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**2** Kuwait and Mauritania sign four cooperation agreements



**13** Lawyer requests bail after Ghosn indicted for 4th time



**16** Poachers threaten precious Madagascar forest, lemurs



**Jazeera**

**Flying At The Lowest Prices**

From KD 23

# US ends Iran oil import waivers; Guards threaten to shut Hormuz

Washington vows to sanction allies • Trump: Saudi Arabia will make up for supply • Netanyahu hails move

## Lawmakers demand probe into issue of forged citizenships

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** A number of lawmakers pressed yesterday for the formation of a committee to launch an investigation into claims that thousands of Kuwaitis obtained their citizenship through illegal means. MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei went a step further by threatening to hold the prime minister to account over the highly sensitive issue.

Tabtabaei strongly criticized the government for paying no attention to a proposal filed last week in the Assembly to form this committee, as only eight members voted for the proposal. He said that there are claims that as many as 80,000 people had obtained citizenship through forgery and did not qualify for it.

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### News in brief

#### MP calls for PUBG ban

**KUWAIT:** MP Ahmad Al-Fadhel called for banning video games which “incite violence”, citing a similar move by the Iraqi parliament. “What they did was based on international studies that proved that some games instill violent behaviors in children, so I decided to make a proposal in this regard,” he said. He said the proposal calls on the communications ministry to take measures to ban games such as PUBG, Fortnite and others. Iraqi media have alleged that addiction to playing PUBG had caused marital disputes and even divorces. —A Saleh

#### Visa transfer exemption

**KUWAIT:** An official source at the manpower authority said the authority exempts expats from the ban on transferring their residencies from small projects to the private sector if a worker initially transferred to a small company locally. The source said the decision banning the residency transfer from small projects applies to workers that were brought from their countries to work in small enterprises, adding such workers cannot transfer to the private sector and are only allowed to transfer to other companies in the small projects sector. —A Saleh

#### Arabs pledge \$100m to Palestinians

**CAIRO:** The Arab League has pledged to pay \$100 million a month to the Palestinian Authority to plug the gap left when Israel blocked tax transfers earlier in the year. “We confirm that Arab countries will support the Palestinian state’s budget... (to) resist the political and financial pressure it faces,” the League said Sunday following a meeting in Cairo. The Arab League’s move comes as the Trump administration prepares to unveil a much-touted “Deal of the Century” for peace between the Palestinians and Israel. But the League said the deal “will not succeed in achieving long-lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East”. —AFP

#### Saudis arrest 13 after IS attack

**RIYADH:** Saudi authorities arrested 13 suspects yesterday, a day after an attack claimed by the Islamic State group on a security services base north of the capital, state media said. Saudi Press Agency, quoting a state security spokesman, said the arrests were part of an investigation by authorities into “terrorist” activities. Authorities arrested 13 “terrorist” suspects who were “preparing to carry out criminal activities against the security of the country”, the agency said. SPA said four men who attacked Sunday a security services base in the province of Zulfi, northwest of the capital Riyadh, were all Saudi citizens. —AFP

**WASHINGTON:** The United States said yesterday it would start imposing sanctions on friends such as India that buy Iranian oil, in its latest aggressive step to counter Tehran that could jeopardize US relationships. One targeted country, Turkey, vowed to defy the US demands which sent global crude prices spiraling higher, although President Donald Trump tweeted that his close ally Saudi Arabia would “more than make up” for decreases in Iranian oil.

In seeking to reduce Iran’s oil exports to zero, the Trump administration is targeting the country’s top revenue maker in its latest no-holds-barred move to crush the economy and scale back the clerical regime’s influence. “The Trump administration and our allies are determined to

sustain and expand the maximum economic pressure campaign against Iran to end the regime’s destabilizing activity threatening the United States, our partners and allies and security in the Middle East,” the White House said in announcing its move.

An Iranian oil ministry source yesterday said Tehran is prepared for the US decision to end waivers granted to buyers of Iranian crude, as the Revolutionary Guards repeated their threat to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz, Iranian media reported. The US will fail to cut Iranian oil exports to zero, the semi-official Tasnim news agency yesterday quoted an unnamed Iranian oil ministry source as saying. Iran’s Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying that the waivers have no val-

ue, but because of the practical negative effects of the sanctions, it has been in touch with foreign partners and will “act accordingly”.

Eight governments were initially given six-month reprieves from the unilateral sanctions on Iranian oil imposed last year by the United States. They include India, which has warm ties with Washington but disagrees on the US insistence that Iran is a threat. New Delhi has been working with Iran on a seaport in hopes of circumventing Pakistan, home to virulently anti-Indian militants. Other countries that will be affected include China and Turkey, opening up new friction in contentious relationships if the United States goes ahead with sanctions over buying Iranian oil.

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WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a press conference at the US Department of State yesterday. — AFP

## Kuwaitis urged to leave Lanka immediately

**KUWAIT/COLOMBO:** The Kuwaiti Embassy in Sri Lanka urged citizens in the country to leave immediately until security conditions became stable, following terrorist blasts against churches and hotels that killed and wounded hundreds of people. It said in a statement its call on Kuwaiti citizens to leave Sri Lanka was for their own safety. It added it was ready to offer assistance to citizens if they needed help.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka said yesterday it believed a local Islamist extremist group

was behind deadly suicide bomb blasts that killed nearly 300 people, as it ordered a national state of emergency beginning midnight. Government spokesman Rajitha Senaratne said investigators were looking at whether the National Thowheeth Jama’ath (NTJ) group had “international support” for the deadly Easter Sunday attacks on churches and luxury hotels. So far, 24 people have been arrested in connection with the attacks, but no details have been given about them.

Little is known about the NTJ, but documents seen by AFP show Sri Lanka’s police chief issued a warning on April 11, saying a “foreign intelligence agency” had reported the group was planning attacks on churches and the Indian high commission.

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SURABAYA, Indonesia: Indonesian Muslim students show their solidarity with the victims of the Sri Lankan blasts yesterday. — AFP

## Ghanem hails ties with Russia

**MOSCOW:** Kuwait and Russia’s friendly relationship needs to be taken to the heights of partnership and integration, Kuwait’s chief lawmaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem told Russia’s upper house yesterday. Bilateral relations between the two nations, which began in 1963, have been “distinguished” in spite of the difficulties due to the Cold War period, which polarized nations in East or West camps, said the National Assembly Speaker.

Ghanem’s three-day visit, in response to Federation Council Chairwoman Valentina Matviyenko’s invitation, comes

to generate “more solid and deeper-rooted” relations, he said. “I am not speaking about relations that are just political, economic or related to energy cooperation. I am talking about cultural, art-related, academic and sports-related ties. We want to learn from Russia’s soft power, from its universities, scientific and educational institutions, from its sports and youth-related institutions,” he added, mentioning his admiration of the great works of Russian writers and thinkers like Tolstoy, Pushkin and Chekhov.

The chief lawmaker lamented the “obstacles, lack of cohesion and misunderstandings due to distance and inaccurate portrayals” between Russia and the Arab region.

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MOSCOW: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks in Russia’s upper house yesterday. — KUNA

## Iran, Pakistan to set up border ‘reaction force’

**TEHRAN:** Iran and Pakistan will set up a joint border “reaction force” following deadly attacks on their frontier, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced yesterday after talks with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. “We agreed to create a joint rapid reaction force at the borders for combatting terrorism,” Rouhani told a joint news conference, following months of increased tensions over attacks on both sides of the frontier.

The border skirts the volatile southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchistan which has been the scene of frequent attacks on Iran’s security forces. Khan’s visit to Iran, the first since he took office last year, comes after gunmen who Islamabad says were based in Iran killed 14 members of Pakistan’s security forces last week in its own Balochistan province.

“The security chief will sit down with his counterpart here and discuss (security) cooperation,” Khan said, although no details were given on the joint force. “We trust that both countries will not have terrorist activities from their soil ... We will not allow any damage to your country from our soil,” said the Pakistani premier who started a two-day visit on Sunday.

In March, Rouhani demanded Pakistan act “decisive-



TEHRAN: Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meets Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani yesterday. — AFP

ly against anti-Iranian terrorists”, following a February 13 attack that killed 27 members of the elite Revolutionary Guards in Sistan-Baluchistan. Iran has said a Pakistani suicide bomber was behind the attack, claimed by Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice), which Tehran says operates mostly out of bases in Pakistan. On Saturday, Islamabad said it had evidence the “terrorist outfits” that carried out the attack in Balochistan had “training and logistic camps inside Iranian areas bordering Pakistan”. Islamist as well as ethnic Baloch separatists operate in Balochistan, Pakistan’s poorest province.

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## Ukraine leaps into unknown; Amir sends congratulations

**KIEV:** Ukraine leapt into the unknown yesterday after comedian Volodymyr Zelensky was elected president on promises of change but with just a vague blueprint of what he might do as leader. Zelensky, whose previous experience in the world of politics was playing the president on TV, trounced incumbent Petro Poroshenko in a stinging rebuke to the establishment fuelled by anger over war and social injustice. Ukrainians looked to the future with hope and anxiety after the performer took 73 percent of the vote on Sunday, according to nearly complete official results.

The star of “Servant of the People”, a sitcom now in its third season, has vowed to pursue the pro-European course set out by his predecessor. But Zelensky has also said he wants to improve ties with archenemy Russia.



Volodymyr Zelensky

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## Local



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Abd Aziz attend a ceremony to sign a number of agreements between Kuwait and Mauritania yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes the President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Abd Aziz.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Abd Aziz.

# Amir receives Mauritanian president; Kuwait, Mauritania sign four agreements

## Deals signed on media, culture, art and environment cooperation



Kuwait's Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel and Mauritanian Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Amedi Camara exchange agreements after signing them.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Abd Aziz and his accompanying delegation. His Highness the Amir headed the Kuwaiti side during an official meeting with the Mauritanian President, held in attendance of Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior state officials from both countries. During the meeting, both sides discussed issues of mutual concern, bilateral relations, and ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and Mauritania in all fields, said Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir and a host of senior government officials had received the distinguished guest at the airport upon his arrival earlier yesterday on an official visit.

**Four agreements**  
Kuwait and Mauritania signed a number

of agreements in the presence of His Highness the Amir and the Mauritanian President. On behalf of Kuwait and Mauritania government's, Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed signed media cooperation agreement, cultural and art agreement in addition to a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual cooperation in the field of mutual activities between the two countries ministries. On behalf of the two countries government's, Kuwait Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel and Mauritanian Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Amedi Camara also signed the agreement on environment and sustainable development cooperation. Later yesterday, His Highness the Amir held a luncheon in honor of the visiting Mauritanian President and the delegation accompanying him at Bayan Palace. — KUNA



Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed shake hands after signing an agreement.

## Kuwait keen on exerting efforts to confront catastrophes: Jarallah

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said yesterday that Kuwait is keen out of its religious, moral and humanitarian responsibilities to work on the repercussions of every major humanitarian disasters around the world, especially in the Arab region. This came in a speech delivered by Al-Jarallah on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, at the opening of the 44th meeting of Arab Organization for Red Crescent and Red Cross. Jarallah added that Kuwait hosted many donors conferences and presided over many others, and had contributed in providing generous humanitarian aid, which was reflected by UN account in naming it a center for humanitarian work and on His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a humanitarian leader, due to its faith in its work, and solid principles in strengthening humanitarian work globally.

Jarallah noted, "we live in a geographical environment whose borders have included conflicts and clashes that have resulted in killings, ruins, and thousands of displaced people, as a consequences have created unprecedented humanitarian disasters in our contemporary world." The diplomat praised the role played by such institutions like the Crescent and the Red Cross societies, stressing that "these institutions have a prominent role in confronting such disasters, and worked to ease the suffering of



KUWAIT: A group photo of participants of the 44th meeting of Arab Organization for Red Crescent and Red Cross. — KUNA

those affected by them, through united work between you and your government which contributed into establishing shelters for the displaced, feeding the hungry, and relief for those affected."

Meanwhile, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Chief Dr Hilal Al-Sayer expressed in a similar speech readiness to provide all humanitarian and relief assistance through cooperation and coordination with humanitarian partners in Sri Lanka, to help ease the suffering of all victims by the terrorist attack, which resulted in killing more than 200 people and injuring 500 others. Sayer added Kuwait is proud of its humanitarian and relief work to disaster-prone or man-made disasters under the guidance of His Highness the Amir who is also the Honorable President of KRCS. Sayer also pointed out to the importance of cooperation double efforts between associations and bodies con-

cerned with humanitarian work to serve the Arab peoples, especially the current situation and conflicts that have resulted in large numbers of displaced persons and refugees.

Meanwhile, the President of Arab Red Crescent and Cross Organization (ARCO) Dr Saleh Al-Suhaibani said that organization is encourages to strengthen communication and coordination between Arab national humanitarian societies and other associations as well as international organizations to continue their noble humanitarian role regionally and in the international arena. Suhaibani added that his organization is exerting efforts to motivate a humanitarian media role in support of humanitarian work by the General Secretariat of ARCO, through the launch of an electronic database for media and media professionals interested in humanitarian information. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmad Al-Saghir. — Amiri Diwan photo

## Amir receives letter from Tunisian president

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter yesterday from Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, focusing on means to bolster bilateral relations, as well as an invitation to visit Tunisia. Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmad Al-Saghir handed the letter to His Highness the Amir during a reception attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State Pope Francis, expressing deepest condolences over

the attacks on hotels and churches in the capital Colombo, and resulted in scores of casualties and injuries. In the cable, His Highness the Amir affirmed Kuwait's strong condemnation of such heinous terror attacks that go against teachings of faiths, as well as human values. His Highness the Amir conveyed sentiments of sympathy towards the families of the victims, as well as praying for the swift recovery of those injured. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to Colombian President Ivan Duque Marquez over the victims of a landslide triggered by heavy rains in the southwestern Colombian province of Cauca. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished mercy to the deceased and swift recovery to the injured. Cables of similar sentiments were sent by His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister to the Colombian president. — KUNA



## Local

# ‘Serious suspicions’ in corruption case watchdog sent to prosecution

## Manpower authority eyes KD 608.3 million budget for 2019/2020

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Spokesman of Kuwait's Public Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Mohammad Buzubar said the authority received a complaint against a department director and a supervisor over a contract with the Ministry of Public Works, and a director of a project at a contracting company over suspicions of corruption by the said persons. He said the authority carried out investigations and heard testimonies of the whistleblower and witnesses. He said the authority concluded that there are serious suspicions against the suspects of stealing public funds and forgery according to articles 10 of law 1/1993 with regards to public funds protection, and articles 257 and 48 of law 16/1960, so the authority sent the complaint to the public prosecution to take action.

**KD 608.3 million**

The 2019/2020 fiscal year budget of the Public

Authority for Manpower has been compiled and reached KD 608.3 million, Deputy Director General for Manpower and Financial Affairs Sultan Al-Shaalani



**School finals to start 9:00 am or 9:30 am**

said, adding that the finance ministry approved it and is waiting for approval by the National Assembly. Shaalani said the 2018/2019 budget was KD 558 million and its closing account is being prepared. He said

the total revenues for the fiscal year 2018/2019 were KD 70.42 million, while revenues of 2017/2018 reached KD 67.1 million. Revenues from the electronic portal for the 2018/2019 fiscal year reached KD 42.566 million, while 2017/2018 revenues were KD 36.643 million.

### Illegal entry

Nuwiseem customs officers caught a Pakistani man who attempted to enter Kuwait in a truck from Saudi Arabia. Inspectors searched the truck following tips, and found the man hiding in a box under the truck. The driver confessed to receiving money in exchange of making him enter the country.

### End of year exams

An educational source said a meeting will be held by the managers' council today to decide the timings of the end of year exams due to start on May 7 - the second day of Ramadan - for grades 5 to 11. The exams are expected to start at 9:00 am or 9:30 am based on



the working hours that the Civil Service Commission will decide for government departments. Thursday is expected to be the last day for students before they take their pre-finals' break.

## Kuwaiti Cabinet holds weekly meeting

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Cabinet held its weekly meeting yesterday headed by Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh revealed the contents of the discussions in a Cabinet statement. The talks began as the ministers welcomed the visit of Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz. They were then briefed on a visit to Kuwait by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov. The UN official expressed gratitude and appreciation for the historic role assumed by Kuwait in support of the Middle East affair, read the statement. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on his attendance of a recent Arab League urgent meeting on Palestine. During the talks, Arab ministers announced their fierce rejection of any proposed plan or deal on Palestine that does not comply with UN resolutions. He also commended Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' speech that praises Kuwait's supportive role as a Security Council member of Palestinian affairs.

The Cabinet reiterated that the planned interpellation of Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, requested by two lawmakers, is a constitutional right granted to every



**KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's weekly meeting. —KUNA**

National Assembly member. In relation to international affairs, the ministers hailed as an accomplishment Saudi Arabia's success in foiling a planned terrorist attack by four IS members. They also pledged Kuwait's support of all Saudi efforts aimed at tackling terrorism and ensuring the security and stability of the Kingdom and the region. In turn, they announced their fierce con-

demnation of the recent multiple explosive attacks that targeted churches and hotels across Sri Lanka, leading to hundreds of deaths and injuries. The ministers also expressed sorrow over the fire that struck Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, leading to heavy losses in the structure, regarded an important religious, cultural and historic icon. —KUNA

## Inflation in Kuwait up 0.8% in March

**KUWAIT:** Inflation rates on annual basis in Kuwait rose by 0.8 percent in March, compared to the same period in 2018, according to the Central Statistical Office (CSO). Inflation rate on a monthly basis dropped 0.18 percent last March compared to last February, CSO said yesterday. Food prices rose 1.03 percent, while tobacco and cigarettes rose 9.02 percent. Moreover, clothing went up 0.38 percent and domestic services dropped 60 percent, it added. Meanwhile, home furniture and maintenance rose 2.40 percent, health group went up 2.77 percent and transportation rose 1.94 percent. CSO also noted that telecommunication rose six percent, culture and entertainment went up two percent and education rose 1.85 percent. Restaurants and hotels group saw a drop of 0.17 percent, while other commodities and services went down 0.46 percent. —KUNA

## ‘Unprecedented rise’ in drugs, liquor seizures

**KUWAIT:** Drugs and liquor seized in Kuwait in 2018 recorded an unprecedented rise, raising a red flag for all those concerned, Al-Qabas reported yesterday. An informed source said the drugs weighed 1,489 kg, 1,264 kg of which was hashish, 61 kg of shabu (methamphetamine), 2 kg opium, 69 kg marijuana, 1,250 kg cocaine, 27 kg heroin, 41 kg qat, 24 kg ‘chemical’ (synthetic marijuana with added chemicals), 26 million illicit tablets and 49,000 liquor bottles.

The source said contacts are being made with the Iraqi and Iranian sides to control the border, indicating the lack of strict supervision at the Iraqi borders, which smugglers are taking advantage of. He said Kuwait's territorial waters between Iraq and Iran are considered a hotbed of activity by organized gangs. He said the confiscated amounts indicate the existence of loopholes at Kuwait's border outlets despite the advanced systems that were installed to discover drugs.

### Detective killed

A detective at the weapons collection department was killed when a bullet penetrated his abdomen and exited from his back while he was cleaning his pistol at home, Al-Rai reported yesterday. The body was recovered by the coroner and investigations are being conducted to find out exactly what happened.

### Sexual harassment

An American woman said a man approached her at a food supplement store and surprised her by touching her chest, Al-Rai reported yesterday quoting a police source. She screamed for help, prompting the suspect to escape. The suspect is a friend of the salesman at the store, and detectives are working on the case. In a separate incident in Hawally, a Filipina woman told police that the owner of a fruit and vegetable store pressed hard against her chest, but she was able to break loose. She then headed to the police station and lodged a complaint. A police source said the victim complained of severe pain and was taken to hospital. Separately, a Syrian man working at a women's garments store touched sensitive parts of a Kuwaiti woman, and tried to pull her behind the counter. She screamed for help, so he let go of her. The citizen called police and told them what happened, so a patrol was sent and the woman led them to the store, where the suspect was arrested. The Syrian confessed to also behaving the same way with an expat. He was sent to the public prosecution.

—Translated by Kuwait Times from the Arabic press

## Workshop discusses forced labor in Kuwait

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO), is organizing a two-day training workshop on ‘Reporting on Forced Labor and Fair Recruitment’. The workshop is being held in collaboration with the Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) on April 23 and 24, 2019.

Yesterday, an editorial roundtable discussion was held to introduce the topics that will be discussed during the workshop. The main topics include ‘forced labor and fair recruitment’, ‘is forced labor practiced in Kuwait and how’, ‘the impact of reporting on these issues whether better or worse’, ‘the challenges of reporting these issues in Kuwait’, ‘guide to reporting expat issues and fair recruitment conditions’, and other issues.

Officials from IFJ spoke about some of their experiences in witnessing and covering forced labor in various countries. They also spoke about some challenges that reporters face when doing their work. Moneer



**KUWAIT: Participants attend an editorial roundtable discussion held to introduce the topics that will be discussed during a workshop on ‘Reporting on Forced Labor and Fair Recruitment’. —Photo by Joseph Shagra**

Zarour, Head of Policies and Programs in the Middle East at IFJ, said the IFJ team aims to collaborate with journalists in the Gulf region for solutions to the problems and crisis this profession faces. He also highlighted some of the issues that will be discussed during the workshop, including concerns on the future of journalism and freedom of speech, among other issues.

Local journalists shared their experiences in covering and reporting laborers' problems or strikes. They also mentioned some of the new regulations and laws in the past few years and how they affected the labor market in Kuwait. Representatives from the Kuwait labor union, human rights organization and other institutions also attended the roundtable discussion.

## Deceased policeman laid to rest



**KUWAIT: The deceased policeman's body is carried to be laid to rest.**

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry held a funeral yesterday for policeman Mohammad Al-Enezi, who passed away in an accident while on duty on Saturday. Ministry's Undersecretary Lt General Essam Al-Naham and other officers were present at the funeral. Meanwhile, Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah offered his condolences to the family of the deceased policeman.



**Interior Ministry officials pay their respects.**



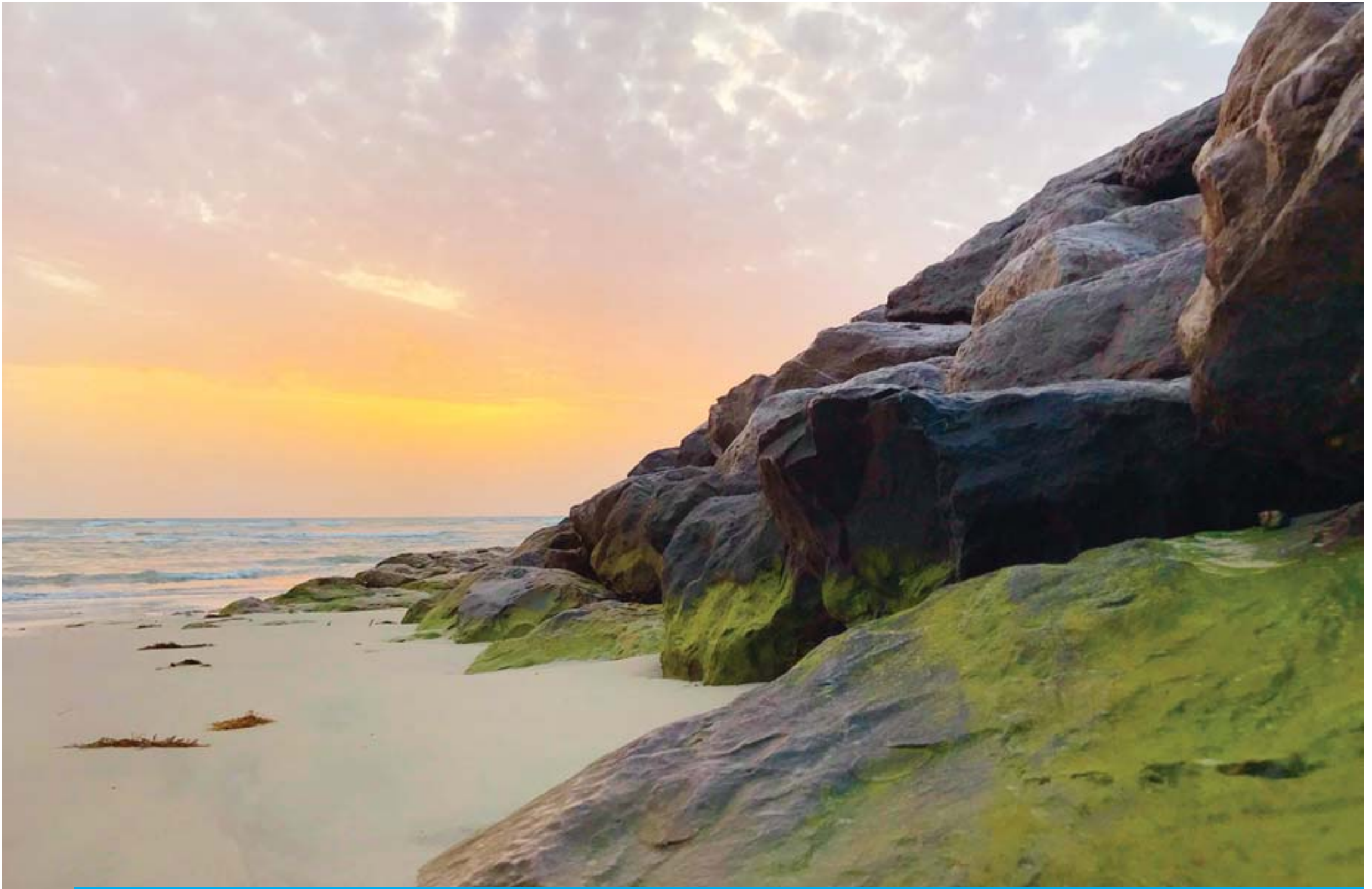
**Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah offers his condolences to the victim's family.**



**Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt General Essam Al-Naham offers his condolences.**



## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunrise at Messila beach. — Photo by Ayman Atallah (KUNA)

# Zain collaborates with ‘Green Dream’ environmental initiative on Earth Day

## Company continues to enrich sustainability strategy towards environment

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its collaboration with the ‘Green Dream’ environmental initiative on the occasion of Earth Day that is annually celebrated on April 22nd worldwide. The initiative aims at enriching environmental awareness by promoting the replacement of imported plants with native ones that have positive effects on the local environment.

The first step of the collaboration between Zain and the initiative witnessed the presence of Zain Kuwait’s Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan and environmental activist and head of the ‘Green Dream’ team Shabeeb Al-Ajmi, where they joined together in planting the first of 10,000 plants donated by Ajmi to Zain at the company’s main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The plants, which consist of 40 types of various organic plantations that are native to Kuwait, will be planted all around Kuwait with the aim of enriching environmental awareness within the community.

As part of the collaboration, Zain will plant over 200 of the donated plants in the areas around the company’s headquarters to replace the existing imported plantations. The rest of the donated plants will be sent to various entities in the country, such as schools, mosques, universities, public places, and more, to be planted with the aim of promoting the replacement of imported plants with native ones that have positive effects on the local environment. The initiative will also feature activities and programs that encourage Zain employees to plant local plantations at their homes and spread the message about this initiative.

Zain’s collaboration with this initiative falls under

the company’s solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the environment sector, which centers around supporting the various efforts that serve environmental causes. Zain’s social message seeks to stress on the importance of preserving natural resources and enrich environmental awareness in the community in which it operates.

Through its solid corporate sustainability strategy, Zain exerts more efforts into reducing the environmental footprint of its operations. Such efforts include preserving natural resources, reducing energy consumption, recycling waste, implementing green solutions in regards to water and electricity management, monitoring the company’s effects on climate change, and more. As part of its efforts, Zain collects an average of 21,000 to 23,000 plastic bottles every month, and the company collected over 13 tons of paper during 2018 for recycling purposes.

As part of its environmental contributions, Zain is a strategic partner of the Kuwait Dive Team for over 16 years. The company dedicated a brand new boat to the team, which is utilized to carry out marine preservation projects throughout the upcoming years. The boat is fully equipped with the latest state of the art equipment, and is being used for removing wrecked ships and boats from the bottom of the ocean, removing abandoned fishing nets, installing and maintaining environment-friendly anchors, monitoring coral reefs, cleaning shores, islands, and beaches, documenting marine life, and more.

Zain recently supported Project UCON, an environmental initiative that aimed at promoting waste



KUWAIT: Zain Kuwait’s Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan with head of the ‘Green Dream’ team Shabeeb Al-Ajmi and Zain Kuwait’s Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti at Zain’s main headquarters.

management and recycling. The company also supported an awareness campaign launched by the Environment Public Authority (EPA) that aimed at introducing Kuwait’s new environment law. Zain also strategically partners with Omniya environment project to provide recycling bins for plastic bottles and plastic caps on every floor of Zain’s three main headquarters buildings. The initiative aims at encouraging Zain employees to recycle, ultimately

raising awareness about the importance of preserving the environment.

