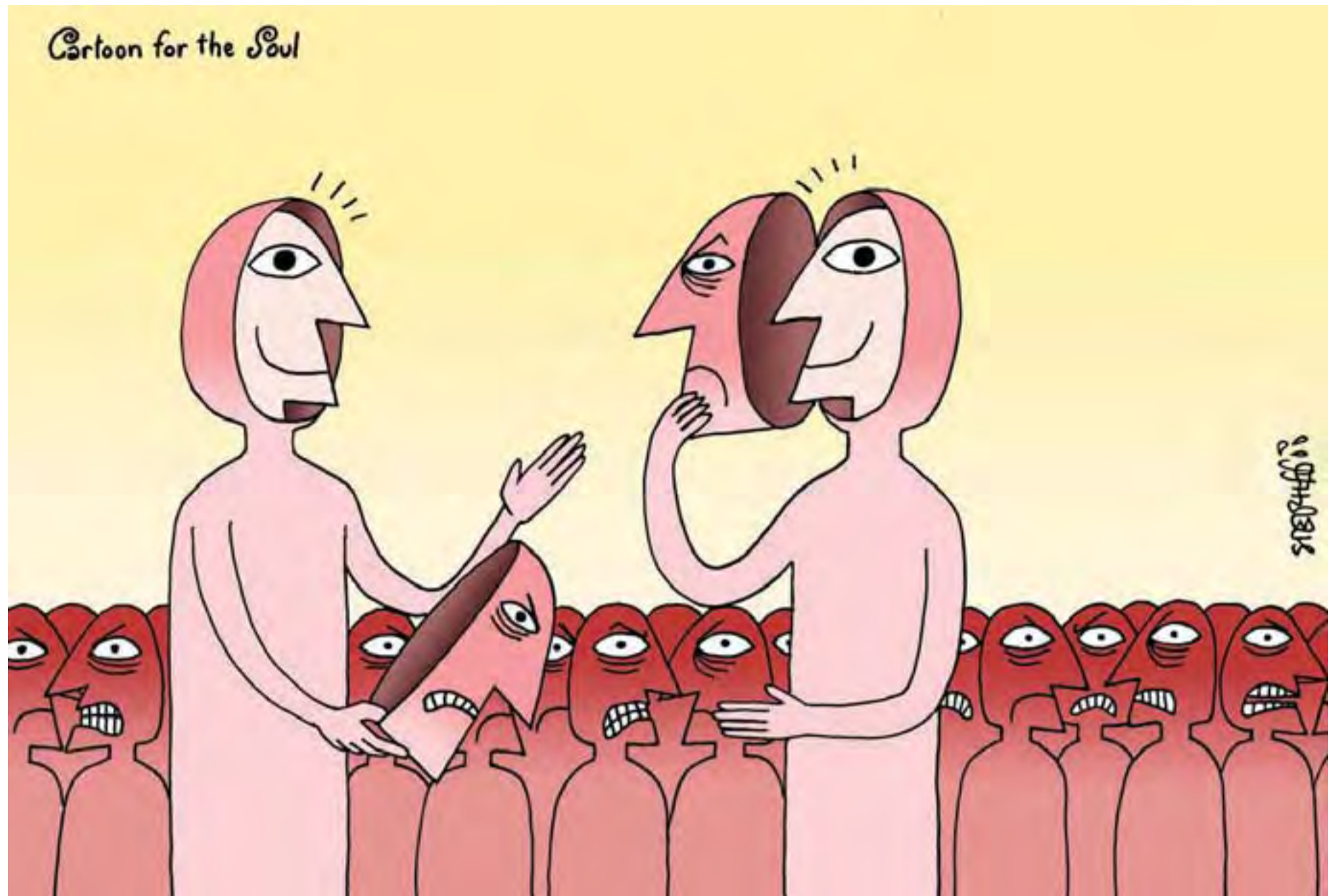
### Yacht-filled marinas

Zeidan said officials also told residents the development can take place without them leaving the island. But with demolition orders on 700 buildings, according to a 2017 interior ministry statement, and the rest of Warraq occupied by houses or farmland, thousands think they will have to leave. Development is underway. A half-built multi-lane road bridge crosses the Nile and swings into Warraq, dwarfing housing blocks and farmland. Satellite images show dozens of buildings were demolished for the highway last year. Reuters reporters were prevented by police from reaching the island to interview residents.

The plans for Warraq are not yet clear. Designs from several years ago, still laid out on the website of one Egyptian architectural firm, show it as a modern mini-city with yacht-filled marinas. The firm, Cube Consultants, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The pro-government Youm 7 news website in April quoted officials as saying the island will become a "high-end tourist housing project". In June, the government announced it would "establish a new housing community on lands of Warraq island", without elaborating. In interviews with Reuters, officials declined to give details of development plans.

Rights activists say people are being displaced even before projects are finalized and their long-term benefits assessed. They point to both Warraq and Maspero, an area owned by Egyptian, Saudi and Kuwaiti companies, which was cleared of slum housing earlier this year. "Even after people moved, there was still no detailed plan for the area," said Ibrahim Ezzedine, a housing researcher with the Egyptian Centre for Rights and Freedoms.

Khaled Saddeek, director of Egypt's Informal Settlement Development Fund, a government body, said Maspero would be a hub for "business, hotels, offices and housing", but declined to elaborate. "The plan is not final yet," he said. The proprietor companies might develop the area on their own, or jointly with Egyptian authorities - it was not yet clear - depending on which companies decided to "participate in development", he said. — Reuters



## Once Iraq's Venice, Basra waters turn deadly

Once dubbed the "Venice of the Middle East" for its canals, Iraq's crumbling port city of Basra is slowly dying of thirst. Crisscrossed waterways that earned it comparisons with the Italian city are now filthy pools of stagnant water. Its vibrant freshwater lifeline, the Shatt-al-Arab river that runs through it, is now so polluted it threatens the lives of the more than 4 million inhabitants of Iraq's second city. "It now causes death. It is highly polluted. Different pollutants can be found in the river, including germs, chemicals, toxic algae coupled with unprecedented concentrations of salt almost like that of seawater, rather, it is indeed seawater," said Shukri al-Hassan, Marine Science lecturer at Basra University. According to Hassan, contamination levels of Shatt-al-Arab have increased four-fold over the past 10 years and are increasing, putting more and more people at risk.

### Lethal mix

Daily life also features open sewers and streets filled with fetid piles of garbage. In response, furious residents recently staged some of the biggest protests in years. Many contrast their impoverishment with the oil wealth the province provides to the federal government's coffers. State officials blame a public funding crisis wrought by years of low oil prices for the hardship in a city that was a magnet for Middle Eastern tourists until the early 1980s.

Local resident Raad Shahout Dhahar said the water crisis is just one of many problems that have left his 17-

member family, including two wives, his mother and 14 daughters, in despair. "It has become even harder because if one used to earn 10,000 Iraqi dinars (\$8.43) a day, one can spend five thousand on food and save the other five,



### Canals once a tourist attraction

while now, we really started to feel the pinch," he said. "Before a quantity of 500 litres of water was enough for us as we used it for drinking only. We did not use it for washing our faces and clothes and we did not use it for bathing. But now, the 500 litres are used also to wash our faces and bodies, too."

### Cesspools

Located where the Euphrates and Tigris rivers merge near the Gulf at Iraq's marshy southern tip, Basra is one of the few cities in the Middle East without an effective water

treatment system. It had an advanced sanitary infrastructure in the 1960s but that broke down decades ago, turning waterways into cesspools whose stench is compounded by the hot desert climate. Residents said the water crisis has added to misery caused by shattered infrastructure because of years of under-investment, first under Sunni leader Saddam Hussein and then successive Shiite-led governments.

Much of Iraq suffered destruction in a string of ruinous wars since the 1980s. But Basra was especially hard hit as a city on the frontline of the war with Iran, only a few dozen kilometres across the Shatt Al-Arab delta to the east. The city has yet to recover. Basra residents say salt seeping into the water supply has made it undrinkable and sent hundreds to hospital. Some 90,000 people have been admitted to hospital, according to the head of Basra's health department, Riyadh Abdull Amir, with as many as 4,000 a day seeking treating this month.

Resident Aqeel Shakir Abdul Majeed had little hope for the future as he waited to pay for fresh water. "How can poor people afford it? How can those who do not have money afford it," he said. "Will they steal to get money? I do not know what to do." To improve water supply, the central government is building a major water treatment plant and a desalination complex thanks to a Japanese loan. The project was expected to be completed by the end of the year, but the departure of Japanese experts due to threats during protests has delayed the process. — Reuters

## In Macedonia, emigration leaves empty villages

Only one man knows how the Macedonian village of Gradovci will vote in Sunday's referendum: Dushan Nikolovski, the sole year-round resident of the near-deserted community, now a collection of crumbling stone homes. Like scores of other abandoned towns dotting Macedonia's countryside, the empty village, some 30 km from the capital Skopje, is a monument to the waves of emigration that have gutted the Balkan country's economy. "There used to be around a hundred houses and families," the 66-year-old told AFP from his peaceful patio, which looks over rolling hills speckled with the ruins of former homes, stores and schoolhouses. "Slowly everything fell apart, and the people left."

Like elsewhere in the Balkans, emigration has become a vicious cycle in Macedonia, draining the economy of a workforce and perpetuating the malaise that spurs more young people to leave the country, which has a 22 percent unemployment rate. Jobs - or lack thereof - are at the heart of Macedonia's referendum on Sunday. Officially, it is a vote on whether the country should change its name to "North Macedonia" to end a long-running row with neighboring Greece, which has promised to lift its blockade to NATO and the EU if the deal is finalized.

The name-change is seen by many as the only ticket to a future inside the European Union, with the economic revival and reforms they hope that will bring. "Young people want to live in a democratic country where their human rights are respected and where they can be promoted because of their knowledge," Justice Minister Renata Deskoska told AFP. The government does not have any up-to-date figures on how many

Macedonians have gone overseas for work. But a 2012 EU study estimated that more than 500,000 citizens - some 26 percent of its 2.1 million population - live abroad. It seems unlikely that these overseas Macedonians will sway the referendum. Less than 3,000 of them have registered to vote, a tiny fraction of the more than 900,000 ballots needed to pass the 50 percent mark of total registered voters. The vote is more likely to be fuelled by those who have stayed behind. "I want Macedonia to be like Switzerland," said Ismi Aziz, who retired to his home in the southern city of Kicevo after 33 years of working abroad in Switzerland. When asked what young Macedonians think about the vote, he laughed. "There are no young people here, they all left."

### 'Young Doctors Club'

The brain drain crisis is not just about the moribund economy of Macedonia, whose GDP growth hit nearly zero in 2017. It is a political problem too, says a group of young doctors who are fed up with a system where promotions are all about who - not what - you know. "Everyone is getting their jobs, their residencies, based on their political status," explained Sonja Grazhdani, a 21-year-old medical student who joined the "Young Doctors Club" lobbying the government for better healthcare policies. With this kind of patronage system, "you get bad doctors, unhealthy patients," she added, saying she felt she had no choice but to go abroad after her schooling to get proper training.

Nikola Brzanov, a surgeon who founded the club this year and is campaigning for a "yes" vote in the referendum, said around 1,200 young doctors have left the country over the past eight years. That leaves behind a patchy healthcare system, with a lack of pediatricians, gynaecologists and emergency care doctors in particular, especially in rural areas, he said. Justice Minister Deskoska says the problem spans professions. An anomaly in Macedonia's emigration story, Nikolovski returned to his rural hometown a decade ago after spending most of his life in Skopje working construction jobs. — AFP

## Macron struggles to turn EU speech making into action

It was billed as his founding speech for Europe. But 12 months after newly-elected Emmanuel Macron laid out his vision for a deeper, stronger EU, the French president is fighting a lonely battle, analysts say. Over 100 minutes at the Sorbonne University in Paris, with the stars of the EU flag behind him, Macron made an impassioned plea last September for members of the bloc to go further in linking their economies, governments and armies. "When you read his speech it was clear that he wanted to lead the EU in tandem with Germany," Judy Dempsey, an expert at the Carnegie Europe think-tank, told AFP. "He was saying to Chancellor Merkel: 'let's deliver together'. "And it just hasn't happened."

Macron had always been clear that he was banking on the "Franco-German motor," dreaming of a partnership with Angela Merkel in Berlin along the lines of his predecessors. But many analysts believe the strategy has failed to deliver. The naturally cautious chancellor emerged weakened from elections just two days before Macron's speech and she has since been consumed by domestic problems, particularly a toxic debate on immigration. "This speech collided with a Germany that was not at all in a position politically to respond, but it could only work with German support," Sebastien Maillard, director of the Jacques Delors Institute think-tank, told AFP. "It's the unfortunate thing for Macron, of not being able to find a real partner in Europe to support his vision," he said.

Instead, the momentum across the bloc has shifted further against the 40-year-old centrist. Since the Sorbonne speech, both Italy and Austria have shifted rightwards, electing coalition governments that include eurosceptic far-right figures. France's relations with Italy, a normally reliable ally, are increasingly hostile, while Macron has also clashed with the hard-right leaders of Hungary and Poland. "The context is diffi-

cult," Macron conceded on the sidelines of an EU summit in Salzburg last week where he faced questions about his own domestic problems that have seen his ratings fall to historic lows.

But even if he seems to be swimming against the current, Macron will not give up the fight. "His statements on Europe are not a celebration of Europe as it is," an aide said Tuesday. "He shares the same diagnosis (as eurosceptics) that Europe is dysfunctional, but faced with that, we have two choices: one consists of killing the system, the other reforming it profoundly."

### Real results?

The French presidency also points to concrete advances since the Sorbonne speech. Rules on the movement of EU company employees around the bloc, which France saw as being abused by businesses in low-cost eastern Europe, have been reformed under French impetus. Macron's push for greater military collaboration also fell on fertile ground as many members fret about America's commitment to defending the continent. Merkel too finally agreed to the principle of a euro-zone budget in June - albeit one that is limited and smaller in size than that proposed by Macron.

Other ideas, such as a fund to finance innovation in Europe or a pan-European civil defence force to respond to disasters around the EU, are also taking shape. "Sometimes there are less visible propositions, but still important ones, where there are advances," the aide said. Overall, out of 49 proposals contained in the Sorbonne speech, Macron considers 22 are "finalized... or in the process of being finalized", while another 18 are being discussed.

Smoke and fireworks  
Cynics would say that some of the "results" were already under discussion before his election, or are baby-steps towards Macron's much more ambitious agenda. Under his original timetable, he had hoped to secure other major victories, such as a reform to European tax rules that would close unpopular loopholes used by multinationals, or a new agreement to bolster EU border controls. These advances would be part of his pitch to voters ahead of European parliament elections next year, which will be his first domestic electoral challenge. — AFP

## Business

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## US would lose out in trade war: ECB

Draghi, Azevedo warn protectionism is rising threat to global economy



BERLIN: (Left to right), The general manager of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) Joachim Lang, World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Roberto Azevedo, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the president of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) Dieter Kempf attend a conference of the German Industry yesterday in Berlin. — AFP

**FRANKFURT:** Economic activity in the United States could fall more than two percent within a year if Washington launched a trade war on a wide front, European Central Bank researchers suggested yesterday.

The forecast comes as officials like ECB President Mario Draghi and World Trade Organization chief Roberto Azevedo warn of protectionism's rising threat to the world economy under Donald Trump's "America First" policies.

To test the US-against-all global trade war scenario, the Frankfurt-based experts fed a set of assumptions into economic models produced by the ECB and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

They simulated Washington hitting all imports with 10-percent tariffs and America's trade partners responding in kind—a far more drastic scenario than Trump has so far toyed with.

As well as the tariffs' direct effects on trade, the economists tried to capture the effect on public and financial market confidence by simulating a jump in government

borrowing costs and a slump in global stock markets—as large as 16 percent for the US.

Under that combined scenario, "real economic activity in the United States could be more than two percent lower than the baseline in the first year alone," they said.

They further predict that after three years, GDP would still be one percent below its starting level.

**'Clearly worse off'**

"An economy imposing a tariff which prompts retaliation by other countries is clearly worse off," the economists concluded.

"Its living standards fall and jobs are lost."

In trade, while US consumers and firms might gradually switch to buying American in response to more expensive imports, the effect is at first outweighed by the drop in exports as the country's trade partners buy less. Companies are also expected to invest less and hire fewer workers, amplifying the braking effect on the economy.

Meanwhile, China is expected to win out in the early stages of the simulated trade war.

With tariffs only affecting trade with the US, other countries could switch to buying Chinese rather than American exports, more than making up for reduced sales to the US.

More broadly, the blow to confidence from a general trade war would produce "a significant and more wide-ranging impact on output across countries," the economists found, shrinking the global economy 0.75 percent in the first year.

A near-3.0-percent contraction in overall trade would also weigh on world output.

"The scenario of a global trade war will have a dramatic effect," WTO boss Azevedo told German business leaders in Berlin Tuesday, warning that Washington was offering a "challenge to basic principles" of international exchange.

**Common cause**

Meanwhile, Washington, Tokyo and Brussels said they were making common cause against unfair trade, jointly denouncing industrial practices long pinned on China

but refraining from naming that country explicitly.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Japanese Economy Minister Hiroshige Seko and European Union Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom "reiterated their concern with and confirmed their shared objective to address non-market-oriented policies."

In a statement issued on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, they said unnamed "third countries" had engaged in "severe overcapacity," while creating unfair competitive conditions, threatening technological development and ultimately undermining global trade.

"The ministers recalled that market-oriented conditions are fundamental to a fair, mutually advantageous global trading system and that their citizens and businesses operate under market-oriented conditions," said the statement.

"The ministers found such practices to be deplorable," it added, noting the three economies were considering "possible measures" that could be undertaken. —AFP

## CBK clarifies on guidelines for e-payment transactions

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Central Bank (CBK) held a press conference yesterday at its premises to highlight the new guidelines that were issued recently on electronic payments. CBK Deputy Governor Yousef Al-Obaid said electronic transactions have increased rapidly during the last few years. "These are part of local and international transactions. They enable faster conclusion of contracts and agreements and bring the parties of these agreements closer by providing direct connection between them," he said.

Earlier this week, CBK issued guidelines for all service providers including companies and institutions to register on its electronic payment system. According to this regulation, all service providers are required to regulate their e-payment transactions in line with established regulations. All e-pay methods are subject to the scrutiny of the CBK. The new instructions are part of the initiative to boost the banking sector.

