

5 Egypt insists Kuwait issued 230,803 work permits in 2018



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27 Salah U-turn on harassment scandal divides Egyptians



# Yemen separatists drive out govt troops from two camps

UN envoy warns of threat of partition, resurgence of Qaeda, IS

## Rebels withdraw from key area of northwest Syria



MAARET AL-NOMAN, Syria: Members of the Syrian Civil Defense (White Helmets) carry an injured man after removing him from under the rubble of a building that collapsed during air strikes by pro-regime forces in the village of Binin yesterday. — AFP

MAARET AL-NOMAN, Syria: Militants and allied rebels withdrew from a key area of northwestern Syria yesterday, a war monitor said, as President Bashar Al-Assad's forces pressed an offensive against Idlib region. Turkey warned Damascus "not to play with fire" after the advance saw government fighters almost encircle a patch of countryside including an important Turkish monitoring post.

After eight years of civil war, the Idlib region on the border with Turkey is the last major stronghold of

opposition to Assad's Russia-backed government. Since January, it has been administered by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance, which is led by jihadists from Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate. The region of some three million people was supposed to be protected by a buffer zone deal signed last September by Moscow and rebel backer Ankara, but government and Russian forces have subjected it to heavy bombardment since late April, killing almost 880 civilians.

Continued on Page 24

ADEN: Yemeni separatists drove government troops out of two military camps in deadly clashes yesterday, reinforcing their presence in the south after they seized the de facto capital Aden. The fighting, in Abyan province, came after the pro-independence Southern Transitional Council (STC) partially withdrew from key sites it occupied in Aden earlier this month, and a Saudi-led military coalition - which backs the government - said it had "succeeded in calming the situation".

But yesterday, fighters from the so-called Security Belt Forces initially surrounded a special forces camp in Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan about 60 km from Aden - and a nearby military camp at Al-Kawd, Abyan governor Abu Bakr Hussein told AFP. He said the separatists then seized the Al-Kawd camp in fierce clashes, forcing out the 350 troops there, and that they remained positioned around the Zinjibar base following the exit of government forces in a deal mediated by local authorities.

At least four military personnel - two separatists and two government troops - were killed and 23 wounded in the fighting, said Hussein, adding that 1,100 troops had been stationed in Zinjibar. The spike in tensions between the separatists and pro-government forces constrains their cooperation against a common foe - the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels - in a war that has pushed the country to the brink of famine. Mohammed Al-Markhi, a commander in the Security Belt Forces - an outfit trained by the United Arab Emirates that is aligned with the STC - told AFP "we are controlling both camps now".

Residents in Zinjibar, meanwhile, said separatist troops were deployed in the capital's streets. Yemeni Information Minister Moammer Al-Eryani said in an earlier tweet that the Zinjibar base had been besieged. "The Security Belt Forces... are demanding the (government) troops surrender or they will storm the camp," he said.

Continued on Page 24

## US tests cruise missile after exiting treaty

MOSCOW/WASHINGTON: Russia and China warned yesterday that a new US missile test had heightened military tensions and risked sparking an arms race, weeks after Washington ripped up a Cold War-era weapons pact with Moscow. The US and Russia ditched the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty this month after accusing each other of violating the accord. Washington said the agreement also tied its hands in dealing with other powers such as China.

The US Department of Defense announced on Monday it had tested a type of ground-launched missile that was banned under the 1987 INF agreement, which limited the use of nuclear and conventional medium-range weapons. "The US has obviously taken a course towards escalation of military tensions."

Continued on Page 24



SAN NICOLAS ISLAND, California: This handout photo shows a flight test of a conventionally configured ground-launched cruise missile on Aug 18, 2019. — AFP

## India's Moon probe enters lunar orbit

BANGALORE: India's Chandrayaan 2 spacecraft entered lunar orbit yesterday, executing one of the trickiest maneuvers on its historic mission to the Moon. After four weeks in space, the craft completed its Lunar Orbit Insertion as planned, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said in a statement. The insertion "was completed successfully yesterday at 0902 hrs IST (0332 GMT) as planned, using the onboard propulsion system. The duration of maneuver was 1738 seconds," the national space agency said.

India is seeking to become just the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to land a spacecraft on the Moon. If

the rest of the mission goes to plan, the Indian probe will land on the lunar South Pole on September 7. To enter the final orbit over the lunar poles, Chandrayaan 2 will undergo four more similar maneuvers, with the next scheduled today.

ISRO chief K Sivan said the maneuver was a key milestone for the mission, adding he was hoping for a perfect landing next month. "On September 7, the lander will land on the moon. Whatever is humanly possible, has been done by us," Sivan told reporters. Yesterday's insertion was one of the trickiest operations in the mission because if the satellite had approached the Moon at a higher velocity it would have bounced off and got lost in deep space. And had it approached at a slow velocity, the Moon's gravity would have pulled it in, causing a crash.

"The approach velocity had to be just right and the altitude over the moon precise. Even a small error would have killed the mission," Sivan said. "Our heartbeats increased...

for 30 minutes, our hearts almost stopped." Chandrayaan 2, or Moon Chariot 2, lifted off from India's spaceport at Sriharikota in southern Andhra Pradesh state on July 22.

The spacecraft used in the mission comprises an orbiter, a lander and a rover almost entirely designed and made in India. The orbiter has a mission life of a year and will take images of the lunar surface. ISRO says the mission will help scientists to better understand the origin and evolution of the Moon by conducting detailed topographical studies, mineral analyses and a host of other experiments. About \$140 million was spent on preparations for the probe's mission-a much smaller price tag compared to similar operations by other countries.

It was launched on India's most powerful rocket, the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) MkIII. The lift-off was successful in its second attempt, a week after it was aborted just under an hour from its

Continued on Page 24



BANGALORE: Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Kailasavidi Sivan holds up a model of the Chandrayaan 2 spacecraft during a press conference at ISRO headquarters yesterday. — AFP

## Facebook launches tool to let users control data flow

PARIS: Facebook, under pressure to ramp up privacy rules across its platform, said yesterday it was rolling out a tool allowing users to control data that it receives from other apps and websites about their online activity. The new tool is to give clients access to their so-called "off-Facebook activity" - fed back to Facebook with the aim of targeting advertisements - and give them the option of deleting it. "Off-Facebook Activity lets you see a summary of the apps and websites that send us information about your activity, and clear this information from your account if you want to," it said in a statement. "This is another



way to give people more transparency and control on Facebook," it said.

Continued on Page 24

## Tearful Tlaib says grandma advised her against trip

WASHINGTON: A tearful US Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib said on Monday that her Palestinian grandmother told her last week not to visit Israel under conditions demanded by the Israeli government. Tlaib said she had considered accepting Israeli demands to not engage in politics so that she could travel to the West Bank and visit her grandmother, who is around 90 years old.

"She said I'm her dream manifested, I'm her free bird, so why would I come back and be caged and bow down, when my election rose her head up high, gave her dignity for the first time?" Tlaib told reporters. "And so through tears, at 3:00 in the morning, we all decided as a family that I could not go until I was a free United States congresswoman."

Continued on Page 24



ST PAUL, Minnesota: US Reps Rashida Tlaib (left) and Ilhan Omar hold a news conference on Monday. — AFP



## Local

# Kuwait's Amir receives phone calls from Qatari Amir, Iraqi President inquiring about his health

## Sheikh Sabah receives congratulatory letter from KNG deputy chief

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a phone call from Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani checking up on him after his recent health problem. Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Sabah thanked Sheikh Tamim for his kind feelings, expressing appreciation for his concern which is part of the strong Kuwaiti-Qatari ties. His Highness the Amir also wished Sheikh Tamim a long healthy life and more development for Qatar.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call from Iraqi President Barham Salih who inquired about His Highness's health condition. His Highness the Amir — who underwent regular health

inspection after a minor setback — thanked the Iraqi President for his inquiry, saying that this phone call reflected sincere and strong relations linking the two Arab nations. His Highness the Amir wished the Iraqi people and leadership evermore progress and welfare.

Furthermore, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter from Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, congratulating him on his recovery following his recent health trouble. Sheikh Meshaal also expressed greetings and well wishes from all national guards' members to His Highness the Amir. In the meantime, His Highness Sheikh Sabah thanked Sheikh Meshaal for his kind feelings, wishing him a long healthy life. — KUNA



### Amir expresses appreciation for well-wishes



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



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday received Human Resources Department Director Colonel Ahmad Abdurrahman Abdullatif, who presented to him his graduation certificate from a training course on 'national defense', which he underwent recently at the Royal College of Defense Studies in the United Kingdom.



## Speaker meets NUKS members, ambassadors

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem received yesterday a delegation grouping members of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students

(NUKS) - the UK branch. The delegation included head of NUKS' bureau Ali Al-Furaj, his deputy for higher studies affairs Yousef Daoud, the NUK-affiliated group 'Mustajad' Moussa Al-Gassar, chairperson of the female student bureau Ramziah Al-Ghanem, deputy chairman for administrative affairs Faleh Al-Bos, members of the medical specializations association in the UK, Farah Al-Khamis and Ali Al-Fadhli. Separately, Speaker Ghanem received Kuwait's Ambassador to Hungary Saad Al-Asousi. He also received Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Oleksandr Balanutsa. — KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem receives a delegation grouping members of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) - the UK branch.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem meets with National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) - the UK branch members.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem meets with Kuwait's Ambassador to Hungary Saad Al-Asousi.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem meets with Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Oleksandr Balanutsa.

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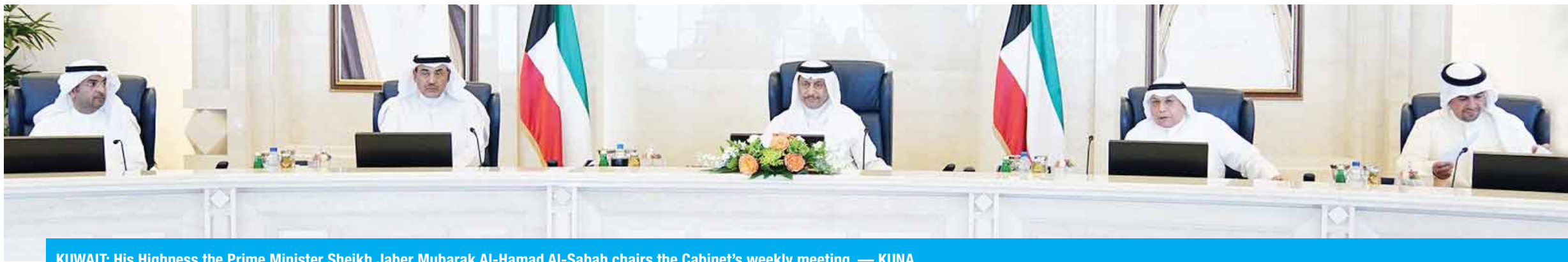
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# Construction companies allowed to build interim labor houses outside suburban areas

Housing for companies with govt contracts and over 1,000 workers



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's weekly meeting. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** The government assigned Kuwait Municipality to coordinate with the Finance Ministry and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to establish temporary housing units for workers of companies which execute projects outside suburban areas. It also allowed companies with government contracts to provide housing if they have over 1,000 workers. During its weekly meeting on Monday, the Cabinet also assigned authorities concerned to plant trees with the aim of blocking dust from reaching Sabah Al-Ahmad and Al-Khairan residential areas, as well as highways. Furthermore, the government assigned Kuwait Municipality to study establishment of storage areas in different areas in the country to end storage in basements of private houses and apartment buildings.