Zain is keen on shouldering such initiatives that contribute to preserving Kuwait’s environment, as well as encouraging volunteering, recycling, and taking part in social activities within all age groups within the community. The company will spare no efforts to contribute to spreading positive awareness for a better environmental culture in the society.

## NBK welcomes 8th batch of ‘Yalla Watani’ trainees

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) welcomed a new batch of trainees attending the ‘Yalla Watani’ program, training newly hired employees to work in the bank’s branches. The training course covers numerous banking aspects including: banking principals, credit cards, loans, account types, insurance, fraud risks, money laundering, bank branches systems and evaluation. The program also includes a module on developing soft skills like self-esteem, self-evaluation, achieving outstanding performance, change and innovation, management and effective communication techniques, work ethics and teamwork.

The training program, which was attended by 18

trainees over a period of 3 weeks, aimed at providing the required training on the bank’s branches working mechanism through skill development prior to embarking on the field training at the branches. The trainees were welcomed by NBK executives headed by Emad Ahmad Al-Ablani, General Manager, Group Human Resources, in addition to area managers, and executives from Group Human Resources.

‘Yalla Watani’ is one of the most important career development programs held in the private sector for Kuwaiti fresh graduates. The course seeks to provide participants with professional training through covering various banking aspects arming them with the necessary qualifications required to work within the bank’s professional system.

The training program is an integral part of NBK’s annual training programs aimed at attracting young national talents, as the program is tailored to meet the market’s demands through training and developing opportunities for fresh graduates who have passed the prequalification exams to join the course.





# Investing in media important to build human thought: Info Minister

## 16th Arab Media Forum kicks off, titled ‘Media...Changes in Industry’

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Journalists and media persons from various Arab countries visited Kuwait to participate in the 16th edition of the Arab Media Forum held on April 21 and 22 under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The forum was titled ‘Media...Changes in Industry.’

During the opening ceremony, Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said investing in the media industry has become more important in the present time as it represents investing in building human thought and a responsible generation, far from fanatic and terrorist ideologies.

“Kuwait realizes the importance of media in highlighting numerous challenges facing our countries and youth. The rapid development of the media and communications industry has brought about new dangerous electronic media, which is far reaching, effective and spreading. Social media has allowed nonprofessionals to become journal-

ists, and anybody can express his opinion,” added Jabri.

Jabri thanked organizers for selecting Oman as the guest of honor as well as inviting 150 Arab university students to participate in the forum’s sessions. “The government and private media should contribute in developing the media industry through training journalists. This expresses the cultural role of Kuwait,” he pointed out.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General and Head of Communications and Media Bader Aldeen Alali noted that the Arab Media Forum has been cooperating with the Secretariat General of the Arab League since 2006. “Today we are discussing important issues on the future of Arab media at a time of this huge technological revolution that has changed the forms of traditional media all over the world. This has led to spreading rumors and wrong information, which is one of the biggest challenges facing the different Arab media. So we should work on the founding of a new generation of journalists to beat these challenges,” he explained.

Arab Media Forum Secretary General



Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri speaks at the 16th Arab Media Forum.



Arab Media Forum Secretary General Madhi Al-Khamees delivers a speech.



Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri honors Oman's Minister of Information Abdulmunem Al-Hosni.

Madhi Al-Khamees said participants will be discussing the media industry and how it affects daily life. “I hope this forum will bring solutions to the real challenges facing our profession, and will be able to develop media and protect its tools. Today is a great opportunity to have decision makers in the media

field from different Arab countries participate in this forum and listen to our opinions and concerns,” he said.

Oman’s Minister of Information Abdulmunem Al-Hosni thanked Kuwait for the invitation, saying modern technology is a challenge to traditional media. “Any human being

can become a journalist now. We should assess the events before making them public. An elementary school student can distort the facts because of the vast space of media,” he noted. The ceremony concluded with awarding media personalities including journalists, actors, athletes and other media officials.

## EQUATE supports preservation efforts at Kuwait’s Sadu House

KUWAIT: The EQUATE Group, a global producer of petrochemicals, is sponsoring the preservation efforts of Gulf cultural and artistic heritage at Kuwait’s iconic Sadu House which inspires its name from its mission to preserve the ethnic handicrafts of Bedouins also known as Sadu hand weaving. The five-year sponsorship will see EQUATE support the newly established Sadi Studio, an initiative by Sadu House that attracts young artists from the region in an aim to revive the art of Sadu weaving through their works and promote its cultural significance in the history of Gulf states.

Speaking of the EQUATE Group sustainability strategy, Senior Executive for Corporate Communications and Government Affairs, Dr Abeer Al-Omar, said: “Our focus at EQUATE is to invest in economic, educational and environmental programs that take us a step forward towards achieving the sustainability goals we aim for, such as the Sadi Studio initiative that supports the revitalization of cultural heritage.”

Speaking at the launch event of Sadi Studio, EQUATE Sustainability Committee Member, Fatemah Al-Faresi, said: “Sadu House is one of the very few museums and cultural centers that preserves the local cultural heritage in Kuwait. We look forward to seeing young artists connect our past to our present and aspired future, and invite our local community to take part in this rich experience at Sadi Studio.”

Commenting on the partnership with EQUATE, Sadu House Chairperson, Sheikha Bibi Duaij Al-Jaber Al-Ali, said: “Sadi Studio brings artists in an innovative platform that inspires from the heritage of weaving and traditional arts, an initiative that we hope will preserve what was once a significant source of living in Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf. We thank EQUATE for their generous sponsorship and look forward to continue working together.”

EQUATE aligns its sustainability and community involvement strategy with the UNDP Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Kuwait’s 2035 Vision. As part of this strategy, the Group extends its support to various segments of the community and has previously partnered with the Kuwait Blind Association to help establish a youth center for the blind.



## Burgan Bank staff enjoy special discounts from Maidan Clinic

KUWAIT: As part of its on-going drive to provide added value and benefits to its employees, Burgan Bank recently partnered with Maidan clinic to accommodate its staff with exclusive discounts on all dental services. Through the collaboration, the staff were treated to a 30 percent discounted offer from one of the leading dental implant and smile makeover clinics in Kuwait.

Led by the Internal Communication Unit in Burgan Bank, the employees benefitted from the three-day visit by the Maidan Clinic team. The team performed the necessary tests and shared advice on optimal dental care including detailed information on the full range of available services at the clinic. Backed by an internationally renowned reputation in the market and six branches covering Kuwait’s governorates, Maidan Clinic provides comprehensive, integrated, and leading-edge services and is currently the only dental clinic in Kuwait that owns the Mobile Dental Clinic’s service.

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## The wounded fight on in India political ‘killing fields’

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‘Free at last!’: When black South Africans could finally vote

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MANILA: Employees are seen at an open area in Manila after an earthquake rocked the Philippines yesterday. A powerful earthquake rocked the Philippines, sending thousands of people fleeing high-rises in Manila as buildings shook. — AFP

# Philippine earthquake leaves 5 dead

## Three bodies pulled out of a four-storey building

**MANILA:** Five people were killed when at least two buildings collapsed near Manila after a powerful earthquake set skyscrapers swaying and drove terrified locals into the street. Three bodies have been pulled out of a four-storey building in the town of Porac, while a woman and her grandchild were crushed to death in the town of Lubao, Lilia Pineda, governor of Pampanga province told ABS-CBN television.

“We believe there are still people trapped in the four-storey building,” Pineda said, adding 20 people have so far been rescued and taken to hospital as night fell. “It’s difficult because there is no power, so we’re still trying to get hold of a generator to be able to res-

cue the people inside,” she added. A strong quake with a magnitude of 6.3 struck the region at 5:11 pm (0911 GMT) according to the US Geological Survey. The quake that rumbled across the northern Philippines caused skyscrapers to sway, as they are designed to do, in Manila.

It also caused serious damage to the capital’s secondary Clark Airport, which is located on the site of the former US military installation that lies about an hour’s drive north of the capital. Damage was still being assessed, but residents posted photos on social of media showing cracked walls and light fixtures swinging in the moments after the quake. Office

workers piled out onto the streets as emergency alarms blared, AFP reporters saw. Feliza Villanueva, 21, a business process outsourcing employee told AFP she and four colleagues were at work when the quake struck.

“This was the second strongest quake I’ve felt in my entire life,” she told AFP as she joined hundreds of others in the courtyard of an office building, waiting for the all clear. “We were worried but we did not panic,” she said. “We planned how to evacuate the building. There were too many people going down the stairs, so we waited for our turn. People looked in shock, but no one was shouting or anything like that,”

she said. The quake was centered on the town of Castillejos, about 100 kilometers northwest of Manila, local geologists said.

Scientists from the US Geological Survey logged its magnitude at 6.3, and said its epicenter was 40 kilometers below the Earth’s surface. Dani Justo, a martial arts instructor, told AFP she was at her Manila home when the quake struck. “The clothes hanging on our line were really swaying. My shih tzu (dog) dropped flat on the ground,” she added. The Philippines is part of the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, an arc of intense seismic activity that stretches from quake-prone Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin. — AFP

## Tourists flee Lanka, as travel industry faces uncertainty

**COLOMBO:** Tourists are scrambling to flee Sri Lanka and cancelling holidays after a string of deadly suicide blasts that have sparked concerns the lucrative tourism industry could be sent into a tailspin. The attacks on hotels and churches came as Sri Lanka was emerging as a leading tourist hotspot, named the world’s top destination for 2019 by a major guide book. The Easter Sunday massacre killed nearly 300 people, including 37 foreigners.

German schoolteacher Martin Ewest arrived in the island nation two days ago, hoping for a peaceful holiday with his wife and 12-year-old daughter. But all that changed when he heard about the attacks. “We want to leave as soon as possible... but our embassy can’t help because they are on holiday, our airline says they can’t do anything, and our hotel has not offered us any assistance,” the 44-year-old told AFP. “It’s a difficult situation... we are like sitting ducks, waiting until we can leave next week.”

Powerful explosions hit three hotels in the capital Colombo - the Cinnamon Grand, the Shangri-La and the Kingsbury Hotel, all of which have closed until further notice. For Pakistani executive Kashif Ali, it was a lucky escape. The 33-year-old had been trying to book his family into the Cinnamon Grand only to be told that no rooms were available. “We had all these plans to travel around the country but now we are scared to go anywhere,” he told AFP, adding that the blasts brought back disturbing memories of Pakistan’s own history of militant violence. “We came here to escape all



COLOMBO: German school teacher Martin Ewest poses for photographs along with his wife and his daughter yesterday, a day after the series of bomb blasts targeting churches and luxury hotels in Sri Lanka. — AFP

this - we wanted to relax, not spend all day in a hotel. Now we are just waiting to leave - it’s been a waste of a holiday,” his sister-in-law Sobia Samreen told AFP.

At Colombo’s international airport, nervous and exhausted travellers lined up to leave the country as heavily armed soldiers manned the entry and exit points. The sense of anxiety was palpable at hotels lining the capital’s famed beachfront, with five-star properties such as the Taj Samudra Colombo and the Galle Face Hotel putting extra security in place, including armed guards who prevented anyone but guests from entering.

‘Don’t feel safe’  
The US has revised its travel advisory for Sri

Lanka, warning of further possible terrorist attacks, while other nations such as Australia and Ireland have also advised citizens to exercise caution while in the country. Sri Lankan travel agent Morris Bernard told AFP his company had recorded “lots of cancellations - about a quarter of our clients have cancelled or postponed their plans, saying they are scared (to visit)”.

Another travel agent Saman Palitha said that “the only group we were expecting later this month has cancelled - 13 people from India who said that for the time being they don’t feel safe travelling here with their family”. A source at the Galle Face Hotel told AFP that while “tourism obviously suffers in a situation like this, we hope it won’t have a long-term impact”. — AFP

## IS claims attack on Saudi security base

**RIYADH:** Four men were killed Sunday in an attack on a Saudi security services base north of the capital Riyadh, official media said, as the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the assault. Quoting a spokesman for the state security services, the Saudi Press Agency said three policemen were also wounded in the morning attack in the Zulfi province north of Riyadh. It said a “group of terrorists” tried to “storm the building” but security authorities repelled them, killing four.

An investigation was launched to identify the assailants as well as the type of “explosive material” they had in their possession, SPA said. The London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper earlier reported that the attack targeted state security forces in the town of Zulfi, 260 kilometers north of the capital. It said the attackers had rammed a vehicle into a security barrier around the base in an attempt to gain entry. Two gunmen then stepped out of the vehicle and opened fire, sparking a gun battle with police, who killed them, the paper reported.

A third was gunned down as he attempted to flee while a fourth died as he tried to set off an explosive belt, the paper said. The Saudi-owned satellite channel Al-Arabiya also reported four people died during an attack, but gave no details. IS, in a statement carried by its propaganda arm Amaq, said “the attack on the security services base in the town of Zulfi northwest of Riyadh was carried out by Islamic State group fighters”. It gave no further details.

The kingdom has seen numerous attacks in recent years by jihadists, including Al-Qaeda and IS, against security forces. It has also seen clashes between Shiite militants and security forces in the eastern provinces. IS’ elusive supreme Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had in recent years called for attacks on Saudi Arabia, which is part of a US-led coalition that has been battling the jihadists in Syria and Iraq since 2014. The Sunni extremist group has claimed previous attacks in Saudi Arabia, targeting mostly security forces and members of the Shiite community who they view as heretics.

On April 7, two men armed with explosives were killed and two others arrested as they attacked a security checkpoint in a predominantly Shiite region in eastern Saudi Arabia, which has seen years of demonstrations against the Sunni royal family. Sunday’s attack took place in a majority Sunni region. An estimated 10-15 percent of the ultra-conservative kingdom’s 32 million population are Shiite, although no official figures exist. — AFP



International

# Five Algerian billionaires arrested as part of anti-graft investigation

## Court summons Ex-prime minister and current Finance Minister

**ALGIERS:** Five Algerian billionaires, some of them close to former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika who quit over mass protests, have been arrested as part of an anti-graft investigation, state TV said yesterday. The five are Issad Rebrab, considered the richest businessman in the energy-rich north African nation who is especially active in the food and sugar refining business, and four brothers from the Kouinef family, it said. Rebrab is chairman of the family-owned Cevital company, which imports raw sugar from Brazil and exports white sugar to Tunisia, Libya and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The Kouinef family is close to Bouteflika, who ruled Algeria for 20 years. Bouteflika stepped down three weeks ago, bowing to pressure from the army and weeks of demonstrations by mainly younger Algerians seeking change. There was no immediate statement from those arrested. The move came after Algeria's army chief, Lieutenant General Gaïd Salah, said last week he expected members of the ruling elite in the major oil and natural gas-producing country to be prosecuted for corruption.

An Algerian court has already summoned former prime minister Ahmed Ouyahia and current Finance Minister Mohamed Loukal, two close associates of Bouteflika, in an investigation into suspected misuse of public money, state TV said on Saturday. Mass

protests, which began on Feb. 22 and have been largely peaceful, have continued after Bouteflika's resignation as many want the removal of an entire elite that has governed Algeria since independence from France in 1962. They also want the prosecution of people they see as corrupt.

Bouteflika has been replaced by Abdelkader Bensalah, head of the upper house of parliament, as interim president for 90 days until a presidential election is held on July 4. Hundreds of thousands protested on Friday to demand the resignation of Bensalah and other top officials. Bensalah has invited civil society and political parties yesterday to discuss the transition to elections but several parties and activists said they would not participate.

The army has so far patiently monitored the mostly peaceful protests that at times have swelled to hundreds of thousands of people. It remains the most powerful institution in Algeria, having swayed politics from the shadows for decades. Salah said on April 16 that the military was considering all options to resolve the political crisis and warned that "time is running out". It was a hint that the military was losing patience with the popular upheaval shaking Algeria, a major oil and natural-gas exporter and an important security partner for the West against Islamist militants in north and west Africa. —Reuters



**ANNABA:** Algerians take part in a demonstration in the northeastern city of Annaba, about 570 kilometers west of the capital Algiers. —AFP

## Brexit's capital still struggling with the divide

**BOSTON:** In the 2016 referendum, the market town of Boston in eastern England was the epicentre of the Brexit vote that shocked the world. Fast forward to now and voters are furious that Brexit has been delayed due to gridlock in parliament, while integration between locals and Boston's thriving new east European population remains a struggle. "Boston is a lot angrier than it was," said Judith Churrah, 66.

"Two and a half years on and we are no further forward. The anger is not against migrants but against the politicians," she explained. "Burn down parliament." Some 75.6 percent of Boston voters wanted to leave the European Union in the June 2016 referendum - the highest figure in the UK - which highlighted unease about the effects of a rapid immigration boom in this otherwise overlooked town. Boston is a hub for the vast, fertile Fens inland.

The town changed dramatically after eight ex-communist nations entered the EU in 2004, with thousands, particularly from Poland and the Baltic states, drawn by ready work in Britain's food-producing heartland. But the migration surge collided with the 2008 financial crisis, when the money from central government dried up, meaning the influx was not matched with infrastructure expansion, fuelling the Brexit vote. The Office for National Statistics esti-

imated that in 2017, 20,000 of the 68,000 people in Boston were foreign-born, up from 6,000 out of 57,000 in 2004.

### Breaking bread together

The referendum outcome triggered attempts to bridge the divide between older and newer Bostonians. Saint Botolph's Church, Boston's towering landmark, hosts regular food and drink events to facilitate cross-community chat. "Through learning about each other, we become more comfortable with each other," said Adam Kell, the church's operations manager.

The annual Boston Marathon was also launched in 2016 in an attempt to promote cultural integration. "Sport and common activities are by far the best way of addressing the problem, integrating and reducing tensions," said the event's chairman Richard Austin. This year's event ran on April 14, the day before the more famous US Boston Marathon. Data shows around half of those who did the simpler five-kilometer fun run have Boston postcodes. "Each year, more and more of the immigrant population are getting involved," said Austin.

### Shopping at different times

But just as those bridges are tentatively built, another divide could be emerging with the surge of Romanian and Bulgarian immigration after transitional limits were lifted in 2014. Asked what has changed about Boston since the referendum, locals and longer-term east European residents in the big market square mostly cite the Romanian influx.

Fruit and veg seller Kelly Brandon said



**BOSTON:** A pedestrian passes a European food store in the town of Boston in Lincolnshire, northeast England. Boston registered Britain's strongest support for Brexit but nearly three years on in the town transformed by eastern European immigration, integration is still a struggle. —AFP

older English people predominantly visit in the mornings and younger eastern Europeans in the afternoon once their early work shifts are done. "This market would be finished if it wasn't for them. 100 percent," said Brandon, whose family have run the stall for 25 years. "The longer-term ones that came in on the first wave - we know them by name, we have watched their children grow up and employed their sons. They're similar to us, apart from the language."

### Employers lament uncertainty

The farms and factories that have

proved such a migrant magnet feel left in limbo by Brexit. Belmont Nurseries, Britain's largest outdoor tulips grower, imports its bulbs from the Netherlands and has started stockpiling lest post-Brexit paperwork imposes transit delays that would spoil the bulbs. Near neighbors J A Collison and Sons produces more than 32 million stems of cut flowers annually under six hectares of glasshouses and polythene tunnels. It supplies major British supermarket chains with tulips, lilies and scented stocks. "We're completely in the dark," partner Ian Collison said. "We just need something sorted sooner rather than later." —AFP

## Iran appoints new head of revolutionary guards

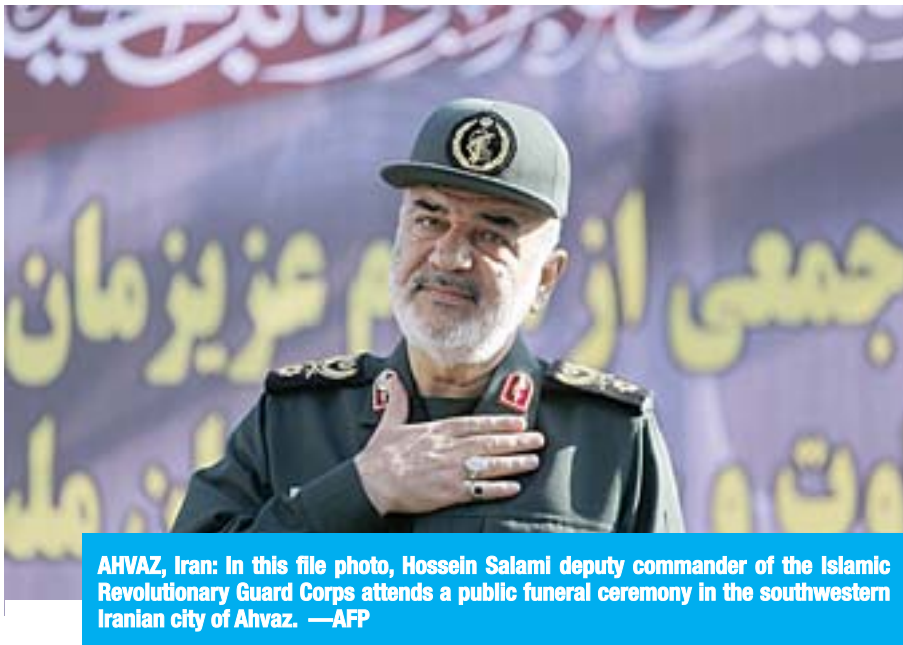
**TEHRAN:** Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has appointed a new head of the Revolutionary Guards, the country's ideological military force, Khamenei's official website reported late Sunday. Major General Hossein Salami, 58, replaces Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, who had headed the Guards since September 2007. The move comes less than two weeks after the United States branded Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a "foreign terrorist organization", adding it to a blacklist.

"Considering your capabilities and significant experience with different revolutionary responsibilities ... I promote you to major general and commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Guards," Khamenei's statement read. Salami, who had served as deputy head of the corps for nine years, is a veteran of the 1980-

88 Iran-Iraq war. He had also led the corps' airforce before becoming the second-in-command. The shuffle was caused by the "necessity of a change in Sepah's (the Guards' Farsi name) leadership" requested by Jafari himself, according to the leader.

Born in 1957 and majoring in architecture before the 1979 Islamic revolution, Jafari became a member of the Guards in 1981 and was promoted to the corps' head in 2007. Quoted by ultra-conservative Fars news agency, then Brigadier-General Salami advised Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in October "to practice swimming in the Mediterranean because soon you will have no choice, but flee into the sea." Salami also reportedly said that day that Israel could be destroyed by Iran's Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

"They are not at the level of being a threat for us. Hezbollah is enough for destroying them," Fars quoted him as saying. Formed shortly after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Guards are estimated to be about 125,000 strong by the International Institute for Strategic



**AHVAZ, Iran:** In this file photo, Hossein Salami deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps attends a public funeral ceremony in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz. —AFP

Studies (IISS). They answer to Khamenei and boast their own ground, naval and air forces. Working in parallel to the regular army, the corps' mission

is to "guard the (Islamic) revolution and its achievements" as well as "to realise holy ideals and to propagate the rule of God's law". —AFP

## Life after death: Sherpa widows eye Everest to fight taboo

**KATHMANDU:** Two Nepali Sherpa women hope to conquer Mount Everest next month, finishing off the job their husbands started in a bid to empower fellow widows and prove there is life after death. In a conservative country - which routinely elevates men over women - widowhood can

confine a bereaved wife to an even lower life of hostility, discrimination and outright abuse.

So the two women hope that by scaling the world's highest mountain they can upturn perceptions about a widow's worth and complete the unfinished ascent of their husbands, who died working as guides for foreign mountaineers. "I felt like I had lost everything when he died. I couldn't think or function like a normal human being. I had become insane," said Furdiki Sherpa, as she readied for her big trip.

With a photo of her dead husband alongside, Furdiki sifted through a giant duffel bag crammed with climbing gear, from crampons to carabiners, boots to ropes. It was while fixing ropes for his clients that her husband died on the 8,850-metre

(29,035-ft) mountain in April 2013. A year later, Nima Doma Sherpa's husband was killed along with 15 other Sherpas in an avalanche near the base camp. The grief of losing a partner - let alone sole breadwinner and father to their children - was further compounded, they said, by the social stigma that comes with being a widow.

"There is a huge difference between how society treats married women and widowed women," Furdiki, a mother of three, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in her cramped living room. "If I hang out with my friends, especially men, that's a problem. If I try to have fun, that's a problem. If I ride pillion, that's a problem ... Neighbors take photos, call me immoral and loose, and try to shame me," said the 43-year-old. Nima

Doma's situation has been no different. "The taboo is still very much alive," she said.

"Many people, even today, think we should be confined to our homes, restrict ourselves only to household work. That is just wrong," said the 35-year-old widow. Widows in South Asia are generally expected to mourn until the end of their lives, renouncing colorful clothes, jewelry, rich and spicy food, and even festivals as they are deemed inauspicious, say women's rights experts. According to The Loomba Foundation, a widows' rights charity, widows in developing countries are routinely disinherited, enslaved or evicted by their in-laws, accused of witchcraft or forced to undergo abusive sexual rituals. —Reuters

## Turkish police arrest ruling party member, and eight others

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish police yesterday arrested nine people, including a member of the ruling AKP party, after a mob attack on opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu that sparked widespread criticism. Kilicdaroglu, 70, of the Republican People's Party (CHP) was assaulted on Sunday in a crowd as he attended a funeral in Ankara for a soldier killed fighting Kurdish militants in the southeast.

The attack came days after the opposition CHP won Ankara and Istanbul from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's AKP in March 31 local elections, seen as a major setback for the ruling party after a decade-and-a-half in power. A video of Sunday's attack showed the CHP leader being mobbed and punched, then chanting crowds surrounded a house where he was taken for his protection. The images went viral on social media.

CHP leaders blamed Erdogan's AKP for provoking the attack and demanded those detained be held accountable. They called for the interior minister to resign over the incident. "This is not an ordinary attack, this is not an ordinary provocation. This is planned," CHP Istanbul chief Canan Kaftancioglu told several thousand supporters at a rally in the city. The crowds waved banners reading: "Are you so scared by the CHP's success?" in reference to the AKP's loss of Istanbul and Ankara.

During campaigning for the local polls, Erdogan often accused Kilicdaroglu and the CHP of backing the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and showed videos of the opposition leader at his rallies. Kilicdaroglu was not badly injured in the assault. The chief suspect in Sunday's attack, identified only by his initials O.S., was arrested in Sivrihisar in central Anatolia and was being taken to Ankara, private NTV television reported. The AKP later identified him as Osman Sarigun and said he was a party member who would face expulsion.

"The incident is being investigated thoroughly," Erdogan wrote on Twitter. "We are against any form of violence and terror. We can never allow anyone to harm peace in Turkey." Eight other people have also been detained, officials said. Speaking to AFP, the CHP's Kaftancioglu welcomed the party's expulsion of the suspect but said the problem was about the polarization of Turkish society. "The situation will not change with one person's dismissal unless the mentality encouraging attackers by polarizing society changes," she said.

Erdogan had presented the local elections as a matter of national survival. He campaigned heavily even though he was not running in the election himself. For his supporters, Erdogan is the strong leader Turkey needs to deal with its security threats and is a voice for more religiously conservative Turks. —AFP



International

# One-horse South African town still scarred by ‘racist’ murder

## Murder of a black teen revives the demons of racism, inequality

**COLIGNY:** Not many people had heard of Coligny in South Africa’s North West province until 2017, when the murder of a black teen by two Afrikaner farmers revived the demons of racism and inequality. The killing highlighted that a quarter century after the demise of apartheid, the social fabric of the “Rainbow Nation” is still run by race and relations are often marred by suspicion and hostility.

Coligny made international headlines when 16-year-old Mthlomola Mosweu was accused of stealing sunflowers from a local farm, put into a van and driven to a police station by two farmers Pieter Doorewaard, 26, and Phillip Schutte, 34. Mosweu allegedly jumped out of the van and suffered neck injuries, dying a short while later. Others say he was thrown out.

A high court judge later found the two guilty of murder, kidnapping and intimidation, calling their actions “disgraceful”. His death has sparked mass protests, leaving a trail of destruction with houses and trucks torched and shops looted and damaged. Calm has since returned but the atmosphere in the town remains fragile. Towie Pieters, the pastor of the town’s redbrick Dutch Reformed church, last Sunday asked his congregation – about 50 well-to-do whites – to offer prayers for Doorewaard and Schutte, who got 23- and 18-year jail terms for the murder. Both men are appealing the sentence.

### ‘Rumors and false stories’

“Before that there was no tensions in Coligny, it was good times,” Pieters said, after his sermon. “Both communities were quite committed for good relations so we were so surprised when those riots happened,” he said. “They just looted and destroyed during one week.” “Reconciliation means bridge gaps between people, understanding, taking care of each other, listening to others’ frustrations,” he said. A “peace forum” has been launched with meetings between the communities while damaged buildings are repaired by volunteers.

Retired farmer Henk Myburg said there were conflicting versions of events. “It was a disaster. Everybody has his own version of what happened. I believe the biggest problem was the rumors and the false stories that were spread,” the 63-year-old said. “All of us have some mindset about what some others have done. We needed to talk together urgently.” The town is cut in two by a railway track. On one side lie pretty houses with immaculate gardens housing some 2,500 people, predominantly white.