About 140 people representing 70 institutions and

companies including local banks and branches of foreign banks in Kuwait, exchange offices, telecommunication companies, and public institutions related to this issue attended the conference. "Kuwait is keen to remain updated in this field with all the developments happening around the globe. So we decided to exploit it for commercial transactions that are part of the development. This also requires supervision of these transactions and those who deal with them," added Obaid.

Law no 20/2014 on electronic transactions vested supervision and control with the Central Bank. "CBK had contacted the banks to get their opinion on these regulations, as the CBK usually does before issuing any regulation that affects the economy in general and banks' performance in particular. CBK also received the approval from the fatwa and legislation department for these regulations," he added.

Anwar Al-Ghaith, Executive Director for Information Technology and Banking Operations at CBK, noted that the regulations are always modern and not conventional. "The CBK examined the latest developments on this issue in developed countries with the support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before approving it. CBK's objective is to make payment operations in Kuwait safe and secure, in addition to offering more work opportunities in the local economy," he explained.

These regulations will be in force within 12 months. "If the institutions do not apply them within the stipulated period, then they will be violating the law. The CBK has made the regulations clear and easily understandable. The regulations set in article 25 are divided



KUWAIT: (From left to right) Anwar Al-Ghaith, Yousef Al-Obaid and Waleed Al-Awadhi during the press conference yesterday. — Yasser Al-Zayyat

into seven sections including payment methods, data protection, sanctions and other issues," Ghaith said.

Waleed Al-Awadhi, Executive Director of Supervision Sector at CBK, stated that these regulations aimed to ensure security of the electronic payment system. "It also aims to limit the potential risks that may affect its safety and efficiency. It will also ensure financial stability through the supervision of all

parties of these operations," he pointed out.

The supervision starts from the beginning of listing at the registry. "Nobody can practice electronic payment without obtaining a license from the CBK and it has the right to stop the practice of any institution if it does not obtain a license. Banks will be listed automatically as service providers while other institutions will have to apply for registration," explained Awadhi.

# Zain launches zBot; the new face of smart customer service

First telecom company to offer interactive agent solution in Kuwait



KUWAIT: Al-Roudhan, Al-Kandari, Al-Gharabally and Al-Khashti with Zain's team during the press conference.



KUWAIT: Al-Kandari, Al-Gharabally and Al-Khashti during the live demo of zBot

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of zBot, an all-new interactive digital channel for smart customer service, making it the first telecom company to launch this innovative solution in Kuwait. The new channel utilizes the latest artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to interact and respond to customer inquiries in a fully automated manner without the need of human input.

The launch of this revolutionary customer service channel was made during a press conference held at Zain Innovation Center (ZINC) at Zain's main headquarters in Shuwaikh, which witnessed the attendance of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, Chief Commercial Officer Meshal Al-Kandari, Chief Technical Officer Nawaf Al-Gharabally, and Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti.



The conference was accompanied by a live demo of the announced channel, which was designed to reflect Zain's digital transformation leadership in the Kuwaiti market.

Zain Kuwait's Chief Commercial Officer Meshal Al-Kandari commented: "today we announce the launch of zBot, the new face of smart customer services, making Zain the first telecom company to offer the interactive agent solution in Kuwait".

Al-Kandari explained: "the launch of this new innovative channel comes in line with our strategic plans to enrich Zain's digital transformation journey and reinforce its leadership in the Kuwaiti market and the region. This channel revolutionizes the customer experience industry, and will open new horizons in our smart services portfolio".

Al-Kandari continued: "zBot is one of the most interactive services directed at enriching our customer experience

efforts. It responds to inquiries and questions from customers in a fully automated manner without having to wait for input from a human agent through providing the latest offers, enabling the management of accounts, activating services, and much more". Al-Kandari added: "implementing digital transformation tools has become a necessity to advance the Customer Experience sector and overcome the challenges it faces. As Zain serves the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait, we are committed to intensify our efforts to enrich our customer experience and make it easier and more flexible through adding such innovative services to our existing traditional channels such as the call center and Zain branches available all around Kuwait".

Zain Kuwait's Chief Technical Officer Nawaf Al-Gharabally commented: "zBot utilizes the latest available AI solutions, making it one of the most advanced customer service solutions not only in Kuwait, but across the region's markets as well".

Al-Gharabally added: "we are proud that zBot was fully developed internally by Zain's technical team supported by world-class AI solutions. The channel is able to swiftly recognize a customer's needs, understand their questions, and guide them to specifically designed services at the same time. This will help with accurately identifying their requests to serve them better and faster in the future".

Al-Gharabally further explained: "the new channel is fully integrated with all our backend platforms, giving customers the ability to manage their accounts and add/remove services directly through it without the need for involvement from customer service agents, making it a perfect channel to engage with our customers in the fastest time possible". Al-Gharabally concluded: "AI contributes to Customer Experience by introducing the speed factor, where the machine can support thousands of requests and interactions at the same time, reducing the waiting time for our valuable customers, in both simple and more complex types of transactions. The faster we

## Zain will be the first telecom company in Kuwait to launch apps for 5G

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Zain CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan stated yesterday that Zain will be the first telecommunications company in Kuwait to launch the applications for 5G network which is scheduled for next month.

Making a statement following Zain's launch of zBot, Rowdan added that the next development stage of the mobile network is 5G when customers will experience high-speed internet for the very first time. 5G is the future of wireless technology offering ultra-low latency. It almost has the internet speed of fiber optic.

She noted that the company has been working for more than a year to shift to the digital world. "Zain recently launched a new brand called 'Zain Life', which includes a wide range of innovative and flexible home security services and solutions to improve the customer experience," she said.

Rowdan expressed pride in launching zBot which is based on artificial intelligence (AI), the first of its kind in Kuwait, which has been fully implemented by the company's team, pointing out that in the near future several new applications will also be introduced. "Zain will



KUWAIT: Zain CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan speaks to the media yesterday.

launch and test new applications such as smart parking, and smart buildings, aiming to save energy and electricity, enhancing the operational efficiency by achieving the optimal use of natural resources," she said.

She said that Zain will be participating in the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX) this year, and new products and applications will be introduced in line with Zain's Vision and Kuwait's Vision for 2030. About the date of launching of 5G in Kuwait, Rowdan pointed out that it depends on the infrastructure that has been implemented for the network. This has also been tested successfully recently and the trial will be completed in 2019. The telecommunications industry is also waiting for the launch of devices that are compatible with 5G network. "Zain is ready to deploy 5G service next year once the equipment that can run the 5G service is available," she added.

respond to a customer's needs without sacrificing quality, the better customer satisfaction rates get, ultimately resulting in a superior customer experience".

The new zBot interactive channel offers a variety of services in a fully automated manner through Zain's app and website, including showing the latest offers and promotions on prepaid and postpaid plans, managing accounts, adding/removing roaming services and international calls, purchasing smart devices from the Zain online store, showing the current balance or contract details, inquiring about roaming information and branch locations, and much more. The channel is available in both Arabic and English, and customers can talk to it in a natural tone

as if speaking to a human agent. Zain's strategy is centered around digital transformation leadership and empowering the community to enjoy a smarter portable lifestyle, as well as using advanced technology and Zain's long experience to enable an easier and more flexible life. The company places itself as an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait.

Zain always aspires to new levels of excellence in all services it offers to its customers. Through the launch of this innovative channel, Zain affirms its continuous efforts in meeting its customers' needs and aspirations, and deliver its promise to offering the best services and latest technologies.



Nawaf Al-Gharabally and Meshal Al-Kandari

- zBot reflects Zain's strategic plans in adopting latest AI and digital transformation solutions.
- Meshal Al-Kandari: "zBot an innovative interactive channel that will enrich Zain's customer experience".
- Nawaf Al-Gharabally: "zBot is fully developed by Zain's technical team and supported by world-class AI solutions".

## Business

# Departing Daimler CEO leaves successor with big challenges

## Zetsche leaves the wheel at a time when the firm finds itself in rough terrain

**FRANKFURT:** Daimler boss Dieter Zetsche is to bow out from the Mercedes-Benz maker's top job next year, with the veteran chief executive leaving a long list of problems for his Swedish successor to tackle. Zetsche will "step down from his positions in the board of management of Daimler AG and head of Mercedes-Benz Cars, effective at the end of the annual shareholders' meeting" on May 22, 2019, the group said.

He will be replaced by fellow board member Ola Kallenius, the German group's first foreign CEO in over five decades. Flamboyantly-moustachioed Zetsche broke with many of the staid codes of corporate Germany, often making public appearances in jeans and Converse sneakers and managing to come off as "cool, self-deprecating and convincing," business daily Handelsblatt judged earlier this year.

The affable exterior conceals the heart of "the best salesman in the country," the paper added.

Observers credit Zetsche with skilfully managing Daimler's 2007 divorce from Chrysler after their 1998 merger proved unsuccessful. Since then, Daimler's books have prospered under Zetsche's leadership, with net profits last year of 10.9 billion euros (\$12.8 billion) on revenues of 164 billion euros.

Trained as an engineer, "he's seen as someone who thinks very well strategically, but is also assertive about getting things done," expert Stefan Reindl of car industry institute IFA told AFP.

After becoming head of Chrysler in 2000, Zetsche convinced unions to accept 26,000 job losses and six factory closures to turn the business around. As for the reasons for his departure, "there's no kind of crisis forcing (Zetsche) to leave now," Reindl said.

Shares in Daimler fell slightly on the announcement, losing 1.3 percent to trade at 54.03 euros by 12:20 in Frankfurt (1020 GMT) — compared with a DAX index of leading German shares which was down 0.1 percent.

### Bumps in the road

Nevertheless, Zetsche will relinquish the wheel at a time when his historic firm finds itself in rough terrain. In the wake of Volkswagen's "dieselgate" emissions cheating scandal, Daimler was forced this year to recall some 774,000 vehicles to undo illegal "defeat devices" designed to conceal high levels of harmful emissions from regulators' tests.

Along with competitors Volkswagen and BMW, Daimler is also the target of an in-depth cartel probe announced last week by the European Commission.

Brussels aims to uncover whether the three firms along with VW's high-end subsidiaries Audi and Porsche agreed not to compete with each other on anti-pollution systems for both diesel- and petrol-powered cars, undermining competition and air quality.

And European authorities have recently imposed tough new emissions tests for cars and are tightening fleet-wide emissions targets for carmakers. At home, driving bans are looming in German cities for many older diesel vehicles over missed air quality targets.

Meanwhile Mercedes' answer to government and public demands for less polluting cars is still some way off, with its first all-electric SUV, the "EQC", not slated for release until next year.

Further into the future, it faces the demands of higher research spending in fields like self-driving vehicles—and must find a response to projected lower demand as more people opt for services like car-sharing.

### Musical chairs

Over the two years from May, Zetsche will have to watch from the sidelines his successor Kallenius' response to the challenges Daimler faces. Colleagues hope to make him head of the group's supervisory board from 2021, when present chief Manfred



Bischoff retires-but he must first sit out a two-year cooling-off period.

Swedish-born Kallenius joined Daimler in 1993, rose to the executive board by 2015 and has headed research and development for Mercedes-Benz cars since 2017.

He is just 49 years old, compared with 65-year-old Zetsche, and has worked both at Mercedes' Stuttgart HQ and its British and American operations. "In Ola Kallenius, we are appointing a recognized, internationally experienced and successful Daimler executive," Bischoff said in a statement. —AFP

## Ford expands talks with VW and Mahindra to cut costs

**DEARBORN, Mich:** With its stock trading near a 6-year low late last month, Ford Motor Co CEO Jim Hackett gathered the automaker's top 300 executives near its headquarters in Michigan for a global leadership meeting. Hackett's message: Ford must put in motion plans to restructure its business now in order to secure promised costs savings, Ford executives present at the meeting said.

"We have clarity of purpose and now it's time to take action," Hackett told Reuters in an interview.

A key part of that plan to save money calls for Ford to deepen partnerships with other automakers around the world to share factory floor capacity and develop vehicles together, Ford executives told Reuters.

Specifically, they said Ford is engaged in talks with Germany's Volkswagen AG and India's Mahindra about expanding product and technology alliances. With Volkswagen, discussions are focused on how to expand a commercial vehicle tie-up they previously announced to include collaboration in South America and Europe - where Ford is losing money - and co-develop other types of vehicles, according to a Volkswagen executive and two sources familiar with Ford's thinking who asked not to be identified.

Pablo Di Si, chief executive for

Volkswagen in Latin America, told Reuters the companies are studying a partnership in Brazil and the talks are "advancing positively," although he did not expect an announcement until 2019.

A VW spokesman declined further comment on the alliance discussions. An expanded alliance would give Volkswagen access to some of Ford's most profitable vehicles, including the Transit commercial vans and Ranger compact pickup trucks, said the two sources. VW could also help Ford strengthen its money-losing South American and European operations by combining vehicle production in those markets, the sources said.

Separately, product sharing talks are underway with Mahindra & Mahindra, including using the Indian automaker as a benchmark to bring down supplier costs in the region, two other people familiar with Mahindra's plans said. The first vehicle from the platform they are jointly developing will likely be launched in 2020, they added.

A spokesman for Mahindra did not respond to a request for comment. The twin efforts are meant to help remake Ford in conjunction with the \$11 billion restructuring it outlined for the next three to five years. Ford needs to improve profitability because it is investing billions of dollars to develop electric and self-driving vehicles, and gearing up for a major roll out of products over the next two years.

Hackett, who recently spoke with the heads of Volkswagen and Mahindra, told Reuters the alliance talks are going well and hold a lot of promise for Ford. He declined to comment on specific deal structures being discussed or locations, however. —Reuters

## Italy budget will include basic income, lower retirement: Tria

**ROME:** Economy Minister Giovanni Tria said yesterday Italy's 2019 budget would include a basic income for the poor and allow people to retire earlier, meeting demands from the ruling coalition parties. Tria told a retail association conference the so-called "citizens' income" would help manage the social consequences of technological change, and said allowing people to retire earlier would give firms a younger, more skilled workforce.

The anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, which governs with the right-wing League, threatened on Tuesday not to vote for the budget unless it included the citizens' income and a lower retirement age, along with other measures. Today the government will present its economic and financial targets that underpin the budget, which must be approved by the cabinet and presented to Brussels in mid-October.

Financial markets are banking on Tria,

a former academic who is not affiliated to either party, to keep a lid on public finances and to water down some of the big-spending plans of the coalition that took office in June.


Italy's public debt, at around 131 percent of national output, is the highest in the euro zone after Greece's. In his speech Tria tried to strike a balance between promising a growth-friendly, expansionary package while maintaining the confidence of markets and avoiding a head-on clash with the European Commission.

"We are working on a mix of policies that show everyone they should have confidence in Italy, not only in our public finances but in our economic growth," he said.

### More investment

Italy has been the most sluggish economy in the euro zone since the start of monetary union almost two decades ago and the number of people living in poverty has tripled in the last 10 years.


The budget will raise public investments to 3 percent of GDP within three years, Tria said, from about 2 percent in 2017. The updated targets will "send a message to markets on the sustainability of our debt," he said, adding that the budget would aim to halve the growth gap between Italy and the rest of the EU next year. —Reuters



# zBot

The answer to your enquiries

The most advanced interactive customer care service in Kuwait using Artificial Intelligence



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Bill payments | Roaming activation | Latest offers

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kw.zain.com/Chatbot

A Wonderful World

## Business

# Ooredoo to launch iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max tonight

Launch event to start at 10pm tonight and to last for 8 hours at Ooredoo HQ

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo will welcome its customers at its headquarters in Kuwait City- Soor Street tonight for the launch of the iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max with the most exclusive offer for 8 hours available to both B2C and B2B customers as well as Nookhba customers. The launch event will begin at 10pm tonight where customers will be able to enjoy the most exclusive one night offer in Kuwait, and is considered the strongest offer that a telecommunications company launches in Kuwait.

It is worth mentioning that several restaurants, cafes, and small businesses will participate in tonight's launch event. Subscribers will also avail from free phone covers and screen protectors.

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max are the most advanced iPhones ever, taking the vision for the future of the smartphone to a new level, featuring stunning 5.8-inch and 6.5-inch Super Retina displays that offer remarkable brightness and true blacks while showing 60 percent greater dynamic range in HDR photos. iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max bring an improved dual camera system that offers breakthrough photo and video features. A12 Bionic chip with next-generation Neural Engine, faster Face ID, wider stereo sound, longer battery life, splash and water resistance, the most durable glass ever in a smartphone, a beautiful new gold finish that joins silver and space gray, and introduce Gigabit-class LTE for even faster download speeds. iPhone XS Max offers a more immersive experience with over 3 million pixels for videos, movies and games, offering the largest display ever in an iPhone. Both phones introduce Dual SIM to iPhone through the use of a nano-SIM and digital eSIM.

Additionally, iPhone XR features an all-screen glass and aluminum design with a 6.1-inch Liquid Retina display - the most color accurate in the industry, with wide color support and True Tone for a more natural viewing experience. iPhone XR features A12 Bionic with next-generation Neural Engine, the TrueDepth camera system, faster Face



ID, an advanced camera system that creates dramatic portraits using a single camera lens. LTE Advanced for fast download speeds and six beautiful finishes.

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max are splash-, water- and dust-resistant, and were tested under controlled laboratory conditions with a rating of IP68 under IEC standard 60529 (maximum depth of 2 meters up to 30 minutes).

Splash, water and dust resistance are not permanent conditions, and resistance might decrease as a result of normal wear. Do not attempt to charge a wet iPhone; refer to the user guide for cleaning and drying instructions. Liquid damage not covered under warranty.

Speeds vary based on site conditions and carrier. For details on LTE support, see [apple.com/iphone/LTE](http://apple.com/iphone/LTE).



Dual SIM support will be available via a free software update later this fall. Use of Dual SIM requires two wireless service plans (which may include restrictions on roaming). Certain restrictions apply to use.

## Warba Bank announces Al-Sunbula weekly draw

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, "the Best Investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, will be organizing its 35th weekly draw for Al-Sunbula Account today at 11 am in presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Bank officials.

Al-Sunbula Account is the perfect choice for all customers who wish to save money and achieve steady returns while simultaneously have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. Due to the high traffic on this account, for its offerings of unparalleled opportunities, Warba Bank has worked on enhancing Al-Sunbula account to provide customers with more benefits. Such enhancements include increasing the number of winners and the frequency of the draws. Now, on every Thursday the Bank holds draws for 5 weekly winners of KD 1,000 each. In addition, the Bank continues its monthly draws held on the first Thursday of every month, with cash prizes of KD 30,000 divided amongst 4 winners: two winners getting KD 10,000 each, and two winners getting KD 5,000 each.