#### Iranian FM's talks

Earlier during the meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed

the Cabinet about the outcome of a recent visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, dealing with boosting regional stability and maintaining free navigation in Arabian Gulf. Sheikh Sabah Al-



## Cabinet briefed on Iranian FM's talks in Kuwait

Khaled also said Zarif and the Kuwaiti officials discussed security situation in the area, political developments at the regional and international levels, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas

Al-Saleh said in a statement. Minister Saleh briefed the Cabinet about his participation in a ceremony in Khartoum where the transitional military council and opposition signed a power-sharing agreement. The Cabinet, meanwhile, expressed gratitude for Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz for the great efforts that contributed to a successful Hajj season. In addition, the Cabinet eulogized Fahad Abdullah Al-Hawasi, former Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, who passed away recently.

#### Terrorist attack

In the meantime, the Cabinet strongly condemned the terrorist drone attack, carried out recently by Houthi militia on Shaybah Oil Field in southwestern Saudi Arabia. It said that the attack targeted the security and stability of the Kingdom and the global energy supplies, calling on the international community to take the necessary measures to stop these criminal acts and to avoid further tension and instability in the region. The State of Kuwait stands fully with Saudi Arabia and

supports it in all measures taken to protect and maintain its security and stability. The Council of Ministers also condemned the arbitrary security practices imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities and the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque outside areas, including attacking worshippers after Eid Al-Adha prayers on August 11. The Cabinet called for an end to such abusive practices and encroachment on religious sanctities, affirming on the Palestinian people's right to dignity, freedom and sovereignty over their land and sanctities.

Afterward, the Cabinet expressed its deepest condolences to the People's Republic of China after Typhoon Lekima, which hit several areas in eastern China recently and resulted in a number of injuries. Meanwhile, the Cabinet condemned the terrorist bombing that targeted a wedding ceremony in the Afghan capital, Kabul, yesterday, which resulted in a large number of fatalities and injuries. The Cabinet condemned the recent terrorist bombing of a mosque near the city of Quetta, Pakistan, affirming on Kuwait's stance against violence and terrorism. — KUNA

## KCCI issues 116 measures against violating companies

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) issued 116 precautionary measures against violating companies, the department of anti-money laundering and counterterrorism said in a statement. The measures include written warnings for 23 real estate companies, three money exchange companies, 11 jewelry companies and two insurance companies. The ministry issued an order to 47 real estate companies, six money exchange, 18 insurance companies forcing them to abide by the law (106/2013) issued last July. It also issued another order for two real estate companies, a money exchange company, and two insurance companies to provide the ministry with reports.

In other news, Kuwait's Anti-Corruption Authority set up a higher committee in efforts to push forward a national strategy to root out corruption nationwide. The committee comprises 21 members from across government institutions tasked with drawing up initiatives for tougher anti-corruption measures, according to Luay Al-Saleh, a member of the anti-corruption watchdog's Board of Trustees. Kuwait's anti-corruption body is in the process of putting together similar teams to make sure that the country's anti-corruption strategy ultimately comes to fruition, added the official. He went on to say that the success of the strategy is crucial to improve Kuwait's



Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ranking on the global corruption index, which can only occur with collective effort and cooperation on the part of government bodies. —KUNA

## Inflation in Kuwait up 1.15 percent in July

**KUWAIT:** Inflation rates on annual basis in Kuwait rose by 1.15 percent in July, compared to the same month in 2018, according to the Central Statistical Office (CSO). Inflation rate on a monthly basis rose 0.26 percent in June compared to June in 2018, CSO said in a

report released yesterday. Food prices increased 1.01 percent in July, while tobacco and cigarettes climbed one percent. Moreover, clothing went up 1.71 percent and domestic services dropped 0.78 percent. Meanwhile, home furniture and maintenance rose 1.88 percent, health group went up 2.16 percent and transportation moved up 4.68 percent. CSO also noted that telecommunication rose 4.79 percent, culture and entertainment went up 3.89 percent and education grew 2.43 percent. Restaurants and hotels group saw a rise of 1.32 percent, while other commodities and services also went up by 0.56 percent. — KUNA



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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Aerial view of Souq Sharq. — Photo by Jasem Al-Motar (KUNA)

# Top banking executives and policymakers confirmed as speakers at int'l conference

‘Discussions to enrich dialogue with progressive and profound ideas’

**KUWAIT:** Banking industry leaders are among the many top-level executives and officials confirmed as speakers for the CBK International Banking Conference, which will be held on Monday, September 23, 2019 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the event will bring together decision makers and thought leaders from across the global financial services sector.

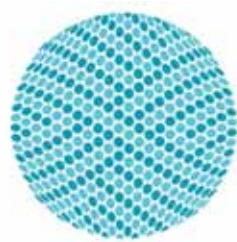
#### Among regulators, these will include:

1. Dr Mohammad Yousif Al-Hashel, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait
2. Dr Ahmed Al-Kholife, Governor, SAMA
3. Mubarak Al-Mansoori, Governor of the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates
4. Rasheed Al-Maraj, Governor, Central Bank of Bahrain.
5. Reza DrBaqir, Governor - State Bank of Pakistan
6. Datuk Nor ShamsiahMohdYunus, Governor - NBM

The Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Y Al-Hashel had in a statement praised the level of speakers taking part in the conference, adding that the CBK was keen on securing the participation of experts in different aspects and fields of banking and finance, so that the discussions may yield a comprehensive view of the industry's future and enrich dialogue with progressive and profound ideas.

#### From within the global financial services industry, conference speakers will include:

1. Abdul Aziz Al-Ghurair, CEO, Mashreq bank
2. Nout Welink, Former President, Netherlands
3. Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chairman, Gulf Bank
4. Adel Abdul Wahab Al Majid, Vice Chairman and



International  
Banking  
Conference



CBK hosts  
gathering  
on Sept 23

CEO, Boubyan Bank

5. Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh, Group CEO, Kuwait Finance House

6. Shaikha Khaled Al Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, National Bank of Kuwait

7. Martin Tricaud, CEO, MENA and Turkey, HSBC

8. Dr GarbisIradian, Chief Economist, MENA, IIF

9. Dr Catherine Mann, Chief Economist, Citi Global Refinitiv

10. James Cliffe, Managing Director EMEA, Refinitiv

11. Anwaar Al Mahmeed, Co-founder, East Chain Co.



ISTANBUL: This archive photo shows some homes in the Turkish city of Istanbul. — KUNA

## Kuwaitis third largest home buyers in Turkey

**ANKARA:** Kuwaitis make up the third largest foreign buyers of residential real estate in Turkey, national statistics showed yesterday. According to the data, Kuwaiti nationals purchased some 219 properties last month, second only to Iraqis and Iranians with combined total purchases of 1,198 properties. Foreign purchases of real estate properties had surged by 46.7

percent in July, as compared to the same period a year earlier, mainly in the transcontinental nation's sprawling city of Istanbul and the southern resort of Antalya, the statistics indicated. The number of properties sold to foreigners in Turkey has skyrocketed this year, with an increase of 68.9 percent, the country's statistical institute revealed. — KUNA

## KIB sponsors college mosques' renovation

**KUWAIT:** As part of its ongoing commitment to participating in social responsibility initiatives, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the renovation of mosques at Kuwait University's College of Business Administration (CBA), in cooperation with the CBA student union. The CBA student union hosted a team from KIB's Corporate Communications Unit to mark the opening of the mosques after a full renovation.

On its part, KIB noted that its sponsorship of this renovation project and the opening of CBA's mosques

reflect the all-encompassing mission of Islamic banks; the Bank's responsibilities are not limited to just banking, but also include community service. Accordingly, KIB supports all social activities and initiatives that aim at serving the entire local community across various areas. This sponsorship came as part of the Bank's active role in encouraging youth and university students to commit to performing their prayers within their specified timings.

KIB added that social responsibility continues to be a cornerstone of its banking operations and its social vision. Additionally, the Bank noted that it continues to focus on social issues that affect the lives of members in the community, particularly issues and activities that cement its position in the Islamic banking world.





## Local

# Egyptian authority disputes Kuwaiti figures, stresses 230,803 work permits issued in 2018

## Officials split on how to handle bedoons' issue

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Egyptian central department for mobilization and statistics rejected an announcement by Kuwaiti State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel about the inaccuracy of the Egyptian department's numbers. It affirmed the credibility of its figures of work permits issued - 230,803 - which reflects the number of permits issued to Egyptians working in Kuwait during 2018 officially and documented by concerned authorities, which cannot be doubted.

The department said the numbers include two types of work permits - those issued for the first time and those renewed of people working in Kuwait. It said the number of permits issued for the first time is 98,794, while those renewed number 132,009, which means 8,000 Egyptians entered Kuwait during each month of 2018.

Kuwait's Central Statistical Bureau had issued a statement earlier stating that 62,191 work permits were issued for Egyptians in 2018, and that 23,883 permits were cancelled, with a net total of 38,308 permits for work in the private sector. It said the total number of Egyptian workers appointed in the government sector last year was 577, most of whom are in medical, educational and legal professions.

### Bedoons' issue

In other news, information has leaked from the team preparing a solution for the issue of bedoons, as a new law is being prepared by parties from the National Assembly, interior ministry and the central agency for illegal residents. Sources said the law, which will be submitted to the Assembly during the upcoming term, was to be ready by the end of this month to be discussed in September, but it was not completed due to differences of opinion, adding that it may be discussed in November.

The sources said differences are over how to deal with bedoons included in the 1965 census, as hardliners in the team believe those without suspicion of having another nationality and without security restrictions will be naturalized. The number of those falling in this category is about 5,000 and if their children are added, the number will be between 10,000-12,000 only.

"On the other hand, others argue that the agency's record is not fully accurate and supported by documents," the source said, adding that this team calls for naturalizing all those with 1965 census provided they do not have another nationality and have nothing to do with a relative who has another nationality.



### Disabled people's exemption

The communications ministry has formed a team to activate the disabled rights law, starting by exemption of public service fees. The team is looking into reviving items of law 8/2010 with regards to the rights of the disabled and its amendments, most notably item 37, which says the disabled will be exempted from government fees for public services.

### Social events' ads

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister and State Minister for Municipal Affairs Fahd Al-Shula issued an administrative circular to all heads of sectors and department managers at municipal branches to follow and supervise cooperatives' compliance with the rules related to advertisements of social events, with regards to general and particular decisions mentioned in item 17a of ministerial decision 172/2006 regarding having one

advertisement board at the entrance and another at the exit of the supermarket parking, and one board only in the parking of each branch. The ad should be limited to social events, should be made of six frames on either side on a cylindrical pole of a minimum 2.5 m in height, and should be fixed. No investment or commercial ads should be affixed on it. There should not be stickers of any kind on the boards and anything that will obstruct the view of road signs.



## Disabled people exempted from service fees

## Install fire alarms at homes: KFSD

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Most houses destroyed by fires in Kuwait do not have fire alarms such as smoke detectors to draw the attention of those in the house, those who are sleeping and even neighbors about the presence of smoke, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) warned. Alarms enable residents to deal with a fire as soon as it starts, it added. KFSD made this statement yesterday in the wake of two deadly fires reported in Kuwait this week. Two persons had lost their lives in two separate incidents - the first in a Sulaibiya house fire that led to the death of a woman in her 80s, while the second was in Surra, killing a man in his 50s. KFSD urged the public to install fire alarms and smoke detectors in their houses, and make sure that fire extinguishers are always available.