Shacks meanwhile line Tlhabologang, a black shantytown on the other side that is home to a population 10 times larger. “I was born here. I don’t want to say that racist people don’t exist, but there are not so much racists,” said Kenneth Ngakane, pastor at an evangelical church in the shantytown. “People here hire black people. If we say white people must go, we have a very serious problem because black people have no factories in Coligny... we have to work together,” the 41-year-old said.

The yawning gap between the haves and the have-nots continues to bite. “In the township so many youth are unemployed... This guy is having a degree in psychology and he’s unemployed. There are so many like him. This situation generates anger,” said Stanny Mnyakama, a headmaster and community leader in Tlhabologang. Nationwide statistics are alarming. A total of 30.5 percent of the black majority is unemployed, against 8.0 percent among whites. The average monthly salary of a black person is 3,000 rand (\$210) against 12,500 rand for a white counterpart.

However, despite this, 60 percent of South Africans interviewed in 2017 were of the view that race relations had improved since 1994, when the apartheid regime ended, according to the SA Institute for Race Relations. “There are a number of incidents, they make the headlines, they are dealt with the right way, they are referred to the courts. I don’t think it shows we have a problem, I think it shows that we are a fairly mature society,” said the institute’s director Frans Cronje.



**COLIGNY:** Photo shows the grave of Matlhomola Mosweu in a cemetery of Coligny, some 120kms west of Johannesburg. On April 20, 2017, the killing of 16 year-old Matlhomola Mosweu by two white farmers plunged Coligny into violence and rekindled the old demons of racism, which continues to poison South Africa a quarter of a century after the end of the war. —AFP

### ‘Normal segregation’

Others dismiss the existence of racism outright like wealthy Coligny farmer Pieter Karsten, who is the father of one of the men jailed for the murder. “There is no racism here. It’s normal segregation between rich and poor people,” Karsten said. “The jobs are here but they don’t want to work. They are all used to live on grants,” he said. “People should stop looking back to what happened before 1994 and start looking forward. The government is doing nothing for them. They should start blaming their own people. Some

people are creating racism simply because they think they can get votes in fuelling hate,” he said, blaming the ruling African National Congress (ANC), the continent’s oldest liberation movement. The allegation leaves local ANC leader Vermaas Josiah fuming. “The problem is only those two white men who killed the boy, the recklessness of them. It was a racist act,” he said. “We didn’t put more fuel on the fire, no. As politicians we were supporting the population because we felt that Matlhomola should not have died but we were not encouraging people to make violence.” —AFP

## ‘Free at last!’: When black South Africans could finally vote

**PARIS:** Black South Africans voted for the first time in April 1994, turning out in droves for a jubilant election that was the final death blow to centuries of white domination. Here is an account of that historic event, based on AFP reports from the time.

### Snaking queues

Long lines of black voters snaked back from polling stations across the country over the four days of voting from April 26 to 29. The first day was reserved for the elderly, ill, pregnant women and officials who would be on duty when general polling opened on April 27. Even a series of deadly bombings on the eve of the election, blamed on white right-wing extremists, could not dampen the enthusiasm of the 22 million voters fired up by the end of the apartheid system of white-minority rule imposed in 1948.

“I don’t mind standing here even if it is raining because I have been waiting for 46 years to vote,” one man said in a queue in Cape Town. African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela cast his ballot in the Inanda black township near Durban, watched by a barrage of photographers and journalists. “We have now moved from an era of pessimism, turmoil and conflict,” the smiling anti-apartheid hero said. “Now we are starting a new era of hope, reconciliation and nation-building.”

### ‘Indescribable’

Hours before the 9,000 polling stations opened on April 27, the orange, white and blue apartheid-era flag was lowered for the last time at ceremonies in all the provincial capitals. There were cheers in Johannesburg as a crowd of about 300 witnessed the hoisting of the new multi-colored flag. Outgoing president FW de Klerk – who had cleared the way for the end of apartheid when he unbanned the ANC and released Mandela in 1990 – voted in the plush Pretoria suburb of Arcadia. It is “a great day for South Africa,” he said. “Today is the start of a new era.” He went on to Johannesburg’s black township Soweto to watch Foreign Minister Pik Botha cast his ballot, cheered by emotional black voters who shouted, “I love you!”.

Mandela’s estranged wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela also drew heavy media attention when she cast her ballot in the Kattlehong black township east of Johannesburg. “It’s indescribable. I don’t think you can put it into words for people who haven’t paid as high a price as we have. I’m ecstatic,” she said. Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu was also overjoyed, despite having to wait 45 minutes at his voting station in Guguletu outside Cape Town for ballot papers to arrive. “You just want to yell, dance, jump and cry all at the same time,” he said while queueing.

### Voting extended

But the day belonged to the ordinary black South Africans who brought plastic chairs to sit on and umbrellas to shade them during the inevitable long wait. Salphy Molea, a domestic worker who voted in Johannesburg, said: “Really, I’m feeling very happy. We’ll pray to God to give everybody a better life.” Her white employer, Rosalyn Messerschmidt, said she was “very positive”. Polling was extended into a third day in some areas where logistical glitches meant that thousands had not been able to cast their precious first ballots. —AFP

## S African apartheid: Race-based system ended 25 years ago

**PARIS:** South Africa’s first all-race vote 25 years ago turned the page on an oppressive system of racial segregation called apartheid that for roughly 50 years privileged whites over blacks. Here is a reminder.

### Races apart

Apartheid – an Afrikaans-language word meaning the state of “apartness” – became official government policy in 1948 when the conservative National Party took power.

It formalized a system of white-minority domination in place soon after European settlers started arriving on the southern tip of Africa more than 300 years before, most coming from The Netherlands and Britain. Apartheid was built on laws that classified people as black, colored (mixed race), Indian or white. The races were separated in every aspect including at school, work and hospitals, and where they could live and shop. Jobs were reserved for certain races; marriage and sex across the color bar was forbidden; even beaches, buses and park benches were allotted according to skin color.

### White-minority rule

Whites – who made up less than 20 percent of the population – had ownership of more than 80 percent of the land. They controlled the economy, including

the lucrative mining sector, and all political levers. Blacks had no right to vote and were relegated to inferior jobs, education and services. They were made to live in neglected townships on the outskirts of urban areas or in various disadvantaged ethnic-based homelands called “Bantustans”. Until 1986 black South Africans were obliged to carry a passport-like document called a pass book which restricted their movements. To maintain the system, the apartheid government imposed severe censorship and relied heavily on its security forces, with compulsory conscription for white males between 1967 and 1993.

### The fight back

The African National Congress (ANC) led the resistance to apartheid, first adopting non-violent tactics such as strikes, boycotts and civil disobedience campaigns. Among the first major protests was a boycott of government buses in the Alexandra township in 1957. In 1960 a march in Sharpeville against the hated pass books became a massacre when police opened fire on the crowd, killing 69 blacks. In 1960 the government banned the ANC and other black opposition, and imposed a state of emergency. Underground and in exile, the ANC turned to armed struggle. In 1964 one of its leaders, Nelson Mandela, was sentenced with others to life in prison for sabotage. He was behind bars for 27 years, becoming the world’s best-known political prisoner of the time and an icon of the anti-apartheid struggle.

### Sanctions

The Sharpeville massacre brought



**JOHANNESBURG:** File picture shows Nelson Mandela (center) and his then-wife anti-apartheid campaigner Winnie raising their fists and saluting cheering crowd upon Mandela’s release from the Victor Verster prison near Paarl. —AFP

world attention to the regime’s brutal repression, leading to the start of its international isolation. South Africa was excluded from the Olympic Games, expelled from the United Nations, put under arms and trade embargoes. Internationally renowned personalities became activists against apartheid, with a major rock concert at London’s Wembley Stadium in 1988 honoring Mandela.

### Apartheid abolished

It came as a shock when in 1990 President FW de Klerk, in power for just five months, announced the legalization of the black opposition. Within days

Mandela walked free after 27 years in jail: within a year and a half, apartheid was over; its discriminatory laws undone. Its dismantling was celebrated with the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Mandela and de Klerk. The transition to democracy was not without hurdles with white extremists violently resistant and rivalry between ANC militants and the Zulu party Inkhata breaking into deadly violence. The first all-race elections were held in 1994 and black South Africans queued for hours to cast a vote for the first time in their lives. The ANC won by a landslide and Mandela became the country’s first black president. Apartheid was over. —AFP

## S Africa: Milestones in 25 years since democracy

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa has travelled a difficult road since the first all-race elections in April 1994 ended more than three centuries of white domination. Here are some milestones.

### 1994: First black president

The party that led the fight against apartheid, the African National Congress (ANC), wins the first multi-racial elections with nearly 63 percent of the vote. In May 1994 Nelson Mandela is sworn in as the country’s first black president. He heads a unity government that includes former president FW de Klerk, who had succumbed to local and international pressure and unbanned the ANC. In June South Africa is readmitted to the United Nations after two decades of exclusion because of its apartheid policies.

### 1999: Mbeki takes over

In June 1999 Mandela, aged 80, stands down after one term, handing over to his deputy Thabo Mbeki as the ANC again wins general elections. Re-elected in 2004, Mbeki is eventually forced out of office in September 2008, made to resign by the ANC amid a power struggle with the party president Jacob Zuma. With South Africa confronted by the biggest HIV/AIDS epidemic in the world, Mbeki is criticized for questioning the link between HIV and AIDS, and resistance to public

treatment programs. Zuma becomes the first Zulu president in 2009 when the ANC again wins general elections.

### 2006: Gay marriage

In November 2006 South Africa becomes the sole African nation to allow gay marriage when a controversial civil union bill receives the final seal of approval. It is greeted enthusiastically by many but also opposed by religious groups, conservatives and traditionalists, with strong anti-gay prejudice remaining.

### 2010: Africa’s first WCup

In 2010 South Africa becomes the first country on the continent to host the football World Cup, spending billions of rand on construction of 10 stadiums and other infrastructure. Despite worries about crime, the June 1 to July 11 event is a success-even if the home team are eliminated early-hosted in nine cities and boosting the economy and tourism.

### 2012: Marikana shooting

In August 2012 police deployed to break up a strike at the Marikana platinum mine northwest of Johannesburg shoot dead 34 miners. It is the worst police violence since the end of apartheid as 44 people perish. A dark moment for then Lonmin mine director and current president Cyril Ramaphosa, despite being exonerated by a judicial inquiry in 2015.

### 2013: Mandela dies

In December 2013 Mandela dies aged 95 after a long battle against lung infection and several hospitalizations. “Our nation has lost its greatest son,” Zuma announces on television. A



**WESTERN CAPE:** A man prepares an open plot among huts, built with sheets of metals, in the makeshift illegally established and informal settlement in Khayelitsha, about 35km from the centre of Cape Town. —AFP

memorial service in Soweto draws tens of thousands of people, including about 100 world leaders such as US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro. His body lies in state for three days.

### 2018: Zuma forced out

Calls mount for Zuma to quit in March 2016 as South Africa’s top court says he flouted the constitution and used public funds to upgrade his private residence. As scandals pile up, the anti-corruption watchdog in November 2016 charges that

he allowed a wealthy Indian business family, the Guptas, undue influence over the government. In October 2017 the Supreme Court of Appeal rules he is liable for prosecution over almost 800 counts of corruption relating to a 1990s arms deal. Zuma is forced by a court in January 2018 to appoint an investigation into corruption. The ANC demands he steps down, which he reluctantly does in February 2018. He is replaced by his deputy president, Cyril Ramaphosa, who vows to tackle state corruption and is standing for election on May 8. —AFP



## International

# Sri Lanka bombings put Christians on frontline of religious divides

## Ethnic and religious violence has plagued Sri Lanka for decades

**COLOMBO:** The Easter Sunday attacks on three churches in Sri Lanka mark a devastating escalation of violence against a Christian minority that has been targeted in the past, but never to such brutal and deadly effect. Ethnic and religious violence has plagued Sri Lanka for decades, with a 37-year conflict with Tamil rebels that claimed 100,000 lives and an upswing in recent years in clashes between the Buddhist majority and Muslims.

While there have been attacks on Christians, their community had been left relatively unscathed, with anti-Muslim riots - whipped up in part by hardline, right-wing Buddhists grabbing the headlines. But that changed with Sunday's bombings on St Anthony's Shrine in Colombo, St Sebastian's in Negombo to the north of the capital and the church in the eastern city of Batticaloa. All three were left in ruins, bodies slumped over pews or lined up in aisles, torn bibles strewn over the floor. Along with attacks on four hotels, more than 290 people were killed.

### Religious showdown

The US State Department's most recent report on religious freedom said the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka had documented "97 incidents" of attacks on churches, intimidation and violence in 2017. Only around six percent of Sri Lanka's 20-million-strong population is Catholic. Analysts say the harassment is longstanding and goes on.

"There is a long history of attacks on churches," said

Alan Keenan, a Sri Lanka expert with the International Crisis Group, a monitoring body. "There was one on a Methodist church last week, though nothing as massive as this case. It just does not get international attention." Sunday's attacks were the worst acts of violence since the Tamil civil war that ended in 2009 and, during its long history, saw numerous bombings and assassinations across the country.

Rucki Fernando, a human rights activist, said there have been regular cases of "local villagers or Buddhist monks intimidating a pastor or interrupting a prayer service." "Sri Lankan governments have overlooked violence against religious minorities - both Christians and Muslims-that has been on the rise in recent years. "But we have never seen anything of this scale or magnitude before." Sri Lanka's police chief Pujith Jayasundara issued a nationwide alert 10 days before the attacks saying suicide bombers planned to hit "prominent churches".

Although no group has claimed responsibility for the bombings, a radical Muslim group named in the police alert, National Thowheeth Jama'ath, came to prominence last year when its followers were accused of vandalizing Buddhist statues. The group's secretary, Abdul Razik, was arrested in November on charges of inciting religious disharmony. He was also detained in 2016 for comments about other religions. Galagodaatte Gnanasara, head of a radical Buddhist group, the BSS, warned then of "a blood bath" unless Razik was arrested. Gnanasara has himself since served a jail term for intimidating the wife of a missing journalist.



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan security personnel inspect the debris of a car after it explodes when police tried to defuse a bomb near St Anthony's Shrine as priests look on in Colombo, a day after the series of bomb blasts targeting churches and luxury hotels in Sri Lanka. — AFP

Sri Lanka saw weeks of riots last year when Buddhist-majority Sinhalese mobs attacked Muslim targets in the central district of Kandy. Three people were killed and hundreds of homes destroyed. Sunday's assault on Christian targets will only widen the sense of fear and uncertainty fuelled by the communal tensions.

"There is a lot of fear, not just in the Christian community but among everyone," said the activist Fernando. Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, archbishop of Colombo, said those behind the attacks should be punished "mercilessly". "Only animals can behave like that," he told reporters. — Agencies

## Sri Lankans stunned after deadly blasts

**COLOMBO:** As Shantha Prasad carried children wounded in Sri Lanka's deadly attacks into a Colombo hospital, memories of the country's deadly civil war flooded back. "I carried about eight wounded children yesterday," he said yesterday, a day after a string of blasts hit hotels and churches, killing nearly 300 people.

"There were two girls aged six and eight, the same age as my daughters," said Prasad, who helps carry stretchers into the hospital's triage area and wards. "Their clothes were torn and drenched in blood. It is unbearable to see this kind of violence again." For many Sri Lankans, Sunday's attacks against churches and high-end hotels brought back painful memories of a conflict that lasted three decades and killed as many as 100,000 people.

During those years, bomb attacks were a regular occurrence, and left many Sri Lankans on edge in the streets and on public transport. In the capital, street sweeper Malathi Wickrama said yesterday she was now nervous doing her job. "Now we are afraid to even touch black plastic bags with garbage," she said. "The string of blasts yesterday brings back memories of the time when we were afraid to go in buses or trains because of parcel bombs."

### 'We are resilient'

With the lifting of a nationwide curfew yesterday morning, people began to emerge into Colombo's streets, where security was heavy. Schools and the stock exchange are closed, but some shops opened their doors and public transport was functioning. Imtiaz Ali, a tuk-tuk driver, was looking for customers in the capital, but said his family was in mourning over the death of his nephew



**COLOMBO:** People pray outside the St Anthony's Shrine in Colombo a day after the building was hit as part of a series of bomb blasts targeting churches and luxury hotels in Sri Lanka. — AFP

in the blast that hit the Cinnamon Grand hotel.

"The boy was just 23. He was a salesman at (the) Cinnamon Grand hotel and he was to be married next week," Ali said. "We had made all the plans to hold the wedding at home, but today it's a funeral house." When Ali stopped at a petrol station to get a back-up container of fuel, the attendant said police had banned the sale of petrol and diesel in cans and bottles for fear they could be used to improvise bombs.

Elsewhere in the city, some residents were making their way into work, determined to maintain a semblance of normality despite the tragedy. "We are resilient peo-

ple," said Nuwan Samarweera, a 50-year-old office worker. "We have seen so much violence during the civil war. For the outside world it may be big, but for us life goes on," he added.

"We have to gather ourselves and move on." Ranjan Christopher Fernand, 55, said his friend's 11-year-old son had been killed in Negombo. "This is the first time Christians have been attacked like this in Sri Lanka," he said, driving his taxi around the capital. "Tonight we will go to the church to pray for the victims. Of course I feel afraid... but we have to go to church, we have to pray for the injured to get well soon." — AFP

## The wounded fight on in India political 'killing fields'

**INDIA:** P Jayarajan slowly raised his left hand and pointed to a gap where a thumb had been hacked off before flagging a deep scar on his other arm - proud war wounds from a past Indian political campaign. "They tried to kill me in front of my wife and family but I survived," said the soft-spoken communist, a symbol of Kerala's status as a hotbed of political violence in India, where violence between rival parties is common. "I lost the thumb and my arm was cut too. It was fixed but there is no feeling," the 67-year-old electoral candidate said during a break from campaigning in India's marathon election. The southern state of 35 million people votes in the latest round today.

But Jayarajan is not just a victim of what Caravan magazine has called "the killing fields of Kerala", where dozens have died in political battles in the past two decades. Attacked two decades back, Jayarajan has since been accused by rival parties of instigating similar attacks. He denies the charges. But Jayarajan's candidacy in the Vadakara constituency, in the north of the state, has put a national spotlight on another bloody campaign in Kerala. In February, just before the six week long election was announced, two activists for the opposition Congress party were killed.

### Violent 'blot'

Workers from Congress and the rival Left Democratic Front alliance - led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) which rules the state - have fought fierce clashes. The left wing parties have also fought activists from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the



**VADAKARA:** P Jayarajan, a Communist Party of India (Marxist) electoral candidate and who was a target of political violence in 1999, gestures during an interview with AFP at Vadakara in the southern Indian state of Kerala. —AFP

Hindu nationalist ideological parent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata party, according to political writer Ullekh NP.

Fighting has intensified since the RSS and BJP started trying to make inroads in Kerala, said Ullekh, who wrote "Kannur: Inside India's Bloodiest Revenge Politics" about a district near Vadakara. Ullekh said the bloodshed was "a big blot" for Kerala. The violence was first started by the Congress party, according to Ullekh, which has dominated India's politics since independence in 1947. "Congress did to other protest movements and rivals what the colonial British did to them before independence. The Communists became militant in response," he added. "This has now become an issue of political one-upmanship between rival ideologies." — AFP

### News in brief

#### Mexico breaks violence record

**MEXICO CITY:** Violence in Mexico hit new heights in the first quarter of 2019, with 8,493 murders recorded from January to March, according to official figures. According to the Executive Secretariat of the Public Security National System, that number represents a 9.6 percent rise on the same period in 2018. Last year was considered the most violent in Mexico's history, with over 33,500 murders — the highest number since records began in 1997. The new record contradicts claims by leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador that murders have not increased during his presidency, which began in December. At a Navy event Sunday, Lopez Obrador defended the creation of a National Guard, his key strategy to fight the wave of violence that has engulfed Mexico since the government declared war on the country's powerful drug cartels in 2006. — AFP

#### Cash worth \$113 m seized

**KHARTOUM:** Sudan's army ruler General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan said that more than 113 million dollars worth of cash in three currencies has been seized from ousted leader Omar Al-Bashir's residence. He said a team of police, army and security agents found seven million euros (\$7.8 million), \$350,000 and five billion Sudanese pounds (\$105 million) during a search at Bashir's home. Sudan's new acting prosecutor general Al-Waleed Sayyed Ahmed meanwhile asked authorities to register all private properties belonging to officials of the previous regime, the official SUNA news agency reported. He also asked them to stop processing requests for the transfer of ownership of properties that belonged to former regime officials and members of their families. — AFP

#### Mudslide kills 17 in Colombia

**BOGOTA:** At least 17 people were killed and 13 others were missing after a mudslide that buried eight houses early Sunday in southwestern Colombia, authorities said. The national risk management agency gave the updated toll after rescue efforts in Rosas, in the department of Cauca, were halted at nightfall. Reducing by two an earlier toll of 19 killed that was given by firefighters, it added that five people had also been injured. Meanwhile, the estimated number of missing was confirmed by an agency official speaking on condition of anonymity. A search had been underway for people who might be trapped under rubble. The injured were treated at hospitals near the scene of the disaster, the agency said. It attributed the mudslide to the heavy rains that have battered the country for several weeks. Mudslides are common during Colombia's rainy season. — AFP

#### Jihadists kill 11 Mali soldiers

**BAMAKO:** Suspected jihadists killed at least 11 soldiers in an attack Sunday in central Mali, the defense ministry said yesterday. The military outpost at Guire was attacked at around five in the morning, the ministry said, adding that there were also a number of injuries and damage. Earlier reports had put the number of soldiers killed at 10 or 12. "The terrorists came out of the forest. They were on motorcycles and pick-up trucks. They burnt vehicles and took away others," a security source, who asked not to be named said. The Mali armed forces said on Twitter reinforcements were being sent to the Nara sector, about 370 kilometers north of the capital Bamako. A local resident contacted by AFP said there had been heavy gunfire and the military "were taken by surprise" in the attack. — AFP

## Anger as Malaysian cleared of murdering an Indonesian maid

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A Malaysian woman has reportedly been cleared of murdering her Indonesian maid, who was allegedly tortured and forced to sleep outside with a dog, with activists yesterday criticizing the "shocking" decision. Adelina Sau died in February last year after being found outside her employer's home on the northern Malaysian island of Penang, with her head and face swollen and covered in wounds.

Many Indonesian maids work in more affluent Malaysia and tales of abuse are common, but the horrific nature of Sau's case generated headlines and sparked diplomatic tensions between the neighbors. Her employer, S Ambika, was charged with murder - an offence that carries a mandatory death sentence in Malaysia - shortly after the 21-year-old was rescued and died in hospital. But the High Court in Penang dropped the murder charge against her last week, local media reported, without saying why.

Prominent Malaysian human rights lawyer Eric Paulsen called the decision "shocking and unacceptable". "This was one of the most public and harrowing abuse cases ever recorded and yet the attorney-general's chambers somehow saw fit to drop the charge," Paulsen, a member of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights said. — AFP







# Business

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019

**12** Cambodia, Thailand  
reconnected by rail



**13** KFH reports KD 51.6m net profit  
for Q1 2019, an increase of 17.4%



**14** Turkish Airlines hosts 8th Annual Travel  
Agencies Awards ceremony in Kuwait



KUWAIT: KAMCO Vice Chairman Entisar Al-Suwaidi and Chief Executive Officer Faisal Mansour Sarkhou address the AGM yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## KAMCO targets sustainable growth, new heights

### Company holds AGM for 2018, annual Shafafiyah Investor's Forum 2019

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Chairman's Club in KIPCO Tower. The meeting provided shareholders with direct information on the Company's performance and gave attendees the opportunity to take part in a discussion with the executive management and vote on the resolutions submitted for approval by the Board of Directors. KAMCO's AGM for the year ending December 31, 2018 was held alongside its annual Shafafiyah (transparency) Investor's Forum 2019 dedicated to supporting ethical and responsible decision making, while safeguarding the integrity of financial reporting.

In addition to meeting statutory obligations and the formalizing of board resolutions, the AGM and the Shafafiyah Forum are pre-eminent events at KAMCO, serving as platforms to review the Company's financial and operational performance, while allowing for focused discussion and member engagement on the future direction of the Company.

The AGM and Shafafiyah Investor's Forum was an opportunity to present KAMCO's 2020 strategy in light of key market trends in 2018, fiscal year highlights and financial performance, including the Company's recent improvements made to its digital offerings and in-house operational efficiencies that have enhanced KAMCO's range of investment solutions and client offerings.

#### Maintaining stability amid volatility

During the AGM, KAMCO's Vice Chairman, Entisar Al-Suwaidi, said, "Some of the key economic events that affected financial markets in the region and internationally during the year included the ongoing trade war between US and China, the rising interest rates in the US and the resultant impact on international fund flows, the extension to OPEC+ agreement to cut oil production in response to the rout in oil prices announced several years earlier during the last quarter of 2014, and regional geopolitical events."

She also highlighted the GCC's stock market performance which was the only positive performing market as compared to major financial centers of the world. Moreover, MSCI's decision to include Saudi Arabia in its

KD18.36 million in comparison to 2017."

She added, "In addition to the key acquisitions concluded during the year, the Company's performance was underpinned by an increase in fee income, a growth of KD3.22 million, from KD7.0 million in 2017 to KD10.22 million in 2018. The increase was mainly due to the growth in management and advisory fees driven by the rising level of assets under management and investment banking mandates. Fees from fiduciary activities for the full year were KD8.08 million, with a 16.69 percent increase in total assets under management to KD3.93 billion (including the effect of the acquisition)."

#### A year of transformation

This past year, KAMCO initiated what will become a major historical transformation for the Company by acquiring a majority stake in Global Investment House "Global". Commenting on the transformation, the Vice Chairman said, "We consider this strategic decision to be a significant step towards transforming the regional asset management and investment banking scene. We are realizing our vision and mission targeting new heights, with a strategic mindset to consolidate the gains of the milestones achieved so far, and to further strengthen KAMCO's position to operate on an international scale. At the core of our business ethos is our promise to consistently deliver on our commitment to become the preferred choice for our stakeholders: clients; financiers; talent; regulators; counterparties; and service providers. We believe that these developments will deepen the trust bestowed upon us by our stakeholders, ultimately contributing towards the diversification and sustainability of the economies in which we operate in."

#### Laying the foundation of our future growth strategy and expansion plan

Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou presented the Company's 2018 performance at the Shafafiyah Forum and reflected on the Company's strategic performance over the year and since inception. He said, "With the ever-changing economic and business landscape we witness today, we have to plan for the days that lie ahead to stay competitive and sharpen our future within



Entisar Al-Suwaidi (left) and Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

client portfolios. KAMCO also successfully completed nine investment banking transactions worth approximately \$1.8 billion. These include five debt capital market transactions, three M&As, and one equity capital markets transaction, as well as providing five other advisory services for high net worth clients. Additionally, KAMCO, in collaboration with Tri International Consulting Group ("TICG") and Oliver Wyman, signed a contract to provide the Capital Markets Authority of Kuwait with advisory services in the privatization process of Boursa Kuwait, a key phase in Kuwait's stock exchange transformation.

Throughout its years of operation since inception, the Company generated revenues of approximately KD 293 million, profits of KD 105 million and distributed dividends of KD 86 million. KAMCO has also increased its AUM since inception at a CAGR of 17 percent to reach \$12.97 billion as of 31 December 2018. In addition to the successful transactions completed during the year, the Company achieved a strong track record of 131 investment banking transaction worth approximately \$20.4 billion as of 31 December 2018.

#### 2019 outlook

KAMCO announced its future plan to maintain its leadership position in the financial sector across the region by enhancing its capabilities to achieve sustainable growth and long-term profitability, increase the Company's AUM and direct investments, and develop business synergies through integrating products, services and human resources with Global. Additionally, KAMCO plans to expand its regional operation by focusing on diversifying revenue sources to generate sustainable streams of income and continue adding value to investors by creating platforms for investment products and services that provide risk-adjusted returns through proper management, transparency, integrity, and a robust risk management framework.

Discussing its strategic direction, the CEO described KAMCO's ongoing initiative to "continue offering a wide

range of investment banking services in equity, debt and advisory with increased reach and presence in the region." He also expects KAMCO's asset management services to continue growing as the Company sets its sights on increasing market share locally and regionally, while offering a superior and personalized client experience by enhancing the role of KAMCO's wealth management solutions and utilizing KAMCO's state-of-the-art technology.

In a summary of expectations for 2019, the CEO assessed current market dynamics, stating "We expect GCC economic growth to remain subdued as compared to historical levels, but better than recent years on the back of elevated oil prices. We see that the number of ongoing projects in the region will keep key sectors afloat. The banking sector has shown strong earnings growth and maintains a robust balance sheet. The sector also remains in check with a couple of large consolidations in the past and a few being discussed."