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

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

## In a US manufacturing hub, no illusions about tariffs and jobs

**THOMASVILLE, NC:** In a town where a 30-foot tall chair is the chief landmark, and which is synonymous with a US furniture industry decimated over the years by imports from China, many greet the possibility of tariffs on Chinese goods with a shrug.

No wonder. Of three once bustling Thomasville furniture plants in the city limits, one is being demolished and cleared for parkland, another may become the site of a new police station, and a third is being converted into apartments.

President Donald Trump is threatening to levy tariffs of up to 25 percent on \$500 billion of goods imported from China each year, including roughly \$20 billion of furniture, as a way to bring back hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs lost to China and other low-cost competitors.

Yet, the transformation of US industries since China's emergence as the world's low-cost producer almost two decades ago means many no longer directly compete with

## Air Arabia launches new route to Kabul

**SHARJAH:** Air Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC), has announced the introduction of its new flight to Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, direct from Sharjah, UAE. Air Arabia's introductory flight to the city will commence on October 4, 2018.

The 2 hour 30-minute flight will operate four times per week, on Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The outbound flight from UAE will depart from Sharjah International Airport (SHJ) at 06:40 hours and arrive in Kabul International Airport (KBL) at 09:40 local time. The return flight will leave Kabul at 10:40 hours and arrive in Sharjah at 13:00 local time.

Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia, said: "Kabul is a new addition to our network that will meet the needs of thousands of people traveling between Afghanistan and the UAE as well as the wider region. We look forward to the launch of this new route which connects the two destinations, and provide our passengers with Air Arabia's value for money services."

Air Arabia currently operates flights to more than 150 routes across the globe from four hubs located in the Middle East and North Africa.

## Airlines angry over 'risky' Brexit deadlock

**LONDON:** The impasse between Britain and the EU in Brexit negotiations is "crazy" and "risky" for airlines with time running out to ensure cross-Channel flights can continue unimpeded, the world's airline body has warned.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents around 290 airlines, raised the alarm after Britain issued new guidance to spell out a worst-case scenario for aviation in the event that it fails to reach a deal with Brussels. The guidance "clearly exposes the extreme seriousness of what is at stake and underscores the huge amount of work that would be required to maintain vital air links", IATA chief Alexandre de Juniac said in a statement.

The government technical paper stressed that without an overarching Brexit deal, airlines will have to seek two different approvals from each of the rest of the 27 EU members to ensure they have the regulatory framework to fly. Airlines themselves have warned that their cross-Channel flights may

Chinese imports, so tariffs may not translate so easily into more US jobs. At family-owned Bernhardt Furniture in Lenoir, some 90 miles west of Thomasville, executives say it would take about \$30 million in capital investment - some 10 percent of annual sales - to resurrect standard wood furniture lines now mainly made in countries like China and Vietnam.

That is too much to commit based on a policy that a future administration could reverse. "The theory is you turn (imports) off, the jobs come back. That's not really true... The buildings don't exist. The people don't exist. The machinery does not exist," to make the sorts of furniture that now gets imported, said Alex Bernhardt Jr., chief executive and the company founder's great grandson.

What the company needs now, executives say, is the open markets and steady economy that have allowed it to grow its workforce from below 800 at the end of the 2007-2009 recession to almost 1,500 today - partly on the basis of exports to China.

### Different company

That growth has been largely driven by demand for more customized, higher end furniture. In expanding, the 129-year-old company has been hiring not only factory workers, but also designers, marketing experts and other professionals. In all, it is a different firm from what it was three decades ago when it first began dividing product



be grounded for lack of insurance if they cannot be sure their pilots' licenses and safety standards are recognized after Britain leaves the EU on March 29. "It is crazy," de Juniac, the former chief of Air France-KLM Group, said in a separate interview with Bloomberg News, warning of the impact now for post-March bookings by passengers. "To think that you could negotiate such technical matters in the last hours on as sensitive a subject as aviation, with the safety issues. It's totally unprofessional, risky and disrespectful to the passengers who will have bought a ticket." London and Brussels are at odds over plans for post-Brexit trade ties and the Irish border, and have stepped up preparations for the possibility that they fail to reach agreement. De Juniac said IATA still hoped for a comprehensive agreement including aviation. But, he warned in his statement, "an assumption that it will be all right on the night" is far too risky to accept. "Every contingency should be prepared for, and we call upon both the EU and the UK to be far more transparent with the state of the discussions." — AFP

lines between the United States and Asia. Economists say the same is true across much of US manufacturing. To invest and hire more workers, executives would need certainty, for example, that consumers would prefer US-made products at a potentially higher price. They would need confidence that tariffs would last beyond the Trump administration and that production could not be shifted to other more cost-competitive countries.

Even then, there may be little incentive to go back to old product lines for industries that have changed dramatically because of globalization. Across the Rust Belt and the former factory towns of the south, the transformation is apparent. In Buffalo, an old steel mill is now a solar panel factory, and a retail goods manufacturer now houses an office and restaurant park. In Cleveland, a shuttered GM plant has reopened as a Chinese-owned auto glass company. Abandoned factories throughout North Carolina have landed on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of "brownfield" sites that need cleanup. Some companies are considering moving production from China as a result of the tariffs, but the jobs are unlikely to head home. Illinois-based CCTY Bearing, for example, said it planned to move US-bound production from Zhenjiang, China, to a new plant near Mumbai in India to keep labor costs down. JLab Audio's China-made Bluetooth products are not being taxed yet, but its chief executive Win Cramer had been scouting for suppliers in Vietnam and Mexico. — Reuters

## Renault Al-Babtain awards winner of 'Asdaa Al-Aalam' show with Renault Duster

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait recently awarded Mohammad Abdul Mohsen Al-Abod Al-Kheder with the Renault Duster 4x4 after winning the World Cup Asdaa Al-Aalam competition. Renault Middle East had sponsored the show.

The sole winner hailing from Kuwait, Mohammad Abdul Mohsen Al-Abod Al-Kheder was gifted the keys to his brand new car by Renault Al-Babtain Brand Manager Carl Saliba at the Al-Rai showroom. Fortunate viewers of the "Asdaa Al-Aalam" from all over the Arab region were entitled to win valuable prizes such as the Renault Captur, Renault Duster, Renault Symbol or Renault Koleos by participating through a text message or a call to the program during the show.

Renault Duster comes equipped with four-wheel drive transmission, advanced new media Nav 2.0 multimedia system that entertains and navigates while enabling hands-free Bluetooth calling; along with a cruise control system making driving seamless.



## Technology &amp; Science

## Ending decades of doubt, 'biggest bird' dispute put to nest

## World's biggest bird same as fully grown giraffe

**PARIS:** After more than a century of conflicting evidence, Anglo-French animosity and a H G Wells novella involving murder most fowl, scientists said yesterday they have finally solved the riddle of the world's largest bird. For 60 million years the colossal, flightless elephant bird *Aepyornis maximus* stalked the savannah and rainforests of Madagascar until it was hunted to extinction around 1,000 years ago. In the 19th century, a new breed of buccaneering European zoologist obsessed over the creature, pillaging skeletons and fossilized eggs to prove they had discovered the biggest bird on Earth.

But a study released yesterday by British scientists suggests that one species of elephant bird was even larger than previously thought, with a specimen weighing an estimated 860 kilograms — about the same as a fully grown giraffe. "They would have towered over people," James Hansford, lead author at the Zoological Society of London, said. "They definitely couldn't fly as they couldn't have supported anywhere near their weight."

In the study, published in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*, Hansford examined elephant bird bones found around the world, feeding their dimensions into a machine-learned algorithm to create a spread of expected animal sizes. Until now, the largest-ever elephant bird was described in 1894 by the British scientist C.W. Andrews as *Aepyornis titan*—a larger species of *Aepyornis maximus*. But a French rival of Andrews dismissed the discovery of titan as just an outsized max-

imus specimen, and for decades the debate remained deadlocked.

Hansford said his research proved titan was indeed a different species. But he also found that its bones were so distinct from other elephant bird specimens that titan was in fact an entirely separate genus. Named *Vorombe*

“ They would have towered over people ”

titan-Malagasy for "big bird"—the creature would have stood at least three meters tall, and had an average weight of 650 kilograms, making it the largest bird genus yet uncovered.

"At the extreme extent we found one bone that really pushed the limits of what we now understand about bird size," said Hansford, referring to the 860-kilogram specimen. "And there were some that led up to that too, so it's not an outlier—there was a range of masses that are extraordinarily large."

## Extinct, but not forgotten

A close cousin of the now-extinct moa in New Zealand, the elephant bird belonged to the same family of flightless animals that today includes the kiwi, emu and ostrich. Its petrified eggs still fetch large sums at auction, and it stars in Wells' 1895 work "Aepyornis Island" alongside a pugnacious mercenary named Butcher who improbably ends up living with—and eventually killing—one of the creatures.

Despite having one of the longest existences of any animal in Madagascar—whose isolation from the rest of Africa led to the development of several entirely unique species—the elephant bird died out after a new wave of human settlers arrived around a millennium ago. "You start to see large amounts of agricultural settlements and habitat change with burning of forests... that seems to have driven all the megafauna in Madagascar, including the elephant bird, to extinction," said Hansford.

Far from being an ancient curiosity, Hansford believes the elephant bird could hold vital clues as to how to manage Madagascar's future ecosystem, despite being extinct for 1,000 years. Elephant birds "probably played the most significant roles in maintaining and developing the landscapes that were natural to Madagascar before humans got there," he said. "We need to understand the role of these animals within these landscapes in order to start regenerating and conserving what we have left."—AFP



PARIS: A handout photo released by the Zoological Society of London on September 25, 2018 shows an illustration of Elephant birds. — AFP

## KIB's Al-Suwaidan awarded 'Cyber Sentinels' CISO Award 2018

**KUWAIT:** KIB's Executive Manager - Head of Information Security, Basil Al-Suwaidan, recently received the "Cyber Sentinels" CISO Award 2018 from GEC Media Group; a leading media house specializing in IT and Cyber Security publications, events marketing and communications services. Held in Dubai, the awards ceremony was attended by a number of notable figures and representatives of leading institutions across the region.

The GEC Media Group awards ceremony is a prestigious event sparking the interest of many, as it serves as a pivotal benchmark for outstanding performance in the Information and communication technology sector across the MENA region. Those who compete for the much sought-after award are subject to stringent standards, thereby ensuring they have the necessary experience in innovation and have completed successful initiatives.

Al-Suwaidan was selected as a recipient of this award as a result of the successful implementation of imperative cyber security projects. He was recognized for the quality and durability of policies and systems in place at KIB, as well as the adherence to new standards and the noteworthy efforts made in information security.

On this occasion, Al-Suwaidan expressed his delight at receiving this prestigious award. He also lauded KIB's outstanding efforts in continuously developing and maintaining its policies to ensure the utmost privacy and confidentiality in all its banking processes, as well as to ensure safety and security of the Bank's alternate banking channels. He also noted that this award reflects KIB's unwavering commitment to implementing the best banking solutions in line with the best international standards in information security.

By doing so, the Bank aims at safeguarding customer data to provide secure banking services that always meet customers' expectations.

On her part, Editor of Enterprise Channel MEA magazine, Anushree Dixit, said: "The Editorial team and judging panel responsible for the award focused primarily on projects carried out by those who received the award the previous year. Al-Suwaidan was chosen after his success in implementing an imperative cyber security project. Our research team also noted that Al-Suwaidan has been able to successfully develop and implement a unified information security management framework at KIB."

It is worth noting that GEC Media Group is a leading media house company across the MENA region. Based in Dubai, the company specializes in the IT & Cyber Security publications, events marketing, and communications services. Additionally, GEC Media Group publishes the Enterprise Channels MEA magazine & Cyber Sentinels Magazine, covering the best the industry has to offer across the region.



## Japan firm signs with SpaceX for lunar missions

**TOKYO:** A Japanese start-up is to send spacecraft to the moon in a deal signed with Elon Musk's SpaceX, the Tokyo-based firm said yesterday. Private lunar exploration company ispace said it would blast a lander and rovers towards the moon on a SpaceX rocket on two separate missions. The spacecraft will first orbit the moon in mid-2020, followed by a moon landing attempt set for mid-2021.

It comes a week after SpaceX confirmed Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa will be the first man to fly around the moon on a SpaceX rocket as early as 2023. "We share the vision with SpaceX of enabling humans to live in space, so we're very glad they will join us in this first step of our journey," ispace CEO Takeshi Hakamada said in a statement. Hakamada also told reporters the company chose SpaceX as it is "highly credible" and "capable".

SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell said in a statement that the company is "proud to have been selected by ispace to launch their first lunar missions". Hakamada said he could not reveal costs for lunar programs. The company has already collected nearly \$95 million from investors. ispace, which now has more than 60 employees, competed as one of five finalists in the Google Lunar XPrize, which offered \$30 million in prizes but ended with no winner. — AFP



TOKYO: Takeshi Hakamada, CEO of Japanese firm ispace, holds a press conference to explain about the ispace lunar lander and rover of its lunar program HAKUTO-R in Tokyo. — AFP

## NASA sees its stalled Martian robot, but still no signals

**WASHINGTON:** NASA scientists can now see their solar-powered probe that was lost in a Martian dust storm more than 100 days ago—but the vintage robot hasn't shown any signs of life. Thanks to a high-resolution camera aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, NASA said Tuesday it can see the Opportunity rover in Perseverance Valley, on the edge of a huge crater. Opportunity was descending into the valley when a dust storm that was first detected May 30 swept over the region. In NASA's image, the vehicle appears as a tiny white dot.

The 15-year-old rover was last heard

from on June 10, when it went into "sleep" mode as dust blocked out the Sun and darkness enveloped the Red Planet. "NASA still hasn't heard from the Opportunity rover, but at least we can see it again," NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said in a statement. Opportunity and its twin rover, Spirit, are a pair of unmanned robotic vehicles designed by NASA to tool around on the Martian surface and transmit data about conditions there back to Earth.

They landed on Mars in 2003 on a mission meant to last 90 days and span 1,000 yards. Spirit lasted 20 times longer than that. It became stuck in soft soil in 2009, and its mission was formally declared over in 2011. Opportunity is going on 60 times its planned mission life, has traveled 28 miles and found evidence of water on Mars and conditions that may have been suitable for sustaining microbial life. Last month, NASA said it would work until mid-October to try to bring Opportunity back to life, a timeframe fans of "Oppy" said was too short. — AFP

## US unveils first step toward new online privacy rules

**WASHINGTON:** The US administration called Tuesday for public comments on a "new approach to consumer data privacy" that could trigger fresh regulations of internet companies. The Commerce Department said the announcement is part of an effort to "modernize US data privacy policy for the 21st century." The move follows the implementation this year of ramped up data protection rules imposed by the European Union, and a new privacy law enacted in California.

Both measures will impact internet firms whose websites can be accessed around the globe. Privacy and data protection have come into greater focus in response to these new laws, and also because of growing concerns on how private data is handled following revelations on the hijacking of millions of Facebook

user profiles by a political consultancy ahead of the 2016 election.

"The United States has a long history of protecting individual privacy, but our challenges are growing as technology becomes more complex, interconnected and integrated into our daily lives," said David Redl, who heads the agency's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). "The Trump administration is beginning this conversation to solicit ideas on a path for adapting privacy to today's data-driven world."

The agency said it was also developing a voluntary privacy framework to help organizations manage risk and working on ways "to increase global regulatory harmony." The Commerce Department statement said the agency is focused on "desired outcomes" for privacy rather than dictating specific practices. But it plans to seek public comment on transparency practices—how data is collected and used—as well as security safeguards.

Users of online platforms "should be able to reasonably access and correct personal data they have provided," the statement added. "Organizations should take steps to manage the risk of disclosure or harmful uses of personal data." — AFP

## Europe's Ariane 5 rocket blasts off for 100th time

**PARIS:** A European-made rocket has blasted off from French Guiana for the 100th time, in a symbolic landmark for its manufacturer as it comes under increasing pressure from Elon Musk's SpaceX program. The Ariane 5 spacecraft took off from the Caribbean launch site on Tuesday at 19:38, propelling two telecom satellites into orbit.

In service for more than two decades and capable of blasting heavy payloads into the sky, the Ariane 5 has become the workhorse of European space launches under the guidance of the European Space Agency (ESA). But it will soon be replaced by an

updated model, the Ariane 6, which will be an estimated 40 percent cheaper to make.

This is partly in response to SpaceX's arrival on the commercial space flight scene, with its reusable Falcon 9 rocket holding the potential to undercut rival programs. SpaceX has outpaced European manufacturer Arianespace in terms of number of launches for two straight years. "We are having to face unprecedented competition," Arianespace head Stephane Israel said. Since it was first launched in 1996, the Ariane 5 has put 205 satellites into orbit including for Europe's Galileo GPS system.—AFP



KOUROU: Ariane 5 rocket lifts off for its 100th mission to space from Kourou, French Guiana. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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What's On

# Kuwait Hotel Owners Association hosts STR workshop at Regency Hotel



Hotels owners and general managers

Kuwait Hotel Owners Association (KHOA) hosted the first workshop of its kind organized in Kuwait by US-based Smith Travel Research Company (STR) with the participation of owners and general managers of hotels and hotel institutions. The workshop was held in Regency Hotel and was attended by hotels' sales, marketing and revenue managers.

The workshop discussed ways of laying out visions, targets, plans and best benchmarking practices in hotel management, as well as evaluating the sector's performance in the Middle East, with Kuwait taking up a substantial part of the discussions. The workshop was followed by the signing of a cooperation protocol between Hotel Owners Association and the Smith Travel Research Co, which will provide the sector with travel data from and to Kuwait and the region to utilize

in consolidating hotel occupancy in Kuwait.

The Smith Travel Research is an American company based in Hendersonville, Tennessee. It has a profound experience of over 32 years in tracking and analyzing supply and demand data of various travel markets including the international hotel industry. STR boasts a membership of over 50 thousand hotels and provides information on over 6.8 million hotel rooms in the world. The company incorporates several subsidiaries which feed its objectives of helping the growth of travel and hospitality for its clients.

A statement by the Hotel Owners Association maintained that the workshop offered a meeting opportunity for the hotel sector decision makers and a venue for exchanging views and discussions about the trends, challenges and changes in the hotel market perform-

ance. It stressed the importance of such workshops and meetings in view of the strong competition of the hospitality industry in the region, particularly in the GCC countries.

The Association statement pointed out the Kuwaiti hotel sector witnessed in the past years a large increase in investments with the opening of new hotels in various parts of the country with the targeted customers, especially the accommodation market, remaining largely unchanged. This posed many challenges relating to the percentage of hotel occupancy and the average hotel room profit.