### Wife held hostage

In other news, Jahra detectives freed a woman who was detained by her husband at gunpoint. Police found the gun, which was not licensed, and ammunition in his house. A police source said a call was received about a Kuwaiti man who had detained his

### Teen jailed

Separately, the juvenile court sentenced a teenager to spend three years in the juvenile person for running over eight persons in Kabd. The defendant had been arrested shortly after causing the accident which left multiple deaths and others wounded.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Fahad Al-Shula toured Al-Ahmadi Municipality Branches building to inspect the process of work, and check firsthand the mechanism to issue licenses electronically in the governorate. Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi and other officials were present during the tour.

## Labor transfer from small projects soon?

**KUWAIT:** An official source said the manpower authority is expected to issue a new decision soon related to expat workers in small projects. Al-Qabas daily reported yesterday. The source said the decision will deal with drawbacks of the current decision, especially the transfer of residencies of expats brought in for small projects. The new decision may allow the transfer of some cases of expat labor registered in the sector. The source said new rules are being prepared to regulate exceptional cases that will be allowed to transfer their residencies from small businesses to the private sector, and may include the period, academic qualification, project type and others.

In other news, official statistics revealed 364,500 expat workers entered Kuwait during the past five years, with more than 50 percent registered in the construction and guarding professions, in addition to equipment and machinery operators and drivers, reported Al-Qabas.

Indians formed the largest number of entrants into Kuwait with 175,000 people during the past five years, followed by Egyptians with 80,000 in the same period. Meanwhile, the number of Pakistanis dropped by 12,000 to 80,000, followed by Sri Lankans by 8,500 and Iranians by 4,321 to reach 22,600 residents. State Minister for Economic affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel said remedying the population imbalance continues via a roadmap that starts by giving the required estimation to the manpower authority, in addition to having minimum qualifications for professional and occupational jobs.

Separately, Al-Rai daily reported that while the government is expecting the final year of the National Assembly to be tough and full of polarization, it is convinced that the strategic payroll alternative is dead and its approval in the coming term is impossible. A government source said despite difficulties and expectations of a "hot" year, matters are fine and cooperation will continue with the legislative authority. But he said the government has lost hope in finalizing the strategic alternative, adding that it has been stuck in parliamentary drawers for the past two years.

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Salvador clears rape victim of killing baby

Page 8

## No phones, no friends: Cut-off Kashmir children despair in lockdown



MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiri refugees in Pakistan-administered Kashmir shout anti-Indian slogans during a protest in Muzaffarabad yesterday. —AFP

# Pakistan, India spar over using water as weapon

## India accused of waging ‘fifth-generation warfare’

**ISLAMABAD:** Accusing India of waging “fifth-generation warfare”, Pakistan said New Delhi had failed to inform it about the release of water from a dam that could cause flooding across the border. India, however, rejected the claim saying that under the terms of a water treaty between the two nations it had informed Pakistan about the release of excess water late on Monday when it crossed a certain threshold.

Relations between the neighbors, already hostile, have been further strained over India’s decision this month to revoke the special status of its portion of the Kashmir region that both countries claim. Pakistan reacted with fury, cutting transport and trade links and expelling India’s ambassador in retaliation. Islamabad said the unexpected release of water into the River Sutlej that flows from India to Pakistan was part of an

attempt by New Delhi to flout the long-standing treaty between the countries.

“They try to isolate diplomatically, they try to strangle economically, they’re trying to strangle our water resources - and water automatically will have an impact on your economy, your agriculture and your irrigation,” Muzammil Hussain, chairman of the Pakistani government’s Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), told Reuters. India was using its position upstream to wage “fifth-generation warfare” on the country, said Hussain.

India’s federal water resources ministry told Reuters late on Monday that under the treaty advance information needs to be given in a situation when “extraordinary discharges of water from reservoirs and flood flows” could harm the other party. Until today no such extraordinary dis-

charges had been observed on the Indian side in the current flood season. At 1900 IST (1330 GMT), the flow of Sutlej river reached the threshold level of high flood and the same was conveyed to Pakistan, the ministry said in a statement, adding that it is committed to the treaty.

Pakistani emergency authorities were preparing for minor flooding in several areas in Punjab state on Monday as a result of the unexpected rise in water flow, though it was not clear if any had occurred. “India did not communicate the release of water to Pakistan,” Khurram Shahzad, director general of Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), told Reuters.

India and Pakistan have long argued over water resources. A World Bank-mediated arrangement known as the Indus

Water Treaty splits the Indus River and its tributaries - which 80 percent of Pakistan’s irrigated agriculture depends on - between the countries. India, which lies upstream, threatened in February to stop sharing excess water with Pakistan after a suicide bomb attack by a Pakistan-based militant group in Kashmir that killed 40 Indian paramilitary police.

Hussain said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had “threatened very clearly that he could stop water to Pakistan. He couldn’t care less (for) the treaties”. In 2016, after suspending a meeting on the Indus Water Treaty, Modi told government officials that “blood and water cannot flow together”. India says a program of maximizing its water usage by building hydroelectric plants is in line with the treaty. —Reuters

## End child ‘marriage hell’ for Indonesian girls, lawmaker says

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Indonesia must change its laws to end child marriage in the world’s most populous Muslim country where thousands of girls are trapped in a kind of “hell”, an Indonesian lawmaker said yesterday. Indonesia has one of the worst records for under-age marriage - its high number of child brides puts it among the top 10 countries worldwide, according to campaign group Girls Not Brides. The Constitutional court ruled last year to change the minimum marriage age for girls, currently at 16, in a move applauded by women’s rights groups.

The ruling did not specify an increase and gave legislators three years to decide what the new minimum age should be. But a senior lawmaker from the ruling party of Indonesian President Joko Widodo said there have been no progress. “Why has there have been a lack of response on the child marriage issue? It is as if we don’t care,” said Eva Kusuma Sundari from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle. Sundari wants a minimum marriage age of 18 introduced urgently and has the support of 20 lawmakers from different political parties.

“It is like living in hell when a child gets married and made to carry another child,” the 53-year-old told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Jakarta. “They lose their freedom, their rights to education and their future. It kills their dreams especially for the girls who cannot continue school,” she added. Campaigners say the law should be changed because it discriminates against girls, who can marry at 16 whereas the legal age for men is 19.

Poverty and tradition often lead families to marry their children in the Southeast Asia archipelago of 260 million people where one in four girls is wed before they turn 18, according to the United Nations’ children agency, UNICEF. On average over 3,500 Indonesian girls are married every day and in some cases religious courts have endorsed the marriages of Indonesian girls younger than 16. Globally, 12 million girls become child brides each year, according to Girls Not Brides, exposing them to greater risks of exploitation, sexual violence, domestic abuse and death in childbirth. —Reuters

## US police officers who kill unarmed blacks often avoid criminal liability

**NEW YORK:** New York City police fired a white police officer on Monday over the July 17, 2014, killing of a black man with a prohibited chokehold. Eric Garner, 43, died after officer Daniel Pantaleo used a chokehold as officer attempted to arrest him on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes on a sidewalk. A Staten Island grand jury and the US Department of Justice both declined to prosecute, another example of a law enforcement officer facing no criminal liability for killing an unarmed black man. Some other high-profile cases:

**Terence Crutcher**

Betty Shelby, a white police officer, was captured on video fatally shooting a 40-year-old black man, Terence Crutcher, as he stood near his car on Sept 16, 2016, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Shelby said she feared Crutcher was reaching for a gun, but he had no weapon. A jury acquitted Shelby of first-degree manslaughter the following year, and she resigned.

**Philando Castile**

Officer Jeronimo Yanez shot a 32-year-old black man, Philando Castile, five times during a traffic stop in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, on July 6, 2016. The officer said he had feared for

his life when Castile said he was carrying a firearm and reached for his wallet when Yanez asked to see identification. Yanez was acquitted of manslaughter in 2017.

**Samuel Dubose**

University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing fatally shot black motorist Samuel Dubose, 43, after stopping him for a missing front license plate in July 2015. Tensing, who is white, said he feared for his life during the traffic stop when Dubose refused to leave his vehicle, which started rolling forward slowly. Tensing pulled his gun and fired once. A state jury was unable to reach a verdict on murder and manslaughter charges in November 2016 and a retrial in 2017 also ended in a hung jury.

**Michael Brown**

Darren Wilson, a white police officer, shot Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old black man, in Ferguson, Missouri, on Aug. 9, 2014. The killing sparked nearly two weeks of protests and rioting that subsided at the family’s urging just before Brown’s funeral. A state grand jury declined to indict Wilson, and the US Department of Justice declined to prosecute him. Wilson is no longer with the police force.

**Freddie Gray**

In Baltimore, a 25-year-old black man, Freddie Gray, was arrested on April 12, 2015 after police said he fled the scene unprovoked in a high crime area while in possession of an illegal switchblade. After being transported in a police van, Gray was hospitalized unconscious and died on April 19 of what was determined to be a neck injury. Six Baltimore police officers, including three who are black, were charged



NEW YORK: Eric Garner's daughter Emerald Garner and Rev Al Sharpton (right) speak to the media in New York City. The New York Police Department announced that Officer Daniel Pantaleo has been fired from the force due to his involvement in Eric Garner's death in 2014. —AFP

with Gray’s death. None was convicted, and the US Department of Justice subsequently decided not to bring charges against them.

**Tamir Rice**

Timothy Loehmann, a white police officer, shot Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old black boy who was displaying a toy gun, in Cleveland, Ohio, on Nov 22, 2014. A grand jury declined to indict Loehmann and another officer at the scene. Loehmann was later fired from the police department for concealing information in his original job application.

**Walter Scott**

Michael Slager, a white police officer, was caught on video shooting a 50-year-old

unarmed black man, Walter Scott, in the back after a traffic stop in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 4, 2015. After a state murder trial ended with a deadlocked jury, Slager pleaded guilty to federal charges that he violated Scott’s civil rights and was sentenced in 2017 to 20 years in prison.

**Justine Damon**

In an example where the officer was a Somali-American and the victim was white, former officer Mohamed Noor, 33, was convicted of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for killing 40-year-old Justine Ruszczyk Damond outside her home near Minneapolis. In June, Noor was sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison. —Reuters



## International

# Ghana cashes in on slave heritage tourism; could benefit economy

## A 400-year slavery anniversary sparks rise in heritage tours

**ASSIN MANSO:** In a clearing at the turnoff to Assin Manso, a billboard depicts two African slaves in loin-cloths, their arms and legs in chains. Beside them are the words, "Never Again!" This is "slave river," where captured Ghanaians submitted to a final bath before being shipped across the Atlantic into slavery centuries ago, never to return to the land of their birth. Today, it is a place of somber homecoming for the descendants of those who spent their lives as someone else's property.

The popularity of the site has swelled this year, 400 years after the trade in Africans to the English colonies of America began. This month's anniversary of the first Africans to arrive in Virginia has caused a rush of interest in ancestral tourism, with people from the United States, the Caribbean and Europe seeking out their roots in West Africa. "Ten years ago, no one went to the slave river, but this year has been massive," said Awuracy Butler, who runs a company called Butler Tours.