Sarkhou added, "Globally, leading economic indicators are point that the world is bracing for a gradual slowdown in the near term. The ongoing trade tensions between the US and China have significantly dented prospects and sent ripples across economies. The US Fed raised rates four times in 2018 but kept it unchanged in 2019 indicating slowdown in the economy in the near term. Economic growth in Europe was once again under pressure after an optimistic estimate at the start of 2018. The confusion over Brexit continued in addition to weak economic indicators coming out of some of the larger economies in the region. The main driver of the global economic growth rate, China, is showing signs of a gradual slowdown and growth is expected to be much subtle in the coming years."

He also said, "We see a calculated and cautious approach on the economic front with higher spending coupled with revenue augmenting measures in the form of taxes and lower subsidies supporting state budgets in the near term. For 2019, we believe that against the backdrop of a slowdown in economic growth, a conservative investment approach would be followed."



Emerging Market index and to consider Kuwait for an upgrade also supported GCC markets' overall positive performance.

#### Financial year 2018 performance

Reviewing the operational results of the year, Vice Chairman Al-Suwaidi reported, "KAMCO recorded a net profit attributable to the equity holders for KD2.56 million, which is an increase of 124 percent from KD1.14 million in 2017. Earnings per share increased to 10.77 fils compared to 4.80 fils in 2017. EBITDA for the period was KD5.19 million versus KD2.78 million in 2017, an increase of 87 percent. Total revenues increased by 91 percent to reach

the local and regional financial industry. Throughout 2018, our focus was dedicated to strengthening the foundation for the road ahead through capitalizing on opportunities that are both strategic and financially prudent. This approach, coupled with the stewardship of our existing investments and client relationships, will allow us to maintain an unmatched sustainable competitive advantage within the markets we operate in."

The CEO also highlighted some of the major events that were carried out by the Company in 2018. On the asset management side, with the effect of the majority stake acquisition, the Company maintained its AUM at approximately \$12.97 billion with new money raised in funds and



Business

# TBY to organize conference in London for launch of The Business Year: Kuwait 2019

## Key players to attend conference, review Kuwait economy

**KUWAIT:** As part of its economic and business coverage of Kuwait, The Business Year (TBY) has organized a business conference, in partnership with Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), to highlight the major events shaping Kuwait's economy. The one-day event will be held at Four Seasons Park Lane on Monday, June 17 in London, UK and shed light on the importance of the private sector in the future of the Kuwaiti economy.

With main players from across various sectors lined up to attend the event, TBY's conference will be one of the major business events focusing on Kuwait in 2019. Ioana Popa, Country Director for TBY, explained that, "A lot of effort has been put into this event. KDIPA was extremely helpful and we also counted on the support of the British Embassy in Kuwait." She added, "We will present a very well-rounded event where we will also officially launch our new publication on Kuwait in partnership with KDIPA and the German Business Council."

## Tesla investigates video of parked Model S exploding in Shanghai

**SHANGHAI:** US electric vehicle (EV) maker Tesla Inc said it has sent a team to investigate a video on Chinese social media which showed a parked Tesla Model S car exploding, the latest in a string of fire incidents involving its cars. The video, time stamped Sunday evening and widely shared on China's Twitter-like Weibo, shows the parked EV emit smoke and burst into flames seconds later. A video purportedly of the aftermath showed a line of three cars completely destroyed.

Shares of Tesla were down less than 2 percent at \$268.5 in trading before the bell. Reuters was not immediately able to verify the origins of the videos, which Weibo users said were taken in Shanghai.

The cause of the explosion could not be immediately ascertained from the videos. "We immediately sent a team onsite and we're supporting local authorities to establish the facts. From what we know now, no one was harmed," Tesla said in a statement yesterday. It declined comment further when contacted by Reuters.

There have been at least 14 instances of Tesla cars catching fire since 2013, with the majority occurring after a crash. The automaker has said its EVs are about 10 times less likely to experience a fire than petrol-powered cars, based on its fleet of over 500,000 vehicles which have driven more than 10 billion miles. It did not specify whether the statistic referred to normal use or involving accidents.

**Reputation**

The latest incident comes as Tesla tries to push sales in China, where its prices were impacted by tit-for-tat tariffs imposed during Sino-US trade tensions last year. The automaker currently imports all the cars it sells in China, but is building a factory in Shanghai that will initially make its Model 3 and help reduce the impact of a trade war.

In March, Tesla was also on the receiving end of a

Kevin Delaplace Haro, Country Editor for TBY, highlighted that, "this event will translate the main trends of the economy and will try to address the principle challenges the country is currently facing." He underlined that, "The objective is to discuss how the increased participation of the private sector can help Kuwait achieve sustainable growth and how the diversification of Kuwait's economy will require the support of financial institutions and the blooming of SMEs."

TBY's decision to organize the event in London is highly strategic. The Kuwaiti government has established strong bilateral ties with foreign countries and there is a clear objective to boost FDI levels. Introducing Kuwait's business world in one of the main financial capitals of the world will certainly boost investors' awareness about investment opportunities in Kuwait and will also present a chance for the attendees to exchange ideas.

The conference will feature distinguished guests and speakers such as Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-

labelling mix-up at Shanghai customs that led to a temporary suspension of clearance for a batch of Model 3 cars. Analysts said the latest fire incident would likely increase attention on the safety of EVs but was unlikely to have a significant impact on Tesla's sales or reputation in China while the cause was being investigated.

"Tesla had fire incidents before, but they didn't have a big impact on its reputation in China," said analyst Alan Kang at LMC Automotive. "Since its consumer base is not particularly conservative, and China is pushing the electric vehicle market, if this incident is just accidental, it will not have a big impact on Tesla," he said.

"Tesla self-ignites" was one of the most popular hash-tags on Weibo yesterday, racking up over 20 million clicks. Some users urged the automaker to quickly find the cause, whereas others speculated over the impact to the value of Tesla cars currently on the road. Still more found humor in the situation.

"One lesson I learnt from the Shanghai self-exploding Tesla: Don't park your car next to a Tesla," said one commentator. Tesla has faced a range of challenges over the past year as it seeks to ramp up production, deliveries and sales of the Model 3 sedan seen as crucial to its long-term profitability.

Earlier this month, lower-than-expected car deliveries added to Wall Street concerns about future cash flow, spooking stock and bond investors. Brokerage Evercore ISI cut its rating on Tesla's stock to "underperform" from "in line" citing concerns over weakening demand of its Model S and Model X as well as liquidity concerns.

"We remain encouraged by Tesla's vision and future growth prospects, but there is increased uncertainty around near-term demand versus previous bullish forecasts and growth cannot stall for a growth company," the brokerage's analysts wrote in a note. Of the 31 brokerages covering the stock, 12 rate it "buy" or higher, seven have a "hold" rating while the rest have a "sell" or below rating, according to Refinitiv data.

The company is expected to host an Autonomy Day later at its headquarters in Palo Alto, focusing on its autonomous driving system. In a separate, unrelated incident, Tesla's rival in China, Nio, said in a social media post that an ES8 electric sport utility vehicle caught fire yesterday in a Nio service centre in the central city of Xian while under repair. "Nio has launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire," Nio said, adding no one was harmed due to the incident. —Reuters

Philadelphia Cream Cheese.

Hees is also a partner at the Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital, which collaborated with Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway on the Kraft takeover. Analysts have blamed 3G's severe cost-cutting approach for Kraft Heinz's recent travails. In February, Kraft Heinz shocked markets with a disastrous earnings announcement that included a \$15.4 billion asset write-down and the disclosure of a US Securities and Exchange Commission probe into its procurement practices.

The company also announced a steep dividend cut. A native of Portugal, Patricio also served in top posts at AB InBev in North America and Asia Pacific, "providing him with deep experience in growing businesses in developed an emerging markets," Kraft Heinz said.

Shares of Kraft Heinz rose 1.3 percent to \$33.40 in early trading. —AFP

Sabah, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority; Peter Estlin, Lord Mayor of the City of London; Dr Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of Supreme Council for Planning and Development; Mazin Al-Nahedh, Group CEO of Kuwait Financial House; Louis Taylor, Chief Executive of UK Export Finance; and Sheikh Ahmed Duaij Al-Sabah, Chairman of Commercial Bank of Kuwait.

Finally, this event counts with the support of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Zain Group, the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), Al-Tamimi & Co, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and Schlumberger.

The Business Year: Kuwait 2019 will be launched on Monday June 17, 2019 in London. For more information and to register for the event please visit [events.thebusinessyear.com](https://events.thebusinessyear.com)

The Business Year: Kuwait 2019 will feature views and insights from more than 100 senior executives and government officials across all sectors,



obtained through face-to-face interviews in the country. The publication will also feature sector articles, analysis, and contributions from foreign guest speakers. It will be launched on June 17 in London and will be widely distributed locally and internationally at major economic forums, investment forums and conferences.

## Cambodia, Thailand reconnected by rail after 45 years

**POIPET:** A railway reconnecting Cambodia and Thailand was officially inaugurated yesterday in a bid to slash travel times and boost trade between the southeast Asian neighbors. Cambodian premier Hun Sen and his Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-O-Cha witnessed a signing ceremony at a Thai border post before riding together to the Cambodian town of Poipet on a train donated by Thailand.

The pair - with Prayut dressed in a bright yellow shirt - stepped from the carriage in Poipet with their clasped hands held high to the cheers of waiting crowds, waving flags of both countries. Hun Sen described their journey as "historic" and thanked



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen (second right) and Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha (C in yellow shirt) smile as they take selfies with people during a ceremony to connect the railway line between Cambodia and Thailand in Banteay Meanchey province yesterday. —AFP

## Dollar lower in holiday thin trade

**NEW YORK:** The dollar was little changed against a basket of currencies in thin holiday-impacted trading yesterday, while a jump in the price of oil on news that Washington will end sanctions waivers for major

Iranian oil importers boosted the Canadian dollar and the Russian ruble. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against six major currencies, was 0.15 % lower at 97.327. The index hit a two-week high of 97.485 late last week.

Against the Japanese yen the dollar was about flat, while the euro was 0.06 percent higher against the greenback. Financial markets in Australia, Hong Kong and many major countries in Europe are closed on Monday for the Easter holiday. Currency trading continues globally but volume is expected to be light. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES										
Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.			Yemen Riyal/for 1000			Turkish Lira			54.575	
			105.240			Singapore dollars			225.511	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES			Jordanian Dinar							
US Dollar Transfer			305.200							
Euro			344.110							
Sterling Pound			402.710							
Canadian dollar			229.730							
Turkish lira			54.990							
Swiss Franc			307.200							
US Dollar Buying			297.800							
ASIAN COUNTRIES			Lebanese Lira/for 1000							
Japanese Yen			2.740							
Indian Rupees			4.400							
Pakistani Rupees			2.199							
Srilankan Rupees			1.742							
Nepali Rupees			2.742							
Singapore Dollar			225.990							
Hongkong Dollar			38.881							
Bangladesh Taka			3.606							
Philippine Peso			5.862							
Thai Baht			9.592							
Malaysian ringgit			78.056							
GCC COUNTRIES			Syrian Lira							
Saudi Riyal			81.441							
Qatari Riyal			83.881							
Omani Riyal			793.242							
Bahraini Dinar			810.950							
UAE Dirham			83.149							
ARAB COUNTRIES			Morocco Dirham							
Egyptian Pound - Cash			20.700							
Egyptian Pound - Transfer			17.594							
			Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd							
			Rate for Transfer							
			Selling Rate							
			US Dollar							
			304.840							
			Canadian Dollar							
			228.350							
			Sterling Pound							
			95.450							
			Euro							
			344.725							
			Swiss Frank							
			307.490							
			Bahrain Dinar							
			810.685							
			UAE Dirhams							
			83.400							
			Qatari Riyals							
			84.640							
			Saudi Riyals							
			82.185							
			Jordanian Dinar							
			431.245							
			Egyptian Pound							
			17.628							
			Sri Lankan Rupees							
			1.744							
			Indian Rupees							
			4.412							
			Pakistani Rupees							
			2.160							
			Bangladesh Taka							
			3.618							
			Philippines Peso							
			5.851							
			Cyprus pound							
			18.135							
			Japanese Yen							
			3.725							
			Syrian Pound							
			1.595							
			Nepalese Rupees							
			2.758							
			Malaysian Ringgit							
			75.435							
			Chinese Yuan Renminbi							
			45.805							
			Thai Bhat							
			10.550							
			BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL							
			CURRENCY							
			BUY							
			SELL							
			Europe							
			British Pound							
			0.390155							
			Czech Korune							
			0.005334							
			Danish Krone							
			0.041851							
			Euro							
			0.336250							
			0.349950							
			Georgian Lari							
			0.132204							
			Hungarian 0.001150							
			0.001340							
			Norwegian Krone							
			0.031812							
			0.037012							
			Romanian Leu							
			0.065393							
			0.082243							
			Russian ruble							
			0.004792							
			0.004792							
			Slovakia							
			0.009127							
			0.019127							
			Swedish Krona							
			0.028756							
			0.033756							
			Swiss Franc							
			0.294543							
			Australasia							
			Australian Dollar							
			0.210335							
			0.222335							
			New Zealand Dollar							
			0.198185							
			America							
			Canadian Dollar							
			0.222684							
			0.231684							
			US Dollars							
			0.300900							
			0.306200							
			US Dollars Mint							
			0.301400							
			Asia							
			Bangladesh Taka							
			0.003030							
			0.003831							
			Chinese Yuan							
			0.043986							
			0.0047486							
			0.037113							
			0.039863							
			Indian Rupee							
			0.003835							
			0.004607							
			Indonesian Rupiah							
			0.000017							
			0.000023							
			Japanese Yen							
			0.002649							
			0.002829							
			Korean Won							
			0.000258							
			0.000273							
			Malaysian Ringgit							
			0.076583							
			0.002684							
			Nepalese Rupee							
			0.003024							
			Pakistan Rupee							
			0.002281							
			Philippine Peso							
			0.005856							
			0.006156							
			Singapore Dollar							
			0.229957							
			Sri Lankan Rupee							
			0.001402							
			0.001982							
			Taiwan							
			0.010360							
			Thai Baht							
			0.009231							
			0.009781							
			Vietnamese Dong							
			0.00013							
			Arab							
			Bahraini Dinar							
			0.794448							
			0.810948							
			Egyptian Pound							
			0.017763							
			0.020363							
			Iranian Riyal							
			0.000084							
			0.000086							
			Iraqi Dinar							
			0.000210							
			0.000270							
			Jordanian Dinar							
			0.425280							
			0.434280							
			Kuwaiti Dinar							
			1.000000							
			1.000000							
			Lebanese Pound							
			0.000157							
			0.000257							
			Moroccan Dirhams							
			0.021257							
			0.045257							
			Omani Riyal							
			0.785890							
			0.791570							
			Qatar Riyal							
			0.079486							
			0.084426							
			Saudi Riyal							
			0.080247							
			0.081547							
			Syrian Pound							
			0.001293							
			0.001513							
			Tunisian Dinar							
			0.096943							
			0.104943							
			Turkish Lira							
			0.046199							
			0.057699							
			UAE Dirhams							
			0.081616							
			0.083316							
			Yemeni Riyal							
			0.000992							
			0.001072							



# KFH reports KD 51.6m net profit for Q1 2019, an increase of 17.4%

## 7.50 fils EPS • Net operating income reaches KD 118.1 million

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, reported net profit of KD 51.6 million for the first quarter of 2019 for KFH shareholders compared to KD 44 million for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 17.4 percent.

Total finance income for the first quarter of the year reached KD 228.4 million i.e. a growth of 9.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Total operating income for the first quarter of the year reached KD 196.8 million, i.e. a growth increase by 4.1 percent and net operating income reached KD 118.1 million, i.e. a growth of 7.1 percent compared to the same period last year.

Earnings per share for the first quarter of 2019 reached 7.50 fils, compared to 6.39 fils for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 17.4 percent.

The Financing Portfolio stabilized at KD 9.36 billion, total assets reached KD 18.383 billion i.e. an increase of KD 612.4 million or 3.4 percent compared to end of last year. Depositors accounts reached KD 12.299 billion i.e. an increase of KD 518.6 million or 4.4 percent compared to the same period last year.

Al-Marzouq added that the Q1 positive results show another year of stable growth based on firm fundamentals capable of achieving KFH's goals and good profitability for its shareholders and customers, reflecting its enhanced performance, high operating returns and low expenses. This comes as part of spending rationalization policy and prioritization.

### Positive performance

"Despite the challenges in the local and global operating environment, KFH has been able to achieve positive performance for the fifth consecutive year. Resulting from the core business, the operating profits reflect the success of KFH's strategy set by the Board of Directors and skillfully followed up by the executive management. The profits came in line with KFH's plans and programs, economic developments and market movements. The results confirm KFH's feasible decisions to focus on its core business, exit nonstrategic investments, and deepen its global professional banking practices along with high commitment to regulations," Al-Marzouq explained.

"The successful strategy of KFH, which is based on the highest and best international standards, includes

competing in a constantly evolving environment, integrating innovative solutions and banking technology into operational processes, launching digital transformation initiatives and rearranging products and services to suit the needs of key operational sectors. The banking services of KFH help retail and institutional customers to develop and manage their business efficiently as well as maximize its leadership and market share, in accordance with the best quality standards", he confirmed.

Thanks to KFH's continuous efforts, the banking technology gained momentum in the first quarter of this year and resulted in new services and products. The bank implemented a Robotic Process Automation

- Growth of total assets to reach 18.4 billion an increase of 3.4%
- Fifth consecutive year of sustainability and growth
- Financing development plan is an important strategy for the bank
- Flexibility and efficiency in arranging Sukuk
- Digital financial technologies are gaining momentum with new services

(RPA) program that streamlined its internal processes for customer financing transactions, thus increasing efficiency and reducing processing time. Also, KFH implemented SKIPLINO which is an electronic queuing/booking system to improve the branch visit experience. Available at KFH.com, and soon via KFHOnline, this service makes the banking experience more accessible for customers at their own convenient time in addition to finding the least busy branches at the time.

### Technology innovations

Meanwhile, KFH started operating an instant cross-border remittance service using RippleNet technology. It also upgraded its auto platform

kfh.com/auto to encompass vehicles, marine equipment and motorcycles.

Al-Marzouq said that to expand the customer base, KFH opened Al-Qairawan Branch, its 62nd branch in Kuwait, while the branches dedicated for ladies increased to 45 branches. Furthermore, the benefits of the products, the banking accounts, have been increased. KFH launched an unprecedented campaign with Al-Rabeh account that offers a total of 54 KG in gold to 23 clients over one year.

KFH continued to provide value-added benefits through the "Hesabi" account and enhanced the services and rewards of bank cards by launching the largest campaigns and awards in the banking sector. These improvements have increased card usage, promoting e-payment methods, facilitating the fund transfer and raising retail sales.

"As part of its strategy to support the development efforts, KFH continuously participates in financing major plans and infrastructure projects. In this regard, the bank funds several development projects in different sectors in Kuwait and outside. Also, KFH pays attention to supporting and developing the youth SMEs, opening new job areas, diversifying investment opportunities and attracting young people to private work as they represent important part of developing the national economy", Al-Marzouq mentioned.

He noted that KFH has a leading role in Sukuk issuances. KFH Capital, the investment arm of KFH, has recently succeeded in arranging two issuances worth \$1.6 billion Sukuk for First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) and Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB), with a group of regional and international banks. This step confirms KFH Group's pioneering role in the Sukuk market and establishes Sukuk as a vital source of finance for governments, companies and major development projects. The vast experience of KFH Group in the Sukuk issuance has positioned it as a trustworthy and highly recognized organization by major corporates and governments globally.

### National manpower

He stressed KFH's priority of attracting the outstanding potential of national elements and providing them with opportunities for success and the means to develop their capabilities and skills. He added that KFH is presenting the best example in this area,



Hamad Al-Marzouq

affirming, through its pursuit of supporting and strengthening the national manpower, its major role in supporting the process of development in the country which places the development of human capabilities at the forefront of its priorities for success. He pointed out that employing and developing the Kuwaiti youths is a KFH ongoing strategy boosted by its growth opportunities and substantial market share which require having national cadres in charge and the creation of consecutive generations to shoulder the responsibility.

Al-Marzouq noted that KFH's continuous holding of the international rating agencies positive ratings, as well as receiving many top-level awards by renowned international entities concerned with monitoring the performance of banks and financial institutions is a positive indicator of sound performance by the Group's banks. This ensures sustainable enhancement of service quality, risk management and compliance with directives and supervisory controls. He commended the Group's banks in Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain and Germany for their continuous outstanding performance in keeping with plans and strategies aiming at utilizing the strengths of their markets.

Al-Marzouq extended his thanks to stakeholders and customers for their support and trust in KFH's operations and activities and to the supervisory agencies. He commended the executive management and staff for their outstanding efforts which produced positive performance in all indicators.

## Ghosn hit with fresh charge in Japan, files for bail

TOKYO: Japanese authorities yesterday hit Carlos Ghosn with a fresh charge of aggravated breach of trust, the fourth indictment against the former Nissan boss who promptly filed for bail.

Experts say yesterday's charge is the most serious yet levelled against the auto sector legend, whose roller-coaster case has gripped Japan and the business world since his dramatic arrest in November over alleged financial misconduct. According to a statement from the Tokyo's prosecutors' office, Ghosn is accused of funnelling millions of dollars in Nissan funds to a dealership in the Middle East and syphoning off around five million dollars for personal use.

The transfers were made "with the purpose of benefiting himself by receiving part of the money", prosecutors charged.

Shin Kukimoto from the Tokyo prosecutors' office told reporters they had "enough evidence for guilty verdicts." However, the 65-year-old strenuously denies all allegations against him and insists they have been cooked up in a "plot" by Nissan executives wary of his plans to bring the Japanese car giant closer to its



TOKYO: A young girl plays with a pogo stick in front of the Tokyo Detention House where former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn is detained in Tokyo yesterday. Former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn was reportedly charged yesterday with allegedly financial misconduct, the fourth set of formal charges against the former auto sector tycoon. — AFP

French partner Renault.

### Laborer disguise

Ghosn's lead lawyer Junichiro Hironaka filed for bail just hours after the charge and said he was confident his client would be released as he prepares to fight the allegations.

"In order to prove his innocence at a trial as soon as possible, we want (the court) to approve our bail request so that we can prepare a good defense," Hironaka told reporters.

Ghosn has already won bail once before-but under strict conditions such as agreeing not to leave the country and living under surveillance. When he last won bail, Ghosn walked out of the detention center in front of the world's media dressed like a Japanese laborer with a cap

and a face mask in an apparent attempt to give reporters the slip. He also had to stump up one billion yen (\$9 million) for bail but Hironaka said they were prepared to produce more cash if necessary to secure his release.

Yesterday was the end of the maximum period authorities had to question Ghosn, who is now technically in pre-trial detention.

The case of the executive, once revered in Japan for saving Nissan from the brink of bankruptcy, has also shone a spotlight on the Japanese legal system that has come in for some criticism, especially from abroad. Japan's justice system allows authorities to keep suspects in custody for prolonged periods and trials almost always result in a conviction. — AFP

pace in the first quarter, defying expectations for a further slowdown, with industrial output, retail sales and investment in March all growing faster than expected following a raft of growth-boosting measures rolled out in recent months.

China's growth last year cooled to a near 30-year low of 6.6 percent, weighed down by weak investment and the escalating trade war with the United States.

The Xinhua report yesterday did not give more details on the reference to watching price changes.

Producer and consumer price gauges in China have picked up, easing concerns about deflationary risks, but broader inflation levels are still modest. The policy comments from the financial commission meeting largely echoed those from meetings of China's Politburo, the State Council and the central bank in the past two weeks.

A statement on Friday from the Politburo, a top decision-making body of the Communist Party, said China will maintain policy support for the economy, which still faces "downward pressure" and difficulties despite better-than-expected first quarter growth. It said authorities will strike a balance between stabilizing economic growth, promoting reforms, controlling risks and improving people's livelihoods, adding that China would forward with structural efforts to control debt levels and prevent speculation in the property market, it said. — Reuters

## China must fine-tune monetary policy based on economic growth: Xinhua

BEIJING: China should fine-tune monetary policy in a pre-emptive way based on economic growth and price changes, the official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday, citing a top-level meeting chaired by President Xi Jinping.

"Monetary policy needs to be neither too tight, nor too loose and should be fine-tuned in a timely and pre-emptive way based on economic growth and changes in price situations," Xinhua quoted the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission as saying.

The report was the fourth from a top-ranking policy-making body in China in less than two weeks, and comes as financial markets debate how much more additional support Beijing will provide to the world's second-largest economy after surprisingly resilient data released last week. The economy expanded at a steady 6.4 percent

<div><div></div><div>بيت التمويل الكويتي Kuwait Finance House</div></div>			
Praise be to Allah			
Financial Results up to the end of the First Quarter of 2019			
	31/03/2019	31/03/2018	%
Net Profit for Shareholders "KD Million"	51.60	43.97	17.4
Earnings per Share "Fils"	7.50	6.39	17.4
Finance Income "KD Million"	228.4	208.6	9.5
Total Operating Income "KD Million"	196.8	189.1	4.1
Net Operating Income "KD Million"	118.1	110.3	7.1
	31/03/2019	31/12/2018	%
Financing Receivables "KD Billion"	9.358	9.385	(0.3)
Depositors' Accounts "KD Billion"	12.299	11.780	4.4
Total Assets "KD Billion"	18.383	17.770	3.4
kfh.com 180 3333			



## Business



Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak addresses the gathering.



Turkish Airlines General Manager Muhammed Baltu speaks



KUWAIT: Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak (left) with Turkish Airlines General Manager Muhammed Baltu during the awards ceremony.

# Turkish Airlines hosts 8th Annual Travel Agencies' Awards ceremony in Kuwait

**Award-winning airline records an impressive growth of 10% in passenger flux throughout 2018**

KUWAIT: Turkish Airlines recently hosted its 8th Annual Travel Agencies' Awards ceremony to honor the dedication of the local travel agents, who play an instrumental role in the airline's robust growth. Through their substantial efforts in boosting passenger traffic from Kuwait across the airline's 307 worldwide destinations now, the national carrier of Turkey recorded an impressive growth of 10 per cent in passenger flux throughout 2018.

Held annually, the grand dinner event that was held at the Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre in Kuwait, saw the attendance of local dignitaries, corporate partners, employees, media, and other key stakeholders.

Displaying significant performance, 15 agencies received plaques of appreciation for 'Total Sales' where in Boodai Aviation Group ranked first place, Aldeera Travel agency ranked second and Como travel agency came in third place. 'Best beyond Business Class Sales' award was presented to Boodai and 'Highest Sales Increase' award was bagged by Al-Yousef who

ranked first followed by Alkhamees coming in second place. Aldeera Travel agency was recognized under the 'Best Beyond Economy Sales'.

Muhammed Baltu, General Manager, Turkish Airlines in Kuwait, said: "As we enter the next phase of our ambitious growth strategy, we remain committed to continue strengthening our collaboration with all of our travel agency partners, who are key to our success. As you know, 2019 marked the launch of new destinations and the inauguration of the much anticipated new state of the art airport. Poised to be the largest one in the world, it is expected to serve 200 million passengers annually, significantly elevating the customer experience. Together with our partners, we look forward to continuing being the airline of choice as we enhance connectivity and comfort through unique offerings and a customer-centricity philosophy that drives us forward."

With the rise in travelers from Kuwait to Turkey at an all-time high, there are currently 4 flights daily from Kuwait City



Turkish Airlines General Manager Muhammed Baltu speaks

to Istanbul. (In summer daily 10 flights) It is worth noting that Turkish Airlines' first flight was to the capital, just like the first flight of the flag carrier 86 years ago. Ataturk Airport was the witness to the



A musical performance

flag carrier airline's steady local and global rise since its founding and Turkish Airlines' final passenger flight from this transfer hub was the Singapore flight that took place at 02:00 on April 6th. The

moving has concluded on April 6 Saturday at 20:00, flag carrier airline started a new era at its new home, Istanbul Airport, which will be the new center of the global aviation sector.

## Huawei: Region's 5G ecosystem growing faster than expected

DUBAI: Huawei-a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices-recently hosted top ICT industry leaders at its '5G is ON' forum, co-located at the SAMENA Leaders' Summit.

During the forum, organizations from the public and private sectors laid plans for 5G readiness in the region, while examining best practices ahead of large-scale 5G network deployments in the Middle East and internationally. Huawei provided insights on how 5G can benefit the acceleration of digital transformation, help achieve the targets of the national visions and agendas, in addition to pushing the development of different industries and sectors in the region.

Wang Su, VP of Huawei Middle East Marketing, said: "5G industrial development is accelerating. Huawei will work with ecosystem cooperators on Cloud X solutions (Cloud VR & Cloud Gaming, etc.) and vertical industry applications (Oil & Gas, etc.) through its wireless X Labs and ME OpenLab, and introduce these use cases to Middle East operators along the 5G journey as partners rather than vendors."

Huawei is working with customers and partners to drive the large-scale commercial rollout of 5G, and build a mature 5G ecosystem that thrives on shared suc-



Wang Su, VP of Huawei Middle East Marketing

cess, pushes the limits of technology and promotes social progress along the way.