As a result of the weak external promotion of visiting Kuwait as a tourist attraction, Kuwaiti hotels are inclined to take charge of the sector's business alone waiting for government plans to strengthen growth

indicators, particularly ways of utilizing the travel and flights data in the occupancy percentages and commensurate pricing of the services of our hotels which enjoy the highest standards of quality and excellence as attested to by international benchmark certificates.

The statement added the ability to reconcile various planning ingredients to the requirements of profitability is essential at this stage. The workshop has undoubtedly provided great assistance to the sector in general and to all hotels towards improving performance and its direct and long-term returns. Surely the Cooperation Protocol signed recently between the Association representing Kuwaiti hotels and the American company will be an important factor in how all participating hotels will benefit from the travelers and hotels data in the region in general.

## Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait holds farewell reception



Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait held a farewell reception for Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait H E Tatang Budie Utama Razak on the completion of his mission in Kuwait. Many dignitaries and media personal along with guests attended the reception. A workshop was held alongside to promote tourism in Indonesia. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



Sami Al Hamad, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Consular Affairs was the chief guest at Georgia national day reception at Crowne Plaza hotel. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

## Yeti or not, here comes the smallfoot shake

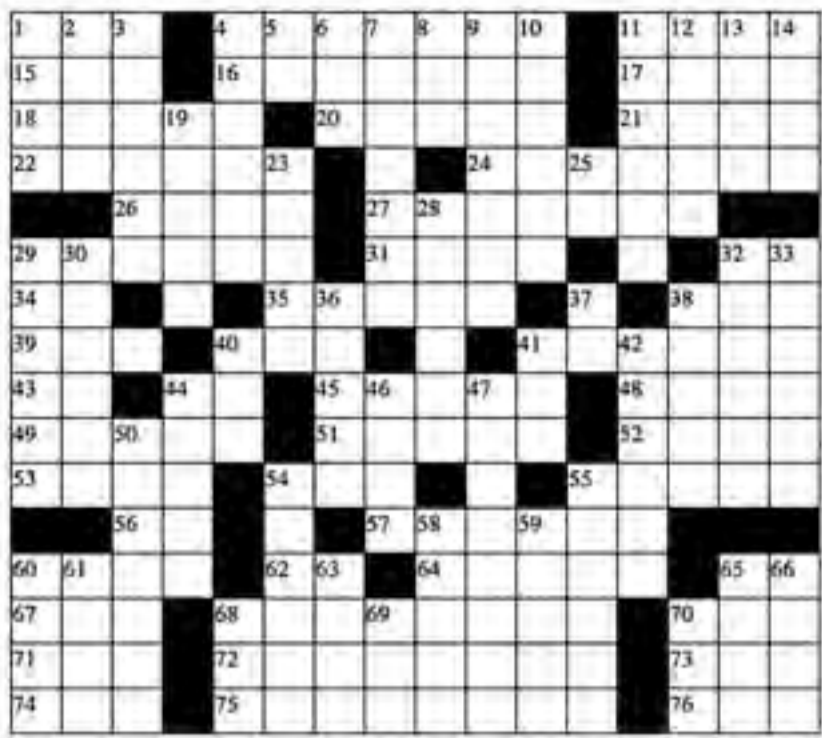
Movie and milkshake connoisseurs rejoice - cult New York burger joint Black Tap is celebrating the launch of upcoming animated family feature Smallfoot the most delicious way possible - with a limited-edition shake! An animated adventure for all ages, with an all-star cast and original music, Smallfoot turns a myth upside down when a bright young yeti finds something he thought didn't exist-a human. With an all-star cast led by Channing Tatum, James Gorden, Gina Rodriguez, Zendaya and Common, Smallfoot follows the story of a curious yeti Migo who sets out to prove that humans are real.

Thanks to this irresistible sweet treat, you can now venture out into the snowy wilderness on a full stomach and sugar high. The Smallfoot Shake, which will be available between Sept 20 - Oct 19, has been creatively crafted with a vanilla frosted rim covered in white and blue chocolate pearls with the centre made with creamy vanilla ice cream. Topped with a crunchy yeti-shaped cookie, whipped cream, a blue sugar straw and white cotton candy sprinkled with blue sugar, get your cameras and taste buds ready for a sensory treat!



Stars

CROSSWORD 2019



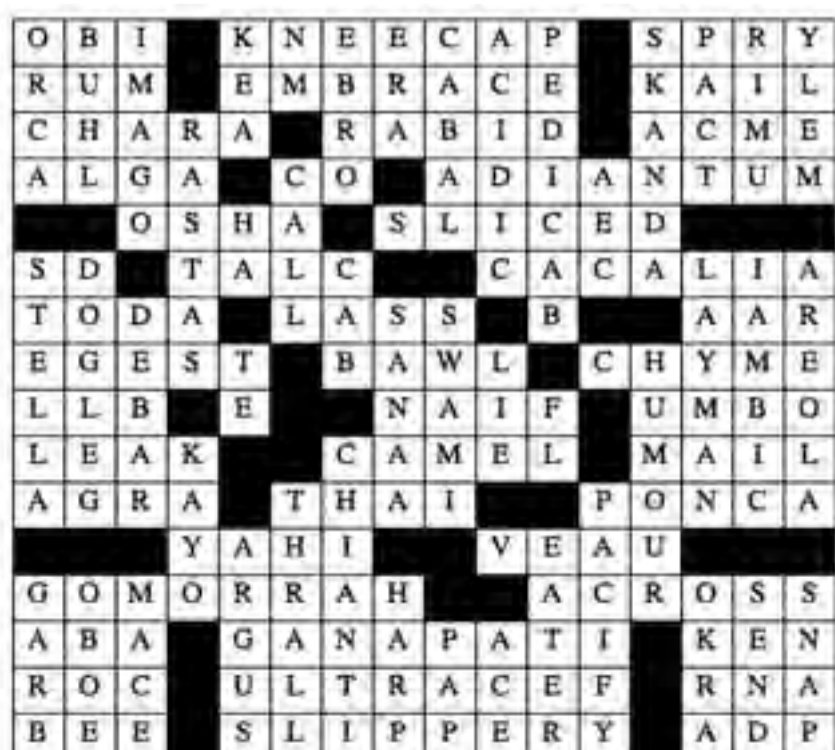
ACROSS

- Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
- A fast narrow sailing ship of the Mediterranean.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Relating to or consisting of or producing or resembling milk.
- The template for protein synthesis.
- A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
- Lighted by moonlight.
- Large hairy humanoid creature said to live in the Himalayas.
- The capital of Eritrea.
- An ache localized in the middle or inner ear.
- In bed.
- (Greek mythology) The Titan who was father of Atlas and Epimetheus and Prometheus in ancient mythology.
- A nation in northern North America.
- A constellation in the polar region of the southern hemisphere near Octans.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- A person who is abnormally small.
- Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
- Uttering in an irritated tone.
- Feeling or showing extreme anger.
- A choice or delicious dish.
- The content of cognition.
- An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- A large fleet.
- Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
- (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
- Industrial city of Belarus southeast of Minsk.
- A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
- An informal term for a father.
- A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- Italian violinist (1782-1840).
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A spacecraft that carries astronauts from the command module to the surface of the moon and back.
- A collection of excerpts from a literary work.
- A light touch or stroke.

DOWN

- A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
- By bad luck.
- Someone who drives a taxi for a living.
- Having a gradual increase in width.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your hard work is paying off. You will soon see the results. Try not to be too hard on others who are not as careful as you. They can be helpful. Just be sure you check their input and see that it meets your standards. Don't settle for sloppy work.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Whether a surprise to day is good or bad depends on your interpretation. Look on the positive side of things. Assume the situation will have a good outcome, and then work to make it happen. You can do anything you set your mind to do. You have tremendous powers that are waiting to be activated. Believe in yourself, Taurus. In addition to convincing others, you may have to convince yourself.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Don't skip out on your responsibilities even though you may be tempted. Seems as if a party is calling your name. You may regret choosing fun over your duties. This is not a good time for you to break any old molds and develop new patterns. This could cause conflict for you and not be in your best interest career wise. You are stable and predictable. This tends to bore you at times, but you are admired as the dependable one in the work place. You work well with others who see you as a natural born leader. This is being noticed at work and could bring reward and financial gain your way. Stick to what you know and continue your path to success.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Resist the need to be "wonderful." Such a reputation may sound good at first, but it's a trap. It sets up unrealistic expectations. It leads to a need to please. And that leads to conflict-inner and outer. Don't punish by trying to maintain an unrealistic reputation. Be yourself. Do what's natural. Remind yourself that you are enough just the way you are, Cancer. Those who love you will love you just they way you are and remember, other's opinions of you are none of your business. Stay happy and focused.



Leo (July 23-August 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 as wronged you. This will bring peace and harmony into your life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

People are attracted to your non-judgmental attitude. You always give the benefit of the doubt. This leads people to trust you when you make suggestions for change or improvement. Your friends and coworkers all know they can depend on you to come through for them. The downside may be that you don't see character flaws. This can lead to deep disappointments. Don't change your attitude Virgo. It's a valuable asset. Just watch for the clues.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find your life taking on a kind of mystical quality on the emotional and instinctive levels. Dreams and illusions, forgiveness and understanding of human frailties are the things that arouse deep feelings. The past and the future come together. The stumbling blocks between people seem to dissolve on their own. Things seem to be falling in place around you. Little or no effort needs to be made by you. This is the key to the greater psychic and spiritual sensitivity that you may be feeling now. Everything surrounding you and everyone you encounter seem to bring out the best in you.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find your life taking on a kind of mystical quality on the emotional and instinctive levels. Dreams and illusions, forgiveness and understanding of human frailties are the things that arouse deep feelings. The past and the future come together—thankfully the stumbling blocks between people go away. This is the key to the greater psychic and spiritual sensitivity that you may be feeling now. This a great time for you to be in group setting and be able to express yourself with great understanding of your audience. You value your own life situation at this time.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It seems as if your job requirements could stifle your sensitivity and hold you back from growing. Do not let all the seriousness take away your emotion. Take special care when handling this situation. It seems as if everything is bringing out the best in you. Your unique and unusual qualities seem to shine now. You are blessed to find someone close to you shows you much support. They may find your eccentricities refreshing and find that they are drawn to you. This would be a great time to find new solutions to old problems or great inventions.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

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 weighted 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.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Life seems to take on a mystical quality for you now. You may find you develop a greater understanding of just how fragile life is. A wake-up call seems to make you realize each day you are alive is a blessing. You are determined to live life to the fullest. This is a time you may start living as tomorrow will not come. Life is short and you are determined to love hard. This seems to influence you to be more affectionate and loving to those you are close to. You are in love with your life and all those in it.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are sensitive and understanding. This makes you a friend that others want to have. Not only do you find others turning to you for advice, but you feel loved and admired. You are in a great position for your voice to be heard. You will be able to share your opinions on the matters that mean the most to you and will find that you will easily gain support and backing for your cause. You feel great about who you are and what you stand for and are eager to have others join your team. Pisces, keep your focus positive and know you have the support from the ones that matter most.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Christmas Gift Ideas

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell an additional Christmas gift idea.

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

BAKING BELT BOOK BRACELET CANDLES CANDY CHOCOLATES CLOTHES COFFEE MAKER COFFEE MUG COLOGNE COOKIES DOLL EARRINGS ELECTRONICS FLOWERS GAME GIFT BASKET GIFT CARD HERBAL TEAS JEWELRY MONEY MOVIE MUSIC NECKLACE NECKTIE PANTS PENDANT PERFUME PLANT SCARF SHIRT SLIPPERS SNEAKERS SOCKS STUFFED ANIMAL SWEATER TELEVISION TOOL SET TOY TREE ORNAMENT WATCH WINE

Yesterday's Solution

Mystery Christmas Carol

ALL ANCIENT APPAREL AWAY BEFORE BLAZING BOUGHS CAROL CHORUS DON FAST FOLLOW GAY HALL HARP HEADLESS HOLLY JOIN JOLLY JOYOUS LADS LASSES MEASURE MERRY NEW NOW OLD OUR PASSES SEASON SING STRIKE TELL TIDE TIS TOGETHER TROLL TROLL WEATHER WHILE WIND WITH YEAR YULE

The Mystery Christmas Carol is: DECK THE HALLS

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018



A gallery employee poses next to an artwork by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama's entitled 'Narcissus Garden' at the preview of Space Shifters at the Hayward Gallery in London. — AFP

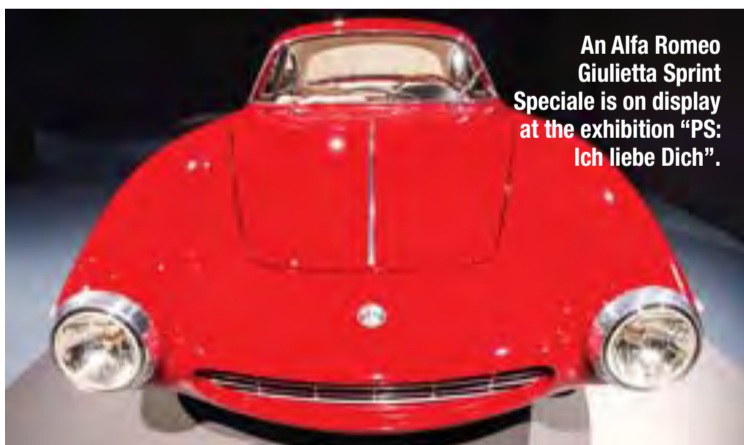
## The 'PS: Ich liebe Dich' Exhibition



A Mercedes-Benz C111 Typ II Concept car (right) and a BMW Turbo are on display at the exhibition "PS: Ich liebe Dich" (CARS - Driven by Design - Sports Cars from the 1950s to the 1970s) at the Museum Kunstpalast in Duesseldorf, western Germany, yesterday. According to the museum, the "exhibition is the first of its kind directing the focus on the car as a work of art combining form, technology, design and emotion". The show runs from September 27, 2018 to February 10, 2019. — AFP photos



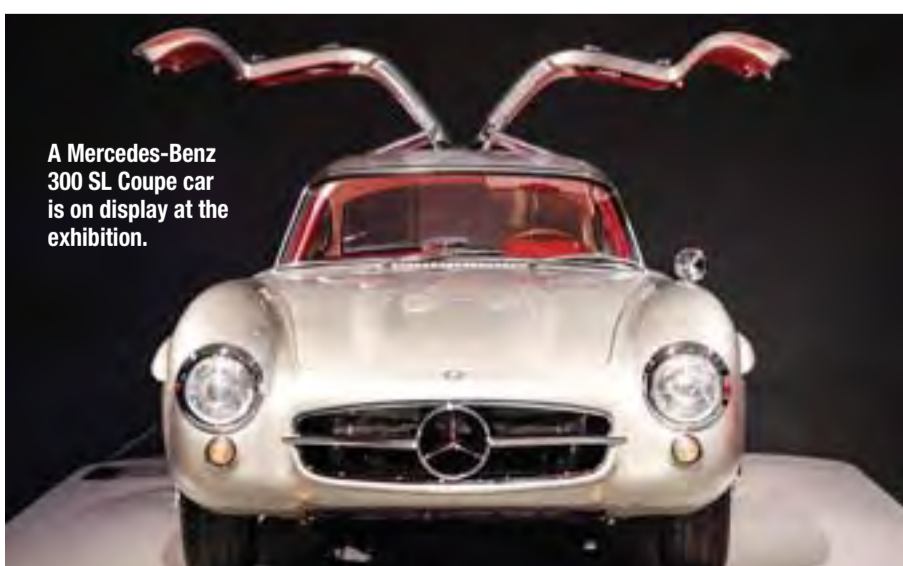
A golden Lamborghini Miura P400 (foreground) and a Lamborghini Countach 5000 QV are on display at the exhibition.



An Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint Speciale is on display at the exhibition "PS: Ich liebe Dich".



Two Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Coupe cars are on display at the exhibition.



A Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Coupe car is on display at the exhibition.



A golden Lamborghini Miura S Serie II is on display at the exhibition.

### Meghan stuns Britain by shutting car door

The gesture is so mechanical few people even notice it. Yet when Meghan Markle, the US actress turned newly-wed wife of Britain's Prince Harry, closed her own car door, a wave of shock and awe rolled over Britain. Videos of the brazen moment flooded social media and generated headlines that searched for adjectives to describe the momentous nature of what had just occurred. "Meghan Markle leaves people in shock as she shuts own CAR DOOR on first solo engagement," the Express reported.

It included the footage: Meghan, 37, stepping out of a luxurious black sedan and being greeted on her arrival on Tuesday at her first solo engagement-the opening of an exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. The man in a tuxedo who welcomed her with a warm handshake and appeared to be preparing to close the door quickly swiped his hand over his mouth the moment Meghan, now the Duchess of Sussex, closed the door behind her back without looking. The BBC summarized the mood of the nation in its own headline: "Meghan closes a car door and some people can't handle it."

Meghan's every smile, step and wave has been scrutinized by royalty watchers curious to see how the mixed-race American actress will perform in her new role. She is adored by the public and shadowed at every appearance by the press. Many saw it as a sign that Meghan remained a down-to-earth woman without pretenses, despite being married to the grandson of Queen Elizabeth II. "A princess who still takes the time to shut her car door," Emily Andrews, the royal correspondent for The Sun tabloid, tweeted. "Well done Meghan!"

But one royal correspondent tried to bring everyone back to their senses by noting that Meghan had not, in fact, breached any protocol. "Usually royalty and dignitaries have someone to open/close car doors for security reasons: nothing to do with 'princess behavior,'" tweeted William Hanson, an etiquette coach and columnist for the Daily Mail's website. "Meghan clearly just shut the door out of force of habit." — AFP



Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (right), attends the opening of the 'Oceania' exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) in central London. — AFP



Models present creations by Yves Saint Laurent during the Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos

# Saint Laurent walks on water at Paris fashion week



Anthony Vaccarello made a splash by having his models walk on water for his Saint Laurent Paris fashion week show Tuesday. The Belgian designer may have divided opinion since he took over from the "Sultan of Skinny" Hedi Slimane at the French label two years ago, but there was no doubting the chutzpah of his spring summer collection. With the Eiffel Tower glittering in the background, Vaccarello sent his models down a flooded open-air runway bordered by neon palm trees. Known for his hyper-sexy leggy aesthetic and for never using an inch of fabric more than the most elastic definition of decency requires, the designer insisted on his addition to the power dresser's wardrobe-black leather hot pants.