She said business has nearly doubled this year, which has been touted as the Year of Return for the African diaspora tracing their family history. The number of tourists has forced her to hire more vehicles, she said. "Everyone wants to add the slave river to their tour," she said. The coastal forts where they spent their last days in Ghana in suffocating conditions are also increasingly popular, she said. The increase in tourism has been an economic boon for Ghana, which unlike other West African countries has aggressively marketed its "heritage" offerings for the anniversary.

Officials see it as an opportunity to entice some much-needed foreign investment into the economy, dogged in recent years by high inflation and public debt that has needed an International Monetary Fund lending program to fix. The Ghana Tourism Authority expects 500,000 visitors this year, up from 350,000 in 2018. Of those,

45,000 are estimated to be seeking their ancestral roots, a 42% increase from last year.

On a recent day in the capital, Accra, a delegation of tribal elders and a representative of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre welcomed a tour group at a hotel in the city. At an event in a low-ceilinged hotel conference room, the tour guide encouraged the visitors to sing a hymn in a local language, gently chiding them for not yet knowing the tune. "You are Ghanaians now," he said.

Members of the group, who were mostly African American, went up to the front one by one to pose with a smiling tourism ministry official or one of the robe-clad elders as they received an official certificate of participation. The investment representative launched into a lengthy power-point presentation focused on the need for investment in Ghana's cocoa sector and the minimum capital requirements for joint ventures.

With an average spend of \$1,850 per tourist, the tourism authority expects this year's revenues to top \$925 million, a 50% increase from 2018, which it hopes to sustain over the next three years at least. The amount is dwarfed by Ghana's \$2-billion cocoa industry but is considered essential in a country of 28 million people who mostly live in poverty.

Anthony Bouadi, a tour guide at Cape Coast Castle, a fortress where the captives were kept until they were sent on ships over the Atlantic, said he believes the site will change the lives of those who visit. "The moment you get to know your history, it is going to change you," he said. "We are encouraging our brothers and sisters from the US, from the Caribbean from Europe to come back to their Motherland Africa to get to know the culture ... and whatever the ancestors went through."

The surge of visitors is part of a global phenomenon:



**ACCRA:** In this file photo taken on July 31, 2019, US Representative Ilhan Omar poses for pictures as she arrives at the Ghana's Parliament in Accra, during a three-day visit to the country to mark the 400 years anniversary since the first slave shipment left the Ghana's coast for United States. —AFP

Airbnb data shows a five-fold increase in people traveling to places connected to their ancestry worldwide since 2014. US genetics company African Ancestry says its sales of DNA tests tripled after last year's release of the superhero film "Black Panther," an Afro-centric blockbuster with a predominantly black cast. The company is launching an ancestry-based travel service later this year.

To make the most of the moment, Ghana will host a mass "ancestry reveal" on Friday. More than 80 African

American participants, including the head of the NAACP, will learn their genetic history, touted as the largest ceremony of its kind in Africa's history. Ghana has long encouraged its diaspora to return and has strong links with the African American community. Malcolm X visited in the 1960s and spent time with the American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou, who lived there at the time. The prominent black writer and activist W.E.B. Du Bois settled and died in Ghana. Since, many other ordinary African American families have returned. —Reuters

## Independence in the air in South Yemen

**ADEN:** Colorful flags emblazoned with a red star are being held aloft in Aden, reflecting the independence ambitions of southern Yemen after a separatist takeover of the city. Last week, fighters from the Security Belt Forces ousted unionist troops loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi from what was the capital of the formerly independent south. The clashes left around 40 people dead.

Both the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) and government forces have been fighting the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in a years-long war that has pushed the country to the brink of famine. But the two forces remain at odds, fuelling the STC's occupation of key positions in Aden before it partially withdrew under pressure from regional powers Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

On Thursday, jubilant supporters of

the southern separatists took to the streets of Aden, which has served as the Hadi government's base since the rebels took over the capital Sanaa in 2014. The flags of the former South Yemen were flown on top of public institutions and hung from multi-storey buildings, along with banners proclaiming support for the separatists. South Yemen was an independent state until it merged with the north in 1990.

Four years later, an armed secession bid ended in occupation by northern forces, giving rise to resentments which persist to this day. Residents in Yemen's second city said that while they were happy with the STC's takeover, their key concern is whether the separatists can provide basic services.

"Our main worry is who will provide necessary public services and who will pay the salaries of tens of thousands of employees," Saleh Naser said. "If the STC is capable of running the south's affairs, then we are with it." Saleh al-Hajj, donning a shirt printed with the image of STC chief Aidarus al-Zubaidi, hoped residents' lives would improve under the separatists. "There are plenty of shortages, such as water and power," he said.



**ADEN:** Picture shows workers returning to their jobs at Al-Haswa thermoelectric power station on the outskirts of the southern Yemeni city of Aden. —AFP

### Rifts widen

A Saudi-led military coalition, which has backed pro-government forces against the Houthi rebels since 2015, sent a delegation to Aden on Thursday to discuss the new front in the crisis. The alliance has "suc-

ceeded in calming the situation in Aden", spokesman Turki al-Maliki said Monday. The STC withdrew from a number of public buildings to pave the way for talks, but they maintain control over key military positions and therefore over the city. —AFP

## Sudan transition gets off to a bumpy start

**KHARTOUM:** Sudan's transition towards civilian rule got off to a bumpy start as generals and protest leaders fell two days behind schedule in unveiling a joint sovereign council. The body will replace the transitional military council that took over from longtime ruler Omar Al-Bashir when he was forced from power by relentless protests in April.

The Islamist general appeared in court sitting in a cage to face graft charges Monday, a sight that the two thirds of Sudan's 40 million inhabitants who were born under his rule could hardly have imagined. The very first steps of the transition to civilian rule after 30 years of Bashir's regime were proving difficult

however with disagreements within the protest camp holding up the formation of Sudan's new ruling body. The line-up was due to have been announced on Sunday, in line with a deal reached between the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change opposition coalition. The TMC said on Monday however that the deadline had been pushed back 48 hours "at the request of the Forces for Freedom and Change" after they came back on some of the five names they initially put forward.

The ruling sovereign council will be composed of 11 members including six civilians and five from the military. It will be headed by a general for the first 21 months and by a civilian for the remaining 18 months. The roadmap drawn up by the generals and protest leaders in recent weeks set yesterday as the date of the official appointment of a transitional prime minister. Abdalla Hamdok, a former UN economist based in Addis Ababa, has accepted the protest camp's nomination but awaits the announcement of the sovereign council and has yet to arrive in the country. —AFP



**KHARTOUM:** A Sudanese man reads the newspaper headlining the court appearance of Sudan's deposed military ruler Omar Al-Bashir during the opening of his corruption trial the previous day. —AFP

## Algerian protest movement marks six months

**ALGIERS:** Algerians launched an unprecedented protest movement in February, filling the streets of cities across the country and forcing the president out of office. Six months later, the movement is still going strong in the face of unyielding powers. The progress already made is "irreversible", said Said Salhi, vice president of the Algerian

League for the Defense of Human Rights and a prominent figure in the protest movement. "The Algerian people cannot go back," he said.

### What's been achieved?

The Algerian protesters have "already accomplished more than many observers expected", according to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) think tank. The greatest feat was the resignation on April 2 of president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in power for 20 years, whose bid for a fifth term had sparked the protests. In addition, several "widely disliked" regime officials and businessmen, long suspected of corruption though considered untouchable, are now behind bars. —AFP



**ALGIERS:** Algerian demonstrators chant slogans and march with national flags as they gather in the streets of the capital Algiers against the ruling class amid an ongoing political crisis in the country. —AFP

## Cameroon anglophone separatist leader gets life sentence

**YAOUNDE:** A military court in Cameroon yesterday handed a life sentence to the head of the country's anglophone separatist movement, Julius Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, and nine of his followers, lawyers said. The 10 were convicted of charges including "terrorism and secession", the state's lawyer, Martin Luther Achet said. The sentence was confirmed by a lawyer for the separatists, Joseph Fru, who condemned what he called a "parody of justice". The defendants refused to recognize the right of the military tribunal in Yaounde to try them.

Their lawyers have yet to say whether they will file an appeal. Ayuk Tabe, a charismatic 54-year-old computer engineer by training, was the first self-proclaimed president of "Ambazonia" - a breakaway state declared in October 2017 in two English-speaking regions of the central African country. The government responded with a military crackdown. Attacks by both sides have left 1,850 dead, according to the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank, while the UN says 530,000 people have fled their homes.

### Colonial legacy

English-speakers account for about a fifth of Cameroon's population of 24 million, who are majority French-speaking. Anglophones are mainly concentrated in two western areas, the Northwest Region and the Southwest Region, that were incorporated into the French-speaking state after the colonial era in Africa wound down six decades ago.

Anglophones have chafed for years at perceived discrimination in education, law and economic opportunities at the hands of the francophone majority. Ayuk Tabe is part of the political branch of the separatist group that supports dialogue with President Paul Biya. But the influence of moderates waned in 2017 as Biya, who has been in power for 36 years, rejected demands for autonomy and radicals in the movement gained the ascendancy.

### 'Brazen crimes'

In January 2018, Ayuk Tabe was arrested with 46 other separatists in the Nigerian capital Abuja. They were then handed over to Cameroon - a move that was ruled illegal by a Nigerian court in March this year. In late May, Ayuk Tabe said he was willing to take part in talks with the government, provided this took place abroad and the government released all people who had been detained since the start of the anglophone crisis. Last month, Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused the security forces of committing "brazen crimes" against citizens, including unlawful killings and use of excessive force.

The authorities, while rejecting general criticism, have acknowledged a small number of abuses. In June, the defense ministry said it would prosecute seven soldiers suspected of summarily killing two women and their two children, a video of which was distributed on the internet to widespread outrage. The unrest has crippled the economy of the Northwest and Southwest Regions and had a knock-on effect across the country. More than one in six people in Cameroon - 4.3 million - need humanitarian aid, an increase of 30 percent from 2018, according to UN aid officials. —AFP



# Faced with floods and suicides, US readies for a warmer world

## Worsening extreme weather creating hardships

**ELLICOTT CITY:** Julia Sanger, whose tiny ice cream shop flooded twice in two years in Maryland's historic Ellicott City, joked darkly that the disasters left many local business owners in need of therapy. Shops on the former mill town's picturesque Main Street are barely back on their feet more than a year after the second flood. Some are boarded up, and others open just a few hours a day. Several heavily damaged buildings are due to be torn down.

"Some of my friends down here, I know they sought professional therapy. I know there's probably some who should have and didn't," said Sanger, whose shop got 6 feet of muddy floodwater in 2016 and 8 ft in 2018. "I drink a lot," she added. "I'm not going to lie. I'm definitely drinking more than I did before." She has also moved her shop to higher ground. Worsening extreme weather linked to climate change is creating hardships for many, from immediate deaths and injuries to increases in asthma and heat stroke. But the psychological trauma that often accompanies such losses is barely on the map.

Depression, anxiety, suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder tend to increase after floods, storms, wildfires and heatwaves, according to the American Psychological Association (APA), which represents psychologists in the United States. "The problem with that link is it's not like so obvious. It's not like I stick a needle in you, you feel pain right away," said Anthony Ng, former head of the APA's caucus on climate change and mental health. "Some of this is so insidious and gradual that people won't realize it until it's too late. That's why it's hard for a lot of people to appreciate it."