Pierric Duthoit, Industry Director, Google MENA, said: "We are happy to participate at the 5G is ON forum in Leaders' Summit, SAMENA. As 5G is transforming most industries, we believe that the acceleration of the development of video consumption on Youtube and the rise of new applications such as VR/AR with Google Lens, Google Photos, Google Play Store and cloud gaming will certainly benefit from the 5G. Google is working towards providing the best experience to our customers."

Hajime (Gen) Nakamura, General Manager, Sony Professional Solutions MEA, said: "To thrive in today's media environment, you need to deliver content anytime, anywhere to an unprecedented range of platforms. You need to do it efficiently, reducing your footprint, streamlining operations and achieving financial flexibility - all without sacrificing quality. Sony's Intelligent Media Services enhanced with the introduction of 5G services will provide customers flexibility to unlock more value from their content."



An Jian, President of Carrier Network Business Group, Huawei Middle East

Du Yeqing, VP of Huawei 5G Product Line hosted and introduced the progress of Huawei 5G ecosystem cooperation strategy. For the past few years, one of Huawei's main focus areas has been creating the 5G ecosystem through collaborating with leading partners in the region and globally. Currently, we finished joint solution development with TYJW for the long-distance connected drone solution, with Visyon for the Cloud VR application solution, with LetinVR for Cloud VR live broadcasting solution, with BoE for 4K/8K video solution and with PlayGiga for Cloud Gaming solution in the region.

All factors that 5G need are available now: 5G chipsets, CPEs and spectrum are ready to serve the large scale rollout of 5G in the region. 5G is an E2E system and Huawei's strength is not only staying in wireless but in all aspects of 5G, from devices, to network, and to ecosystems. In 2018 Huawei announced the world's most powerful 5G chipset and CPEs with up to 4.6Gbps downlink. Recently, Huawei announced the world's 1st foldable 5G smartphone - Mate X.

The root reason of Huawei's leader-

ship in 5G is our insistent and heavy investment in 5G for the past 10 years. We have brought 283 global industry partners and 57 regional partners into X-lab. Huawei believes it will only take 3 years to achieve 500 million users to 5G, which took 6 years for 4G and 9 years for 3G. It is estimated to have 1 million sites of 5G globally in 2019.

An Jian, President of Carrier Network Business Group, Huawei Middle East, said, "Huawei established X-lab 3 years ago to explore vertical use cases with our global partners. Also, here in Middle East, we launched a local ME ecosystem partnership program last year, to incubate local use cases in the region. We believe that the oil industry can champion that transformation to harness the power of 5G. In Middle East, all of the GCC countries have started 5G deployment. I believe the GCC will keep leading in the global 5G race for years to come."

Under the summit theme 'Early Proliferation of 5G - Vital to Building the Digital Economy', Huawei participated in several top discussions at the Summit. These included the high-level leaders' roundtable conversation addressing the impact of 5G, industry 4.0, cross-industry engagement, and digital enablement. Huawei was also a key contributor to the leaders' panel discussion, with participants examining key policies that will enable the transition to an inclusive 5G ecosystem across the Middle East.

Alongside the various discussions, Huawei presented its end-to-end 5G solutions within a dedicated exhibition area, including 5G-ready technologies such as chipsets and consumer devices, network infrastructure, and bespoke solutions for over 280 global industry partners.

## Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 21st April 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 14th April until 18th April 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Shaikhah Khaled Alahmad Aljaber Al-Sabab
- Ebtessam Yousef Haider Mohammad
- Nadiah Saad Khalaf Al-Azmi
- Wafaa Awad Masoud Al-Ajmi
- Saud Mohammed Shareedah Al-Shemmeri

Gulf Bank's second Al-Danah quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 26 June 2019, and the third quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 25 September 2019. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event.

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

The Al-Danah draws are all approved by and held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce. Furthermore, Gulf Bank have partnered with Ernst and Young Kuwait (EY) with reference to "Al-Danah Prize Draw" system in order to assist in assessing processes, technical controls considering relevant parameters and provide recommendations in-line with industry leading practices. The study was conducted in line with industry standards and control requirements relevant to similar prize draw schemes wherein, a detailed review of prize draw management system along with draw scheme parameters, data extraction for draw, filtration of customers as per defined business criteria and necessary system interactions was conducted to advise on any potential areas of improvements.

## The 2019 Lincoln MKC - What color expresses your personality best?

KUWAIT: Have you ever stopped to look at the cars in this region? What you will see is a virtual sea of white, black and grey. These are solid shades - inspiring shades, responsible and traditional shades. But bespoke versions of white, black and grey are just three of nine enticing options available on the 2019 Lincoln MKC - three of them brand new.

"At Lincoln we want your vehicle to reflect who you really are," said Sarah Rae, Director, Lincoln Middle East. "And so we've delivered a range of stylish, elegant colours for the 2019 Lincoln MKC - each one speaking volumes about the driver who chooses it."

So what exactly does your car color preference say about you? We were just infants when we learned to

perceive pigment, to recognize purple from orange and pink, so it's no wonder that our reaction to the shades we see around us every day is so instinctual, so deeply rooted, and so very personal.

Susan Lampinen, Group Chief Designer, Color and Material Design at Lincoln, explained, "With Lincoln, we have a customer who is very selective about what they like. We're a brand that offers wonderful color choice that offers complexity and sophistication to it. Lincoln is not a hard brand - it's a warm and inviting brand, and so our colors have to reflect that as well. They have to be rich, they have to be sophisticated."

Attracted to one of the 2019 Lincoln MKC's new colors, Infinite Black Metallic? According to the field of color psychology, which studies how various shades can determine human behavior, you might be artistic and sensitive, a touch of an introvert - mysterious, even. White Platinum Metallic catch your eye? You could have impeccable standards, or maybe you are even preparing for beautiful new beginnings. Then again you may be drawn in by Magnetic Gray Metallic and if so, chances are your preferences fall somewhere in between.

Or why not turn to the 2019 Lincoln MKC's suite of cool neutrals, all the better to offset your sleek wardrobe? There's smooth Ingot Silver Metallic, just like

your favorite soft cashmere sweater, or the delicate new shade of Ceramic Pearl - doesn't it remind you of mum's earrings? Or you could go deeper and indulge your ever-present coffee cravings with Iced Mocha Metallic.

But then again, maybe 2019 is your year to step outside the lines; to ease into a shade that reflects your personality as well as your spirit. Perhaps your vibe is another new color this year, crisp Baltic Sea Green, with an evocative, earthy finish that evokes a sense of affection, loyalty and security.

Or are you more of a red woman? Red is the color of fashion and theatre, love and passion. A woman who drives a 2019 Lincoln MKC can choose Ruby Red to communicate energy, strength, health, power and vitality - a life lived to the fullest - to all she passes by. Or perhaps you are drawn to Burgundy Velvet Metallic, because it reflects your strength of character, clear purpose and inner power. Is Rhapsody Blue more your speed? According to color psychology, personalities that are drawn to blue are authentic, and that shades of the ocean signal depth, harmony, and reliability, just like the 2019 Lincoln MKC. Whatever color you choose from the enticing 2019 Lincoln MKC palette, know that you'll make a lasting impression with this impressive premium small utility vehicle.



## What's On



# Ooredoo opens registration for OVP



In continuation of its yearly tradition of leading charitable and humanitarian initiatives, Ooredoo Kuwait announced yesterday that registration is now opened for the Ooredoo Volunteer Program (OVP) through the link [www.tinyurl.com/ooredosp](http://www.tinyurl.com/ooredosp). Ooredoo has invested heavily in the award-winning annual volunteer program OVP Ooredoo Volunteers Program for youth, a program that continues to attract hundreds of participants, preparing them with the right set of skills and tools before matching them with volunteering opportunities.

The program was established in 2015 and grows every year and has reached more than 350 volunteers today who are

taking interest and participating in every CSR related activity at Ooredoo. Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub is encouraging volunteers to register to this incredible initiative and lauded their commitment to the spirit of giving throughout the Holy Month, noting that this is an important value that the company aims to instil in youth throughout its volunteer program. "We are proud to be a supporter for youth who aspire to volunteer their time serving others. This program is aligned with our core values of caring, connecting, and challenging, and the ongoing interest of youth in our program is what keeps us going," he further added.



## ACK conducts smoking awareness campaign at ABS

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, conducted a smoking awareness program at the American Baccalaureate School (ABS) on April 16, 2019. The visit to ABS was the fifth in a series of visits to different schools in order to showcase the negative effects of smoking. The program involves a PowerPoint presentation on the effects of smoking with an experiment designed by ACK students from the School of Engineering, followed by a series of fun activities for the children that highlight the smoking awareness theme.

Afterwards each student is given a "Thank You" certificate for becoming members of the ACK Smoke Busters. Starting in 2014, ACK identified Smoking Awareness as an area of importance that not only impacted on the health of its students and staff, but also their families and the entire community. An ACK Healthy Living Committee of students

and staff was established to consider ways to raise awareness with regard to the effects of smoking on people and the environment.

Initially, students within the Engineering School were asked to design and construct models to demonstrate the effects of smoking on the body and surroundings. This project was undertaken with the guidance of engineering faculty and was completed during the 2014/2015 academic year. After trial demonstrations of the models to children of ACK staff members, the Business School students were tasked with the development of presentations for delivery to local schools.

The presentation left a strong impression on ABS students according to Ms Alicia Szydlowski, Principal of ABS. "Our team really appreciated the high-quality presentation and activity that you provided for our students. Your team is dynamic and left memorable impressions on our young learners," she said. The ACK students who volunteered to conduct the program were: Sara Naji Dawara, Rahma Mohammed, Hamad Mohammad Alhariri, Abdalaziz Farhan Rashed, Mahsa Mohammad Rahimi, Shahd Naji Dawara, Zainab Huseni Jabla, Ali Khaled Hasan, Zahrah Hasan Aljaafar, Yasin Yaseen Issa, Afsah Abdullah Abdullah, and Zahra Ahmad Alhaddad.



## 'Sabeeliyyat Ismail' wins award at Basra Monodrama festival

Within Basra Monodrama festival held earlier this month, the 'Sabeeliyyat Ismail' written by LOYAC's chairperson, Fare'a

Al-Saqqaf based on a novel by the late, Ismail Fahad Ismail, won the best integrated performance award and a special award for actress, Shereen Hajji. Notably, the festival competition included 13 Arab and GCC plays and the festival was attended by Kuwait's council in Iraq, Bedah Al-Doussary and over 180 artists including the iconic Kuwaiti actor, Mohammed al-Mansour. The festival also included another Kuwaiti performance titled "Qessat Al-Amas" (Yesterday's Story) written and directed by Abdul Aziz Al-Haddad.



## Costo opens 2nd store in Kuwait

Costo retail chain has opened their second store in Kuwait after the successful run of their pilot store in Khaitan. Costo Khaitan has received phenomenal response from customers from day one of their operations. The second store of budget supermarket brand Costo from Regency Group is located in the basement of Altiraj Tower in Makkah street of Fahaheel area was inaugurated by Shaikh Dawood Salman on April 20 at 4.30 pm.

Regency Group MD Dr. Anwar Amin, Director, Aboobacker Mohammed, Regional Director Ayub Kachehri, CEO Mohammed Suner, COO Rahil Bassim, GM Tahsir Ali BDO Saanin Wasim were also present. Costo stores Managing Director Dr Anver Ameen has stated that the vision of Costo is to be the preferred retailer providing anything from Fresh, Food & Non Food, butchery, household, fashion, footwear, electronics, mobiles and laptops at world class quality at best possible price. Perishable goods, farm produces and meat are exclusively flown in from around the globe on daily basis to offer uncompromised quality standards.

Costo is a customer driven purchase store where customer feedbacks determine the future products in the store. Giving customers the delight to buy exactly what they want, be it any brand or product. Additionally everyday will have new deals to keep customers excited at all times. The Fahaheel store spread over 11,000 sq ft, unlike normal supermarkets and hypermarkets will feature a limited set of products across categories that caters to all necessary needs of a customer.

Costo is part of Regency Group which is among the foremost retail players in GCC region. The best price for customer is made possible as the group has its own sourcing centers in Turkey, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. This ensures the best quality products reach customers in minimum time at the lowest prices. The concept of Costo was arrived after a lot of in-depth research done by group's internal research along with consultants from Europe and Turkey.

Team Costo is in fact delighted that they chose Kuwait to launch this retail brand as customer response has been overwhelming which has further strengthen their belief in this revolutionary retail concept. In order to achieve their mission of reaching every customer, the promoters, Regency Group, aim to spread this retail store in all the major areas of Kuwait. 3rd store is all set to open before the end of this month.





# Poachers threaten precious Madagascar forest and lemurs

**VOHIBOLA, Madagascar:** Under a leaden sky, six rangers walk silently in single file through Vohibola, one of the last primary forests in eastern Madagascar. Alert to the slightest movement and sound, Michael Tovolahy's patrol is tracking poachers who are inflicting grievous harm to this jewel of biodiversity. The poachers are targeting lemurs, primates battling the threat of extinction, and are chopping down trees, some of them rare hardwoods, to burn for charcoal.

"In this forest, there are at least 20 indigenous animal species, including six types of lemur, and 150 species of tree," says Tovolahy, whose nickname is Nabe. "Because of these logger-poachers, I fear that this forest will one day be no more—it will be just an empty space, where developers will grow walls of concrete." A terrible irony is that a 2014 documentary, "Island of Lemurs," which did so much to draw attention to the cuddly animals' plight, unwittingly encouraged a market to have them as caged pets.

Some kill the harmless creatures for food,

others sell them as pets—and to get to their prey, they chop down precious tropical trees. "Nocturnal lemurs are very easy to capture because they sleep in the daytime," explains Tovolahy. The poachers cut down the trees surrounding their nest, which provides the lemurs with a means of flight. All they have to do then is to shake the tree until the animal falls out.

## Unique

Lemurs are among the many wildlife treasures that are unique to Madagascar. Out of 111 recorded lemur species, 105 face the threat of extinction, says the Lemur Conservation Network (LCN). Other damage to Vohibola and its natural population is being inflicted by the simple need for wood for cooking. The forest patrol frequently encounters the dismaying sight of empty spaces and mounds of bark—the traces of illegal logging to take trees, burn them and sell the charcoal to Madagascans. "They take rare woods such as ebony and use it to make charcoal—it's so sad," says Tovolahy.

Eric Rabenasolo, director-general for forests at the environment ministry, says that Madagascar's nine million hectares of forests are shrinking each year by between 50,000 and 100,000 ha. (A football pitch is roughly one hectare). Vohibola itself is a haven for an extraordinary species—the mouse lemur. From its head to the tip of its tail, this nocturnal animal (genus *Microcebus*) measures under 27 centimeters, making it the world's smallest primate—and, according to the International Conservation of Nature (IUCN), among the most endangered of all vertebrates.

The state is trying to boost awareness of the dangers of such trafficking, urging people for instance to check the source of their cooking charcoal and encouraging villages to report illegal logging to the authorities. The message often goes unheard in a country where three-quarters of the population live in poverty. Poachers have a well-founded reputation for violence and their connections with locals mean that police can rarely make arrests. — AFP



VOHIBOLA, Madagascar: A Lemur Vari sits on a branch near the Vohibola forest, Madagascar. —AFP

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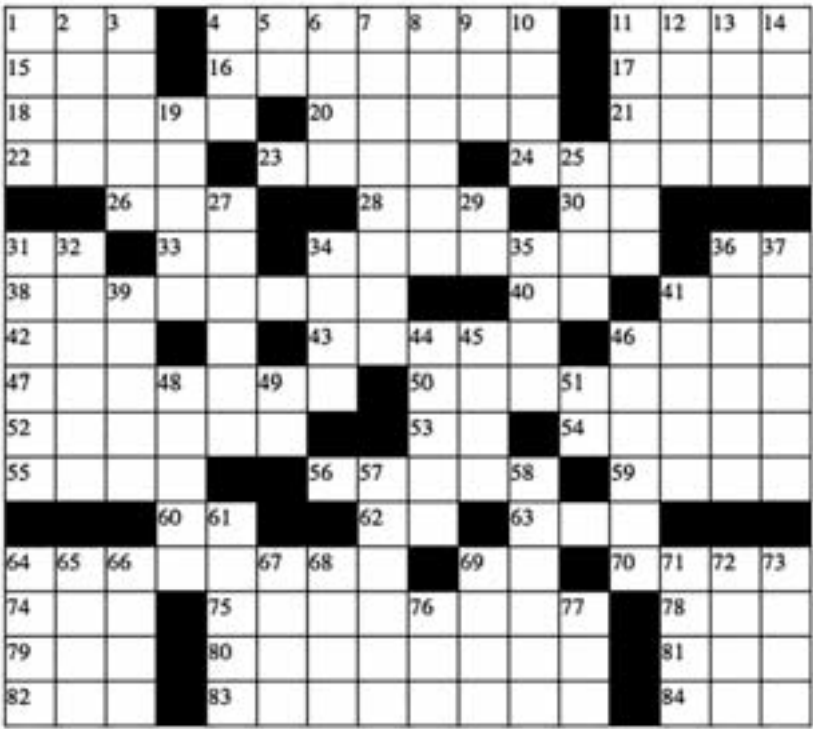
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ACROSS

- 1. Pan with a convex bottom.
- 4. Move back and forth very rapidly, as of a candle.
- 11. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
- 15. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- 16. Be false to.
- 17. Fastener consisting of a metal ring for lining a small hole to permit the attaching of cords or lines.
- 18. Of or relating to or affecting a lobe.
- 20. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- 21. Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).
- 22. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
- 23. A sudden and decisive change of government illegally or by force.
- 24. The wood of an African obeche tree.
- 26. A decree that prohibits something.
- 28. Characteristic of a mob.
- 30. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- 31. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- 33. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- 38. A family of dicotyledonous plants of order Geraniales.
- 40. A public promotion of some product or service.
- 42. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
- 43. A line on a sphere that cuts all meridians at the same angle.
- 47. An associative relation.
- 50. A chief of a North American tribe or confederation (especially an Algonquian chief).
- 52. Medium-sized tree-dwelling monkey of the Amazon basin.
- 53. Unknown god.
- 54. A city in south central Belgium situated on a promontory between the Meuse River and the Sambre River.
- 55. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 56. Take control of.
- 59. The battle in 202 BC in which Scipio decisively defeated Hannibal at the end of the second Punic War.
- 60. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
- 62. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 63. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- 64. In precisely the same words used by a writer or speaker.
- 70. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 75. Shrubby lichens of the family Usneaceae having a flattened thallus.
- 78. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
- 79. Being one more than two.
- 80. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- 81. Grass mowed and cured for use as fodder.
- 82. Inflammation of the urethra of unknown cause.
- 83. A localized swelling filled with blood.
- 84. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.

DOWN

- 1. An architectural partition with a height and length greater than its thickness.
- 2. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
- 3. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 4. 32nd President of the United States.
- 5. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
- 6. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
- 7. A famous chief of the Shawnee who tried to unite Indian tribes against the increasing white settlement (1768-1813).
- 8. (British) Inferior (especially of a country's leadership).
- 9. (Old Testament) Adam's wife in Judeo-Christian mythology.
- 10. Make anew.
- 11. Oil palms.
- 12. Meat from a domestic hog or pig.
- 13. A blind god.
- 14. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
- 19. Jordan's port.
- 25. (computer science) A data transmission rate (bits/second) for modems.
- 27. A river in Germany.
- 29. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- 32. Hard greenish-brown wood of the lignum vitae tree and other trees of the genus Guaiacum.
- 34. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 35. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- 36. An automatic signal (usually a sound) warning of danger.
- 37. Photographic equipment consisting of a lightproof box with a lens at one end and light-sensitive film at the other.
- 39. A form of Japanese poetry.
- 41. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
- 44. Capital of modern Macedonia.
- 45. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- 46. Filled with the emotional impact of overwhelming surprise or shock.
- 48. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 49. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
- 51. An associate degree in nursing.
- 57. A winged often one-seed indehiscent fruit as of the ash or elm or maple.
- 58. A heathen (especially a Muslim).
- 61. Unpleasantly stern.
- 65. Armor plate that protects the chest.
- 66. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
- 67. A long thin piece of cloth or paper as used for binding or fastening.
- 68. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- 69. A pen that has a small metal ball as the point of transfer of ink to paper.
- 71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 72. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- 73. Make amends for.
- 76. A serve that strikes the net before falling into the receiver's court.
- 77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Although you make good decisions at work today, you can't easily get them from your mind to your mouth. Because of this, besides being frustrated, work suffers a loss of your good ideas. Know that this will pass quickly and you'll be right back good as gold tomorrow (hopefully). Aries. Your frustration because of your lack of coordination where your mouth is concerned, causes some ill will towards your non-understanding work mates. It's temporary. Sensitivity seems to be the word of your day. Aries. Take some time with pets at home. Love is there.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You take the initiative on every piece of life you touch today whether personal or otherwise. Practical decisions get kudos from those asking questions. You're in the mood. You want to make good changes in your life and you don't mind sharing with others how to do the same. Work is a breeze and gratefully so. Thinking of the celebration with friends and family tonight makes your heart sing. You are in the midst of thinking about the totality of your life, what you've accomplished and what you're moving towards although you may not realize what it is your thinking of.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This might be a great sick day but you want to keep positive vibes. Though you have to explain why you're taking the sick day, make it something little so just in case you manifest it's being, it'll be short lived. Thought and emotion manifest especially when you put emphasis to it. The reason for the sick day is that you'll probably find obstacles on every front at work. You can see it already at home by the knowledge that even those you love get on your last nerve. You can only control you, no one else. Take the time to feel better about your circumstances and your job front. See, you'll really be working from home.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You've got nervous energy enough for a few people because of what's bothering you now. Someone you care for will tell you that you're the only person they're sure will come to their aid. This makes you feel that what you're doing is worthwhile. You have a need to be respected especially now. The words you've heard seems to buoy you up to do more. You know, Cancer, that a helping hand is something most appreciate although they may not be able to speak of it later. At least you got kudos for it. Congregate with those you love tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Personal and sensitive items take up your time today. Being around those you love helps you to feel better about the situation. There's really not much you can do about this problem now because you're unable to get your point across. This is probably a family issue and you're not making headway now. Give yourself a moment to understand what's going on, stay out of an argument and make the best of the condition. You can only control your emotions, not one else's. Think what you'd like the outcome to be. Then put into process your way of fixing it.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Walk softly today at work. You're in the mode for both work and home that you're not willing to take anything you feel detrimental to your well being at all. Arguments can occur rapidly. Try to keep away from them. They do neither you nor the person who's been so callous as to call you on the subject no good at all. Instead, be open and communicative about topics in which you don't know much. Learning new things hits your hot button. Putting those concepts into practice makes you very happy. Virgo, especially when you realize they're worth your time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Co-workers and friends seek you out for advice on some very sensitive issues. This isn't the first time and it won't be the last. You've got a way of explaining with amazing clarity how to solve the problems presented. Making work a social event helps you get through the day until you can be out with friends. Relaxing may be just the thing for you. Don't stay out too late, Libra. Go home to those who really love you, your pets.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

People you love and those who love you make your world go around now. You've been thinking how much close friends and family mean to you. The way you feel is being reciprocated by those thinking of you. You've got the answers to all that plagues you and your friends. Work mates love being with you now because you exhibit the same behavior with them which makes them feel more like friends than work mates. What you really want, Scorpio, is to be home with your lover or a very special friend. Make it happen as quickly as possible today. Enjoy.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Although you're mentally acute in your thinking today you may not be up to working as hard as you did yesterday. You don't feel quite right, not bad, but just not quite up to your usual bouncy self. You won't have a choice in some things happening. People will cause you to take the time to help them with problems, probably personal, by bringing them up in their usual manner. You generally take it from there. "If you want someone to help you always seek the one you see working the most," is a general rule of thumb for those seeking you out now, Sagittarius. You can just say "No."



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You're going through a surge of independence. You need freedom and find yourself interested in anything new and different. You don't want, been there, done that, in your life any more. You find yourself breaking away from heavy old stuff that seemed to hold you down. Dark and secret thoughts that you can't let go of, and hope others don't notice, may fill your mind now. This isn't the easiest time for you, Capricorn, nor for those for whom you have those thoughts. Get out of the house and spend time with those special friends and family. You need the outing.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Someone you look up to who is older and in authority has given you the ability to smile and let it go now at work. The angst that possessed you this weekend has been laid to rest today. You want to talk but you also want to listen. In that way communication can expand your life in all areas but is most important at work now. Later when you tell your lover about the aging distress you felt and give them your opinions on why, you'll find you have his or her rapt attention too. You've got a lot to be thankful for, Aquarius. Give that thanks to the universe for making you it's golden-haired child.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Well wouldn't you know it? While you were off yesterday and felt good about doing the items you did, you were better prepared for work than you are today. Perhaps you should just stay home and extend your weekend. Tomorrow will be better, Pisces, but today you feel as if your energy and your mind is plagued by blockages. Thinking intelligently is out of the question now. You're fully aware of this issue which you really shouldn't be if indeed there are faulty wiring in your brain. Get your work done quietly if you must go to work and get home as quickly as possible.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Comedy Movies 4 - Word Search

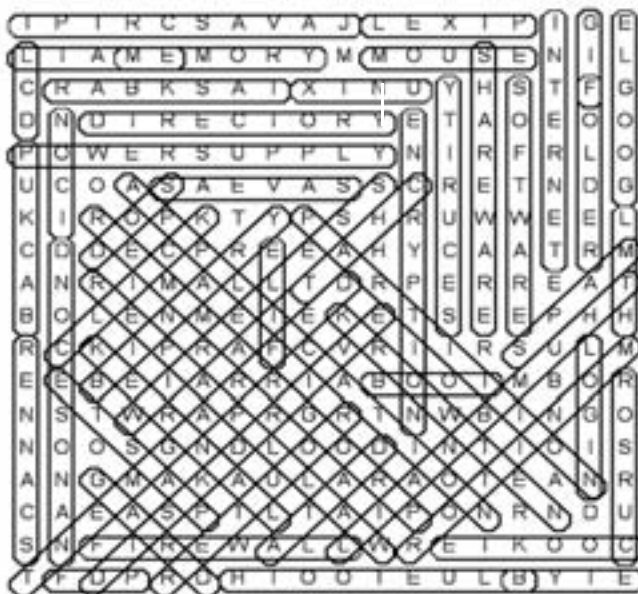


AIRPLANE  
BEST IN SHOW  
CADDYSHACK  
CITY SLICKERS  
DAVE  
DUCK SOUP  
EMMA  
FARGO

HAIRSPRAY  
HOLIDAY  
HOME ALONE  
ICE AGE  
KINGPIN  
LIAR LIAR  
PRETTY WOMAN  
SPLASH

THE JERK  
THE TRAMP  
TOMMY BOY  
TRADING PLACES  
WAYNES WORLD  
WORKING GIRL  
YES MAN

Computer Jargon 1



APPLICATION  
BACKUP  
BINARY  
BLUETOOTH  
BOOT  
BYTE  
CHAT  
CLICK  
COOKIE  
CURSOR  
DATA

DEFRAGMENT  
DIRECTORY  
DISK DRIVE  
DOS  
DRAG  
EMAIL  
ENCRYPTION  
FILE  
FIREWALL  
FOLDER  
GIF

GOOGLE  
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INTERNET  
JAVASCRIPT  
KERNAL  
LCD  
LOGIN  
MEMORY  
MONITOR  
MOUSE

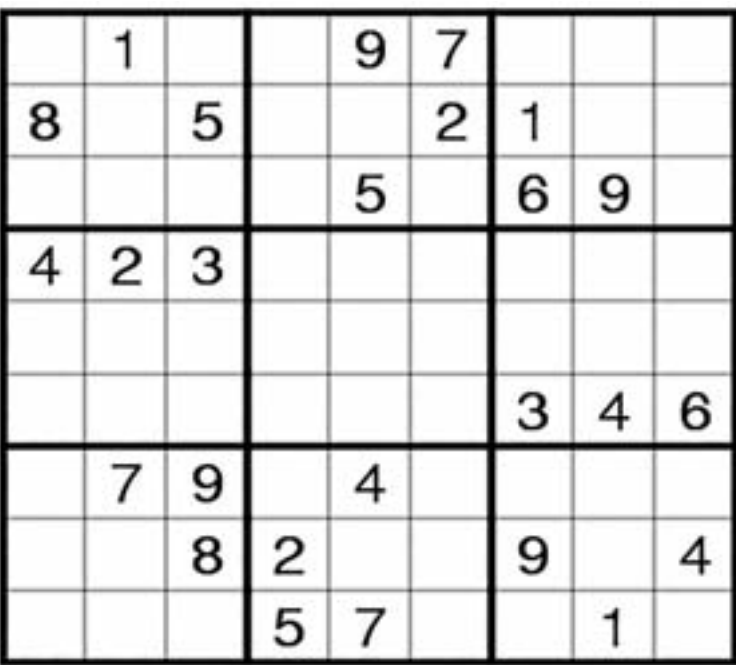
NANOSECOND  
NETWORK  
PARTITION  
PASTE  
PDF  
PIXEL  
POWER SUPPLY  
PROGRAMMER  
ROUTER  
SAVE AS