For those with doubts, they also come in snake skin. There were also splashes of unaccustomed color from a man who has up to now at Saint Laurent mainly stuck to a leather-heavy two-tone diet of black and white. With actress Charlotte Gainsbourg, models Kate Moss, Cindy Crawford, Korean star Lee Sung Kyung and former French first lady Carla Bruni in the front row, Vaccarello went as far as matching a red retro jacket with a green spotty blouse. A hippy chic 1970s vibe seemed to spill over from Saint Laurent's Kering stable mate Gucci-minus the irony. Lots of red and blue velvet, hussar jackets and wide-brimmed hats summoned up the dying days of flower power.

But despite the odd disarmingly innocent Jean Seberg/young Mia Farrow look, it still remained Vaccarello,



who cannot help himself turning out killer rock chick party animal silhouettes. As Indian fashion critic Manish D Mishra tweeted dryly, the show was all "ni\*\*s blazing and python boots flashing". — AFP





Models present creations by Maison Margiela during the Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.



Models present creations by AfterHomeWork.



Models present creations by Mugler during the Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.



## Five things to know about Michael Kors

**G**lobal fashion giant Michael Kors announced Tuesday that it had agreed to buy Versace, signaling an intention to move deeper into the international big league after snapping up shoemaker Jimmy Choo last year. The company, rooted in iconic American fashion, but headquartered in London, will pay \$2.1 billion for the Italian luxury giant, a statement said. Here are five things to know about Michael Kors:

### Mr Kors

The creative vision is Michael Kors, the Long Island born creative director who founded the label in 1981 after dropping out of fashion school. He has flirted with billionaire status and is still supremely wealthy. For 10 years, he was a judge on television show "Project Runway," where his acerbic commentary brought him nationwide fame. From 1997 to 2004, he was women's ready-to-wear designer at French fashion house Celine.

### New York state of mind

The company might be officially headquartered in

London, but the label is quintessentially American in design, outlook and spirit. Michael Kors New York fashion week shows are strictly A-list, welcoming the likes of Nicole Kidman, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Blake Lively. His clean, urban silhouette has dressed the likes of Michelle Obama, such as the famous sleeveless shift in her first official portrait as first lady—and Melania Trump.

### Troubled waters

As a business enterprise, the company has had its ups and downs. In 1993 was forced to file for bankruptcy protection after having lost the support of investors. But with the help of an initial investment from LVMH, where he was creative director at Celine, he relaunched and got back on track.

### Mass appeal

The American fashion entrepreneurial spirit is commercial-lifestyle brands set at a price point attainable for the aspirational and well marketed. Like its main American rival Coach, which has now been rolled into company

Tapestry, Michael Kors is high-end but not at the level of luxury as Versace. MK bags are popular with working women, selling for between \$200 to \$600. Much of its mass appeal comes from its accessories—bags, glasses, footwear and scent.

### Comeback kid

John Idol joined Michael Kors in 2003 and has been instrumental in its turn around, becoming chairman in 2011, the year the company went public on the New York Stock Exchange. It has presided over an aggressive expansion, before being forced to retrench over falling sales and in 2017 announce the closure of 125 stores. Announcing its first quarter fiscal 2019 results in August, the company estimated total revenue for the year at \$5.12 billion, including \$580-590 from Jimmy Choo, compared to \$4.7 billion in 2017 and \$800 million in 2011. By late June, the company has 1,000 Michael Kors locations around the world and more than 252 Jimmy Choo outlets. — AFP



The Michael Kors store in Beverly Hills, California is seen. — AFP

## Lifestyle | Features

## Elderly stars give love one last go in sequel to film classic

French director Claude Lelouch has started shooting a sequel to his classic romance "A Man and a Woman" with the same actors, 52 years after the original was a box office smash. The movie has gone down in film legend for its theme tune of the same name, with its "chabadabada, chabadabada" refrain. Lelouch's production company confirmed Wednesday that filming had begun in Deauville on the northern French coast, the same resort where the 1966 double-Oscar-winning love story unfolds. Its co-stars Anouk Aimee, now 86, and 87-year-old Jean-Louis Trintignant have both taken up their original roles as a widow and a widower who rekindle love.

Lelouch told AFP that he wanted to go back to the heartbreaking story one more time after making a first sequel, "A Man and a Woman: 20 Years Later", in 1986. "In this film I want to tell how life is stronger than death. "A Man and a

Woman' is a homage to life. It is a love story that tells us that there is always a second chance," he said earlier. "The same actors have retaken up their roles. The script is secret, it will be a surprise," his production company Films 13 said in a statement. As well as its double Oscar victory, the original film won two Golden Globes and the Palme d'Or at the Cannes film festival.

## Star retired twice

Trintignant came back from a 14-year retirement in 2012 to make the Oscar- and Palme d'Or-winning "Amour" after Austrian director Michael Haneke wrote the film for him. He revealed in July that he had prostate cancer, declaring that he never wanted to make another film. "I am afraid I would not be able to do it physically," he told the Nice Matin daily. But the veteran—a thrill-seeking racing car driver in his youth—clearly found the strength from somewhere for one last performance. Both actors are

living legends in France, with Aimee adored for her iconic roles in Jacques Demy's "Lola", Fellini's masterpiece "La Dolce Vita" and the American Robert Altman's "Pret a Porter".

The original film also made the theme song by Pierre Barouh and Francis Lai a global hit. "We didn't know that it would be such an optimistic film at the start," Lelouch recalled. "When I wrote it first I thought to myself, 'Bloody hell, it's sad.' The optimism came from the music; we showed that life was stronger than death and they were a match," he added. — AFP

In this file photo taken on May 12, 1986 (from right) French actor Jean-Louis Trintignant, actress Anouk Aimee, director Claude Lelouch and his wife Marie-Sophie, pose during a press conference at the 39th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, southern France. — AFP



## Dancing queen: Abba-period Cher has a new army of devotees

Cher has a stately air as she receives a steady line of journalists in a West Hollywood hotel room with the studied equanimity of Catherine the Great addressing her subjects at the Winter Palace. If Madonna is the Queen of Pop then Cher is surely the Empress of Entertainment, surveying the spoils of a showbiz career that has reaped a best actress Oscar, three Golden Globes, an Emmy, a Grammy and a number one record in each of the last five decades. And with an acclaimed movie role this summer, a new album of Abba covers on the way and a Broadway musical about her life on the horizon, the 72-year-old icon shows no signs of abdicating anytime soon.

"It seems I have a bunch of new fans, young ones, little ones. It's great. I honestly didn't expect it," she enthuses, a playful grin fleetingly snapping the aristocratic aura. A post-war baby boomer of Armenian, European and Cherokee heritage, the performer was born Cherylyn Sarkisian in southern California. To a certain generation she will always be an icon of Sixties counterculture and the unique contralto voice who, along with late former husband Sonny Bono, gave the world "I Got You Babe."

But she has been shocking and delighting since ditching her folksy girl-next-door Sonny and Cher-era image to emerge as the siren in a hardly-there body suit and leather jacket in the 1989 "Turn Back Time" video—a quarter-century before "twerking" had entered the lexicon. "Believe" brought Cher to a new generation of fans in 1998, with its innovative deployment of the robotic, digitally-enhanced "vocoder" vocal for which she is now famous.

## Stealing the show

Cher holds the record for the longest gap between number one songs on the US chart at nearly 25 years but recently has mostly concentrated on a residency show in Las Vegas. She has been in more than a dozen movies, Oscar-nominated for her turn as a nuclear safety activist in "Silkwood," and acclaimed for roles as a tough, non-sense mother in "Mask" and a young Italian American widow in "Moonstruck," for which she won her Academy Award. This summer, she reunited with



In this file photo singer Cher performs at the MGM Grand Garden Arena during her Dressed to Kill tour in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

longtime friend and "Silkwood" co-star Meryl Streep to sing two of the signature tunes on "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," the sequel to Abba-inspired 2008 jukebox musical "Mamma Mia!" She is scornful of the term "starred" for what amounted to a relatively short stretch of screen time but the fact is she stole the show after turning up in the final act.

The movie inspired her 26th album, a collection of Abba covers called "Dancing Queen" that is a mix of reverent rereleases and club versions that are unmistakably Cher. "'Mamma Mia!' and 'Waterloo,'—those are the most like the original. I didn't want to change them in any way," she told AFP ahead of the album's September 28 release. "And the other ones, there's no way I'm going to ever sound like the girls. So best to just do what I do and hope

for the best." With only 10 tracks to choose from, Cher says she went for a blend of the all-time classics with some of her own personal favorites, such as "Chiquitita," "One of Us" and "Name of the Game." "Singing is different than listening, and I think the important thing for me was to try to keep the essence of Abba and try to blend myself in with them," the singer added.

## 'That was fun'

Early previews of songs have gone down well with critics and fans but it has not been entirely plain sailing. AFP caught up with the pop legend on the day she was finishing the record — and just hours after one of her favorite tracks, "One of Us," had briefly gone missing, prompting no small amount of middle-of-the-night panic. "I was upset," she says, a study in understatement. A platinum blonde these days, the star has always been famous for her outrageous, revealing stage attire. The feathers and fishnets will be getting a workout again with the singer at the start of a grueling tour that takes her from Australia and New Zealand in the fall to just about every corner of North America next year.

One day she'll slow down—perhaps if "The Cher Show," a musical due to hit Broadway in December—earns her a producer's Tony Award to complete the coveted "EGOT" awards grand slam alongside her Emmy, Grammy and Oscar. For now, each success is "Just Enough to Keep Me Hangin' On," in the words of one of her early singles. "Sometimes I love it and sometimes I just want to tear my eyes out... Of course I have those days, and what I've learned is you just go through them and they pass," she says. "And sometimes you only have a week of it, or sometimes you're like, 'Oh my God.' You're thinking, 'Oh my God' and then you do the show when you're thinking, 'Oh that was fun. That was good.'" — AFP

## French rap video calling for 'whites to be hanged' causes furore

A little-known French rapper has caused outrage by calling for whites to be killed in a video depicting a white man being tortured, shot and hanged from a tree. The video by Nick Conrad—which controversial black comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, a convicted anti-Semite, linked to on his Facebook page on Saturday—was viewed thousands of times on YouTube before being taken down yesterday. In one scene from 'PLB' (short for 'Pendez Les Blancs', or 'Hang Whites') the rapper and an associate drag their white victim along the pavement and kick him in the head, in an apparent reference to a scene from the film American History X, about the abuse of blacks by American neo-Nazis.

The lyrics evoke the killing of adults and children with the rapper singing: "I walk into creches, I kill white babies, catch them quick and hang their parents." Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux condemned the "hateful, nauseating lyrics in the strongest possible terms" as did Interior Minister Gerard Collomb, who slammed the video's "abject remarks and ignominious attacks". The Paris prosecutors office opened an inquiry, with the rapper likely to face charges of incitement to hatred under France's strict hate speech laws. Anti-racism organization LICRA, which filed a formal police complaint, also hit out at the rapper, saying his artistic freedom "is not the freedom to call for whites to be hanged because of the color of their skin." — AFP

## El Gouna film festival



Egyptian actress Mona Zaki walks the red carpet as she attends the screening of 'Gunshots' during the second edition of the El Gouna film festival on the Red Sea in Egypt. — AFP photos



Syrian actress Sulafa Memar walks the red carpet.



Egyptian movie star Bushra Rozza waves on the red carpet.



A picture shows Russian journalist and photographer Sergei Shakhidzhanyan presenting his private collection of Soviet Zenit film cameras in Moscow. — AFP photos



## Leica revives iconic Soviet Zenit camera

German camera manufacturer Leica is reviving the legendary Soviet Zenit camera more than 30 years after its mass production ended, with a new digital model unveiled yesterday. The new camera, showcased at a photography exhibition in Cologne on Wednesday, will be available from December in Europe and from January 2019 in Russia. The design of the new Zenit M is inspired by the Soviet Union's Zenit and Zorki cameras—which, in turn, had ironically been inspired by Leica. The new camera will be jointly produced by Russia and Germany and will sell for 5,000 to 6,000 euros (\$5,900-\$7,000). "The main target audience is luxury and amateur photogra-

phers," a spokesman for the Russian holding company Shvabe told AFP, insisting that the cameras will be worth their price tag.

"The price of the product will be absolutely adequate, taking into account the brands that are taking part in this project," the spokesman said. Shvabe—which is controlled by Russia's state conglomerate Rostec—describes the project as a "synergy" between Leica technologies and the Krasnogorsk plant, the maker of the original Zenit and Zorki cameras. The partnership will allow the Russian group to resume the production of the camera under the Zenit brand name, while embarking on a new digital course.

Production of Zenit cameras flourished in the Soviet Union. They were also widely exported to the Eastern Bloc and eventually became available in the West. Mass production of the camera stopped in 1986. A limited number of cameras was still made at the plant until 2005, when it stopped assembling whole cameras and began making lenses. The new camera will be based on the Leica M 240 platform, with a lens "completely designed and manufactured in Russia," the Shvabe holding said. "The new optics will be manufactured according to the new quality standards set by Leica Camera, but at the same time will preserve that unobtrusive artistic picture received on the lenses of the Krasnogorsk plant," its spokesman said. — AFP



Russia's journalist and photographer Sergei Shakhidzhanyan's private collection of Soviet Zenit film cameras in Moscow.

# Classifieds

Thursday, September 27, 2018

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 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 26/09/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	42 °C	32 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	43 °C	25 °C		
AHDALY	42 °C	24 °C		
HUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAIRA	43 °C	28 °C		
FALAKA ISLAND	41 °C	28 °C		
SALMIYAH	39 °C	32 °C		
AHMADI	41 °C	33 °C		
NUWAISIB	41 °C	29 °C		
WAFRA	43 °C	25 °C		
SALMY	41 °C	26 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	09/27	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	42 °C	26 °C	VRB	06 - 20 km/h
Friday	09/28	Hot	43 °C	27 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h
Saturday	09/29	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	42 °C	25 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Sunday	09/30	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	41 °C	26 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:19
Sunrise	05:38
Zuhr	11:40
Asr	15:05
Sunset	17:40
Isha	18:57

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	30 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	NW 40 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jabin Thomas S/o Thomas John, holder of Indian Passport No. N9722555, R/o Vipunayil J.J. Villa, Manjadi P.O., Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta Dist., Kerala 689 105 and presently residing at Kuwait do hereby changed my name to Jabin Thomas John with immediate effect. (C 5422) 27-9-2018

## Airlines

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

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

## DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 27/9/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 27/9/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FEG	242	Alexandria	14:50
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	691	Muscat	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	JZR	188	Dubai	15:10
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVB	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	FDB	8066	Dubai	16:00
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KNE	532	Jeddah	16:55
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	SAW	706	Dammam	17:00
KAC	152	Istanbul	04:20	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:30
QTR	8511	33F	06:40	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	266	Beirut	19:15
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	151	Istanbul	19:25
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
AZQ	4565	Baku	08:00	NIA	162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	JZR	550	Alexandria	21:30
SYR	341	Dammam	10:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
JZR	540	Cairo	11:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	JZR	1540	Cairo	22:10
SAW	701	Dammam	12:30	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	1543	Cairo	13:05	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	QTR	1083	Doha	23:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45
KAC	792	Madinah	13:40	QTR	231	KRT	23:55
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45				
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50				
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55				
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15				
SVB	500	Jeddah	14:15				
KAC	516	Tehran	14:20				
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20				
KAC	618	Doha	14:20				
KAC	798	Taif	14:40				
JZR	789	Riyadh	14:45				
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50				
FDB	8065	Dubai	15:00				
KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05				
KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10				
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10				
OMA	645	Amman	15:20				
KAC	502	Muscat	15:20				

# Trump takes aim at Iran, China at Security Council

**UNITED NATIONS:** US President Donald Trump yesterday accused Iran of spreading chaos and China of meddling in US elections at a UN Security Council meeting that laid bare divisions between the United States and other world powers. Presiding for the first time a meeting of the United Nations' body, Trump denounced the "horrible, one-sided" nuclear deal with Iran that he ditched in May, to the dismay of European allies.

A gavel-wielding Trump took a swipe at China, accusing Beijing of working against his Republican Party in upcoming midterm elections as payback for their growing trade war, a charge China's foreign minister said was "unwarranted". Wednesday's meeting highlighted a rift between the United States and its European allies over the Iran nuclear deal. Trump vowed that re-imposed sanctions will be "in full force" and urged world powers to work with the United States to "ensure the Iranian regime changes its behavior and never acquires a nuclear bomb".

Addressing the council after Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron hit back, declaring that concerns about Iran cannot be tackled with "a policy of sanctions and containment". Also defending the deal that was endorsed in a Security Council resolution, British Prime Minister Theresa May said it "remains the best means of preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon."

The United States has moved to reimpose sanctions that had been lifted under the 2015 deal to curb Iran's nuclear program and has vowed to punish foreign firms that do business with Iran. Trump argued that since the deal was signed in 2015, "Iran's aggression only increased" and that funds released from the lifting of sanctions had been used "to support terrorism, build nuclear capable missiles and foment chaos."

Iran did not request to speak at the council meeting, but Iranian President Hassan Rohani told a news conference that the United States would eventually rejoin the nuclear deal and pledged Tehran's continued commitment to the accord. "The United States of America

one day, sooner or later, will come back. This cannot be continued," Rouhani said.

Turning to Syria, Trump assailed Russia and Iran for backing President Bashar Al-Assad in his brutal war in Syria, saying: "The Syrian regime's butchery is enabled by Russia and Iran." China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed that the "rights of all countries to trade with Iran should be respected" after the European Union said a special payment system would be set up to keep alive business ties with Iran.

## 'Unwarranted' accusations

In a blunt attack on China, Trump told the council that China wanted to see him suffer an elections setback because of his hard line on trade. "Regrettably we found that China has been attempting to interfere in our upcoming 2018 election coming up in November against my administration," he said. "They do not want me or us to win because I am the first president ever to challenge China on trade."

The Republicans could lose control of both the Senate and House of Representatives in November's elections, further imperiling Trump's chances of chalking up legislative achievements. The Chinese foreign minister responded flatly that Beijing strictly adhered to a policy of non-interference. "We did not and will not interfere in any country's domestic affairs. We refuse to accept any unwarranted accusations against China," said Wang.