### Panic

The debate over how to safeguard residents of picturesque Ellicott City, a tourist draw an hour's drive north of Washington, DC, illustrates the challenges many towns are facing as the world becomes warmer and wetter. The town was devastated in 2016 by a so-called 1,000-year flood - meaning a magnitude with a one-in-1,000 chance of occurring in any year. The Patapsco River, which runs through the town, rose more than 13 ft in less than two hours. Less than two years later, a 1,000-year storm struck again, overwhelming the tributaries that converge under the old mill town's buildings and feed into the Patapsco.

Warmer temperatures are increasing heavy downpours, and rainfall has been growing in intensity in the Northeast, according to the government's 2018 National Climate Assessment, risking power outages and the viability of roads and bridges.

As Ellicott City has become more built up, floodwater flows across paved roads and rooftops, instead of percolating down through the soil as it used to - a phenomenon known as urban runoff, which is worsening globally as cities grow. In the wake of the 2018 floods, the county launched the Ellicott City Safe and Sound plan, which involves demolishing some old buildings, making tunnels to carry water under roads and clearing waterways more regularly.

Officials are also testing a flood warning system, with emergency sirens telling people to move to higher ground. It has caused some alarm among residents, said Amy Miller, a social worker at the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. "You almost have a panic response," said Miller, whose non-profit organization, based in Columbia, some 8 miles (13 km) south, has provided food, shelter and support to flood survivors. "We're basically exposing ourselves to the perceived threat of a traumatic event."

### Suicides

Grassroots provides 24-hour counseling to people in Ellicott City and the surrounding rolling hills of Howard County who might be feeling suicidal. Miller has trained farmers to watch out for each other and spot signs of danger, particularly suicide risks. Farmers are a high risk group. They tend to live solitary lives, have access to lethal means and face financial stress when hit by poor weather and low prices - factors they cannot control, according to anti-suicide campaigners.

"When your livelihood is impacted, that causes hopelessness," Miller said. "The hard part for farmers is they work almost 24-7, and it's really hard for them to seek treatment." Stanford University predicted last year that a hotter planet could lead to a surge in suicides by 2050. Its data analysis found suicides had risen 0.7% in the United States and 2.1% in Mexico with a 1?≈C increase in monthly average temperatures.

The researchers also found - by analyzing the language used in more than a half billion Twitter posts - depressive



**NEW YORK:** A man steers his Jet ski in the East River in front of the Williamsburg bridge in New York City. Northern hemisphere summers will deliver dangerously longer heatwaves, droughts and bouts of rain even if humanity manages to cap global warming at two degrees Celsius, scientists said. — AFP

language increased during hot weather, suggesting worse mental health. Keith Ohlinger, one of the Howard County farmers trained to keep an eye out, said he was driven to the work by the suicide of a young friend who grew up on a nearby farm, planned a career in agriculture and took her own life last year at age 21.

He struggled this spring with heavy rains washing away seeds and soil and leaving hay too wet to be dried and stored for winter feeding. "Things are changing," he said. "The earth is changing. Patterns are changing. Things are melting." Ohlinger uses his position on the Maryland Agricultural Commission, which advises the government on farming, and at monthly farmers club meetings to bring up mental health, often taboo in the conservative agricultural community.

He said climate change was just one more stress for farmers already worried about commodity prices, credit, bank loans, the price of equipment and old family-run

farms being squeezed out by more and more giant residential homes known as McMansions. "I can't fix pricing. I can't fix what the Chinese president or Donald Trump does, but I can surely try and keep someone from killing themselves," Ohlinger said. Not everyone in the region is willing to make the link between mental health problems and climate change.

Global warming as a manmade phenomenon is a politically divisive topic in the United States, where President Donald Trump announced plans to withdraw from the Paris agreement, a global pact to fight climate change. "You talk about global warming, but we deal with this stuff all the time," said another Howard County farmer, Howie Feago. "Most farmers believe it's more of an ebb and flow. We know that the weather is going to be up and down. If you're going to worry about global warming, you probably ought to get some other kind of job because it will drive you nuts." — Reuters

## Lightning strike caused power cut in Britain

**LONDON:** A blackout in Britain which cut power to one million customers and caused transport chaos on Aug. 9 was due to a lightning strike, the grid operator said in a report to regulator Ofgem, which said yesterday it would investigate the matter further. Ofgem commissioned the report into the causes of the outages from National Grid and said it would open its own investigation to establish whether any of the grid and network operators or generators breached their licence conditions. "Having now received National Grid's interim report, we believe there are still areas where we need to use our statutory powers to investigate these outages," said Jonathan Brearley, Ofgem's executive director of systems and networks.

"This will ensure the industry learns the relevant lessons and to clearly establish whether any firm breached their obligations to deliver secure power supplies to consumers." Ofgem's powers under the Electricity Act, which it will use to conduct the investigation, allow it to impose penalties up to a maximum of 10% of the regulated companies UK turnover. National Grid reported annual revenue, or turnover, of 14.9 billion pounds (\$18 billion) for the year to March 31, 2019.

An hour-long outage on the evening of Aug. 9 cut off one million electricity customers, including homes, businesses, one hospital and Newcastle Airport and caused disruption on the rail network. National Grid said the power cuts were the result of an unusual issue that led to the almost simultaneous loss of output from two generators - Orsted's Hornsea off-shore windfarm and RWE's Little Barford gas-fired plant.

### Lightning strikes

There were many lightning strikes that hit the electricity grid that day, but only one had a significant impact - on a transmission line at 1652 local time, which returned to normal operation after around 20 seconds, the grid's report said. Around 500 megawatts of generation capacity was also disconnected - all of which is normal for such events. However, immediately after the lightning strike and within seconds of each other, Hornsea and Little Barford reduced supply to the grid, disconnecting 1,378 MW of generation.

"As generation would not be expected to trip off or de-load in response to a lightning strike, this appears to represent an extremely rare and unexpected event," National Grid said. "This unexpected loss of generation meant that the frequency fell very quickly and went outside the normal range of 50.5Hz - 49.5Hz," it added. Back-up power and other tools were used but the size of the generation loss meant the frequency fell to 48.8Hz which is a level at which secondary backup systems were required to disconnect some demand to ensure the safety of the network.

This, along, with additional generation, returned the system to normal by 1706 and network operators started to returned supply to customers by 1737, the report said. National Grid said it will deliver its final report to Ofgem by Sept. 6, in which it will examine the exact failure mechanisms at Little Barford and Hornsea, as well as demand side impacts and communication processes. Separately, an emergency committee will also investigate the incident, the government said last week. — Reuters

## Tensions build on migrant ship off Italy as 10 jump overboard

**MADRID:** Tensions rose on a rescue ship stranded off southern Italy yesterday, as 10 of the migrants aboard jumped into the sea and tried to swim ashore, according to the Spanish charity that operates the vessel. The ship Open Arms, at sea for 19 days with almost 100 migrants onboard, has been waiting just off the port of Lampedusa, asking permission to bring the mostly African migrants ashore, despite an Italian ban on private rescue ships docking. Italy says it has borne too much responsibility for handling African migration to Europe. Its interior minister says the charity-run ships have become "taxis" for people smugglers.

"Nine people have thrown themselves into the water trying desperately to reach the coast of Lampedusa. Our lifeguards and Italian coastguards are trying to rescue them. The situation is out of control," the Open Arms tweeted. It had earlier tweeted that one other migrant had jumped in the water and posted a video of the migrant swimming toward the shore, his way blocked by an Italian Coast Guard boat.

"Day 19: a night of panic and a man in the water," the charity tweeted. "The night began with an urgent medical evacuation, and this morning a man has jumped into the



**LAMPEDUSA:** The Spanish migrant rescue NGO ship Open Arms is seen off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa. — AFP

water trying to reach the land before his eyes ... The situation is desperate." The man overboard, a Syrian, was rescued by Italian authorities, who are caring for him, an Open Arms spokeswoman said. Dozens of migrants have been taken ashore since the ship entered Italian waters because they were said to be minors or ill. The remaining migrants still sleep jammed together on deck and share two toilets. Open Arms says some are suicidal.

Interior Minister Matteo Salvini suggested yesterday that the charity was exaggerating the problems on board. Of eight migrants taken ashore on Monday night for urgent medical attention, he said, only two had health problems. "I will never go back (on the ban)," he told



**SAN SALVADOR:** Salvadorean rape victim Evelyn Hernandez (center) celebrates with her lawyers after being cleared of murder after giving birth to a stillborn baby at home in 2016. El Salvador has an extremely strict abortion ban. — AFP

## Salvador clears rape victim of killing baby

**SAN SALVADOR:** An appeals court in El Salvador on Monday acquitted a 21-year-old rape victim accused of killing her stillborn baby, in a case closely watched by rights groups. The court in San Salvador overturned a 30-year sentence imposed on Evelyn Hernandez, who was convicted under the Central American country's strict anti-abortion laws in 2017. Hernandez's lawyer, Bertha Maria Deleon, triumphantly announced the verdict on Twitter: "Acquitted! Yes we could."

Her legal team had won a re-trial after appealing the 2017 verdict on the grounds that it had failed to take into account key forensic evidence that indicated that the baby had choked in the womb. Hernandez gave birth in April 2016 in the bathroom of her home in the central Cuscatlan region. She was 18 years old and eight months pregnant. She said her son was stillborn but a court in the city of

Cojutepeque convicted her of murder after prosecutors said she was culpable of not having sought prenatal care. Hernandez said she had not known she was pregnant and gave birth in the toilet after feeling abdominal pains.

Hernandez became pregnant as a result of a rape which she did not report out of fear because her family had been threatened. A report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in January urged El Salvador to revise the cases of women sent to prison for having abortions. El Salvador should "carefully review the convictions" of each of the women, the report concluded. In March, three women serving 30-year sentences for aggravated homicide after losing their babies by miscarriage were released from prison.

But around 20 women remain locked up in similar cases, serving long sentences. Many women who suffered miscarriages or complications in pregnancy ended up being found guilty of voluntary abortions, the Inter-American rights commission said. El Salvador's law against abortions provided for prison sentences of between two and eight years, but courts often found the women guilty of the more serious crime of aggravated homicide, which carries punishment of up to 50 years behind bars. — AFP

## California tightens restrictions on police use of lethal force

**CALIFORNIA:** California police officers will be allowed to use lethal force only when "necessary" in response to a threat, instead of the existing standard of "reasonable", under a new law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday. Under the stricter standards, officers must believe they have no other choice to "defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person," an abstract of the law published online says.

The new law, which officials say is one of the most restrictive in the United States, is partly a response to police shootings of unarmed black men. Those include the death of Stephon Clark, 22, who was killed by Sacramento police in March 2018, touching off protests across the state. Clark, who was black, was standing in his grandmother's yard, holding a cell phone, when he was shot and killed last year.

The two officers were exonerated in March, touching off more protests. At the signing, Newsom said he hoped California's new law would become a model for the nation. "As California goes, so goes the rest of the United States of America," Newsom said, according to news media. "And we are doing something today that stretches the boundaries of possibility and sends a message to people all across the country - that more can be done."