SCANNER  
SECURITY  
SHAREWARE  
SOFTWARE  
SPAM  
TASKBAR  
THUMBNAIL  
UNIX  
WALLPAPER  
WIRELESS

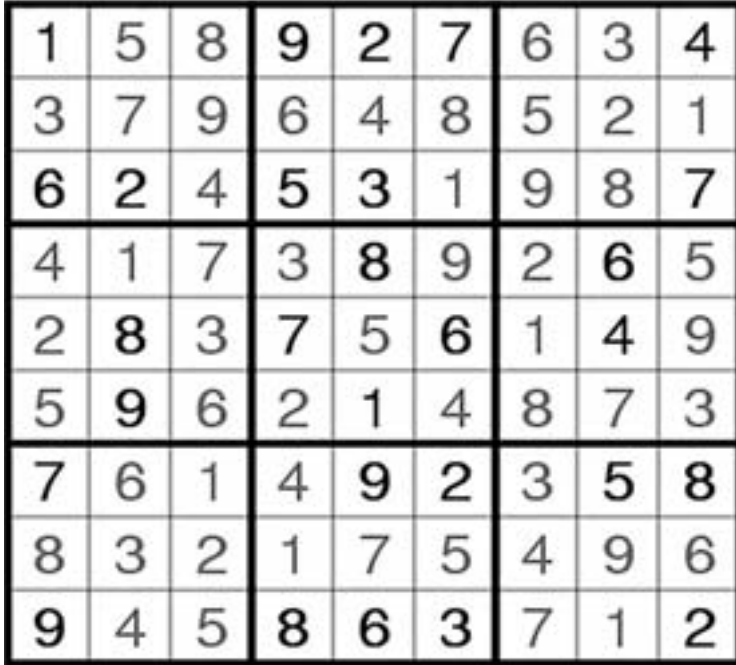
Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019

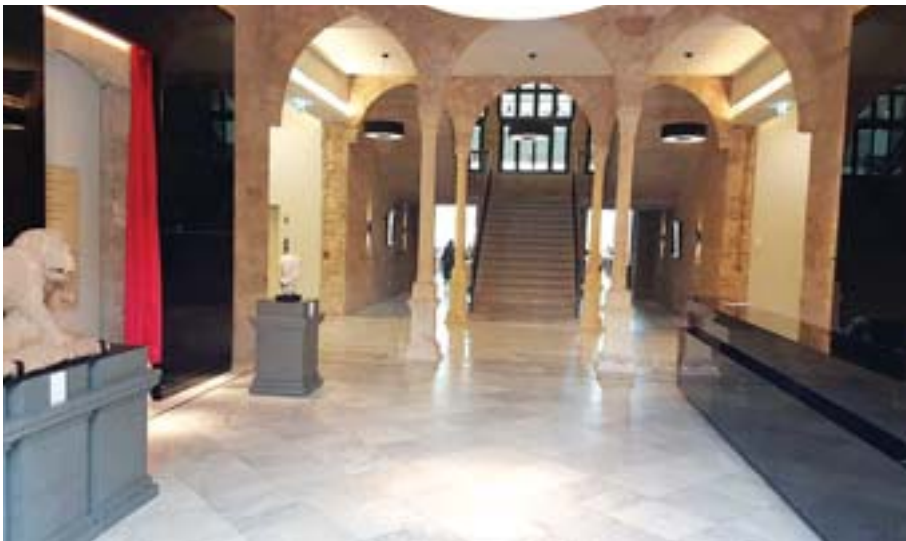


A picture shows a balanced sculpture built during the European Stone Stacking Championships 2019 in Dunbar, Scotland, on April 21, 2019. The European Stone Stacking Championships are Europe's largest championships for all Stone Stacking and Rock Balancing artists and practitioners. Stackers compete in four competitions creating sculptures using stones and balancing them using only the force of gravity. The overall winner receives a trip to Ilano Earth Art Festival and World Stone Balancing competition 2020. — AFP (story and more pictures in page 22)

## LEBANESE NATIONAL LIBRARY... BEIRUT'S BEATING CULTURAL HEART



Established in 1921, the Lebanese National Library is one of the country's cultural jewels due to the large number of books and scripts it houses. The Library closed to the public in 1979 because of the civil war, and its collection of more than 300,000 publications have been painstakingly restored over almost two decades and are now housed in an imposing red-tiled Ottoman-era complex; the new home for the Library since 1999. — KUNA



### New air-a: Canny Japanese shops sell tins of Heisei air

With just days until Japan ushers in a new era with the crowning of a new emperor, one entrepreneurial company is cashing in by selling cans containing "the air of the outgoing era"—a breeze at \$10. The can filled with "the air of Heisei"—the 30-year reign of current Emperor Akihito-hit the shelves yesterday at the ambitious price of 1,080 yen (\$9.60), with producers hoping to sell as many as 1,000 units. "Air is free of charge but we hope people will enjoy breathing the fresh air of Heisei after the new era comes, or just keep it as a memento," company president Minoru Inamoto told AFP. The cans have been produced in the central Japanese village of Henari, which is written using the same characters as those used for "Heisei", he said, adding that the cans can be snapped up at a roadside station in the village and online.

They contain nothing but "the air of the current era" and a five-yen coin, often considered a lucky charm. Firms around Japan are scrambling to produce memorabilia from the outgoing era before the country enters the "Reiwa" era on May 1 when new emperor Naruhito ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne. Oval gold coins engraved with Heisei are selling like hot cakes at Tokyo department stores, while confectionery makers are bringing back blockbuster sweets popular during the Heisei era. Henari is seeing an influx of visitors and merchants there are selling everything from chocolate to polo shirts and alcohol bearing the name. Businesses targeting the new era are also picking up, launching Reiwa-labelled goods such as stickers, smart-phone covers, t-shirts, pins and commemorative bottles of the Japanese tippie sake. — AFP



This handout photograph taken yesterday and released by Heso Production Company shows the company's production, a can containing the air of Japan's outgoing Heisei era, in Seki city, Gifu prefecture. — AFP



# Venezuelan comic pokes fun at stereotypes to explain Latin America

Joanna Hausmann is a bubbly Latina cocktail of cultures, languages and opinion as she rants a mile a minute about how to curse well in Spanish or what's more useful: a 100-bolivar Venezuelan note or a roll of toilet paper. It's the latter, by the way, says the 30-year-old Venezuelan-American comedian, actress and writer, who pokes mostly gentle fun at Latin America: its diversity, quirks, stereotypes and rivalries. In particular, the topic of Venezuela-mired in an economic meltdown and a power struggle between two men who both say they are president-really gets her going.

"Being a Venezuelan living abroad is kind of like being someone who does CrossFit. The moment someone brings up the topic, we cannot shut up about it," Hausmann says in one English-language routine on her YouTube channel, "Joanna Rants." Her sets on it have accrued more than 70 million views. She is a tornado of energy and a master of shifting facial expression and mimicking accents, both in English and Spanish. And with long, red hair and blue eyes, one of the things Hausmann explores in her comedy is how puzzled Americans are when she says she's Latina.

She is well-known in both the US and Latin America, especially after doing a video op-ed for The New York Times in early April in which she laid into left-wing Americans who criticize the US government for opposing President Nicolas Maduro. Opposition leader Juan Guaido is now recognized by the US and some 50 other countries

as Venezuela's legitimate interim president.

Hausmann got a lot of praise for the Times piece-entitled "What My Fellow Liberals Don't Get About Venezuela"-but also some pushback. That included criticism that she did not mention Guaido appointed her father, economist Ricardo Hausmann, as Venezuela's representative to the Inter-American Development Bank. "I am a 30 year-old woman who's had a career completely separate from her father," she told AFP. "It's easier for people to believe that I have a crazy ulterior motive, that I am a CIA-infiltrated evil oligarch that wants to take Venezuela... instead of thinking this is a comedian who has family in Venezuela, that loves her country so dearly."

## Complex origins

Hausmann's origins are rich and complex. Both of her parents were born in Venezuela: her mother the daughter of Cubans who fled Fidel Castro's regime, her father the son of Jewish immigrants from Germany and Belgium who escaped the Holocaust. Hausmann herself was born in Britain and grew up between Caracas, Washington, Boston and New York. In an interview in Central Park on a sunny spring afternoon, she flipped back and forth between rapid-fire English and Spanish, gesturing animatedly with her hands.

Hausmann said that ever since she was little, she turned to being funny as a way to fit in. "I had several identity crises. I felt Venezuelan. I felt American, but I was not American enough when I

was here and I was not Venezuelan enough when I was there. I am half Jewish, but my mother is not. I didn't fit into any box fully," she said. "For me, comedy was a way to fit into something and to be able to describe to others what I am."

In her stand-up routines before live audiences and in her videos, Hausmann tries to show there is more to Latin America than just Mexico and to shoot down some stereotypes: no, Latin Americans are not always the party animal, or gardeners, or nannies, or maids.

## Political statements

She also ventures into politics, such as with a video entitled "Craziest Latin American Presidents." It features a line saying Fidel Castro once gave a speech lasting more than seven hours: "Do you know how many things you can do in seven hours? You can build an Ikea dresser from scratch." And there are three videos on Venezuela, including one called "Reasons Venezuela is a Total Disaster." That's the one in which she discusses the relative values of the country's virtually worthless currency and toilet paper, of which there are shortages.

She also blasts a movement in the US and elsewhere called "Hands Off Venezuela," which defends the legacy of the late socialist firebrand Hugo Chavez, who handpicked Maduro, and the idea of leaving Venezuela alone no matter how bad things get. "My problem with 'Hands Off' is that it is total inaction. It is to ignore what is



happening," she says. Hausmann said she felt it was her responsibility to draw attention to what is going on in Venezuela. "It wasn't 'should I?' but 'when?'" she said. "It's not just a headline. It's people's lives." — AFP

In this file photo Venezuelan-American comedian, writer, and actress Joanna Hausmann speaks during an interview in Central Park in New York. — AFP

## Horror film 'Curse' leads the pack on a very slow weekend

For Warner Bros, the release this weekend of "The Curse of La Llorona" brought good news and bad: the horror film topped all comers in North American theaters, but it did so on the worst weekend overall in years. "Curse," part of the fright-based Conjuring Universe film franchise, took in an estimated \$26.5 million for the three-day weekend, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations said Sunday. But the overall box-office total of \$112 million was the lowest for an Easter weekend since 2005, the Comscore site said, with no new blockbusters coming out.

"Curse" stars Linda Cardellini, Raymond Cruz and Patricia Velasquez in the story of a mother in 1970s Los Angeles trying to protect her children from a ghost-a story loosely based on the "Weeping Woman" tale from Mexican folklore. In second place this weekend was Warner Bros.' light-hearted superhero tale "Shazam!", which took in \$17.3 million after topping the box office for two straight weeks. It stars Asher Angel as Billy Baston, an unhappy foster kid who becomes a muscular and witty superhero (Zachary Levi) when the secret word is pronounced.

Disney's new "Breakthrough" took in \$11.1 million, considered a solid start for a faith-based movie. It tells the story of a mother (Chrissy Metz) who refuses to abandon hope after her adopted son (Marcel Ruiz) falls into an icy lake and goes into a coma. NBA star Stephen Curry produced the film, his first such effort. Disney's "Captain Marvel" placed fourth at \$9.1 million, up a surprising two spots despite being in its seventh week in release. The blockbuster, now well past the \$1 billion mark worldwide, stars Brie Larson as a former fighter pilot who gains superpowers and is plunged into a galactic conflict.

And in fifth was Universal's "Little," at \$8.5 million. The idea for the comedy-which has a grown-up (Regina Hall) trapped in a 13-year-old version of her own body (Marsai Martin of "black-ish" fame) — came from young Martin herself, who was inspired at age 10 when she saw the Tom Hanks hit "Big," in which a child is trapped in his adult body.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:

- "Dumbo" (\$6.8 million)
- "Pet Sematary" (\$4.9 million)
- "Missing Link" (\$4.4 million)
- "Us" (\$4.3 million)
- "Hellboy" (\$3.9 million)—AFP



## From Reagan to Zelensky, stars who went into politics

Ukrainian comedian Volodymyr Zelensky, whom exit polls showed winning Sunday's presidential election in Ukraine, follows several celebrities-from US actor Ronald Reagan to Liberian footballer George Weah-who nabbed top political jobs in their countries.

## Actors and comedians

Reagan, a Hollywood actor for more than two decades, was the first cinema star to become head of state. He was elected governor of California in 1966 before starting the first of two terms as the 40th US president in 1981. Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger later also made the leap from cinema to politics. The bodybuilder and action hero was Republican governor of California, the richest and most populous US state, from 2003 to 2011.

In the Philippines, all-action tough guy movie star Joseph Estrada, who played in around 100 films, entered politics in 1969, becoming mayor, senator and vice president. He was elected president in 1998 but driven out of office in 2001 by a popular revolt after corruption accusations. In Guatemala, Jimmy Morales-a former TV comic with no previous political experience who campaigned on anti-corruption promises-was elected president in October 2015.

Also a cinema producer and TV personality, Morales is famous for his 2007 film "A President in a Sombrero" in which he plays a country bumpkin cowboy named Neto who nearly gets elected president by accident. Another popular cinema and theatre actor, Salvador del Solar, became Peru's culture minister in 2016, before being named prime minister in March 2019.

## Show business and reality TV

Italian media mogul Silvio Berlusconi, reputed for peppering his television programs with nearly nude women, was Italian



## MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez invited to final Houston Rockets home game

Marc Marquez, the youngest ever five-time MotoGP world champion, one-time Moto2 and one-time 125cc world champion and an established member of the Tissot family, was invited to the Houston Rockets game against the Phoenix Suns on April 7, the team's last home game of the regular season before the start of a playoff run for the western conference contenders. Marquez was appearing on behalf of Tissot, the official watch of the NBA and the Houston Rockets and the official timekeeper of MotoGP.

After the game, Marc Marquez took time to answer the media's questions. He said: "I'm always up for new experiences, so when Tissot gave me this opportunity to attend an NBA game, I thought it was a great chance to do something exceptional. It is not often that MotoGP and the NBA cross over, but because of Tissot, I was able to partake in this incredible experience."

The fact that Marquez, Tissot's ambassador, came to an NBA game is no coincidence since the Swiss watch brand has been the official watch and timekeeper of the NBA since 2015. During the game,



Marc Marquez, the youngest ever MotoGP world champion and one of the most successful riders in history, took the opportunity to present his new Tissot T-Race Marc Marquez special edition 2019 to a Houston Rockets team executive. This new watch arrives just in time for the MotoGP American Grand Prix, in which Marquez will compete next weekend in Austin, Texas and we can already tell that he has not finished surprising us both on and off the track.

## Lulu launches summer collection 2019

Lulu Hypermarket, the premier lifestyle destination in the country, launched its summer collection 2019 promotion on 18 April. The promotion, which runs at all Lulu outlets in the country, except Khaitan and Salmiya branches, features the latest summer wear in vogue. As part of promotion, a bloggers meet was arranged during which 15 of the most popular fashion bloggers in the country had the opportunity to view the new summer fashion collection and interact with their fans.

A children's fashion show was also held on the same day and witnessed the enthusiastic participation of young fashionistas, modeling in the latest summer fashion apparel. Similar Summer Collection Kids Fashion Shows are slated to be held on various dates at other Lulu hypermarket outlets.

Lulu's summer collection 2019 features a range of new

and exciting fashion garments from popular brands that will appeal to fashion-conscious shoppers. Shop for the latest trends in clothing styles for men, women and children, which are available at unbeatable prices during the promotion.

Discover quality summer-wear from popular brands such as Cortigiani, De Backers, Eten and John Louis during the promotion period. Complementing the choice of summer apparel are a range of stylish accessories and footwear that combine affordability with style, and are chic assets suited for any summer ensemble.

The summer collection 2019, which provides shoppers with a complete outfit for summer from a range of international brands at affordable prices, once again reinforces why Lulu Hypermarket remains the destination of choice for discerning shoppers.





# Rochelle Humes embarrasses daughter

Rochelle Humes' daughter finds her pop career embarrassing. The 30-year-old presenter - who has daughters Alaia-Mai, five, and two-year-old Valentina with husband Marvin Humes - will never rule out a reunion for The Saturdays but if the group did get back together, she doesn't think her eldest child would be too impressed. Asked if she'll ever reunite with Frankie Bridge, Mollie King, Una Healy and Vanessa White, she said: "I always say never say never, because you never know. "Who knew I would be where I am today? So who knows where I'll be in 10 years time. "I find it very hard to believe it will happen though. I can't imagine getting up there and rocking those routines again. "I think Alaia would be mortified. I try and

show her stuff on YouTube every now and again and she's like, 'Can we put Little Mix back on?' "I'm a massive Little Mix fan. I've been to every tour they've done with Alaia." While the 'Issues' hitmakers have no definite plans to reform, they still enjoy getting together for fun evenings out. Rochelle told heat magazine: "We get together over dinner and drink cocktails and have fun. "We get to live Mollie and Vanessa's lives for a bit because they don't have kids yet, so they can come out and let go. "We'll be messaging on our group the next morning and they won't reply until midday... I remember those days."



Kanye West debuts new song Water at Coachella Sunday service

Kanye West debuted brand new song 'Water' at Coachella. The 41-year-old rapper gave the festival crowd a taste of what it's like to attend one of his famous Sunday church services at his star-studded set on The Mountain hilltop at the festival in California, which saw the 'Gold Digger' hitmaker backed by his own gospel choir. Kanye opened with a series of covers and kicked off proceedings with his version of Stevie Wonder's 'Do I Do' into Kool & The Gang's 'Summer Madness' and The Gap Band's 'Outstanding'. After powering through 25 songs, a mix of covers and renditions of his own hits, Kim Kardashian West's husband surprised fans with the live debut of his new track. He simply told the crowd: "It's called 'Water'." The set also saw his regular collaborator and fellow Chicago native, Chance the Rapper, come out to rap his verse on 'Ultralight Beam', plus special guests included Kid Cudi, 2

Chainz, Teyana Taylor and DMX. Kim was joined by family members, including her sisters Khloe Kardashian, Kourtney Kardashian, Kylie Jenner and Kendall Jenner, who all came out to support Kanye and took to centre stage at one point. And just like the usual service, their daughter North West, five, showed off her adorable dance moves. Kanye - who also has Saint, three, Chicago, 14 months, and a fourth child on the way via surrogate with the 38-year-old reality star- had announced the festival appearance on a video posted to Kim's Twitter account earlier this month. He said: "We'd like to make an announcement that we just booked another show. We will be doing Sunday Service, sunrise at Coachella. "Only one date that mountain would be available to us: Easter Sunday at Coachella. That confirmation was confirmed last night."



Gary Barlow is ready to "slow down" in his career for the sake of his wife's ambitions. The Take That frontman - who has Daniel, 18, Emily, 16, and 10-year-old Daisy with spouse Dawn - is grateful for the sacrifices the dancer made to raise their children while he was out at work and now he wants to give her the time and space to get outside of the family. He said: "We've had a really traditional marriage where Dawn has been the stay-at-home mum. "I'd leave the house early in the morning to go to a really fun photo-shoot, while she'd be there with Coco Pops all over the floor, picking up the pieces at home. "The way she's taken on that role has been amazing, but she's also given up a lot and now that the kids are getting older, it's my time to slow down a bit and make room for her to be able to do more." The 'Patience' hitmaker admit-

ted he is "romantic" and particularly enjoys giving his wife flowers. He said: "I'm the romantic leader in our house. I love buying Dawn flowers - they're great because you don't only get the romance of giving them and having a kiss but you also get to enjoy them for a week around the house. "We also send each other lovely texts all day long - I love that." The 48-year-old star believes the key to his successful marriage is regular communication. He told Red magazine: "When you work, you design a life that keeps you apart. "So if you don't share what you've been doing with the other person and they don't know what's gone on with you, you become detached, like two separate entities. "Dawn and I go out to dinner religiously every week and use it specifically as a way to go, 'What's happening?' We call it downloading the week."

## Gillan's lengthy shoot



Karen Gillan doesn't think 'Avengers: Endgame' will ever be finished. The 31-year-old actress will reprise her role as Nebula in the upcoming blockbuster but admitted the film has needed numerous reshoots, prompting the cast to joke they will end up having to act out the final scenes live at the premiere in order for audiences to find out what happens. She quipped: "My last day was [a few] weeks ago. They keep doing reshoots. "We call it 'The Infinity Movie'. It just never ends. "I think we're going to be at the premiere and they're going to be playing it and we'll act the last scene live because they won't have finished it." The 'Guardians of the Galaxy' star hopes the movie doesn't spell the end for her character. She told Empire magazine: "I think I would be really sad to say goodbye. "I've loved her from the moment I auditioned for her. In the audition, it was a scene between her and Gamora that never made it into the first 'Guardians' movie but it was all about their sibling rivalry and Nebula's jealousy. "She's evolved from a villain to someone we've developed empathy towards. I think she's going to be a character we're all rooting for." While a number of characters were killed off in 2018's 'Avengers: Infinity War', Karen was relieved to find out early on that Nebula wouldn't fall victim to Thanos' (Josh Brolin) infamous snap. She said: "I probably found out quite early on - before the shooting of the first maybe, because of scheduling stuff. "I was really excited. I definitely want Nebula to have the cathartic experience she deserves with her father."

# Amy Poehler enjoyed ordering friends around



Amy Poehler loved ordering her friends around when they made 'Wine Country'. The 48-year-old actress stars opposite pals including Tina Fey and Maya Rudolph in the Netflix movie, which is loosely based on one of their real-life vacations, and, as she also directed the film, she enjoyed getting to tell them all what to do. Admitting she keeps being asked if she finds it difficult to direct her friends, Amy laughed: "I tell them, 'No, I love telling my friends where to stand and what to say!' " And Amy - who has sons Archie, 10, and Abel, eight, with ex-husband Will Arnett - admitted all the characters are "distorted" versions of the actresses' real life personalities. She told Sunday Times Style magazine: "We all play distorted semi-versions of ourselves. I definitely would be the one on the trip that would be telling everybody what to do and over planning

it. "I mean, I was the one who was, like, 'We should make this a movie', and then I made it a movie. So it's very meta." Amy, Tina and Maya met when they worked on 'Saturday Night Live' and their friendship thrived, despite how tough it could be working on the show. She said: "The closest thing to feeling like an athlete for me would be working at 'SNL'. [It was a] very high-pressure environment." The film's cast recently praised the former 'Parks and Recreation' star's organizational skills but admitted they didn't make it easy for her directing the comedy. Emily Spivey said: "She had her work cut out for her with having to wrangle us because we're always doing bits and chatter and talking. She's really like a good mama bear."

# Theron 'blessed' to work with Rogen

Charlize Theron feels "blessed" to star with Seth Rogen in 'Long Shot'. The 43-year-old actress has been a "fan" of the 38-year-old actor and all his movies for a long time so was delighted to work with him in the comedy. She said: "I've been a sincere, down to the core of my body, fan of Seth Rogen's. "I have watched everything that he's touched and never in a million years did I think I would be in a movie with him, so I am hashtag blessed." In the movie, Seth plays a journalist who is spending time with Charlize, a presidential hopeful who also happens to be his former babysitter, and the South African star admitted the lighter fare was very different for her. She laughed in an interview with Britain's OK! Magazine: "I usually die or kill people in my movies, or get assaulted. This is not my wheelhouse." Meanwhile, Seth recently claimed he'd waited years to make the movie because he was desperate to work with Charlize on it but felt he needed to prove himself first. He said: "I really only wanted to make the movie with her, and it took me seven years to get successful enough to get Charlize Theron in our movie." Seth - who also produced the movie with his co-star -

felt it was important to take the story back to comedy basics. He said: "What if we made the kind of movie I grew up watching that is actually romantic and actually funny?" And the pair both think they've made a movie that feels realistic. Seth teased: "Sparks fly". Charlize added: "It felt like we could go and explore a real relationship."



# Hughes praises Dame Judi Dench

Tom Hughes found it a "real pleasure" getting to spend time with Dame Judi Dench on 'Red Joan'. The legendary actress portrays Joan Stanley, who was arrested by the British Secret Service for being a traitor who served as a spy for the KGB, while the 'Victoria' actor plays Communist Leo, who the young Joan (Sophie Cookson) fell in love with, and though the format of the film meant they didn't share scenes, he was just happy to be on a set with the screen icon. He said: "Someone asked me, 'What's it like to be in a film with Judi Dench, and not be in a film with her?', but for me, it was just a real pleasure to meet her and be able to talk to her. "Sophie is the one creating the character with Judi, so that pressure fell on her. "From the small amount of time that I spent with Judi, she was the most incredibly gracious and kind human being. She gave Sophie that strength. "It was exciting actually to know that we were sharing that story with someone like Judi." And the 33-year-old actor also heaped praise on "astounding" Sophie, admitting she really helped with his own performance. He told Collider: "I think Sophie is quite an astounding actor. She was great to work with. "(Director) Trevor Nunn has worked with Judi Dench,

many, many times, and he found it quite astonishing to direct Sophie. He'd be like, 'God, it's just like directing a young Judi.' "Even in their personalities, Sophie has a wicked playfulness, as a human, and she brought a real excitement to the scenes. It was rarely linear and it was rarely obvious, and that was exciting for me. " When you're playing a character like Leo, although he's definitely had a very dark past, in terms of the pain that he's gone through, and his anguish and all of that, that velocity has a firecracker element. You need to be with an actor that you can really bounce off, and it was great to have Sophie to work with." — Bang Showbiz







# Stone stackers defy gravity at European championships

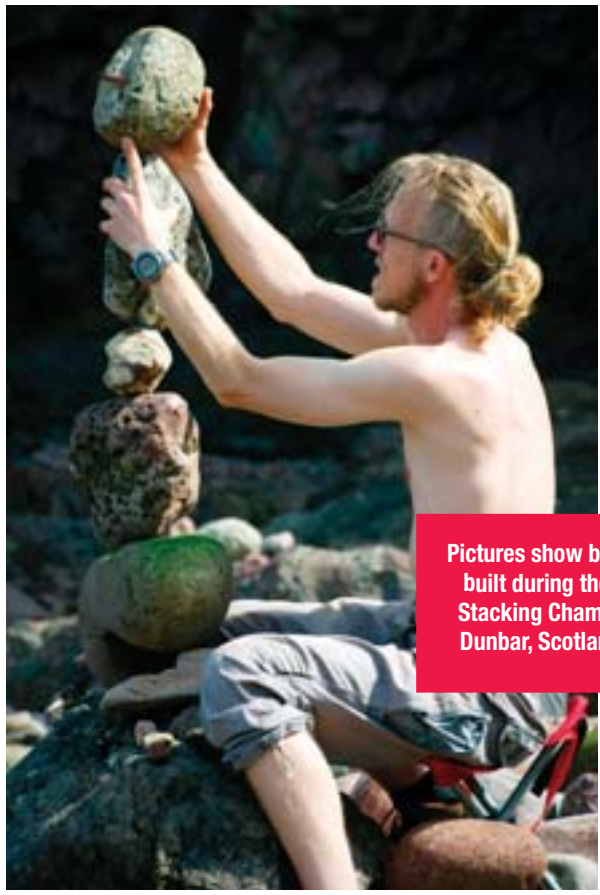
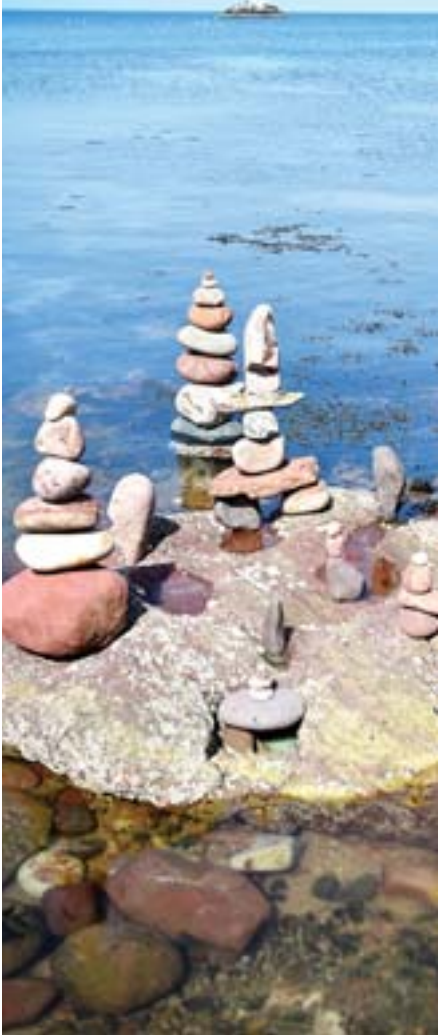


Expertly balancing one rock on top of another at the European Stone Stacking Championships, competitors combine skill and artistic creativity to come up with gravity-defying constructions. Now in its third year, the event takes place in the Scottish coastal town of Dunbar, east of the capital Edinburgh. Saturday's competition down on the Eye Cave Beach was all about quantity: the most stones balanced vertically in 30 minutes. Sunday's battle put the emphasis on artistic merit: creating anything from stones or found objects within three hours.