Tensions have soared between Beijing and Washington after Trump this week slapped new tariffs covering \$200 billion in Chinese goods exported to the United States. On North Korea, Trump called for sanctions to be strictly enforced against Pyongyang - a message directed at Russia and China which are pushing for an easing of punitive measures to reward North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Without naming countries, the US president noted that "some nations are already violating UN sanctions" including illegal ship-to-ship transfers of oil and said



**NEW YORK:** US President Donald Trump opens a UN Security Council meeting yesterday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. — AFP

compliance was "very important". His comments came shortly before his top diplomat, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, signaled Wednesday that he would return to North Korea next month to push forward

denuclearization talks. It was only the third time in UN history that a US president chaired a Security Council meeting. Barack Obama presided over two meetings in 2009 and 2014. — AFP

## Cinemas and fast fashion: Reforms...

Continued from Page 1

Overall consumption, which accounts for about 40 percent of gross domestic product, has stayed robust, averaging 4 percent a year in the past five years, despite the reforms. Consumer spending weakened at the start of this year as the utility price rises took effect but higher prices for oil exports left room in the budget for bonuses and one-off payments for lower income families and spending has picked up.

Most analysts expect growth to continue for the next few years, partly due to women entering the work force after a female driving ban was lifted in June. The pace of growth is expected to be weaker than in the past decade, however. The changes are proving challenging for retailers. Alhokair is one of six of Saudi Arabia's 10 major retail firms which registered lower net profit in the quarter ending June 30. Five posted lower sales.

Food and retail conglomerate Savola Group shut seven supermarkets and two other stores in the second quarter in a plan to reduce its retail selling space by 3.8 percent. But then in May it bought a majority stake in a frozen foods processing firm. Analysts have said that could reflect an anticipation of increased demand for frozen food if women abandon traditional homemaker roles to go to work.

The departure of some 700,000 foreigners has also had an impact. Almarai's sliced bread sales were

partly dented by the departure of expatriates. That helped drag down its second quarter bakery sales by 8 percent from the same period in 2017. "There is a change taking place in this country and you cannot do change without pain," Georges Schorderet, CEO of major Saudi food producer Almarai said on an earnings call last month. "I'm not expecting a better business environment in the short to medium term."

Businesses in Saudi Arabia's bazaars have taken a hit. In Riyadh's Batha bazaar, a popular shopping destination for Asian expatriates, business has slowed. "Business was very good when I first came here. But now you spend days without a single customer buying anything," said 43-year-old Bilal, who runs a small eyewear and watch shop. He said a lot of his customers were expatriates like him who are leaving Saudi Arabia. He will soon return to Bangladesh.

As of September, Saudis must make up 70 percent of the workforce in 12 retail areas including selling furniture, car spare parts, sweets, watches and eyeglasses. The goal is to push more Saudis to work in a sector they have long shunned because of its perceived low pay but it may also mean extra training and recruitment costs for retailers. L'azurde Company for Jewellery and Alhokair have said their operating costs could rise due to the "Saudiization" of the sector.

The government also plans to ease restrictions on e-commerce, an area where Saudi Arabia trails other Gulf countries. This could bring further change to the sector. "The country's young population, high connectivity rates and advanced infrastructure are projected to propel the growth of e-commerce sales over the next several years," said yStats.com, an e-commerce intelligence firm. — Reuters

the conservative judge. California university professor Christine Blasey Ford was to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee Thursday about her accusation that Kavanaugh assaulted her at a high school party when they were both teenagers.

The US Senate's top Democrat Chuck Schumer demanded yesterday that Republicans "immediately suspend" the confirmation process. "I strongly believe Judge Kavanaugh should withdraw from consideration," Schumer said in a statement. "If he will not, at the very least, the hearing and vote should be postponed while the FBI investigates all of these allegations."

Kavanaugh also stands accused of exposing himself to a classmate, Deborah Ramirez, causing her to touch him without consent, during an alcohol-fueled Yale University party a few years later. Kavanaugh, in prepared testimony released yesterday, repeated his denial of Blasey Ford's allegation. "I categorically and unequivocally deny the allegation against me by Dr Ford," he said. "I never had any sexual or physical encounter of any kind with Dr Ford."

"Over the past few days, other false and uncorroborated accusations have been aired," he added. "There has been a frenzy to come up with something - anything, no matter how far-fetched or odious - that will block a vote on my nomination. "These are last minute smears, pure and simple," Kavanaugh said. "I will not be intimidated into withdrawing from this process," he said. "This effort to destroy my good name will not drive me out."

Kavanaugh was handpicked by Donald Trump for the lifelong post on the Supreme Court, and has continued to enjoy the president's steadfast backing despite the allegations against him. As Trump repeated his support for Kavanaugh yesterday, calling him "outstanding" and an "absolute gem," four people released affidavits claiming that Blasey Ford had told them about the alleged sexual assault prior to his nomination for the Supreme Court. Avenatti, Swetnick's lawyer, is the attorney for Stormy Daniels, the porn star who claimed to have had a sexual encounter with Trump more than a decade ago. — AFP

## Erdogan says court will decide fate of US pastor

**NEW YORK:** Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said a Turkish court, not politicians, will decide the fate of an American pastor whose detention on terrorism charges has hit relations between Ankara and Washington. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday he was hopeful Turkey would release evangelical pastor Andrew Brunson this month. The preacher was moved to house arrest in July after being detained for 21 months.

In an interview with Reuters late on Tuesday while he was in New York for the United Nations General Assembly meetings, Erdogan said any decision on Brunson would be made by the court. "This is a judiciary matter. Brunson has been detained on terrorism charges ... On Oct 12 there will be another hearing and we don't know what the court will decide and politicians will have no say on the verdict," Erdogan said. If found guilty, Brunson could be jailed for up to 35 years. He denies the charges. "As the president, I don't have the right to order his release. Our judiciary is independent. Let's wait and see what the court will decide," Erdogan said.

US President Donald Trump, infuriated by Brunson's detention, authorized a doubling of duties on aluminum and steel imported from Turkey in August. Turkey retaliated by increasing tariffs on US cars, alcohol and tobacco

imports. The Turkish lira has lost nearly 40 percent of its value against the dollar this year on concerns over Erdogan's grip on monetary policy and the diplomatic dispute between Ankara and Washington.

"The Brunson case is not even closely related to Turkey's economy. The current economic challenges have been exaggerated more than necessary and Turkey will overcome these challenges with its own resources," Erdogan said. Turkey's central bank raised its benchmark rate by a hefty 625 basis points this month, boosting the lira and possibly easing investor concern over Erdogan's influence on monetary policy. Erdogan said he was against the measure.

"It shows the central bank is independent. As the president, I am against high interest rates and I am repeating my stance here again," he said, adding that high rates "primarily scare away investors". "This was a decision made by the central bank ... I hope and pray that their expectations will be met because high rates lead to high inflation. I hope the other way around will happen this time." The lira firmed slightly yesterday morning, after Erdogan's assurance on the independence of the central bank was published. In an effort to boost the economy and attract investors, Erdogan will travel on Sept 28 to Germany, a country that is home to millions of Turks. "We want to completely leave behind all the problems and to create a warm environment between Turkey and Germany just like it used to be," Erdogan said, adding that he will meet Chancellor Angela Merkel during his visit. The two NATO members have differed over Turkey's crackdown on suspected opponents of Erdogan after a failed coup in 2016 and over its detention of German citizens. — Reuters

## Top India court upholds Aadhaar...

Continued from Page 1

for welfare schemes, saying it empowered the poor and marginalized.

Among other objectives, Aadhaar - which has a unique number tied to an individual's fingerprints, face and iris scan - aims to block theft and leakage in India's \$23.6-billion-a-year food welfare program. "What we are emphasizing is that the remedy is to plug the loopholes rather than axe a project, aimed for the welfare of large section of the society," said Justice A K Sikri, who delivered the ruling, adding that beneficiaries would be harmed if Aadhaar were to be shelved.

Aadhaar is the latest in a string of landmark rulings by the Supreme Court, which threw out a colonial-era ban on gay sex this month and declared privacy a fundamental right last year. The four-to-one Aadhaar ruling found the program had merits, but it struck down a government effort to make it mandatory for everything from opening a new bank account to getting a mobile phone connection and school admission. "The reason why we challenged (it) was because it went beyond the public distribution system, beyond protecting the marginalized, and tried to create a surveillance state," Sibal said.

The dissenting judge, Justice D Y Chandrachud, ruled the passage of the Aadhaar Act a "fraud on the constitution" as it had been passed as a money bill, allowing the government to bypass approval from parliament's upper house, the Rajya Sabha. In a scathing dissent, he also wrote that Aadhaar violated the right to privacy, as it could lead to profiling of voters. The court also said the Aadhaar law must have provisions for redress for anyone who suffers data or identity theft due to lapses on the part of UIDAI, or Unique Identification Authority of India - the body that manages the Aadhaar program.

Critics had argued that the current law offers no redress. Media have reported several cases of Aadhaar data breaches, but the UIDAI has argued it is foolproof and secure. Still, backers of Aadhaar took solace in the court upholding the system. "I feel really very happy that the Supreme Court has upheld the validity and

basic principle that Aadhaar is safe, Aadhaar does not violate privacy and the act is constitutionally valid," said R S Sharma, UIDAI's former chief and current head of the country's telecom regulator.

"Supreme Court judgment on Aadhaar is a big win for the government," said Amit Malviya, a spokesman for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Twitter. "I am happy with the Aadhaar ruling. It should be made mandatory only where it is really needed," said senior BJP figure Subramanian Swamy after the ruling. "It is a balanced verdict," Ritesh Bhatia, cyber crime investigator and data privacy expert, told AFP. "The big thing is we don't have to give our personal details to mobile phone companies, which is a big relief as I won't be harassed with texts and calls anymore."

The scheme was rolled out under the previous Congress Party government in 2010, but grew in scope under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose BJP swept to power in 2014. Initially a voluntary program, it evolved into a national ID mandatory for those wishing to access government services. Even schoolchildren wanting free lunches provided by the state needed an Aadhaar - a controversy the court struck down in its landmark ruling. "No child can be denied any scheme if they are not able to bring their Aadhaar number," the court said. It also said students could not be denied enrolment if they did not possess the ID, saying a right to education was fundamental to all Indians.

The scheme has been dogged by controversy. In October, an 11-year-old girl from an impoverished part of eastern India allegedly died of starvation after her family was unable to link their ration card to Aadhaar. There were also scandals around Aadhaar data being allegedly sold online by criminals, and journalists being pursued over reporting on these breaches.

"India shouldn't be conditioning access to government necessities on possession of a biometric ID, nor should it be targeting journalists and researchers who write about vulnerabilities in the system's privacy protection," Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, tweeted after the verdict. Last year, in a case linked to the biometric database, the government went to the Supreme Court to argue that Indians did not have a fundamental right to privacy - a case that it lost. The Supreme Court in January began hearing a series of challenges to the constitutional validity of Aadhaar, a Hindi word meaning "foundation". — Agencies

## Kavanaugh hit by new claims...

Continued from Page 1

"I observed Brett Kavanaugh drink excessively at many of these parties and engage in abusive and physically aggressive behavior towards girls, including pressing girls against him without their consent, 'grinding' against girls, and attempting to remove or shift girls' clothing to expose private body parts," Swetnick said.

"I likewise observed him be verbally abusive towards girls by making crude sexual comments to them that were designed to demean, humiliate and embarrass them," she said. Swetnick said Kavanaugh's claim of "innocence" and lack of sexual activity in high school was "absolutely false and a lie". Swetnick also said that she was drugged and gang-raped at a party in approximately 1982 at which Kavanaugh was present. She did not claim that Kavanaugh took part or was aware of her rape but she claimed that he and other boys in his circle engaged in similar behavior.

Swetnick said she had witnessed efforts by Kavanaugh to "target" particular girls so they could be taken advantage of. She said she had witnessed efforts by "Kavanaugh and others to cause girls to become inebriated and disoriented so they could then be 'gang raped' in a side room or bedroom by a 'train' of numerous boys. "I have a firm recollection of seeing boys lined up outside rooms at many of these parties waiting for their 'turn' with a girl inside the room," she said. "These boys included Mark Judge and Brett Kavanaugh," she said. Judge is a childhood friend of Kavanaugh who has written a book describing the debauchery of his high school years.

The bombshell new claims come after two women came forward to accuse the judge of assaulting them in the 1980s, in a scandal that has tripped up what was expected to be an easy confirmation process for



## Sports

# Tiger, best-ever US and Europe teams spice up Ryder Cup battle

## Americans seek first triumph on European soil in 25 years

**SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES:** Resurgent star Tiger Woods and the highest-ranked lineups in Ryder Cup history have built anticipation for thrills and excitement ahead of Friday's dramatic opening matches between Europe and trophy-holders United States at Le Golf National.

The Americans seek their first triumph on European soil in 25 years in the biennial team showdown while Europe's 12-man squad hopes to win for a ninth time in 12 attempts and reclaim the hardware they lost at Hazeltine in 2016.

"It's all lined up to be something special," European captain Thomas Bjorn said Wednesday. "These teams are the two best teams world ranking-wise that have been across from each other in this event. So it's for those 24 players to go out and show that."

"The golf course, the stands, the fans, all the buildup, being in this great city—that just adds on for it to be a really, really special occasion."

The US roster has nine major winners and 11 of the world's 17 top-ranked players, led by world number one Dustin Johnson and third-ranked Brooks Koepka, this year's US Open and PGA Championship winner.

"There are definitely obstacles to overcome, but that group out there is feisty and confident," US captain Jim Furyk said of his team. "They are trying to do the best they can to brace themselves and get ready for the battle." Europe boast four of the top eight, paced by England's second-ranked Justin Rose and reigning British Open champion Francesco Molinari of Italy. In all, the teams combine to have 22 of the world's top 28 ranked players.

"Are we underdogs? Probably on paper we are," Bjorn said. "But we still believe that we can win."

US golfers lead the all-time rivalry 26-13 with two drawn but Europe own a 10-8 with one drawn edge since the expansion from a British-Irish squad.

### TIGER GRINDING

The top spectator attraction will be Woods, a 14-time major champion who snapped a five-year win drought Sunday at the US PGA Tour Championship, capping an amazing comeback season after spinal fusion surgery with his 80th career title.

"It's a nice boost for everyone, and I think for Tiger in general," Furyk said. "A guy with his status and that number of wins, he can flip the page and turn his attention to this week. He's working hard and grinding and trying to help this team as much as he can."

Woods has played on only one Cup winner in seven tries with an overall match record of 13-17 with three drawn. He is 4-1 with two drawn in Sunday singles but has eight losses in both foursomes (alternate shot) and four-ball (best-ball) pairs formats.

Woods says it will be critical to win the French layout's tricky 18th hole.

"Those were the matches that swing," Woods said. "Those little half-points to point swings are enormous over the course of the entire Cup. Usually who plays the last hole well determines the Cup."

### FIRST-TEE TENSIONS

With a 7,000-seat grandstand looming over a first-tee crucible plus narrow fairways and dangerous water hazards, Le Golf National offers an impressive stage for the drama to unfold.

"You get punished if you hit it off-line," Northern Ireland's sixth-ranked Rory McIlroy said. "They have guys that just hit it so long. For the bulk of the European team, they would welcome a setup more of this style."

Expectations are for players to attack with second shots to a putting surface that could surrender some impressive long putts.

"You'll see less aggressiveness, more conservative



**SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES:** US team captain Jim Furyk (C) looks at his players as they take part in a team photograph ahead of the 42nd Ryder Cup at Le Golf National Course at Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, south-west of Paris yesterday. — AFP

tee-to-green, but once you get on the greens, they are a little bit flatter and you can really make putts here," US five-time major winner Phil Mickelson said. "You can be aggressive from 20 to 40 feet. I think you're going to see a lot of putts made and that will be most likely the difference."

Tension will start from the first tee with huge, vocal crowds singing and chanting in one of golf's toughest situations. "Feeling that adrenaline, feeling that emotion, I think is what it's all about and I think there's no more intense session than the first morning tomorrow," Rose said. "Everything is a crescendo there." —AFP

## Russian athletics chief takes case to court over IAAF reinstatement

**LONDON:** Russian athletics, emboldened by WADA's lifting of the three-year ban on Russia's anti-doping agency (RUSADA) has demanded to have its ban from track and field terminated, according to a letter seen by The Times.

Russian athletics chief Dmitry Shlyakhtin sent the letter to Sebastian Coe, president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), informing him he is taking the case to the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS).

Shlyakhtin argues that the reasons for the banning of his organisation and its athletes, which the IAAF imposed in November 2015, are no longer pertinent as they were the same ones the World Anti-Doping Agency used when they punished RUSADA.

WADA suspended RUSADA, also in November 2015, after declaring it non-compliant following revelations of a vast state-backed scheme to avoid drug testers. "Given that the outstanding criteria for RUSAF's (Russian athletics federation) reinstatement were essentially identical to those that the WADA executive committee has considered met, and that time is of the essence, we respectfully request that the IAAF decide to reinstate RUSAF as soon as possible," wrote Shlyakhtin.

"In the meantime, however, RUSAF has no choice but to protect its rights and, accordingly, has filed today an appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the IAAF Council's decision to extend RUSAF's suspension."

The IAAF told The Times in light of the letter: "We have led the way to fight for clean athletes and we will continue to do so."

Coe, who has consistently been the most prominent sports administrator in taking a hard line over the doping scandal, had said following WADA's decision to lift the ban that Russia needed to meet two pre-conditions to be allowed to return to international athletics competition. The IAAF will next broach the subject at a Council meeting in December.

"The reinstatement of RUSADA was one of three pre-conditions," he said in a statement issued by the IAAF. "The other two pre-conditions are Russian authorities must acknowledge the findings of the McLaren and Schmid Commissions that Ministry of Sport officials were implicated in the scheme to cover up the doping of Russian athletes as described in their reports."

"The Russian authorities must (also) provide access to the data from testing of samples at the Moscow lab from 2011 to 2015, so that the Athletics Integrity Unit can determine whether the suspicious findings reported in the Moscow lab's database should be pursued."

The decision to lift the ban on RUSADA was taken last week at a meeting of WADA's executive committee—subject it said to "strict conditions"—but the softening of their stance triggered outrage from athletes and national anti-doping agencies around the world. They accused WADA of succumbing to pressure from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). —AFP

## Gulf Bank 642 Marathon extends partnership with Pro-Vision Sports Management

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank launches the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' for the fourth consecutive year in partnership with Pro-Vision Sports Management. The iconic community event invites challenge seeking athletes as well as novice runners to participate in Kuwait's only accredited race on November 17th, 2018. The 2017 marathon was an unprecedented success with 6,000 attendees representing over 130 nationalities competing at the event.

Commenting on the annual event, Tony Daher, CEO at Gulf Bank, said: "Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is one of the region's most prominent sporting events as athletes at all levels accomplish personal milestones. Adding to the action and festivities, the magnificent event will feature a host of attractions making it a fun day out for the whole family. This year, we are expecting an even higher turnout and we look forward to welcoming athletes from around the world."