Clark's family attended the signing ceremony at the invitation of the governor. The law goes into effect in January. But not all of them were entirely pleased. "The bill is watered down, everybody knows that," Stevante Clark, brother of Stephon Clark, told the Los Angeles Times. Neither the governor's office nor Clark's family members of could be immediately reached by Reuters early on Tuesday. — Reuters



## International

# Besieged Kashmir neighborhood in test of wills with India leader

## Soura becomes epicenter of resistance to India's Kashmir plan

**SRINAGAR:** For more than a week, the young men of Soura, a densely populated enclave in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, have been taking turns to maintain an around-the-clock vigil at the entry points to their neighborhood. Each of the dozen or so entrances have been blocked with makeshift barricades of bricks, corrugated metal sheets, wooden slabs and felled tree trunks. Groups of youths armed with stones congregate behind the biggest obstacles. The aim: to keep Indian security forces, and particularly the paramilitary police, out of the area.

"We have no voice. We are exploding from within," said Ejaz, 25, who like many other residents in Soura interviewed by Reuters gave only one name, saying he feared arrest. "If the world won't listen to us too, then what should we do? Pick up guns?" Soura, home to about 15,000 people, is becoming the epicenter of resistance to Indian government plans to remove the partial autonomy that was enjoyed by Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

The enclave, which has effectively become a no-go zone for the Indian security forces, is now a barometer of the ability of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist government to impose its will in Kashmir after its dramatic move on Aug. 5 to tighten its control over the region. The change, the government said, was necessary to integrate Kashmir fully into India, tackle corruption and nepotism, and speed up its development, which Modi says is the key to securing lasting peace and defeating terrorism.

In Soura, it's hard to find anyone who supports Modi's move. Many of the more than two dozen residents interviewed by Reuters over the past week referred to the Indian prime minister as "zaalim", an Urdu word meaning "tyrant". The constitutional change will allow non-residents to buy property in Jammu and Kashmir and apply for jobs in local government. Some Muslims in Kashmir say they fear that India's dominant Hindu population will overrun the lush state at the foot of the

Himalayas, and Kashmiris' identity, culture and religion will be diluted and repressed.

"We feel like we are guarding the LOC here," said Ejaz. The LOC refers to the Line of Control, the highly militarized de facto border between the Indian and Pakistani-controlled parts of Kashmir. For decades, Kashmir has been a source of friction between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan. Both nations claim the region in full and have fought two wars over the territory since 1947.

Residents in Soura say that dozens of people have been injured in clashes with the paramilitary police over the past week. It is unclear how many have been detained. A spokesman for the Jammu and Kashmir government declined to answer questions from Reuters. The Indian government's Home Ministry did not return calls and emails seeking comment.

### Daily battles

In Srinagar, the government has banned gatherings of more than four people, set up scores of roadblocks to prevent movement, and detained more than 500 politicians, community leaders and activists. Internet and cell phone services have been out for more than two weeks throughout the city and the rest of the Kashmir valley, making it difficult for opponents of the government's decision to organize protests.

Landline phone service has begun to return to the region but not to Soura, which is best-known for a Muslim shrine and a well-regarded teaching hospital. Residents have found other ways to organize. When they spot security forces trying to enter the area, residents say they rush to a mosque and sound the alarm by playing a devotional song calling for people to "stand against illegal occupation", or by issuing an alert over the loudspeaker.

At intersections in the warren of narrow lanes that make up Soura, a largely lower middle class area with a lake and marshy wetlands to its west, there are piles of bricks and stones for use against Indian troops. At one



**SINDH:** Supporters of the Tehreek-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) party shout slogans during an anti-Indian protest rally in Karachi yesterday as they condemn India stripping the disputed Kashmir region of its special autonomy and imposing a lockdown two weeks ago. — AFP

barricade, concertina wire had been strung across the road. The young men patrolling the barrier said the wire had been stolen from Indian security forces.

A protest on Aug. 9, when people took to the streets after Friday prayers, marked Soura as the focal point of resistance to the Indian government's decision. As residents from surrounding neighborhoods joined the demonstration, the crowd swelled to at least 10,000, according to local police sources. More than a dozen residents told Reuters that around 150 to 200 security personnel in riot gear attempted to enter Soura after the protests, resulting in clashes with residents that went on late into the night, as police fired tear gas and metal pellets.

The Indian government initially denied there had been a

protest, and said there had been no gathering in Soura involving more than 20 people. It later said there had been a demonstration of 1,000 to 1,500 people, after TV footage of the crowd was broadcast by the BBC and Al Jazeera. Since then, Soura has been the scene of smaller demonstrations and daily running battles with the security forces, according to people living in the neighborhood.

The security forces have made several attempts to enter Soura, according to residents, with the apparent goal of sealing off a large area of open ground next to the Jinab Sahib shrine that has become an assembly point for protesters. "Every day they are trying to attack us here, but we are fighting back," said Owais, in his early twenties. "We feel like we are trapped." — Reuters

## 'I'm here 24/7': Rohingya youths share their stories on social media

**KUTUPALONG:** When Mohammad Rafiq spotted two Rohingya refugee girls dusting their faces with circles of traditional thanaka powder under the warm morning light, he quickly took out his smartphone to capture the moment. The 19-year-old budding photographer, who fled to Bangladesh in August 2017 after a military crackdown in Myanmar, uses his mobile phone to record the daily lives of nearly one million stateless Rohingyas in a vast camp in southern Bangladesh.

"I loved the photo instantly as it reflects our culture and the innocence of the little girls who barely want to remember the crisis we are facing," Rafiq said. Rafiq is among some 30 Rohingya youths selected by the World Food Program for its "Storytellers" project. For two weeks, they are taught smartphone photo and video-shooting techniques-such as understanding light, exposure and angles-as well as writing skills.

The refugees then share their stories directly with the public through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with audiences around the world posting comments and asking questions. "The idea behind it is to be able to hand back the narrative to the people that we are already assisting," WFP spokeswoman Gemma Snowden said. The Storytellers Page on Facebook has more than 30,000 followers and includes similar schemes rolled out in Chad and Uganda.

All the Rohingya posters have a similar goal-to share with the outside world the raw, emotional ups and downs they face living in the world's largest refugee camp. Minara, who was four months' pregnant when she fled Myanmar, shares videos of how refugees are given ropes to tie their makeshift tarpaulin roofs to bamboo poles so they are not blown away by strong winds. Another post, by Hafsa Aktar, is a heartrending letter to her father who was left behind, in which she writes of the difficult conditions in the camp and her deep longing to return to her homeland.

### Life through the lens

Being able to take photos again has put a spring in the steps of Rafiq, who wanted to continue his schooling after the 10th grade in Myanmar but was blocked by authorities. When he was 15, Rafiq's father



**KUTUPALONG:** Rohingya youth Mohammad Rafiq (2nd right, in white) uses his mobile phone to take photos of children at the Kutupalong refugee camp. — AFP

bought him his first-ever smartphone as a present. Thrilled with the device, he explored his town in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state, taking photos of everything he loved.

But Rafiq's life was turned upside down in 2017 when the brutal army campaign drove some 740,000 Rohingya Muslims across the border to Cox's Bazar, where another 200,000 refugees were already living in squalid camps. During the arduous journey to neighboring Bangladesh to escape the violence, the teenager lost his favorite possession-his smartphone.

"I arrived in Bangladesh with my mother and three younger siblings after 10 days of harrowing walks through the hills," Rafiq recalled as he sat in a shanty inside the camp. "I wish I could have captured the moments of anguish we had to suffer on our way out of Myanmar." Now Rafiq is becoming a star on Facebook

through his photos. In one post that has attracted some 180,000 views, Rafiq captures a woman meditating during the month of Ramadan to show how the Muslim minority are now free to practice their religion even as they grapple with the hardships in the crammed shelters.

"International media is covering the stories in the camps but they are not here 24/7 but I am," he said, adding that his stories were more authentic. "People learn from my stories that we are seeking justice and want to return home." On some days, Rafiq walks to a vantage point in the camps where he can see the hills of Myanmar shrouded by clouds in the distance, and thinks of home. "I see flashbacks of how my friends and I used to roam around the place. I feel very sad," he said, adding that he hopes to return one day and be a photojournalist. "That will be the fulfillment of my dream." — AFP

## Philippines president warns of 'unfriendly' greeting for warships

**MANILA:** President Rodrigo Duterte warned yesterday foreign ships faced "unfriendly" treatment if they ventured into Philippines' territorial waters without permission, in a swipe at China's deployment of warships a few miles off the coast. The warning comes as Duterte faces critics at home who accuse him of being passive over Chinese provocations in exchange for business ties with Beijing, though promised investments have been slow in coming.

Duterte's frustration over multiple sightings this year of Chinese warships moving within the country's 12-mile territorial sea, at various locations in the archipelago, was relayed yesterday by his spokesman Salvador Panelo.

"All foreign vessels passing our territorial waters must notify and get clearance from the proper government authority well in advance of the actual passage," Panelo said in a statement, quoting Duterte. "Either we get a compliance in a friendly manner or we enforce it in an unfriendly manner," he added. Panelo did not refer to China by name, nor elaborate on what that enforcement might entail.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters an unfriendly response could involve escorting the unwelcome vessel out of the area. "There are so many things that we can do to be unfriendly," he said. Opinion surveys consistently give Duterte a level of domestic approval never seen at this point in a presidency. The same polls show growing disdain for China over its conduct in the South China Sea and concerns among some Filipinos over an influx of Chinese online gaming workers under Duterte. — Reuters

## Indian preacher apologizes to Malaysians

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A controversial Indian Islamic preacher apologized yesterday for making comments about race in multi-ethnic Malaysia which sparked calls for his expulsion, a day after being questioned by police. Zakir Naik, a radical television preacher who has called the 9/11 attacks an "inside job", left India in 2016 and moved to largely Muslim Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency.

He is wanted in India for inciting extremism and money laundering, and New Delhi last year reportedly asked Malaysia to extradite him-a request that was rejected. Calls have escalated for Naik to be kicked out after he said Hindus in Malaysia have "100 times" more rights than India's Muslim minority, and suggested Chinese Malaysians should be expelled before he was.

He was questioned by police for 10 hours Monday on suspicion of committing an intentional insult aimed at provoking a breach of the peace. On Tuesday, Naik said in a statement his detractors had taken his remarks out of context and added "strange fabrications". But he went on: "It was never my intention to upset any individual or community. "It is against the basic tenets of Islam, and I would like to convey my heartfelt apologies for this misunderstanding."

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has said Naik crossed the line and several cabinet ministers have called for him to be kicked out, while police have banned him from giving public talks anywhere in Malaysia, state news agency Bernama reported. The government has in the past appeared reluctant to move against Naik for fear it could upset some Muslims and provide ammunition to political opponents.

About 60 percent of Malaysia's 32 million inhabitants are Muslim and the country is also home to substantial ethnic Indian and Chinese communities. — AFP

## No phones, no friends: Cut-off Kashmir kids despair in lockdown

**SRINAGAR:** In a tiny building in a cramped narrow lane in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, Mohammad Saleem and his family feel cut off from the world and trapped in their home as an Indian military lockdown enters its third week. New Delhi imposed the strict movement and communications clampdown hours before stripping the restive Himalayan region of its autonomy on August 5, in a bid to quell any unrest triggered by the controversial move. The security measures have exacted a toll on the valley's children, who are going stir-crazy from the isolation and lack of communication with friends.

"I can't study, connect with any of my friends and can't even go out because of all these restrictions," Saleem's 13-year-old son Shayan said. "I really miss going to school. We used to play a lot there. We have been sitting at one place now, what do we do here?" Father-of-three Saleem said his younger daughter moved to live with her grandmother as she was "feeling caged", pointing to a small hall in the first floor of his home where the family have spent most of their time.