The winner receives a trip to the Llano Earth Art Festival in Texas where the 2020 World Rock Stacking Championships will be held. "Stone stacking is one of the most ancient art forms. It may go back to the beginning of mankind," organizer James Craig Page told AFP. "However, it was brought to the attention of the public over the last 15 years by Bill Dan from California and more recently Michael Grab," two of the best-known artists. "Events like Llano Earth Art Festival and its World Rock Stacking Championship, and the European Stone Stacking Championships, are helping to promote this ever-growing art form."

"The skills required to become an expert balancer artist are patience, focus, a love of nature and an unwillingness to be unhappy anymore." The abstract shapes produced by rocks eroded by the

tides over the centuries means sculptures can be produced with impressive, seemingly gravity-defying angles. Stone stacking also requires concentration and forethought to pull off the most dazzling creations. France's "SP Ranza" was declared the overall winner, as well as winning the quantity category. The winner in the artistic category was Marianne Winter, from the Netherlands, who came second overall. — AFP



Pictures show balanced sculptures built during the European Stone Stacking Championships 2019 in Dunbar, Scotland. — AFP photos





# Classifieds

Tuesday, April 23, 2019



STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



DAY: Monday 22/04/2019 Valid From 7 AM To 7 PM

## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Warm with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 60 km/h causing rising dust.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			Fresh wind + dust	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 22/04/2019 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	27 °C	20 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25 °C	18 °C		
ABDALLY	28 °C	19 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	29 °C	19 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	27 °C	20 °C		
SALMIYAH	26 °C	20 °C		
AHMADI	26 °C	21 °C		
NUWAISIB	27 °C	19 °C		
WAFRA	26 °C	16 °C		
SALMY	29 °C	15 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST					
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction
			MAX.	MIN.	
Tuesday	04/23	Sunny with a chance for rising dust over open areas	29 °C	17 °C	NW
Wednesday	04/24	Sunny with a chance for rising dust	29 °C	17 °C	NW
Thursday	04/25	Sunny with a chance for rising dust	30 °C	18 °C	NW
Friday	04/26	Relatively hot	32 °C	19 °C	NW

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:51
Sunrise	05:15
Zuhr	11:47
Asr	15:22
Sunset	18:18
Isha	19:40

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	31 °C
MIN. Temp.	21 °C
MAX. RH	87 %
MIN. RH	16 %
MAX. Wind	NE 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

All times are local time unless otherwise stated.

UP:0

2019/04/22 10:06 UTC V1.00 T2.4

وقت محلي/ع 2

## 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**

## 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	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
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)

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 23/4/2019							
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	610	Cairo	13:10
JZR	254	Amman	00:05	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	QTR	1078	Doha	13:35
THY	766	ISL	00:30	KAC	774	Riyadh	14:00
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	KAC	672	Dubai	14:25
JZR	722	Alexandria	00:55	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:00	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40
KAC	102	London	01:20	KAC	618	Doha	14:40
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:10
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	FEQ	441	Asyut	15:25
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	222	Riyadh	15:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	562	Amman	15:35
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:05	JZR	732	Cairo	15:50
RBG	211	Luxor	03:05	SYR	341	Damascus	16:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	03:05	JZR	152	Mashhad	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	118	New York	16:05
MSR	606	Luxor	03:10	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:05
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	KAC	516	Tehran	16:20
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	212	Jeddah	16:25
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:00	KAC	502	Beirut	16:30
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	542	Cairo	16:30
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40
JZR	716	Sohag	04:40	JZR	612	Tbilisi	17:10
UAE	873	Dubai	04:55	JZR	114	Doha	17:10
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:45
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	FDB	063	Dubai	18:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	JZR	124	Dubai	18:20
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	QTR	1080	Doha	18:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	RJA	640	Amman	19:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	744	Dammam	19:00
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25
KAC	362	Colombo	06:10	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:25	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:30
BAW	157	London	07:05	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50
JZR	708	Luxor	07:15	JZR	106	Bahrain	20:00
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
FEQ	241	Alexandria	07:40	KAC	546	Cairo	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:35
KAC	304	Mumbai	08:20	KAC	674	Dubai	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ICV	675	Luxembourg	21:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	168	Paris	21:30
JZR	410	Delhi	10:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
KAC	624	Doha	10:40	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	564	Amman	21:55
JZR	122	Dubai	11:10	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
JZR	116	Doha	11:10	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	RBG	213	Sohag	22:30
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:25	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:45
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	MSC	501	Alexandria	23:05
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	128	Dubai	23:15
JZR	142	Al Najaf	12:50	JZR	254	Amman	23:40
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45

Departure Flights on Tuesday 23/4/2019							
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR	1075	Doha	13:00
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	KAC	545	Cairo	13:30
MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05	JZR	113	Doha	13:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	409	Delhi	00:50	JZR	123	Dubai	13:40
JZR	707	Luxor	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:10
JAI	571	Mumbai	01:15	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	111	Doha	01:45	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:15
KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:00
KAC	285	Dhaka	01:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
KAC	417	Manila	02:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:25	KAC	673	Dubai	15:40
THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
IGO	1758	Kochi	02:55	KAC	743	Dammam	15:55
THY	767	ISL	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:05
UAE	854	Dubai	03:40	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
RBG	212	Sohag	03:45	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	FEG	342	Sohag	16:25
THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
QTR	1087	Doha	04:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:40
KKK	1269	Istanbul	04:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:45
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	JZR	105	Bahrain	16:55
MSR	607	Luxor	04:10	SYR	342	Damascus	17:00
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:45
QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:50
FDB	070	Dubai	05:50	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
JZR	713	Sohag	06:15	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
JZR	121	Dubai	06:35	JZR	733	Cairo	18:10
THY	771	Istanbul	06:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	623	Doha	06:50	JZR	253	Amman	18:15
UAE	874	Dubai	06:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	167	Paris	07:10	JZR	127	Dubai	18:35
RJA	643	Amman	07:15	JZR	501	Lahore	18:40
GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:40
JZR	115	Doha	07:30	KAC	381	Delhi	18:55
KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:10	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
KAC	165	Rome	08:20	JZR	721	Alexandria	19:20
THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:35	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FEG	442	Asyut	08:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
FDB	054	Dubai	08:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	501	Beirut	09:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:05
KAC	613	Bahrain	09:05	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
JZR	731	Cairo	09:10	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
BAW	156	London	09:15	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
KAC	691	Muscat	09:20	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:35
JZR	141	Al Najaf	09:25	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
KAC	541	Cairo	09:30	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:55
KAC	561	Amman	09:40	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
KAC	671	Dubai	09:45	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
KAC	741	Dammam	09:45	DLH	624	Dammam	21:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	101	London	09:45	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
JZR	151	Mashhad	09:50	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
UAE	856	Dubai	10:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:15
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
KAC	617	Doha	10:35	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
JZR	211	Jeddah	10:40	KAC	303	Mumbai	22:30
IRA	674	Lar	10:40	KAC	383	Delhi	22:30
IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	10:40	ICV	675	Hong Kong	22:45
KAC	155	Istanbul	10:45	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
QTR	1071	Doha	10:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
JZR	611	Tbilisi	11:10	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
KAC	117	New York	11:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	RBG	214	Sohag	23:10
KAC	515	Tehran	12:00	KAC	795	Madinah	23:15
JZR	213	Jeddah	12:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:25
JZR	221	Riyadh	12:00				
MEA	405	Beirut	12:55				





Extinction Rebellion climate change activists lie on the floor as they perform a mass “die in” in the main hall of the Natural History Museum in London yesterday, on the eighth day of the environmental group's protest calling for political change to combat climate change. —FP

## Kuwaitis urged to leave Lanka...

Continued from Page 1

The group has previously only been linked to vandalizing Buddhist statues. “We don’t see that only a small organization in this country can do all that,” said Senaratne of the deadly attacks. “We are now investigating the international support for them, and their other links... how they produced the suicide bombers here, and how they produced bombs like this.”

The death toll from Sunday’s attacks rose dramatically Monday to 290 – including dozens of foreigners – in the worst atrocity since the country’s civil war ended a decade ago. More than 500 people were injured in the assault that saw suicide bombers hit three high-end hotels popular with foreign tourists, and three churches, unleashing carnage in Colombo and beyond. Two additional blasts were triggered as security forces carried out raids searching for suspects. Tensions remained high yesterday, with a bomb detonating as police prepared to defuse it near one of the churches targeted a day earlier. No injuries were reported. Police also found 87 bomb detonators at a Colombo bus station. A home-made bomb was also defused at Colombo airport late Sunday.

President Maithripala Sirisena’s office said a state of emergency “limited to counter terrorism regulations only” would be introduced from midnight yesterday (1830 GMT). “This is being done to allow the police and the three forces to ensure public security,” the statement said, referring to the army, navy and air force. Officials said Sirisena would ask diplomats for help investigating the blasts. “The intelligence sections have reported that there are international terror groups which are behind the local terrorists,” the statement said.

US President Donald Trump called Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to pledge US support in bringing the perpetrators to justice, a White House spokesman said. “A terrible, terrible thing. Unthinkable,”

Trump later told reporters at a White House event. “We are working with Sri Lanka.” Interpol said it was deploying a team of investigators to Sri Lanka, and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he had spoken to Wickremesinghe. “This is America’s fight, too,” Pompeo said. A new curfew was in place from 8:00 pm (1430 GMT) yesterday until 4:00 am today, and the US State Department warned of possible further attacks in a travel advisory update.

The attacks were the worst ever against Sri Lanka’s small Christian minority, who make up just seven percent of the 21 million population. At least 37 foreigners were among the dead, including citizens of India, Britain, Turkey, Australia, Japan and Portugal, as well as a dual US-British passport holder. Denmark’s richest man Anders Holch Povlsen and his wife lost three of their four children in the attacks, a spokesman for his fashion firm said. Ethnic and religious violence has plagued Sri Lanka for decades, with a 37-year conflict with Tamil rebels followed by an upswing in recent years in clashes between the Buddhist majority and Muslims.

The churches targeted included St Sebastian’s in Negombo, north of the capital, which was surrounded by security forces yesterday. Dozens of people were killed at the church, including friends of 16-year-old Primasha Fernando, who was at her home nearby when the suicide bomber struck. “When I got to the church there were people crying and screaming,” she told AFP. “I saw bodies everywhere,” she added in tears. “I saw parents carrying their dead babies. I saw dead people who had hair but didn’t have faces anymore.”

The Negombo attack appeared to have been the deadliest of the six, with 102 bodies in total at the town’s general hospital, health officials said. At a government morgue in Colombo, relatives yesterday endured the gruesome task of identifying their loved ones. Eighteen bodies were released after relatives recognized victims from video clips shown on a screen in a corner of the morgue courtyard. Janaka Shaktivel, 28, father of an 18-month-old son, sat in shock outside the building waiting for the body of his wife to be handed over. “I recognized her body from the wedding ring that she always wore,” he said. “I have no words to explain my feelings.”— Agencies

and defend the Iranian waters,” Tangsiri added.

Tasnim quoted the unnamed source as saying: “Whether the waivers continue or not, Iran’s oil exports will not be zero under any circumstances unless Iranian authorities decide to stop oil exports ... and this is not relevant now. We have been monitoring and analyzing all possible scenarios and conditions for the advance of our country’s oil exports, and necessary measures have been taken ... Iran is not waiting for America’s decision or the lack of it to export its oil. We have years of experience in neutralizing efforts by enemies to strike blows against our country,” the source added.

A key backer of Trump’s push is Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who hailed the latest move as “of great importance”. Just two weeks ago, Trump took another key step by designating the Revolutionary Guards – who are in charge of preserving the regime and have amassed vast commercial interests – as a terrorist group, the first time such action has been taken against part of another government. Iran earned \$52.7 billion from petroleum exports in 2017, according to the oil cartel OPEC, before the reimposition of US sanctions. Experts say it is unlikely that Iranian exports will ever be reduced completely to zero, with a black market likely to exist.

Oil prices jumped overnight on reports of the action by the United States. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for May delivery went up another 2.7 percent to \$65.70 a barrel by mid-morning in the United States. Backing Trump’s comments, Saudi Arabia’s Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said that the kingdom would work to “stabilize” the oil market.

Energy-hungry India stands to be among the most affected by the decision and is also facing US pressure not to buy from Venezuela, where Trump is seeking to topple leftist President Nicolas Maduro. According to Indian commerce ministry data, oil imports from Iran in the 10 months to January rose 16.3 percent to 21.3 million tons – although they have declined since the initial US sanctions announcement. Trump’s move has also been good for US business, with India’s oil purchases from the United States skyrocketing 350 percent from 2017 to 2018. The United States still has an exemption in place until mid-June for Iraq, which relies on electricity from its neighbor to cope with chronic blackouts that have triggered unrest. —Agencies

## Ukraine leaps into unknown...

Continued from Page 1

On election night he appeared to taunt the Kremlin however, when he told people in fellow post-Soviet countries that “everything is possible”.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Zelensky on winning presidential elections. In the cable, he wished Zelensky and the friendly people of Ukraine utmost prosperity and for bilateral relations further development. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday it was “too early to talk about President Putin congratulating Mr Zelensky, or about the possibility of working together.” Ties between Ukraine and Russia were shredded after a bloody uprising ousted a Kremlin-backed

regime in 2014, prompting Moscow to annex Crimea and support insurgents in a conflict that has claimed around 13,000 lives.

On the streets of Kiev, many praised the elections as a fair and peaceful transfer of power after popular uprisings of 2004 and 2014. “People showed that they want change,” 28-year-old Karina told AFP. “We had the most honest polls in the history of Ukraine,” she added, praising Poroshenko for conceding defeat soon after exit polls were published. Zelensky – who at 41 is to be Ukraine’s youngest ever president – has a vague program and it remained unclear who would fill top positions, including the role of prime minister.

He shunned traditional campaign rallies, instead performing comedy gigs, and implied he would use the same unorthodox style to run the country of 45 million that depends on international aid. US President Donald Trump and French leader Emmanuel Macron called the political novice to congratulate him, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged support. In a joint letter to Zelensky yesterday, EU Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker expressed admiration for Ukrainians’ “strong attachment to democracy and the rule of law.”—Agencies

## Iran, Pakistan to set up border...

Continued from Page 1

Stressing that “no third country” could harm bilateral ties, an apparent reference to the United States and its policy of isolating Iran, Rouhani said Tehran was ready to boost trade and business ties with Islamabad. “In the current situation the region’s countries must decide and plan for their interests independently and directly,” Rouhani said. “Iran is ready to meet Pakistan’s oil and gas demands ... (and) we are ready to increase (electricity) exports to Pakistan ten-fold,” he added.

He said cooperation between Chabahar port in southeast Iran and Pakistan’s Gwadar port can be increased, and that Tehran could facilitate the construction of a railroad connecting Istanbul to Islamabad.

## Ghanem hails ties with Russia...

Continued from Page 1

Both need to work “collectively and seriously” in the face of global injustices like terrorism and Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, he added. “Desperation, poverty, loss of hope and identity, class separation, lack of governance, suppression, the spread of hate speech and xenophobia are all forms of terrorism. The Palestinian people are being targeted through these means on a day-to-day basis,” he said, in reference to Israel’s occupation of their lands. On this, Ghanem commended Russia’s “principal and solid” role in support of Palestinian and Middle East affairs, particularly its veto

Chabahar, about 100 km from the Pakistan border, is Iran’s largest port outside the Gulf and the only one exempt from US sanctions. For his part, Khan said his visit to Tehran aimed to “find ways to increase trade and cooperation... in energy and other areas”, noting that two-way trade was “very limited”.

But he made no pledge on energy purchases, nor did he provide details of other economic ties. Khan also met with Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who called for the “strengthening of relations in spite of the will of enemies”. Khamenei blamed those unnamed “enemies” for the attacks on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border, which the supreme leader said were intended to “contaminate” relations between the two Muslim nations. Pakistan is a close ally of the United States and Saudi Arabia, both of which have ratcheted up pressure on Iran over its alleged meddling in regional affairs. Washington last year pulled out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal signed by Tehran and world powers and reimposed harsh economic sanctions on the country as part of a “maximum pressure” campaign. — AFP

against a resolution that recognizes illegal Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights. “This stance (by Russia) is one we appreciate and are grateful for,” Ghanem highlighted.

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federation Council of Russia Konstantin Kosachev praised the speech delivered by Ghanim. In a statement to KUNA, Kosachev said Ghanem’s speech was “constructive and important”, and was admired by lawmakers who expressed their applause. Ghanem’s speech was not a traditional one, but rather an indication of the deep relationship between the two sides, he added.

He praised the important partnership between Kuwait and Russia in the field of international relations, high-level political dialogue, growing trade, and economic relations. Kosachev stressed Ghanem’s visit to Russia will strengthen parliamentary relations between the two sides, and will enhance cooperation and coordination between their parliaments in international forums. — KUNA

that they are the original inhabitants of the country, and that over the passage of time they have become a minority because of naturalization that made bedouins or tribals larger in numbers than them. Based on unofficial statistics, Kuwaiti tribals are estimated to make up over 50 percent of the population.

The debate also comes amid intense discussions over calls to naturalize thousands of stateless people (bedoons), the overwhelming majority of whom are tribal. Several MPs have been pushing the government to resolve the decades-old problem of bedoons by granting Kuwaiti citizenship to some of them and basic rights to the rest.

In another development, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh yesterday demanded an explanation from MPs Mohammad Hayef and Mohammad Al-Mutair over a grilling they filed against him. The minister said the grilling did not include specific issues but generalized accusations that need further explanation. The grilling, which could be debated on April 30, made several accusations against the minister, including squandering of public funds.



Sports

# Braves crush Indians as Donaldson homers twice

## Padres use 4-run inning to beat Reds, end 6-game skid

**CLEVELAND:** Josh Donaldson homered in his first two at-bats, and Max Fried tossed 6 1/3 strong innings as the visiting Atlanta Braves breezed to an 11-5 rout of the Cleveland Indians on Sunday night. Donaldson drove in four runs, while Freddie Freeman had a pair of RBI singles to highlight his three-hit performance. Ozzie Albies had a two-run single and joined Freeman in scoring twice for the Braves, who saw each member of the starting lineup record at least one of the team's 16 hits. Donaldson provided the fireworks by depositing a 1-1 slider from starter Shane Bieber (2-1) over the wall in center field for a solo homer in the first inning. The 2015 American League Most Valuable Player wasn't done, launching a 1-2 fastball from Bieber deep into the bleachers in left field for a three-run shot in the second inning.

### RANGERS 11, ASTROS 10

Joey Gallo capped a prolific weekend with his third consecutive multi-hit game, and host Texas claimed the rubber match of its three-game series with Houston. After slugging home runs in each of the first two games, Gallo finished 2-for-3 with five RBIs and delivered a two-run triple that ignited Texas' three-run first inning against Astros right-hander Collin McHugh. Gallo also hit a sacrifice fly in the Rangers' four-run third inning and, after the Astros chased Texas right-hander Shelby Miller with a five-run sixth, Gallo added a run-scoring single in the bottom of the sixth.

### CUBS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

David Bote ripped a game-ending single to right-center field in the bottom of the ninth inning to score Javier Baez and lift Chicago to a 2-1 victory over visiting Arizona. Teammates mobbed Bote near first base after the hit, which gave the Cubs a series win and marked their fifth victory in the past six games. Baez finished 2-for-3 with a double, a triple, an RBI and the game-winning run. Baez set the stage for the dramatic win when he led off the ninth with a double down the right field line. He advanced to third base after Diamondbacks right fielder Adam Jones bobbled the ball in the grass.

### YANKEES 7, ROYALS 6 (10)

Austin Romine hit a game-winning single with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning as host New York beat Kansas City. Mike Tauchman and Gio Urshela opened the inning by drawing walks from Jake Diekmann (0-1), who was replaced by Ian Kennedy. After the runners were sacrificed to second and third by pinch hitter Thairo Estrada, Romine won by lifting a fly ball over center fielder Billy Hamilton's head. Before the wild sequences of the late innings, the Yankees carried a 5-0 lead into the eighth behind the dominance of left-hander James Paxton and a three-run homer by Clint Frazier. Kansas City scored six in the eighth before Romine's RBI single in the bottom of the eighth tied it.

### DODGERS 6, BREWERS 5

Cody Bellinger belted his 11th home run with two

out in the top of ninth inning to lift Los Angeles to a 6-5 road win over Milwaukee. Bellinger went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs, hitting the game-winner off Milwaukee reliever Josh Hader (0-2). He also robbed Christian Yelich of a homer at the wall in the eighth inning. Kenley Jansen (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings and struck out the side in the ninth to earn the win. Yelich, who leads the majors in homers with 13 and is one shy of tying Albert Pujols and Alex Rodriguez for the most home runs (14) before May 1, went 0-for-2 with two walks.

### RED SOX 4, RAYS 3 (11)

Christian Vazquez hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the top of the 11th inning as Boston edged host Tampa Bay. Rafael Devers began the 11th with a bloop single, and Michael Chavis, making his first major league start, followed with a walk. After a Jackie Bradley Jr. bunt advanced both runners, Vazquez lofted a deep fly to center to drive in the game-winning run. The Red Sox rallied against Rays reliever Jose Alvarado (0-2) for the second straight game.

### CARDINALS 6, METS 4

Paul Goldschmidt delivered a two-run single among his two hits as host St. Louis topped New York. Dexter Fowler and Marcell Ozuna each had a run-scoring double and Kolten Wong added an RBI single for the Cardinals, who have scored at least four runs in each game during their 7-1 surge at home. Dakota Hudson (1-1) overcame three solo homers and five hits total in five innings to record his first career win as a starter.

### BLUE JAYS 5, ATHLETICS 4

Justin Smoak hit his second home run in two days as Toronto completed a three-game sweep of host Oakland. Brandon Drury capped a big series with a double and a single for the Blue Jays, who completed a 6-1 trip that began with three wins in four games at Minnesota. The A's have lost five of six.

### PADRES 4, REDS 3

Austin Hedges homered to help host San Diego defeat Cincinnati and avoid a four-game sweep. The Padres had five straight hits and six in the inning against Reds starter and loser Tyler Mahle (0-2), who allowed four runs on seven hits with nine strikeouts in six innings. Mahle retired the last 10 Padres he faced. Left-hander Joey Lucchesi (3-2) allowed one run on five hits and two walks with eight strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings to earn the win.

### ANGELS 8, MARINERS 6

Los Angeles clubbed four homers and held off visiting Seattle for the first time in six tries this season. Tommy La Stella hit two homers, and Brian Goodwin and Kevan Smith each hit one for Los Angeles. In all, the Angels had 11 hits, including two doubles by Mike Trout. Mariners starter Mike Leake (2-2), who yielded three homers, allowed four runs on six hits and two



CLEVELAND: Ronald Acuna Jr. #13 and Ozzie Albies #1 of the Atlanta Braves celebrate an 11-5 victory over the Cleveland Indians at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

walks in six innings.

### NATIONALS 5, MARLINS 0

Stephen Strasburg pitched eight scoreless innings, and Ryan Zimmerman slugged two homers as Washington won at Miami. The last-place Marlins failed to get their first three-game sweep since September of 2017 but still won their first series this year. Strasburg (2-1) improved to 18-7 in his career against Miami. He passed Gio Gonzalez as the Nationals' career leader in innings pitched.

### ROCKIES 4, PHILLIES 1

Jon Gray pitched six shutout innings, and Colorado beat visiting Philadelphia. Tony Wolters had two hits, including a two-run double for the Rockies, who have won six of seven. Colorado's Charlie Blackmon had a triple and two singles to finish 10-for-18 in the series.

### TWINS 4, ORIOLES 3

Willians Astudillo drove in two runs, and starter Kyle Gibson threw six solid innings as visiting Minnesota defeated Baltimore. Astudillo had an RBI double plus a

sacrifice fly as the Twins took a 2-0 lead in the first inning and never trailed. The victory let Minnesota complete a sweep of the three-game weekend series in Baltimore. Gibson (1-0) gave up two runs on five hits in six innings.

### GIANTS 3, PIRATES 2

Buster Posey's three-run home run in the fifth inning lifted visiting San Francisco over Pittsburgh, ending a four-game skid. San Francisco starter Dereck Rodriguez (3-2) gave up two runs and three hits in 5 2/3 innings, with one walk and four strikeouts. He also singled and scored a run. Josh Bell hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh.

### TIGERS 4, WHITE SOX 3

Daniel Norris tossed five scoreless innings in his first start this season, Gordon Beckham hit a solo homer and host Detroit edged Chicago. Norris (1-0) allowed two hits and struck out six. Shane Greene recorded his 10th save by getting the last three outs, including two strikeouts. White Sox starter Reynaldo Lopez (1-3) gave up three runs (two earned) and seven hits in six innings while striking out eight. — Reuters

## KIB renews sponsorship of world-renowned Jet Ski champion Abdullah Al-Fadel

**KUWAIT:** As part of its strong commitment to supporting youth-related initiatives and activities, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently renewed its year-long sponsorship of the world-renowned Jet Ski champion and national athlete, Abdullah Al-Fadel. For the fourth year running, the Bank will continue to support Al-Fadel in his participation in upcoming international competitions and tournaments across the United States and Thailand.

As a national champion, Al-Fadel's sports skills and talents have garnered him global fame, amassing a number of international sports recognitions over the years. His recent accolades include winning second place in the King of Thailand International Jet Ski tournament and second place in the Pro Stock Runabout for professional riders: one of the largest and most challenging categories. Al-Fadel also won first place in two different categories in a championship held in Chicago, Illinois.

Commenting on this sponsorship, Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We have always been firm believers of the power sports has to unlock great potential in youth. For this reason, a core component of our social responsibility program focuses on youth empowerment, supporting them across various areas. We aim at supporting sports activities and local youth, sparking their talent to help boost Kuwait's standing and become the nation's future leaders."

Najia added that this sponsorship came as part of KIB's youth empowerment pillar under its impactful social responsibility program. The Bank aims at supporting sports activities and empowering local youth excel across various local, regional, and international tournaments. Accordingly, KIB has always been a proud supporter of national champion, Abdullah Al-Fadel. This stems from the Bank's strong belief in his athleticism and his ability to garner regional and international recognition across a number of tournaments.

It is worth mentioning that sponsoring sports initiatives and activities continues to be a cornerstone of KIB's leading social responsibility program. For that reason, the Bank provides its unwavering support to tal-



ented athletes across all sports, enabling them to participate in various competitions; there-

by establishing its role as a partner in every aspect of people's lives, a true 'Bank for Life'.

## Johnson remains world no 1 despite Heritage collapse



HILTON HEAD ISLAND: Dustin Johnson plays his shot from the eighth tee during the final round of the 2019 RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. — AFP

**PARIS:** Dustin Johnson maintained his position as the world number one yesterday despite collapsing out of contention in the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head. The former US Open champion remains at the top of the latest rankings, holding a slender lead over Justin Rose and his fellow American Brooks Koepka. Johnson took a one-shot advantage into the final round on Sunday, before mak-

ing four bogeys and two double-bogeys to drop to a tie for 28th. Taiwanese golfer Pan Cheng-tsung climbed 58 places to 55th after taking advantage of Johnson's meltdown to clinch his maiden PGA Tour title.

Tiger Woods remains sixth in the rankings after not playing the week following his stunning fifth victory at the Masters.— AFP

World top 20		
1. Dustin Johnson (USA)	9.73 average pts	12. Matt Kuchar (USA) 5.45 (+4)
2. Justin Rose (ENG)	9.06	13. Paul Casey (ENG) 5.32 (-1)
3. Brooks Koepka (USA)	9.01	14. Jason Day (AUS) 5.14 (-1)
4. Rory McIlroy (NIR)	8.23	15. Tony Finau (USA) 5.17 (-1)
5. Justin Thomas (USA)	7.89	16. Tommy Fleetwood (ENG) 4.90 (-1)
6. Tiger Woods (USA)	7.67	17. Bubba Watson (USA) 4.62
7. Francesco Molinari (ITA)	7.17	18. Patrick Cantlay (USA) 4.62
8. Bryson DeChambeau (USA)	7.14	19. Patrick Reed (USA) 4.27
9. Xander Schauffele (USA)	6.42	20. Webb Simpson (USA) 4.15
10. Rickie Fowler (USA)	5.90	Selected:
11. Jon Rahm (ESP)	5.87	55. Pan Cheng-tsung (TPE) 2.30 (+58).