Ahmed Al Huzami, CEO of Pro-Vision Sport Management, said: "Our partnership with Gulf Bank has placed Kuwait on the map for international sporting events, receiving accreditation from the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF Athletics). We are delighted to be continuing on this journey with Gulf Bank and look forward to this

## Vettel has nothing to fear but plenty to do

**SOCHI:** Formula One champions Mercedes have yet to be beaten in Russia, which hosts a grand prix for the fifth time this weekend, but Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel still sees nothing to fear in Sochi.

The German is 40 points adrift of Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton with six races remaining and is running out of time to reassert himself in the battle of the four times world champions. Hamilton has plenty of momentum and has won twice in Russia, even if last year it was Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas who came out on top in a race run in late April rather than at the sharp end of the season.

Bottas, 110 points behind the Briton in the championship, may this year be required to play a 'wingman' role which would leave Vettel facing a fully focused foe in Hamilton, who has won four of the last five races.

Vettel did his best to stay positive after finishing third last time out in Singapore—a round Ferrari were expected to win. "Russia, I think, has been getting better the last years for us, so it should suit our car as well," the German told reporters.

"I don't think we have any tracks to fear that are coming," he added. "I think our car is working pretty much everywhere and that's a strength of our car, so no need to be afraid of what's coming."

Hamilton, who has been keeping the paparazzi busy since Singapore after being spotted holidaying in Dubai with rap queen Nicki Minaj, knows that he can deliver another hammer blow to his rival.

An eighth win of the season on Sunday would mean he can finish runner-up in every remaining race and still be champion, even if Vettel wins all five. He and Mercedes also know how fast things can change, though, and will be taking nothing for granted.

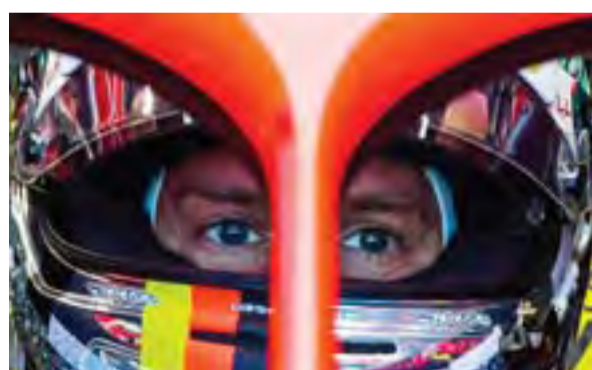


**KUWAIT:** Tony Daher, CEO at Gulf Bank with Ahmed Al Huzami, CEO of Pro-Vision Sport Management and Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager of External Communications at Gulf Bank.

year's event." Taking place on November 17th, 2018, the marathon serves as a qualifying race for international marathons. It has four categories, which are open to runners of all ages and abilities, from the 5K Family Fun Walk/Run and the 10K Souq Run to the more advanced 21K Half Marathon and Kuwait's only 42K Full Marathon. The route starts and ends at Souq Sharq, with runners

making their way along the Gulf Road, past Kuwaiti landmarks such as Souk Al Mubarakiya, Al Seif Palace and Kuwait Towers.

For event registration and more information to participate as a corporate or in groups, please visit [www.gulf-bank642marathon.com](http://www.gulf-bank642marathon.com) or access the Instagram account @GulfBank642.



**Sebastian Vettel**

"There are no easy wins this season. We have to fight hard for every bit of performance in order to have a chance to fight for victories," said team boss Toto Wolff. "We have a good track record in Sochi but we know that Ferrari and Red Bull will give it everything to break our winning streak, so we must fight as hard as ever to make sure we bring home as many points as possible. "There are six races remaining and plenty of points to score, so it doesn't give us any comfort," added the Austrian. "We will continue to concentrate on every single session, trying to optimise the car in every possible area - and we will go for the race win."

Red Bull's Max Verstappen will have something to celebrate regardless of the outcome as the Dutch youngster turns 21 on Sunday. Saturday will be his last opportunity to become the first 20-year-old to secure pole position but that will be impossible if, as expected, he collects a raft of engine penalties. The Force India pairing of Frenchman Esteban Ocon and Mexican Sergio Perez will be on best behaviour after colliding in Singapore, costing the team what looked like being a hefty points haul. Local fans will also have one of their own to cheer on, although Sergey Sirotkin is likely to be some way off the pace on his home race debut for struggling Williams. — Reuters

## Bubba hints US team fighting off infections ahead of Ryder Cup

**PARIS:** A husky-voiced Bubba Watson suggested he had a sinus infection yesterday, and said he was not the only member of the United States Ryder Cup team feeling under the weather.

Watson, a triple winner this year but out of form recently, said a bug had spread at last week's Tour Championship, where 11 Americans and six Europeans were among the 30-man field in Atlanta.

"You can tell, my voice, I'm exhausted," Watson said at Le Golf National, two days ahead of the start of the biennial team event. "It kind of started through the locker room last week—I just I happened to get it. I've got a weak immune system."

"A lot of us were kind of getting sick-gosh, I don't want to say not quite half the field had something, and then you know, travelling all the way over here, we're all battling something."

Watson refused to provide any more specifics to the media, aware that he had already made comments that could perhaps lead to headlines about a sick team. Asked about the health of his team mates, he said: "I could care less about them. I'm trying to get me healthy."

Watson won three times by June on the PGA Tour this year, however his form has been spotty since. He finished second last at the Tour Championship, but has a poor Ryder Cup record of three wins, eight losses and no halves. — Reuters

## Sports

# Bayern held at home by Augsburg after late Goetze equaliser

## Schalke remain bottom of the league after their fifth straight defeat

**BERLIN:** Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich dropped points for the first time this season as Felix Goetze scored a late equaliser for Augsburg at his old club in Tuesday's 1-1 draw. Bayern were cruising to a home win, which would have left them four points clear, before Goetze nodded home the equaliser four minutes from time.

Despite the draw, Bayern stay two points clear of second-placed Werder Bremen. With star striker Robert Lewandowski on the bench, evergreen Arjen Robben gave Bayern the lead three minutes after the break at the Allianz Arena.

When Bayern winger Serge Gnabry chested down the ball, Robben, 34, snapped up his pass and rounded the defence to smash home a goal off his left. Franck Ribery, 35, who replaced Gnabry, had the ball in the Augsburg net with 10 minutes to go, but Thomas Mueller was ruled offside.

With time almost up, second-half sub Felix Goetze, younger brother of fallen Germany star Mario, popped up with a shock equaliser having only left Bayern in July after four years in Munich. When Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer dropped a corner, Dutch defender Jeffrey Gouweleeuw smashed the ball across the goal and Goetze nudged it home to stun the hosts.

"When you go 1-0 up, you have to win the game," fumed goal-scorer Robben, "and the equaliser wasn't fully undeserved." Niko Kovac missed out on an eighth straight win, in all competitions, which would have been a record for a new Bayern head coach.

Elsewhere, Schalke, last season's runners up, remain bottom of the league after suffering their fifth straight defeat, crashing 1-0 at Freiburg. Schalke had an early goal disallowed for offside and Freiburg striker Florian

Niederlechner broke Royal Blues hearts with a goal just after the break.

Hoffenheim, who host Pep Guardiola's Manchester City next Tuesday in the Champions League, sealed a 3-1 away win at Hanover 96 thanks to goals by new signing Joshua Brenet, Pavel Kaderabek and Ishak Belfodil.

Striker Niclas Füllkrug scored Hanover's consolation and had the ball again in the net with ten minutes left, but the video assistant referee spotted an offside. Earlier, Werder Bremen moved up to second with a 3-1 win at home to Hertha Berlin, who dropped to third.

Not even a superb goal by Manchester City reject Javairo Dilrosun could prevent Hertha suffering their first defeat of the season and relinquish second place. First goals by forward Martin Harnik and defender Milos Veljkovic, plus a late Max Kruse penalty, saw Bremen climb.

Werder took the lead when new signing Harnik, 31, back in Bremen after spells at Stuttgart and Hanover, scored on 11 minutes following a mix up in the Hertha defence. Bremen went into the break 2-0 up when Nuri Sahin swung in a corner and central defender Veljkovic smashed home the header on 45 minutes.

Berlin pulled a goal back on 53 minutes when Dilrosun, a constant threat on the left wing, fired home from a tight angle off the gloves of Bremen's goalkeeper, to briefly lift Hertha's spirits. However, Bremen captain Max Kruse converted a penalty on 66 minutes and although Dilrosun's fantastic through-ball nearly resulted in a goal for Davie Selke, it was too little too late for Hertha. Bremen join Bayern and Borussia Dortmund, who host Nuremberg yesterday, as the only unbeaten teams in Germany's top flight. — AFP



MUNICH: Bayern Munich's Portuguese midfielder Renato Sanches (L) and Augsburg's defender Felix Goetze (R) vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga match between FC Bayern Munich and FC Augsburg in the stadium in Munich, southern Germany, on Tuesday. — AFP

## Loew blocked from meeting Ozil at Arsenal training

**BERLIN:** Germany head coach Joachim Loew was reportedly blocked from meeting Mesut Ozil at Arsenal's training ground on Monday to discuss the midfielder's fiery retirement from international duty. Loew and Germany's team director Oliver Bierhoff were in London at the weekend to take part in a FIFA coaching congress and then visited Arsenal's training ground in Colney, north of London, for clear-the-air talks with Ozil.

According to German daily Bild, Loew and Bierhoff were turned away at the entrance to Arsenal's training ground, on the orders of Gunners' head coach Unai Emery, while the squad was put through a recovery session.

The visit had been previously arranged, so Loew and Bierhoff later met the Gunners' Germany internationals Bernd Leno and Shkodran Mustafi at the club's visitors centre without speaking to Ozil.

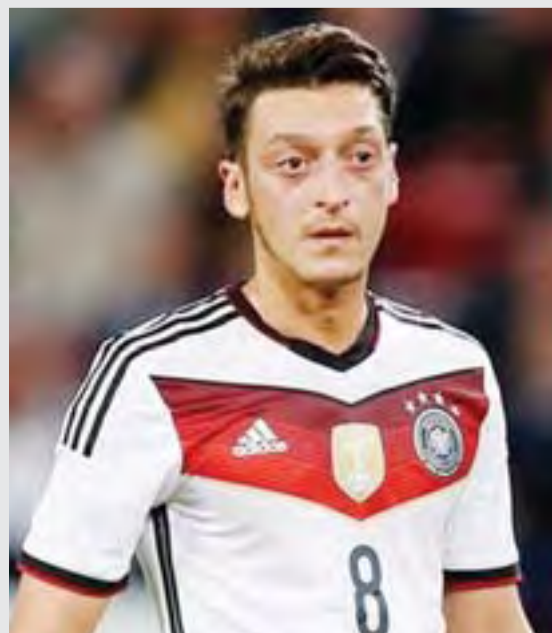
"We would have liked to have spoken to Mesut, but we have to accept that at the moment he doesn't want to have this conversation with us," said Bierhoff. Ozil's agent Erkan Sogut, who Bierhoff had reportedly contacted before the visit, declined to comment on the reason for the rejection.

At the start of the month, Loew said he has often already tried to contact Ozil, but without success. After 92 appearances, 23 goals and 40 assists for Germany, Ozil retired from international duty in July, citing 'disrespect and racism' within the German Football Association (DFB), taking direct aim at president Reinhard Grindel.

"In the eyes of Grindel and his supporters, I am German when we win, but I am an immigrant when we lose," the 2014 World Cup winner, who was born in Germany to Turkish parents, wrote in a statement.

Having been the target of xenophobic comments on social media and singled out for blame in the wake of Germany's woeful World Cup display, Ozil, 29, received little public support from Loew or Germany's stars.

Loew only responded publicly to Ozil's claims at the end of August when he rejected any notion of racism within the national team. — AFP



Mesut Ozil

## Sri Lanka drop 'scapegoat' skipper for England ODIs

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's sacked skipper Angelo Mathews was dropped yesterday from the ODI and T20 squads against England after he accused the board of making him a scapegoat for the team's Asia Cup debacle.

The 31-year-old all-rounder was not included in the 15-man squad for the five one-day internationals and the one-off T20 against England beginning on October 10. Cricket officials said fitness concerns forced them to drop Mathews. However, he was retained in the Test squad, officials said.

"I have been made the scapegoat in this entire saga of Sri Lanka's dismal performance against Bangladesh

and Afghanistan in the Asia Cup," Mathews said in a letter to Sri Lanka Cricket after he was sacked earlier this week as ODI and T20 captain.

The board said it asked Mathews to step down and allow Dinesh Chandimal to lead Sri Lanka against England in all three formats of the game. The sacking followed Sri Lanka's drubbing in the Asia Cup, with losses to lower-ranked Afghanistan and Bangladesh ensuring its quick exit from the competition.

**Sri Lanka ODI and T20 squad:** Dinesh Chandimal, Upul Tharanga, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Niroshan Dickwella, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dasun Shanaka, Thisara Perera, Akila Dhananjaya, Dushmantha Chameera, Lasith Malinga, Amila Aponso, Lakshan Sandakan, Nuwan Pradeep, Kasun Rajitha and Kusal Perera.

**Sri Lanka Test squad:** Dinesh Chandimal, (captain), Dimuth Karunaratne, Kaushal Silva, Kusal Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Dhananjaya de Silva, Roshan Silva, Dilruwan Perera, Rangana Herath, Malinda Pushpakumara, Akila Dananjaya, Suranga Lakmal, Kasun Rajitha, Lahiru Kumara, Lakshan Sandakan and Niroshan Dickwella. — AFP



Angelo Mathews



DUBAI: Afghanistan Cricket captain Asghar Afghan (R) celebrates with teammate after the match during the one day international (ODI) Asia Cup cricket match between Afghanistan and India at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai on Tuesday. — AFP

## Afghanistan fire warning to World Cup 2019 teams

**DUBAI:** Before the start of the Asia Cup Afghanistan captain Asghar Afghan had warned his team would not only compete but would achieve something special. Despite not qualifying for Friday's final the team from the war-torn nation achieved enough to sound warning bells for World Cup 2019 teams.

Afghanistan finished the tournament on a high when on Tuesday they pulled off a sensational last over tie against world number two India in Dubai, proving they are a team on the rise. They upset Sri Lanka by 91 runs before thumping Bangladesh by a big 136-run margin to enter the Super Four Stage, where they narrowly lost to Pakistan by three wickets and to Bangladesh by three runs-both in last over finishes. Their heroics, Asghar believes, have sent warnings to major nations for the World Cup 2019, to be held in England from May 30 to July 14 next year.

"We can hold our heads high and this performance gives us pride," said Asghar after the India game in Dubai. "Remember, this is a warning for the World Cup teams." Afghanistan's progress embodies a fairytale rise since the Russian invasion of their country in 1978 forced millions to flee and lived in refugee camps outside Pakistan's border city of Peshawar.

It was in Pakistan where they were exposed to cricket and, after learning the game, started a continuous rise since 2009, featuring in the World Twenty20 a year later and playing their first World Cup in 2015.

Afghanistan featuring in the semi-final of Junior World Cup in New Zealand earlier this year and winning the Junior Asia Cup in Malaysia in the presence of India and Pakistan mean they have a bright future.

Asghar is confident things will be in place to fulfill the dream of beating the bigger teams. "I am just trying to make sure everything gets to the level of the bigger nations," said Asghar, whose first major competition was the 2010 World Twenty20 in the Caribbean.

"We want to beat the bigger teams, that's how we improve. At the end of the day, winning is important to me." Exposure to Twenty20 leagues in India, Australia, the West Indies, Bangladesh and England have added a new dimension to the skills of Afghanistan players.

They now have a superstar in leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who became the fastest to 100 one-day international wickets, in 44 games, becoming a role model in his country where cricket has become the number one sport. He was the second highest wicket taker in the Indian Premier League with 21 this year. "I think the leagues are very important for our players," said Asghar. "A few of our guys have played different leagues and sharing dressing room with experienced international players has helped."

With the arrival of West Indian coach Phil Simmons this year, Afghanistan's batting has gone to next level. They posted totals of 249, 255, 257, 246 and 252 in the tournament, with shrewd strategies.

"Definitely, we have improved in our batting," said Asghar. "In the Asia Cup it was okay but when we're going to a mega event like the World Cup, there is still lots to improve." Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led the team in place of rested skipper Rohit Sharma on Tuesday, feels Afghanistan have massively improved. "I think their cricket has gone up a lot," said Dhoni. "If you see how they've continued playing right from the start of the Asia Cup, it's been commendable. "They're the one country that has risen through the ranks." — AFP

## Celtics F Hayward set for preseason opener Friday

**BOSTON:** The long-awaited return of All-Star Gordon Hayward is expected to occur tomorrow, when the Boston Celtics forward plans to play in the preseason opener on the road against the Charlotte Hornets. According to multiple media outlets, Hayward is ready for his first game action since he dislocated his left ankle and fractured his left tibia in a gruesome ending to his Celtics debut during the 2017-18 season opener.

The 6-foot-8 Hayward, who played seven previous seasons with the Utah Jazz, recently said he's "basically 100 percent." On Tuesday, he told reporters that he has dinked off his left foot in practice.

"I'm just excited to be out there," Hayward, 28, told reporters earlier in September. "It's been so much fun to be able to play again and play with my teammates. These past few weeks and the next probably month or so will be good to get back into the game."

According to a report on Celtics.com, Hayward's teammates seemed amazed by his progression, giving him a thumbs-up during media day on Monday.

"I've seen him working out over the last three weeks, since he's been back in Boston, and he's really looking good," said second-year forward Daniel Theis, who sustained a torn meniscus last March. "When you get hurt and when you've been out for such a long time, you've got to get back the feeling for playing five-on-five, and I think the hardest challenge for him is going to be the mental part, just going in there, playing with contact again."

"But when we played our pickup games, he looked good. He was moving really well, he was shooting the ball really well, so I think for everybody, it's going to be fun to see him out there."

Added second-year forward Semi Ojeleye: "If you didn't know what happened, you wouldn't have guessed that he had that kind of injury. The way he looks now is great. I think he's growing more confident every day with what he can do on the court, and he's getting back to that form that we saw before he became a Celtic."