Indian authorities re-opened schools in some parts of Kashmir on Monday, but classrooms were largely empty with

parents keeping their children at home. With mobile phone networks still down and only some landlines in operation, families don't want to be separated from their offspring without being able to check on them. One parent fretting about his children's studies is local businessman Showkat Shafi, who has decided not to send his two daughters, aged eight and 13, back to school until tensions ease.

There have been regular bouts of demonstrations in some parts of Kashmir despite the lockdown, with security personnel firing tear gas and pellet guns. "It has become really difficult to live like this," Showkat, whose dyeing factory has been shut amid the lockdown, told AFP in the residential district of Nowshera. "I don't know how much longer this will continue. What else can we do now but ask them (children) to not leave their home and just study or keep themselves busy."

### 'Young live in fear'

For Saleem, the outbreaks of violence also trigger another fear-that he'll be mistaken as a protester and locked up by the authorities amid a sweeping crackdown. His home is next to Srinagar's main mosque Jama Masjid, where protests regularly break out. While authorities have kept the mosque shut since the start of August, they also view this old part of the city as a hotbed of dissent.

At least 4,000 people have been detained over the past two weeks under the Public Safety Act (PSA), which allows imprisonment for up to two years without charge or trial, government sources said. Meanwhile the family's food rations are almost depleted and Saleem, a door-to-door women's clothing salesman who lives almost hand-to-



**SRINAGAR:** Men on scooters drive past a member of the Indian security forces on a street in the Lal Chowk area of Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

mouth, hopes to feed his family by borrowing money. His daughter Iram is in her first year of college and has dreams of becoming a teacher.

With no sign from Indian authorities on when they will lift the curfew and restore communications services, despair rather than hope now fills her thoughts. "I can't study because the internet is down... I can't go anywhere. Where do I go? What do I do now?" Iram said: "Everyone's future is getting destroyed. The young here live in fear. "The moment you go out-you have stone pelting, tear gas, curfew... there is everything. I feel that there isn't as much injustice anywhere in the world than there is for the children in Kashmir." — AFP







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In this file photo, Aramco staff members stand on the tarmac at the Saudi Aramco airport surrounded by sand dunes by the Shaybah oilfield, some 800 kilometers (500 miles) southeast of the eastern oil center of Dhahran.—AFP

# Climate change could rain on Aramco IPO parade

## Investors wonder how valuable oil and gas reserves will be in a 'net zero emissions world'

**LONDON/DUBAI:** Saudi Aramco's biggest asset could also be a liability. The state energy giant's vast oil reserves - it can sustain current production levels for the next 50 years - make it more exposed than any other company to a rising tide of environmental activism and shift away from fossil fuels.

In the three years since Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman first proposed a stock market listing, climate change and new green technologies are putting some investors, particularly in Europe and the United States, off the oil and gas sector. Sustainable investments account for more than a quarter of all assets under management globally, by some estimates.

Aramco, for its part, argues oil and gas will remain at the heart of the energy mix for decades, saying renewables and nuclear cannot meet rising global demand, and that its crude production has lower greenhouse gas emissions than its rivals.

But with the company talking again to banks about an initial public offering (IPO), some investors and lawyers say the window to execute a sale at a juicy price is shrinking and Aramco will need to explain to prospective shareholders how it plans to profit in a lower-carbon world.

"Saudi Aramco is a really interesting test as to whether the market is getting serious about pricing in energy transition risk," said Natasha Landell-Mills, in charge of integrating environment, social and governance (ESG) considerations into investing at London-based asset manager Sarasin & Partners.

"The longer that (the IPO) gets delayed, the less willing the market will be to price it favorably because gradually investors are going to need to ask questions about how valuable those reserves are in a world that is trying to get down to net zero emissions by 2050."

Aramco told Reuters it was ready for a listing and the timing would be decided by the government. The company

also said it was investing in research to make cars more efficient, and working on new technologies to use hydrogen in cars, convert more crude to chemicals and capture CO2 which can be injected in its reservoirs to improve extraction of oil.

### Selling the story

Some would argue this is not enough. A growing number of investors across the world are factoring ESG risk into their decision-making, although the degree to which that would stop them investing in Aramco varies wildly.

Some would exclude the company on principle because of its carbon output, while others would be prepared to buy if the price was cheap enough to outweigh the perceived ESG risk - especially given oil companies often pay healthy dividends.

At a \$1.5 trillion valuation, Aramco would be the world's largest public company. If it were included in major equity indices it would automatically be bought by passive investment funds that track them, regardless of their ESG credentials. And as the world's most profitable company, Aramco shares would be snapped up by many active investors.

Talks about a share sale were revived this year after Aramco attracted huge investor demand for its first international bond issue. In its bond prospectus, it said climate change could potentially have a "material adverse effect" on its business. When it comes to an IPO, equity investors require more information about potential risks and how companies plan to deal with them, as they are more exposed than bondholders if a business runs into trouble.

"Companies need to lead with the answers in the prospectus, rather than have two or three paragraphs describing potential risks from environmental issues," said Nick O'Donnell, partner in the corporate department at law firm Baker McKenzie.

"An oil and gas company needs to be thinking about how

to explain the story over the next 20 years and bring it out into a separate section rather than hiding it away in the prospectus, it needs to use it as a selling tool. And also, once the IPO is done, every annual report should have a stand-alone ESG section."

Aramco's senior vice president of finance Khalid Al-Dabbagh said during an earnings call this month that its carbon emissions from "upstream" exploration and production were the lowest among its peers. A study published by Science magazine last year found carbon emissions from Saudi Arabia's crude production were the world's second lowest after Denmark, as a result of having a small number of highly productive oilfields.

### The oil price

Aramco says that, with the global economy forecast to double in size by 2050, oil and gas will remain essential. "Saudi Aramco is determined to not only meet the world's growing demand for ample, reliable and affordable energy but to meet the world's growing demand for much cleaner fuel," it told Reuters. "Alternatives are still facing significant technological, economic and infrastructure hurdles, and the history of past energy transitions shows that these developments take time."

The company has also moved to diversify into gas and chemicals and is using renewable energy in its facilities. But Aramco still, ultimately, represents a bet on the price of oil.

It generated net income of \$111 billion in 2018, over a third more than the combined total of the five "supermajors" ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, BP, Chevron and Total. In 2016, when the oil price hit 13-year lows, Aramco's net income was only \$13 billion, according to its bond prospectus where it unveiled its finances for the first time, based on current exchange rates. Its earnings fell 12 percent in the first half of 2019, mainly on lower oil prices.

Concerns about future demand for fossil fuels have

weighed on the sector. Since 2016, when Prince Mohammed first flagged an IPO, the 12-months forward price to earnings ratio of five of the world's top listed oil companies has fallen to 12 from 21 on average, according to Reuters calculations, lagging the FTSE 100 and the STOXX Europe 600 Oil & Gas index averages.

By comparison, UK-listed funds investing in renewable energy infrastructure such as wind farms are trading at one of the biggest average premiums to net asset value.

### An influx of capital

Using a broad measure, there was global sustainable investment of \$30.1 trillion across the world's five major markets at the end of 2018, according to the Global Sustainable Investment Review.

"Given the influx of capital into the ESG space, Aramco's IPO would have been better off going public 5-10 years ago," said Joseph di Virgilio, global equities portfolio manager at New York-based Romulus Asset Management, which has \$900 million in assets under management.

"An IPO today would still be the largest of its kind, but many asset managers focusing solely on ESG may not participate." The world's top listed oil and gas companies have come under heavy pressure from investors and climate groups in recent years to outline strategies to reduce their carbon footprint.

Shell, BP and others have agreed, together with shareholders, on carbon reduction targets for some of operations and to increase spending on renewable energies. US major ExxonMobil, the world's top publicly traded oil and gas company, has resisted adopting targets. Britain's biggest asset manager LGIM removed Exxon from its 5 billion pounds (\$6.3 billion) Future World funds for what it said was a failure to confront threats posed by climate change. LGIM did not respond to a request for comment on whether it would buy shares in Aramco's potential IPO. —Reuters

## Google, Facebook, Amazon slam French digital tax

**WASHINGTON:** American tech giants Amazon, Facebook and Google joined forces on Monday to decry the French digital tax as retroactive and discriminatory. President Donald Trump is considering retaliating against the tax-approved July 11 — with punitive tariffs on French wine imports, prompting an investigation by the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). The so-called GAFA companies appeared at a USTR hearing on possible countermeasures and were unanimous in their complaints, calling the tax a "troubling precedent."

The tax, which Washington considers unfair, adds yet another bone of contention to the transatlantic

trade disputes that now also include steel, aluminum, automobiles, aircraft and agriculture.

The proposed three percent tax on total annual revenues of companies that provide services to French consumers applies only to the largest tech companies, which are mostly US-based.

For Amazon, where France represents the second largest European market for e-commerce, the levy "creates a double taxation," said Peter Hiltz, director of tax planning for the online retail giant.

Some 58 percent of Amazon's sales are through partner companies, which stand to take the hit. The tax "negatively impacts Amazon and thousands of small and medium businesses," Hiltz said. "Amazon cannot absorb the expenses," and the company "already informed partners that their fee will increase starting October 1," he added. Some internet heavyweights have taken advantage of low-tax jurisdictions in places like Ireland while paying next to nothing in other countries where they derive huge profits. The United States has been pushing for an overarching agreement on taxation

of digital commerce through the Group of 20 economic forum, but France pressed ahead on its own.

It is "an imperfect solution to address an outdated tax system," said Jennifer McCloskey of the Information Technology Industry Council, which supports a multilateral agreement under the auspices of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. Hiltz agreed, saying the companies believe "an international agreement under the OECD is reachable." The tax will apply to about 30 companies with at least \$28 million (25 million euros) in sales in France and \$831 million worldwide. But it does not apply to other internet operators like media companies.

The tax touches "a handful of internet business when every sector is becoming digital," Google's Nicholas Bramble said at the hearing. Taxing only this part of the industry "doesn't make sense."

The companies also complained that the tax is retroactive, since it will apply from the beginning of 2019 — something they have "never seen" before, according to Alan Lee of Facebook.



In this file photo, people walk in Google's main campus as a sit-in to protest against Google's retaliation against workers takes place within Google's main cafeteria in Mountain View, California. —AFP



NBK Economic Report

# Kuwait's credit growth edges lower in Q2 2019; CBK leaves policy on hold

## Business lending growth slows; deposit growth drops

KUWAIT: Kuwait's credit growth eased slightly in 2Q19, ending at 4.8 percent y/y versus 5.2 percent in March. The slowdown was driven mostly by a moderation in lending to businesses, which slipped to 5.1 percent from 6.1 percent in March, albeit driven by a base effect following a jump in lending in June 2018. Growth in household lending continued to edge down on softer housing loans, contrasting a jump in lending for consumption. Given reasonable economic growth, a steady flow of project spending by the government, decent employment conditions and a global interest rate cycle now tilted towards easing, we do not expect credit growth to dip a great deal further over coming months, likely remaining in the 4-5 percent range, which is around double the 2.3 percent average for last year.

The slowdown in business lending growth in Q2 was due to the oil and gas sector, where borrowing had surged in June 2018 on financing for a large government LNG project; excluding this, business lending would have accelerated significantly in the quarter. Elsewhere, it was another good quarter for lending to the real estate sector, which rose 8.9 percent y/y in June and has accelerated sharply this year, pointing to recovering activity in that sector. Other sectors were a mixed bag, though lending to the smaller but still important trade (0.4 percent) and construction (-1.6 percent) sectors weakened.