## Sports

# Paceman Hassan surprise pick in Afghanistan World Cup squad

## Sacked captain Afghan finds place in squad

**MUMBAI:** Afghanistan named fast bowler Hamid Hassan, who last played for the side in July 2016, in their 15-man squad for the Cricket World Cup yesterday. Hassan, 31, has played 32 one-day internationals for the war-torn nation and was also part of Afghanistan's maiden appearance at the 50-over World Cup in Australia and New Zealand four years back. "Luckily for us, the comeback of senior fast bowler Hamid Hassan is a good news," Afghanistan chief selector Dawlat Ahmadzai said in a statement. "However, we will take into account his form and fitness during upcoming practice matches."

Earlier this month, Afghanistan replaced long-serving ODI captain Asghar Afghan with Gulbadin Naib as part of wholesale changes to the team's leadership structure across formats.

While several senior players questioned the timing of the leadership changes before the May 30-July 14 World Cup, Afghan kept his place in the squad.

The spinners are the biggest strength of Afghanistan, touted as the 'dark horse', and they named three specialist world class slow bowlers in Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Rashid, 20, is the top-ranked bowler in the

shortest Twenty20 format and third in the list of bowlers for the 50-over format. "It has been a six-month preparation process for the ICC Cricket World Cup," Ahmadzai said. "The mission is to play inspirational cricket in the tournament; I know there are strong teams but we will do our level best to achieve our goals."

"As chief selector, it is my duty to select a competitive team. However, there were some challenges that we needed to handle. We selected the best squad considering factors such as experience, fitness, team balance, current form and conditions."

"We hope to play great cricket without any fear and with a fighting spirit in the tournament." Wicketkeeper-batsman Ikram Ali Khil and the pace duo of Karim Janat and Sayed Shirzad were named reserve players for the team, who begin their campaign against Australia on June 1.

Squad: Gulbadin Naib (captain), Mohammad Shahzad (wicketkeeper), Noor Ali Zadran, Hazratullah Zazai, Rahmat Shah, Asghar Afghan, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Najibullah Zadran, Samiullah Shinwari, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Dawlat Zadran, Aftab Alam, Hamid Hassan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman. — Reuters



File photo shows Afghanistan team members pose with the trophy after beating Ireland in a Test match.

## Good to be World Cup underdogs: Sarfraz

**LAHORE:** Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed said yesterday that being underdogs in next month's World Cup eases the pressure on his young team, who leave for the tournament this week. Pakistan will play three warm-up matches before taking on joint-hosts England in a five-match one-day series and a Twenty20.

The 1992 World Cup winners start their campaign against the West Indies in Nottingham on May 31. Sarfraz he would prefer his side to go into the tournament under the radar. "Look, when we go as favourites, then it's a problem, but if we go as underdogs then other teams feel the danger, so I think being underdogs is good for us and eases the pressure," Sarfraz told a press conference in Lahore before they depart for England and Wales tomorrow.

Sarfraz, 31, was among five key players rested for the whitewash ODI series defeat by Australia last month to freshen up the squad before the competition. He was handed a four-match suspension in January by the International Cricket Council after he made a racist comment about South Africa's Andile Phehlukwayo during an ODI.

All ten teams will play each other in the tournament starting on May 30 with England taking on South Africa in the opening fixture. The top four teams will qualify for the semi-finals. The high-voltage clash between arch-rivals Pakistan and India scheduled for Manchester on June 16 promises to be one of the most tense of the tournament.

Pakistan and India, who both possess nuclear weapons, came to the brink of all-out war recently after fresh sparring over the disputed region of Kashmir, adding to the intensity of the match.

But Sarfraz played down the hype, saying all games are important. "For us all nine matches are important so we will take every match as a match against India," he



LAHORE: Pakistani cricket captain Sarfraz Ahmed (L) speaks to media next to South African coach Mickey Arthur during a press conference in Lahore yesterday. Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed said that being underdogs in next month's World Cup eases the pressure on his young team, which leaves for England early tomorrow. — AFP

said of Pakistan's bitter rivals—who have won all six of their previous World Cup clashes.

But Pakistan took the Champions Trophy against India in 2017 with a stunning 180-run victory in the final. "We have beaten India in a bigger event recently so we will have that advantage," said Sarfraz.

He said the theme of Pakistan's World Cup mission is "we have, we will", citing the team's previous glories. Along with the Champions Trophy two years ago, Pakistan won the 1992 World Cup and the 2009 World Twenty20. "I think these are exciting times for Pakistan cricket and for the team," said Mickey Arthur, who took

over as head coach in May 2016. "We leave on a journey for which we have worked really hard," he said, adding that they have "a good team, both in talent and attitude". "The initial thing is to qualify for the last four and take it from there, so I think we have the potential to certainly go all the way but before that we have to play very well," South African Arthur added. Pakistan have named two extra players in their squad for the five-match one-day series against England, with paceman Mohammad Amir and batsman Asif Ali in addition to the 15 for the World Cup. But they have until May 23 to finalise their squad for the tournament. —AFP

## Dhoni blitz in vain as Chennai lose to Bangalore by one run

**BANGALORE:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni's swashbuckling 84 went in vain as Royal Challengers Bangalore edged past Chennai Super Kings in a last-ball thriller on Sunday to keep their play-off hopes alive in the Indian Premier League. Dhoni almost pulled off Chennai's chase of 161 as he smashed five fours and seven sixes in his 48-ball blitz only to see his team lose by one run in Bangalore in the Twenty20 tournament. With defending champions Chennai needing 26 off the last over, Dhoni hit a four and three sixes but missed the final ball from paceman Umesh Yadav and ran to get runs through byes.

Bangalore wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel, who top-scored with 53 in his team's 161-7, hit the stumps to run out Shardul Thakur as Virat Kohli's side managed to win their third game. "A whole lot of emotions. We thought we were outstanding with the ball till the 19th over mark. To be very honest, that was the last thing I would have expected," said a relieved Kohli.

"But anything can happen in the game of cricket. MS (Dhoni) did what he does well and gave us a scare." The 37-year-old Dhoni, known for his finishing skills, lifted his side from a precarious 28-4 in the sixth over to bring them within touching distance of victory.

He built crucial partnerships including a 55-run fifth-wicket stand with Ambati Rayudu, who made 29, to try and calculate the chase. "We did really well to restrict RCB below par. I think it was more of a calculation mistake that we lost wickets early on," said the skipper.

"T20 is all about taking risks, but you can still calculate. A lot of boundaries were needed, right now you can calculate, one run there, and two runs there and we just lost by one run. But you can also say we missed some boundaries."

South African paceman Dale Steyn did the early damage with his twin strikes to be on a hat-trick in the very first over of the Chennai innings. Steyn got Australia's Shane Watson caught at slip for five, on the fifth delivery and then bowled Indian batsman Suresh Raina for nought. He returned figures of 2-29. — AFP



BANGALORE: Chennai Super Kings captain and batsman M.S. Dhoni runs between the wickets during the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings at The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore. — AFP

## NHL Blues survive third-period scare to oust Winnipeg

**LOS ANGELES:** Jaden Schwartz scored a hat trick and the St. Louis Blues held off a furious third period Winnipeg rally to oust the Jets from the NHL playoffs with a 3-2 victory.

Schwartz, who scored the game winner in a game-five triumph, opened the scoring just 23 seconds in and then added goals in the second and third periods as the Blues eliminated the Jets four games to two in the best-of-seven opening-round series.

Schwartz would have had four goals but he hit the right goalpost with a minute left in the third period in front of the sold out crowd at Enterprise Center in St. Louis. The Blues had to buck a few series trends to reach the second round, where they will face either the

Dallas Stars or Nashville Predators.

Before game six, the road team had won the first five games of the series. By beating the visiting Jets, the Blues made sure that no best-of-seven series has ever had the visiting team win each of the first six games. Also, each game saw the winning team rally from behind to win. It is just the 10th time in league history it has happened through the first five games.

Winnipeg did their best to try and keep that come-from-behind streak going by getting late third period goals from Dustin Byfuglien and Bryan Little but ultimately the Jets fell short. Jordan Binnington made 18 saves for the Blues while Jets netminder Connor Hellebuyck stopped 33 shots. — AFP

## Kuldeep's loss of form worrying for India before WCup

**MUMBAI:** Kuldeep Yadav is expected to lead India's slow-bowling attack in the World Cup but his poor form in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) could become a headache for Virat Kohli's men with just over a month left before the 50-over tournament.

The left-arm wristspinner sits at seventh in the bowlers' rankings in one-day internationals, one spot ahead of spin-bowling colleague Yuzvendra Chahal. The duo have emerged as India's frontline spinners and named in the 15-man World Cup squad alongside left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

The wily 24-year-old has 87 wickets from 44 ODIs at an enviable average of less than 22. He took 12 wickets in the 2017 edition of the IPL and five more last year but has endured nightmare this season. Kuldeep has taken four wickets in nine matches at an economy rate of 8.66 while bowling 33 overs for the Kolkata Knight Riders, who have lost five matches on the trot and are placed sixth in the eight-team league.

He was dropped for Sunday's outing against Sunrisers Hyderabad after the mauling he received against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Friday during which he took 1-59 in his four overs. "Definitely a form issue, he didn't stand up for us in the previous game. That's why we had to give him a break and get him back fresh," KKR captain Dinesh Karthik said after his team's loss on Sunday.

"Kuldeep's not been bowling as well as he would have liked, as we would have liked as well. That's why we gave him a break, that's the only reason that we haven't played him this game." Despite the difference in formats, the IPL is the only competitive cricket left before the World Cup-bound Indians leave for England.

Kuldeep has always looked to be attacking, tempting batsmen with his flighted deliveries and in the process conceding some extra runs, but the assault by England all-rounder Moeen Ali on Friday left him broken.

The left-handed Moeen smashed Kuldeep for three sixes and two fours in a 27-run over before falling on the last delivery, leaving the bowler teary-eyed and dejected on the field. Bangalore and India captain Kohli was at the other end witnessing Kuldeep's misery and would hope his ace spinner will regain both his guile and confidence before India begin their quest for their third World Cup title with a match against South Africa on June 5. — Reuters

## WCup a challenge for Bangladesh bowlers: Walsh

**DHAKA:** West Indies great and Bangladesh bowling coach Courtney Walsh yesterday warned that bowling conditions in Britain would make the upcoming World Cup a tough test for the South Asian side.

The ten-team tournament will run from May 30 to July 14 in England and Wales. "It will be a big challenge," Walsh told reporters in Dhaka. "There are going to be some good cricket wickets, which are batting-friendly. We have to be intelligent, and try to execute well."

"We have to read the conditions and the surfaces we play. Some places the ball might swing more than the others. We have to assess when we get there," Walsh, who played four World Cups for the West Indies between 1987 and 1999, tipped the bowlers to rely on their variations to be successful. "Most of the wickets will be docile and flat. We have to work on our variations and execution," he said. "Everybody studies one another these days. So they know our strengths and weaknesses. Likewise, we also know theirs."

Walsh will be overseeing a Bangladesh pace bowling unit already grappling with injury problems. The Caribbean star revealed that three of his five charges—Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain and Mohammad Saifuddin—were injured. —AFP



# Mbappe’s title, but PSG need to breathe new life into Qatari project

## Mbappe has 36 goals in 40 games this season, with 30 in the league

**PARIS:** After being the star of France’s 2018 World Cup triumph, Kylian Mbappe has been the standout player for Paris Saint-Germain in a Ligue 1 title-winning campaign that has been slightly marred by the manner in which they limped over the line.

PSG finally wrapped up the title on Sunday after second-placed Lille failed to beat Toulouse, having not won any of their previous three games when the opportunity to confirm a sixth French crown in seven seasons was there.

The Qatari-owned club can still make it a domestic double, with the French Cup final to come against Rennes next weekend, yet this will not be remembered as a vintage year. While Neymar once again went missing due to injury at the crucial point, Edinson Cavani has struggled with fitness too, and coach Thomas Tuchel has regularly lashed out at the lack of depth in his squad.

The 5-1 capitulation at Lille a week ago was the worst league result for PSG since Qatar Sports Investments bought the club in 2011, and the first time they had let in five in a league game since 2000.

A record-breaking 14-match winning run with which they started the season now seems like a long time ago, the latest Champions League failure clouding Tuchel’s first campaign in charge.

Mbappe, at least, has been a constant, revelling in his status as a World Cup winner and hardly ever being rested. He only turned 20 in December, but has now won three Ligue 1 titles in a row.

Mbappe has 36 goals in 40 games this season, with 30 in the league. And, frighteningly, his team-mate Daniel Alves told RMC recently that “he doesn’t realise how good he is, he can go much further”.

He is also not used to losing, and may have upset some of his teammates with his assessment of last

week’s defeat at Lille. “We played like beginners,” he said. To be fair, they have usually been exceptional domestically. However, the problem is that as long as they keep failing in the Champions League, domestic success for a club backed by a Gulf state will continue to ring hollow.

The title has effectively been in the bag for some time, but their season has been winding down ever since their exit against Manchester United in the last 16. That, combined with being knocked out in the League Cup quarter-finals, means Tuchel in his first season has actually done worse than Unai Emery, his unloved predecessor.

However, according to sports daily L’Equipe, Tuchel has agreed to extend his contract to 2021. Thoughts have already turned to the future, with new signings needed at the Parc des Princes.

The costly Neymar experiment cannot be said to have succeeded until he stays fit for the games that matter, and there will always be speculation about his future. “We have a contract, we’re not even halfway through that contract,” Neymar’s father pointed out to RMC Sport.

Mbappe is the one man they really cannot afford to lose, but is it time for a clear-out elsewhere? Some of the excitement of the early part of the decade has gone, replaced with a staleness. The days of Thiago Silva, Edinson Cavani and Marco Verratti are maybe ending.

Youri Djorkaeff, a World Cup winner for France and a PSG star in the 1990s, offers a frank assessment, suggesting real change is needed higher up. “If you’re not great in every compartment, from the bus driver to the girls who clean the shirts, you will go nowhere,” he told Ligue 1 Podcast, ‘Le Beau Jeu’.

“Paris Saint-Germain, after many years without success, have to rebuild everything, restart from scratch,



PARIS: (L/R): Paris Saint-Germain's French goalkeeper Alphonse Areola, Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar, Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Leandro Paredes and Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe react as they celebrate victory at the end of the French Ligue 1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Monaco (ASM) in Paris. —AFP

because the foundations are not good. You cannot expect to one day win the Champions League without these foundations.” The Qatar project needs a breath of fresh air, and all eyes will be on president Nasser al-Khelaifi and sporting director Antero Henrique.

UEFA’s Financial Fair Play rules remain a problem, though, with PSG said to have a hole of around 100 million euros and the need to present a balanced budget by the end of June. The next few months will be interesting. —AFP

## Pizarro out to spoil Bayern’s double dreams

**BERLIN:** Werder Bremen’s Peruvian veteran Claudio Pizarro hopes to ruin Bayern Munich’s dreams of a domestic double when he faces his old club in the German Cup semi-final this week.

Pizarro is an icon at both Bayern and Bremen, having scored over 100 goals for each club, and is chasing a record ninth appearance in the German Cup final when the two teams meet in Bremen tomorrow.

In a Bundesliga career spanning two decades, the 40-year-old made over 300 appearances for Bayern and is in his fourth spell at Bremen. Bayern recently offered him a job as club ambassador after his playing career, but with a place in the German Cup final at stake tomorrow, there is no question where Pizarro’s loyalties lie this week.

“If I come off the bench, it won’t be easy for Bayern,” said the ageing striker last week. “I texted a few of the Bayern guys after the draw. They know it won’t be easy, and I think they would have preferred different opponent.”

The game is the second of two back-to-back clashes between the teams. Bremen showed how tough an opponent they can be in a hard-fought Bundesliga game in Munich on Saturday. Ten-man Werder were eventually sunk by a late Niklas Sule goal, but Pizarro said that the cup tie in Bremen would be “a completely different story”.

“We will pick ourselves up. When it is 11 against 11 in our own stadium, we will show that we are able to score goals,” he said on Saturday. Bremen will also be hoping to count on Pizarro’s German Cup pedigree tomorrow.

The Peruvian has appeared in eight German Cup finals, more than any other player in history. He has won the competition five times with Bayern and once with Bremen in 2009. He also lost two finals with Bremen, both against Bayern, in 2000 and 2010.

Pizarro admitted that he is itching to experience one more final at Berlin’s Olympiastadion. “I try to tell the players who have never played in a Berlin final how amazing it is,” he said last week. “I tell them almost every day how special it is in Berlin, in order to prepare them for tomorrow.”

Pizarro may make a rare start for Bremen on Wednesday, after first-choice striker and captain Max Kruse picked up a knock to his thigh during Saturday’s league defeat. Bayern, meanwhile, are hoping that Mats Hummels and James Rodriguez will return to full fitness in time for the cup clash.

The other semi-final pits Bremen’s traditional rivals Hamburg against Bundesliga high-flyers RB Leipzig today. Fallen giants Hamburg are chasing their first cup final since 1987, while Leipzig are making a first semi-final appearance in their ten-year history.

In-form Leipzig all but secured Champions League qualification with a 1-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday, and are looking to crown an impressive season by reaching the cup final.

“Everyone at the club is burning to get into the final,” said coach Ralf Rangnick, who won the cup as Schalke boss back in 2011. “We are going to give everything in Hamburg today. For Hamburg, meanwhile, the cup semi-final provides a welcome respite from an increasingly nerve-shattering promotion race in the second tier.

Hamburg remain on course for automatic promotion, but have not won in five league games, and are second with three other clubs hot on their heels as they bid to return to the Bundesliga next season. —AFP

## Sterling to pay for funeral of teenager who ‘touched his life’

**LONDON:** England star Raheem Sterling is to pay for the funeral of former Crystal Palace youth player Damary Dawkins who he says was an “example to us all”.

Dawkins died aged 13 of leukaemia in March. Sterling had supported a campaign to find a suitable stem cell donor for him. According to an appeal page, Dawkins did receive a stem cell match a few days before Christmas but he relapsed in February.

His family had set up a GoFundMe page to raise £15,000 (\$19,400) to give Dawkins the “best send off and celebration of life”-but Sterling has assumed all the costs himself.

“Damary was a special young man who touched a lot of lives, including my own. Positive until the end, he was an example to us all,” said Sterling, who will attend the funeral on Friday.

Sterling paid tribute to Damary by lifting his England shirt to reveal a picture of the two of them together following his second goal in the 5-0 win over the Czech Republic in their Euro 2020 qualifier in March.

Their close relationship echoes that of former England international Jermain Defoe and Sunderland fan Bradley Lowery, who died of a rare form of cancer aged just six in 2017. Defoe, who was playing for Sunderland at the time, forged a close bond with the youngster—he has his name tattooed on his right arm—



Raheem Sterling

## United’s foundations at risk unless Solskjaer rids club of ‘weeds’

**LONDON:** Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said prior to the humiliating 4-0 thrashing by Everton there would not be wholesale changes to Manchester United personnel in the close season, but Gary Neville, for one, believes he should think again.

United’s millionaire stars such as Paul Pogba and David de Gea put up a display described by the British press on Monday as “abject”, “an apology” for a performance, with the team derided as being generally “rudderless” and “spineless”.

However, whilst it came five years to the day when a 2-0 defeat by the same opponents cost David Moyes his job, it is not Solskjaer who is being targeted but the under-performing Pogba and his team-mates.

## Barcelona relaxed and fresh ahead of final La Liga push: Valverde

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde has said his players are not feeling the pressure as they close in on a fourth Liga title in five years. Barca will lift the trophy if they beat Alaves tonight and Levante on Saturday, although they could wrap up the title on Wednesday if Atletico Madrid lose at home to Valencia.

Sitting nine points clear of Atletico with five games left, it appears only a matter of time before Valverde’s side are crowned Spanish champions for a 26th time. “They are used to pressure,” Valverde said at a press conference last night. “The team have always responded in difficult games. We are calm but we know we are in the

The World Cup-winning midfielder, after a series of encouraging performances when Solskjaer first assumed the reins in December, has returned to being the non-existent presence so often the focus of Jose Mourinho’s ire—although it was the Portuguese coach who was sacrificed.

His and Nemanja Matic’s failure to shore up midfield has been a contributing factor to United’s miserable run of six defeats in their last eight games and five successive away losses—their worst run on the road since 1981.

Seldom can a Manchester derby—they host title-chasing City on Wednesday—have been less eagerly anticipated by United fans. Neville, United to the core and an integral member of Alex Ferguson’s side that accrued eight Premier League crowns and two Champions League trophies, was excoriating in his criticism of the players.

“If you’ve got weeds in the garden, you’ve got to get rid of them,” said Neville, who has become a respected pundit for Sky Sports. “There’s some Japanese knotweed at that football club and it’s attacking the foundations of the house. It needs dealing with properly. “I don’t need to name names, you know who they are.”

Former England international midfielder Jermaine Jenas, who has also turned to punditry since hanging up his boots, turned on the players as well. The 36-year-old

and carried the boy he described as his “best friend” onto the pitch at Wembley for an England international with Lithuania. —AFP

said such is the negativity in the team that even the younger talents have been sucked into the vortex of supine performances.

“They showed no heart, no desire and no will to win. They were woeful,” Jenas wrote in his column for the BBC website. “Everyone was guilty. “Even Marcus Rashford, who has got one of the best attitudes of anyone at the club, got sucked in by what I would describe as a vacuum of negativity.”

United fans may be wondering if the board jumped the gun in giving Solskjaer the job on a permanent basis—as the subsequent results appear to be reflective more of his unsuccessful stint in charge of Cardiff.

Indeed, just as his and the team’s fortunes have dipped, the man who was seen as his major rival for the job has seen his stock rise. Mauricio Pochettino’s star has sparked again thanks to Tottenham’s epic win over Manchester City in the Champions League. But Neville has been slow to criticise his former team-mate Solskjaer.

The man dubbed ‘Red Nev’ after he led a players’ strike with England due to their anger over Rio Ferdinand being dropped because of a missed drugs test, took to the barricades when another unloved former United boss, Louis van Gaal, criticised Solskjaer a few weeks ago. —AFP

final stretch now and that always encourages you, it helps you push through to the end.” Winning the league early would allow Barcelona to rest players and focus on their Champions League semi-final against Liverpool. The first leg is at Camp Nou on May 1.

They are in contention to win the treble too, with a Copa del Rey final to come against Valencia in Seville on May 25. “The players look fine to me,” Valverde said. “It is normal that at this point you notice a bit of fatigue but we let ourselves be spurred on by our motivation. When you have challenges ahead, your legs always feel fresh.”

Barcelona have been La Liga’s frontrunners for months, with Atletico Madrid struggling to exert any real pressure and Real Madrid languishing 13 points behind in third. “It is true that when you win something surprisingly, the joy is greater,” Valverde said.

“And when you have a big lead, it becomes predictable. But a predictable victory can also be a great victory. “Last year we were top with a big advantage and this year it is the same.” —AFP

## Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

**Watford v Southampton**

**21:45**

beIN SPORTS HD 1

**Tottenham v Brighton & Hove Albion**

**21:45**

beIN SPORTS HD 2

### SPANISH LEAGUE

**Huesca v SD Eibar**

**20:30**

beIN SPORTS HD 5

**Real Valladolid v Girona**

**21:30**

beIN SPORTS HD 3

**Deportivo Alaves v Barcelona**

**22:30**

beIN SPORTS HD 3



**25** Braves crush Indians as Donaldson homers twice



**26** Good to be World Cup underdogs: Sarfraz



**27** Sterling to pay for funeral of teenager who 'touched his life'



INDIANAPOLIS: Al Horford #42 of the Boston Celtics shoots the ball against the Indiana Pacers during Game Four of Round One of the 2019 NBA Playoffs at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana. —AFP

## Celtics sweep Pacers out of playoffs

### Warriors and Raptors roll on

**LOS ANGELES:** The Boston Celtics swept their way past Indiana, while the Golden State and Toronto registered road victories over Orlando and the Los Angeles Clippers to take commanding leads in their first round playoff series on Sunday.

Gordon Hayward scored a team-high 20 points as the Celtics defeated Indiana 110-106 on Sunday to complete a first-round NBA playoff sweep of the host Pacers. Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson steered the Warriors to victory over the Clippers 113-105, and Kawhi Leonard put on a show as the Raptors routed Orlando 107-85, putting division winners Golden State and Toronto up 3-1 in their series and on the brink of advancing to the next round.

Here's the deal for the Magic and the Clippers. There have been 11 teams to successfully rally from a 3-1 series deficit in a best-of-seven series, and of those, only three pulled it off by winning a game seven on the road which is

what they would have to do.

The Celtics captured their first best-of-seven series sweep since 2011 and advanced to a second-round matchup with either the Milwaukee Bucks or Detroit Pistons. "Any time you 4-0 a team, you feel great," Hayward said. "We're going to heal up a little bit and be ready for the next round."

The Bucks, who had the NBA's best regular-season record, own a 3-0 series edge on Detroit and can complete a sweep of their own. Hayward came off the Boston bench to lead seven double-figure scorers, hitting 7-of-9 shots from the floor and all three of his 3-point attempts.

Marcus Morris, another reserve star, scored 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Celtics, who won despite poor shooting from top stars and 16 turnovers. Kyrie Irving went 4-of-13 from the floor, 0-of-4 from 3-point range, and finished with 14 points and seven assists

while Al Horford was 4-of-19 from the floor, 1-of-6 on 3-pointers, with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

"It was a scrappy series, defensive series, physical series," Hayward said. "Proud of our team for fighting. We fought through it. It was a great team win." The Celtics led 73-72 entering the fourth quarter but the Pacers had taken an 82-80 edge when Boston unleashed a critical 15-3 run to seize command.

Elsewhere, Durant scored 33 points and the Warriors who held on to beat the Clippers.

"We came in with that mindset to put our foot on the throttle and not let go," Thompson said. "We let go in game two and we won't do that the rest of the playoffs. I really believe that." After winning both games in Los Angeles, the Warriors can wrap things up in game five tomorrow in Oakland.

Thompson scored 27 of his 32 points in the first half for

the Warriors. Stephen Curry had an off night shooting 3-for-14, including 1-of-9 from 3-point range, and finishing with 12 points. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored a season-high 25 points for the Clippers. Danilo Gallinari scored 16 after a scoreless first quarter.

Lou Williams came off the bench to score 12 and Patrick Beverley also had a dozen and a team-high 10 rebounds in the loss. The Warriors have led by at least eight points after the first quarter in every game of the series.

In Orlando, Leonard scored 34 points and the Raptors beat the Magic. Pascal Siakam and Norman Powell each scored 16 for the Raptors, who can advance with a home win in game five today. Aaron Gordon scored 25, Evan Fournier scored 19 and Nikola Vucevic added 11 for the Magic, who committed 17 turnovers that became 21 Toronto points. And now the Magic's season and the Clippers are squarely on the brink. —AFP

### Ben Davies sets top four target for Spurs

**LONDON:** Ben Davies has challenged to Tottenham to win their last four Premier League games as they aim to get their top four push back on track against Brighton today. Mauricio Pochettino's side suffered a setback in their bid to repeat their league finish for a fifth straight season when they were beaten 1-0 at Manchester City at the weekend.

It was a frustrating end to a memorable week that saw Tottenham reach the Champions League semi-finals with a dramatic away goals success at City. Aided by Arsenal's surprise loss to Crystal Palace on Sunday, Tottenham remain third, but they will drop to fourth if

Chelsea defeat Burnley.

With the race for qualify for next season's Champions League heating up, Tottenham defender Davies knows his team have no margin for error in their remaining fixtures. Davies believes only four successive victories will be enough to secure Tottenham's place in Europe's elite club competition.

"It's never easy to reflect but look, it's about kicking on and trying to win every game between now and the end of the season," Davies said. "That's the target and it starts against Brighton today."

Demanding Tottenham display a more predatory instinct in front of goal after missing a host of chances in the City defeat, Davies said: "It's always hard to see any positives straight after a defeat.

"We certainly created the chances but unfortunately we didn't take them this time. "That's the difference

between this game and Wednesday night, we were a bit more clinical." Brighton are desperate for points as they battle to avoid relegation, but Davies hopes the feel-good factor from Tottenham's new stadium will continue to provide a welcome lift.

Pochettino's men have won all three of their matches at the \$1 billion arena, scoring seven goals and conceding none.

"It will be tough, they are fighting for everything and they will go the full 90 minutes to try to get something out of the game. We have to be ready," Davies said. "We've played well at the new stadium so far and we need to keep that momentum going for the rest of the season."

Brighton are just one place and three points above the relegation zone after Saturday's 0-0 draw at Wolves. Chris Hughton's side haven't won in their last

six matches in all competitions.

But Seagulls keeper Mat Ryan is adamant they can still hold off Cardiff in the battle to avoid crashing into the Championship. "The point means a lot in the context of things, it almost feels like we've won the game," Ryan said after the Wolves fixture.

"With our superior goal difference, it could prove to be big come the end of the season - any points are vital at this stage of the campaign.

"Given our recent run it feels good to come here and give a reaction, and the clean sheet is testament to the effort of everyone. "Every game is a final now and we have to leave everything out on the pitch every time we go out there.

"Recently we felt like we haven't been wanting a result as much as our opponents, and that was frustrating because it's what we based ourselves on." —AFP