The Celtics open the regular season against the Philadelphia 76ers on Oct. 16. "There's nothing like playing basketball," the 28-year-old Hayward told the media on Monday. "There's nothing like doing in-game stuff that you can't get from drills. You're guarding somebody, you're reacting, you're getting a rebound and trying to go straight back up with it. Those things I can't really practice, so to have the ability to do that was really big for me." — Reuters

## Sports

# Lahm-led Germany against Turkey in race to host Euro 2024 finals

## Germany has a clear advantage in terms of stadiums, transport

NYON: Having lifted the World Cup in 2014, Philipp Lahm now hopes to bring Euro 2024 finals to Germany today when UEFA announce the hosts for the European Championships. After retiring last year, ex-national team captain Lahm, 34, is head of Germany's bid to host Euro 2024 against rivals Turkey, the only other nation seeking to host the event in six years time.

The announcement is expected to be made at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, around 1300 GMT today. "We are a football nation and our fans always want to show their passion for football," declared Lahm. Germany wants to stage their first Euro as a unified country. West Germany having hosted the event in 1988. Turkey are hoping to be awarded their first major football tournament after missing out to France by one vote for the right to host Euro 2016.

### GERMAN ADVANTAGES

Nevertheless, Germany has a clear advantage in terms of stadiums and transport. Their official bid sees 10 existing stadia ready to host the 2024 finals, while Turkey will need to rebuild and renovate two of their proposed stadiums.

While 2.29 million fans could watch the Euro 2024 games in Turkey, based on maximum capacities, the German bid can offer seats for 2.78m supporters.

That means more revenue from ticket sales and the Germans also steal a march in terms of transport.

Germany offers a reliable road, rail and air network ready to whisk visiting fans between host cities. However, as the UEFA reports notes, in Turkey, "travel relies on air transport and the scale of works to be undertaken in the given time frame constitutes a risk".

Human rights issues present the widest chasm between the rivals. UEFA is unequivocal in bluntly stating Turkey's "lack of an action plan in human rights is a

matter for concern" under their President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. There are no such concerns in Angela Merkel's Germany, but accusations of "racism and disrespect" by Mesut Ozil in July harmed the DFB's (German Football Association) image of harmonious integration. Arsenal star Ozil, born in Germany to Turkish parents, specifically took aim at DFB president Reinhard Grindel when he retired from international duty after Germany's disastrous World Cup performance. Undeterred by the saga, Lahm wants to see Germany host a football carnival for the first time since the 2006 World Cup—which Germans affectionately dubbed 'the summer fairytale'.

Football-mad Germany became a month-long party as rival fans soaked up the action under blue skies, toasting success or drowning their sorrows in the nation's packed beer gardens.

### TARNISHED FAIRYTALE

However, the fairytale became a tarnished nightmare for the German FA in October 2015 when magazine Der Spiegel revealed 10 million Swiss francs (6.7 million euros of the time) had been used to buy votes from FIFA officials.

Some FIFA delegations suddenly switched their vote, allowing Germany to beat the South African bid by 12 votes to 11, when the decision was made in 2000.

After Spiegel uncovered the scandal, a criminal investigation followed into the senior organisers, including German legend Franz Beckenbauer, which is still ongoing. In 2016, an external report by the law firm Freshfields, commissioned by the DFB, reinforced the doubt by concluding: "we have not found evidence of vote buying but we cannot exclude it".

The accusations of the corruption still rankle in

second, along with partner Diego Costa.

Thomas Partey and Koke added numbers two and three before the interval as Atleti climb to third. Huesca drop to 18th. "The team is getting better with every game," Simeone said. "Against Monaco was good, Getafe better, and today a strong first half allowed us to conserve energy."

Griezmann and Costa jogging off with half an hour to spare was the dream scenario for Simeone, particularly given Real Madrid already have one day less rest ahead of Saturday's grudge match at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Real's assignment against Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan on Wednesday is likely to be far more demanding too. Huesca's fate in their debut campaign in the top flight, will be decided against worse teams than Atleti, and probably at home, where their Estadio El Alcoraz holds just over 7,000.

When Atletico won La Liga four years ago, Huesca finished seventh in Group Two of Segunda B, the third



STUTTGART: Stuttgart's supporters display a giant banner reading "united by money, corrupt in the heart of Europe" to protest against Germany's candidacy for the UEFA Euro 2024 on September 21, 2018 during the German first division Bundesliga football match VfB Stuttgart vs Fortuna Dusseldorf in Stuttgart. — AFP

German football. On Friday, Stuttgart fans unfurled giant banners, stating "United by money - corrupt in the heart of Europe" and "Good chance to buy another tournament", during a Bundesliga game.

The messages will have caused embarrassed glances in the corridors of the DFB. Nevertheless, Lahm is

unfazed. "We are a country which is prepared to put on special events," he said.

"We have all the infrastructure, maybe with just a little reworking, but everything is in place.

"We are an extremely hospitable nation as we showed in hosting the World Cup in 2006." — AFP

## Griezmann on target as Atletico cruise to victory over Huesca

MADRID: Atletico Madrid are finally finding their groove in La Liga and just in time for a city derby against Real Madrid after they strolled to a 3-0 win over newly-promoted Huesca on Tuesday. One victory from their opening four league games left Atletico seven points adrift of Barcelona a fortnight ago but three on the spin have now steered Diego Simeone's side back on track.

This was as routine a three points as they come at the Wanda Metropolitano, where Antoine Griezmann scored early in the first half before going off early in the



MANCHESTER: Derby's English goalkeeper Scott Carson (L) dives to save a penalty from Manchester United's English defender Phil Jones during the English League Cup third round football match between Manchester United and Derby County at Old Trafford in Manchester. — AFP

Liverpool striker Harry Wilson. Moments later, United goalkeeper Sergio Romero saw red for handling another Wilson effort outside the area.

The visitors made the man advantage count when Jack Marriott headed home five minutes from time, but Marouane Fellaini looked to have saved Mourinho's blushes with a towering header deep into stoppage time.

However, substitute United keeper Lee Grant failed to stop any of Derby's penalties and Jones finally faltered to compound a bad start to the season for Mourinho's men, who already trail Premier League leaders Liverpool by eight points. "It's right up there," said Lampard when asked how the triumph compared to his highs as a player.

this season—scoring four times so far and deputising as captain in the absence of Antonio Valencia.

But Mourinho appears to have lost his patience with his high-profile star after Pogba urged United to attack more following a 1-1 draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers at the weekend, implicitly criticising the cautious approach of his boss at a club famed for gung-ho football.

According to The Times, Mourinho informed Pogba of his decision on the captaincy in front of his teammates on Tuesday, claiming the 25-year-old "doesn't represent what a captain is and Manchester United is bigger than anyone". "The only truth is I made the decision of Paul not to be the second captain anymore," said Mourinho after Tuesday's shock League Cup defeat against Derby County on penalties, for which Pogba was rested.

The Portuguese said there would be "no fall-out at all, no problem at all". But it does not look that way to fans of United, watching on helplessly as their side falls further behind great rivals Liverpool and Manchester City in the Premier League. The often-abrasive Mourinho has a history of falling out with high-profile players.

While at Real Madrid he demoted Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas to the anger of the club's fans and at Chelsea he did

not see eye-to-eye with Juan Mata, whom he now manages at Old Trafford. It looks increasingly likely that Mourinho will be unable to repair his relationship with Pogba, and it seems to be more a question of who will be first to leave the club. The former United youth player may eventually get the move to Barcelona that was mooted in August, with the Daily Mail yesterday reporting he has already told Mourinho he wants to leave for Spain.

That may seem a relatively simple solution but executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward is reportedly desperate not to lose the biggest global star at the club. And despite Pogba's griping and noise from his super agent, Mino Raiola, Mourinho will not necessarily be seen as the bad guy in the saga by United fans. Mourinho, who is again the favourite with one leading bookmaker to be the first Premier League manager sacked this season, said in his programme notes for Tuesday's League Cup clash against second-tier Derby that "95 percent isn't enough when others give 101 percent".

Whether or not that was a barb aimed at Pogba, sections of United's fans have been intensely frustrated with the midfielder's inconsistent performances for the club. Ironically, Pogba's provocative remarks about United's style came after Mourinho had held out an olive branch.—AFP



### Match on TV

(Local Timings)

SPANISH LEAGUE	
Deportivo Alaves v Getafe	21:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Real Valladolid v Levante	21:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Girona v Real Betis	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
Spal v US Sassuolo Calcio	20:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Empoli v AC Milan	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	

## Qatar World Athletics countdown begins as fears surface

DOHA: In the controversy surrounding Qatar's 2022 football World Cup, it's almost forgotten that in exactly one year Doha will host its biggest sporting event to date, the World Athletics Championships. On September 27, 2019, the planet's best athletes will congregate in Qatar's capital for 10 days for the premier track and field competition of the season.

It will be the first time the event is held in the Middle East. For the athletes it represents a golden chance of glory: for Qatar the championships are an opportunity to directly address its many critics to show it deserves to host global sporting events.

"All the big pieces are in place," International Association of Athletics Federation vice-president and Qatari-Dahlan Al Hamad assured reporters this week. Qatar will hold a one-year-to-go event at the championships venue, the expensively refurbished and air-conditioned Khalifa International Stadium, today.

However, the omens are not good. Before a spike has touched the track, Qatar has been widely criticised for having the event shifted to late September and early October because of concerns over the desert state's weather. All previous nine world championships held this century began in August. Temperatures in Doha this week still reached highs of 43 degrees Celsius (109 Fahrenheit). Accordingly, organisers have announced the marathons will be held at midnight and traditional morning sessions scrapped.

The earliest events are scheduled to start is 4:15pm local time. Human rights concerns have again surfaced. Roundly criticised for its labour practices since winning the right to host the World Cup in 2010 — Amnesty International published its latest damning report this week—Qatar will not escape similar condemnation in the run up to the athletics.

Khalifa is also a venue for the football World Cup and it is where British worker Zac Cox fell 39 metres (128 feet) to his death while working on the stadium in January 2017. A subsequent inquest said conditions at the stadium during construction work were "downright dangerous".

Politics is also set to feature, with the potential threat of a boycott. Since June 2017, Qatar has been isolated by a group of former allied neighbouring countries, including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, who cut all ties with Doha, accusing it of supporting Iran and extremist groups.

Fifteen months on, the crisis is as entrenched as ever. Qatar refutes all allegations, but the World Athletics Championships will be a significant global sporting and political test for the crisis and those involved.—AFP

## Pogba v Mourinho: Is this the end of the road at Manchester United?

LONDON: Paul Pogba's relationship with Jose Mourinho appears to be fractured beyond repair after the Manchester United boss said the French World Cup star would never captain the side again.

Pogba, who returned to Manchester in 2016 for a then world-record fee of £89 million (\$117 million) struggled towards the end of last season, left out of the starting line-up or substituted on a number of occasions.

Fresh from playing a pivotal role in France's World Cup success, the midfielder has started to deliver on his price tag

**25** Tiger, best-ever US and Europe teams spice up Ryder Cup battle



**26** Bayern held at home by Augsburg after late Goetze equalizer



**27** Lahm-led Germany against Turkey in race to host Euro 2024 finals



## Astros clinch American League West title

Max Scherzer reaches 300th strikeout of the season



TORONTO: Alex Bregman #2 of the Houston Astros turns a double play in the fifth inning during MLB game action as Danny Jansen #9 of the Toronto Blue Jays slides into second base at Rogers Centre on Tuesday in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

**HOUSTON:** The Houston Astros clinched the American League West title early yesterday morning (Eastern time), hours after beating the host Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 for their 100th win of the season. The Oakland A's took a 10-8, 11-inning road loss to the Seattle Mariners, wrapping up the division crown for the Astros. Houston's Alex Bregman hit a two-run home run, and Josh James pitched an effective five innings at Toronto. Yuli Gurriel had two hits to extend his hitting streak to 11 games. The Astros (100-57) reached triple-digit wins for the third time in club history and for the second consecutive season. Houston has won the first two games of the three-game series. James (2-0) allowed one run, four hits and one walk in five innings.

### Washington 9, Miami Marlins 4

Max Scherzer recorded his 300th strikeout of the season while earning his 18th win, and Anthony Rendon drove in four runs as the host Washington Nationals defeated the Miami Marlins 9-4 on Tuesday night. Bidding for his fourth Cy Young Award, Scherzer (18-7) allowed five hits, no walks and one run, striking out 10 in seven innings. He punched out rookie Austin Dean swinging in the seventh inning for No. 300. Only 16 other pitchers have accomplished the feat since 1900, and it was Scherzer's final strikeout of the night. Rendon went 3-for-3 with a three-run homer and an RBI double, improving his batting average to .312, extending his hit streak to 11 games and his on-base streak to 33 games. During his hitting streak, Rendon is batting .500 (21-for-42) with five homers and 20 RBIs.

### Mariners 10, Athletics 8 (11 innings)

Pinch hitter Chris Herrmann hit a two-run home run with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning as Seattle defeated visiting Oakland and improved to 14-1 in extra innings this season. Oakland had been 68-0 when leading after seven innings and became the last major league team to take a loss in that situation. Trailing 8-5, Seattle began its rally in the eighth off Fernando Rodney. The Mariners tied it with an unearned run off Blake Treinen in the bottom of the ninth.

### Yankees 9, Rays 2

Slumping Gary Sanchez capped a seven-run top of the third inning with a three-run homer as New York moved closer to securing home-field advantage in the

American League wild-card game with a rout of Tampa Bay in St Petersburg, Fla. Sanchez, who tied a season high with four RBIs, gave the Yankees a 7-0 lead when he lifted a 3-1 fastball just above the knees from Jalen Beeks into the left-center-field seats. Sanchez's blast helped the Yankees lower their magic number to two to ensure they will face the A's at Yankee Stadium in the wild-card game on Oct. 3. New York is 2 1/2 games ahead of Oakland.

### Rockies 10, Phillies 3

David Dahl homered for the second straight night. Carlos Gonzalez had a two-run, pinch-hit double, and Colorado cruised past Philadelphia at Denver. DJ LeMahieu had three hits and two RBIs for the Rockies, who won their fifth consecutive game and jumped over St. Louis into the second National League wild-card spot by a half-game. Colorado also kept its hopes alive for winning the NL West; the Rockies are a half-game behind the Los Angeles Dodgers. Scott Kingery had two doubles and an RBI for the Phillies, who have lost six in a row. Philadelphia is 10-25 since Aug. 18.

### Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3

Eduardo Escobar hit a walk-off home run to lead off the last of the ninth inning as Arizona edged Los Angeles at Phoenix. Escobar hit a 3-2 pitch from Kenta Maeda (8-10) deep into the right field seats as the Diamondbacks broke a four-game losing streak. Cody Bellinger homered for the Dodgers, but they were only 2-for-12 with runners in scoring position and fell into a tie with Colorado in the loss column.

### Brewers 12, Cardinals 4

Christian Yelich homered and drove in a career-high six runs as Milwaukee moved closer to clinching a play-off spot with a rout at St. Louis. Yelich laced a three-run triple in the fourth inning and slugged a three-run blast in the ninth. Ryan Braun hit two homers for his 31st career multi-homer game. Milwaukee won for the fifth time in the past six games and moved within a half-game of the Chicago Cubs in the National League Central race. The Brewers hold possession of the NL's first wild-card spot by 3 1/2 games over the Rockies.

### Pirates 6, Cubs 0

Chris Archer struck out nine in six scoreless innings

as visiting Pittsburgh blanked Chicago. Pablo Reyes hit a three-run home run for the Pirates, and Archer (6-8) limited Chicago to four hits and two walks. Dovydas Neverauskas pitched two scoreless innings, and Steven Brault worked the ninth to preserve the five-hit shutout. Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant left after the fifth inning. He was hit in the left wrist by a pitch in the fourth.

### Braves 7, Mets 3

Ronald Acuna Jr. delivered a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh inning as visiting Atlanta stormed back to beat New York. With their sixth straight win, the National League East champion Braves moved 1 1/2 games ahead of the NL West-leading Dodgers in the race for home-field advantage in the NL Division Series. Atlanta is two games behind the NL Central-leading Cubs in the race for the top overall seed in the Senior Circuit.

### White Sox 5, Indians 4

Daniel Palka delivered a game-ending, two-run single to cap a three-run ninth inning as host Chicago rallied to beat Cleveland. Yolmer Sanchez also had an RBI single in the ninth inning as the White Sox finally got to Carlos Carrasco (16-10) after striking out eight times against the right-hander in the previous four innings. Trevor Bauer went four innings for the Indians in his second start since returning from a right fibula stress fracture. He threw 60 pitches and gave up two first-inning runs on five hits with no walks and four strikeouts.

### Angels 4, Rangers 1

Los Angeles scored four runs in the sixth inning on its way to victory over Texas at Anaheim, Calif. The Angels got three hits in the key inning, including a broken-bat RBI single by Shohei Ohtani that drove in the first run. Los Angeles also benefited from a throwing error by Rangers third baseman Jurickson Profar. Joey Gallo went deep to become the fourth Rangers player to have consecutive 40-homer seasons, joining Alex Rodriguez (2001-03), Rafael Palmeiro (2001-02) and Juan Gonzalez (1992-93). Gallo also struck out in the fifth inning. No. 200 for the season, a Rangers record.

### Tigers 4, Twins 2

James McCann's two-run double capped a four-run, eighth-inning outburst, and Detroit held on for a win over Minnesota at Minneapolis. Victor Alcantara (1-0) pitched an inning of scoreless relief to collect his first

major league win. Shane Greene got the last three outs for his 32nd save. Joe Mauer had two hits and scored twice for Minnesota. Jorge Polanco and Jake Cave each added two hits and an RBI.—Reuters

## AFC chief Sheikh Salman to run for re-election

**DUBAI:** Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa intends to run for re-election at their 29th congress next April, the continent's governing body announced yesterday.

Sheikh Salman has been in the position since 2013 after he replaced Qatari Mohamed bin Hammam, who was banned for life by soccer's world governing body FIFA in 2011 amid allegations of participating in a cash-for-votes scandal.

"The greater good of the AFC and its members is a priority and we have seen the progress that we have made in the last five years. Football has shown the power to bring nations together and to do good," Bahrain's Sheikh Salman said in a statement.

"I am proud of what we have achieved in that time and I am not ready to leave this organisation into a state of chaos. We have all seen what the AFC was before, and we have seen what it looks like now and I hope that we can continue that progress."

"We have seen the strides we've made in the last five years through our football and also through the record commercial rights deal and this has been because of the support and understanding we have achieved." Sheikh Salman also ran for president of FIFA in 2016 but was beaten by Swiss-Italian Gianni Infantino. The AFC, which is holding its executive committee meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, also said it would increase the contribution to Asian teams who have qualified for next year's Women's World Cup—Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and Thailand—to \$500,000. —Reuters