News on the household sector was also mixed, though continued the trends of previous months. Growth in loans for home purchase - which are worth around 90 percent of total household lending (excluding securities purchase borrowing) - slowed to 4.2 percent y/y from 5.4 percent in March and to around half its level of a year ago. By contrast, the smaller consumer loan segment surged once again, rising 18 percent versus 7.8 percent in March - and its fastest pace in over six years. The pick-up reflects the continuing effect from the central bank's loosening of restrictions on consumer loans last

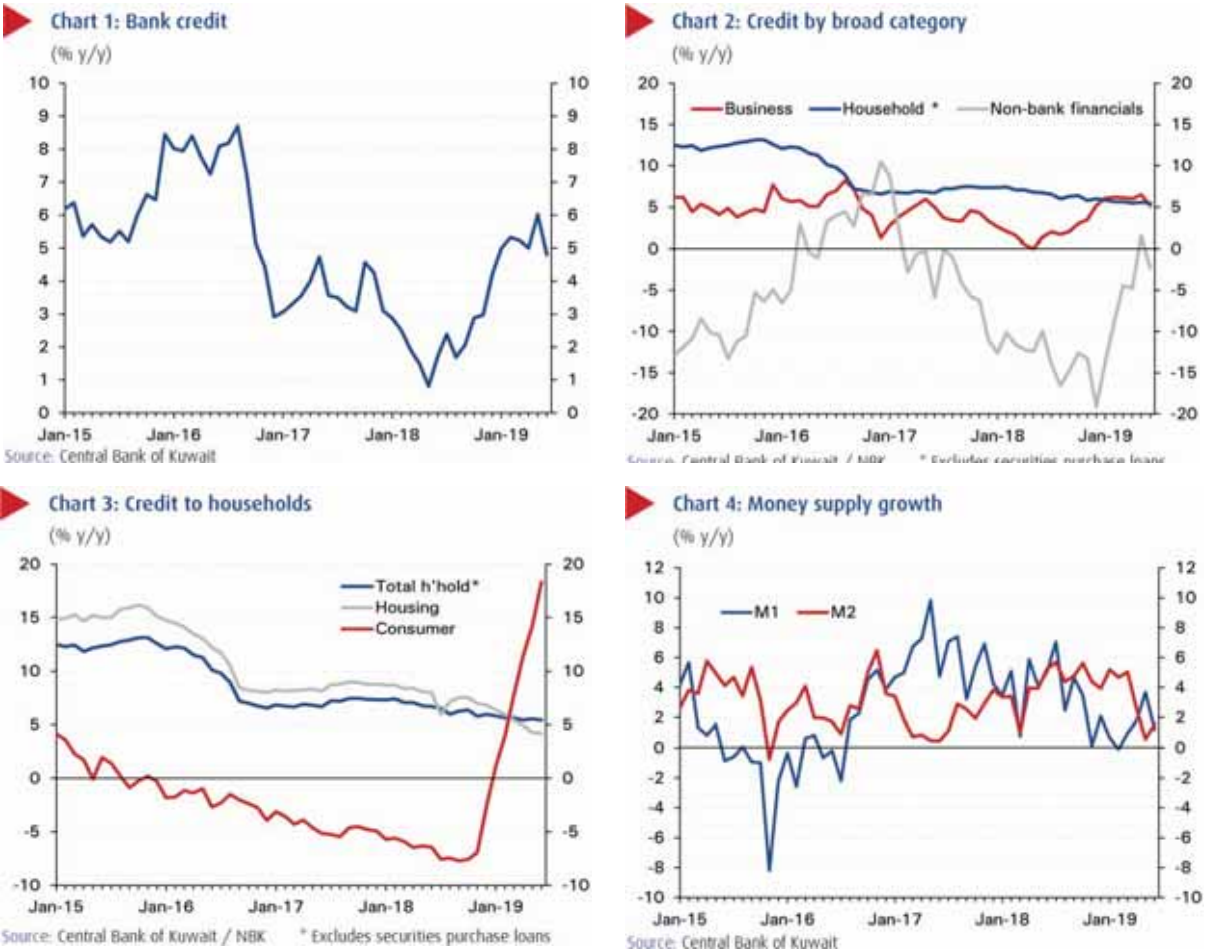


December and based upon reasonable assumptions, the annual growth rate could accelerate still further over coming months. Separately, growth in lending for securities purchases edged up to 2.2 percent y/y from 1.2 percent at the end of Q1, amid a generally improving picture over the past year due to more favorable attitudes toward the stock market driven by index upgrades. Finally, lending to investment firms fell 2.3 percent y/y in June, but broadly steadied in Q2 after significant deleveraging last year.

Meanwhile, deposit growth halved to 1.2 percent y/y in June from 2.4 percent in March, driven by a softening in private deposit growth to 1.5 percent from 5.1 percent (though month-on-month June was solid) on slower growth in time deposits. Weak growth in private sector deposits was only partially offset by an improving trend in government deposits, which can be volatile and which had been very soft earlier in the year. Reflecting these trends, growth in the M2 money supply measure stood at a modest 1.6 percent y/y in June versus 5.0 percent in March.

Following the US Federal Reserve's 25 bps cut in interest rates at the end of July, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) opted to leave its main policy interest rates on hold at 3.0 percent for the discount rate and 2.5-3.25 percent for the repo rates of different maturities.

The CBK has been less active than the Fed in the



recent past, having lifted the discount rate on only four of the nine occasions the Fed has hiked rates in the tightening cycle that began in 2015. The CBK stated that the decision to hold was in line with maintaining a healthy margin in favor of the dinar

and to allow for a conducive environment for economic growth. The Kuwaiti dinar, meanwhile, has remained broadly flat against the US dollar this year at \$3.29/KD1, but has appreciated versus the euro (2 percent) and British pound (6 percent).

Table 1: Monetary indicators

	KD mn				% m/m				% y/y			
	Mar19	Apr19	May19	Jun19	Mar19	Apr19	May19	Jun19	Mar19	Apr19	May19	Jun19
Total system liquidity (M2)	38,947	38,815	38,242	39,000	0.7	-0.3	-1.5	2.0	5.0	2.6	0.6	1.6
Currency in circulation	1,803	1,892	2,063	1,885	-0.1	4.9	9.0	-8.6	4.6	11.5	9.8	2.0
Private sector deposits	37,144	36,924	36,180	37,115	0.7	-0.6	-2.0	2.6	5.1	2.2	0.1	1.5
KD deposits	34,387	34,463	33,864	34,588	0.6	0.2	-1.7	2.1	4.9	4.1	0.9	2.4
Sight deposits	8,689	9,071	9,356	9,112	2.4	4.4	3.1	-2.6	0.3	0.0	2.4	1.1
Savings deposits	5,100	5,245	5,276	5,300	-0.1	2.8	0.6	0.5	2.7	5.0	2.4	2.6
Time deposits & CDs	20,599	20,147	19,231	20,176	0.1	-2.2	-4.5	4.9	7.6	5.9	-0.2	3.0
Foreign currency deposits	2,757	2,461	2,316	2,527	1.8	-10.7	-5.9	9.1	6.5	-19.3	-10.0	-9.4

## 2019 Infiniti QX60 earns top safety ratings



KUWAIT: The 2019 Infiniti QX60 luxury crossover was recently awarded Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), as well as a 5-star overall vehicle safety rating as part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) and New Car Assessment Program (NCAP).

Driven by the safety of its customers and their passengers as a top priority, the award-winning QX60 offers a combination of family-oriented features as well as a welcoming, carefully crafted design inside and out.

Standard on all QX60 models is a breakthrough technology designed especially for active families - Rear Door

Alert. The new Rear Door Alert system, first introduced on the 2018 QX60, can help remind customers of things that may be forgotten in the rear seat, such as pets, valuables, dry cleaning, groceries and more. Other available driver assist technologies include: Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection; Lane Departure Warning and Lane Departure Prevention; Backup Collision Intervention; Blind Spot Intervention; and Intelligent Cruise Control (Full-Speed Range). Also offered are the advanced Predictive Forward Collision Warning system and Forward Emergency Braking with pedestrian detection.

## Joyalukkas opens its new showroom in Hyderabad



Joyalukkas inaugurated its new showroom in Hyderabad, India. The showroom was inaugurated by Devireddy Sudheer Reddy (MLA LB Nagar) in the presence of other dignitaries.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.				Yemen Riyal/for 1000				Turkish Lira				Chinese Yuan			
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES				Tunisian Dinar				Singapore dollars				Hong Kong Dollar			
US Dollar Transfer	304.800			109.640				55.125				0.036764			0.039514
Euro	339.850			430.720				220.065				0.003756			0.004528
Sterling Pound	371.550			0.203								0.000017			0.000023
Canadian dollar	229.950			Lebanese Lira/for 1000								0.002773			0.002953
Turkish lira	54.570			Syrian Lira								0.000241			0.00257
Swiss Franc	313.100			Morocco Dirham								0.069189			0.075189
US Dollar Buying	297.600											0.002682			0.03022
ASIAN COUNTRIES				Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd				BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL				Malaysian Ringgit			
Japanese Yen	2.861			Rate for Transfer		Selling Rate		CURRENCY		BUY	SELL	Palestine Rupee			
Indian Rupees	4.275			US Dollar		304.090		British Pound	Europe	0.362160	0.376060	Pakistan Rupee			
Pakistani Rupees	1.944			Canadian Dollar		230.300		Czech Korune		0.005062	0.014362	Philippine Peso			
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.716			Sterling Pound		368.445		Danish Krone		0.041194	0.046194	Singapore Dollar			
Nepali Rupees	2.656			Euro		341.840		Euro		0.330034	0.343734	Sri Lankan Rupee			
Singapore Dollar	220.950			Swiss Frank		297.245		Georgian Lari		0.103506	0.103506	Taiwan			
Hongkong Dollar	38.854			Bahrain Dinar		808.690		Hungarian Lari		0.001132		Thai Baht			
Bangladesh Taka	3.597			UAE Dirhams		83.195		Norwegian Krone		0.029880	0.035080	Vietnamese Dong			
Philippine Peso	5.838			Qatari Riyals		84.435		Romanian Leu		0.054388	0.071238	Arab			
Thai Baht	9.923			Saudi Riyals		81.985		Russian ruble		0.004538	0.004538	Bahraini Dinar			
Malaysian ringgit	77.954			Jordanian Dinar		430.185		Slovakia		0.009118	0.019118	Egyptian Pound			
GCC COUNTRIES				Egyptian Pound		18.403		Swedish Krona		0.027412	0.032412	Iranian Riyal			
Saudi Riyal	81.334			Sri Lankan Rupees		1.719		Swiss Franc		0.303990	0.314990	Iraqi Dinar			
Qatari Riyal	83.771			Indian Rupees		4.297		Australasia				Jordanian Dinar			
Omani Riyal	792.203			Pakistani Rupees		1.919		Australian Dollar		0.198423	0.210423	Kuwaiti Dinar			
Bahraini Dinar	809.980			Bangladesh Taka		3.601		New Zealand Dollar		0.189445	0.198945	Lebanese Pound			
UAE Dirham	83.040			Philippines Peso		5.859		Canada Dollar		0.223372	0.232372	Moroccan Dirhams			
ARAB COUNTRIES				Cyprus pound		18.090		US Dollars	America	0.300700	0.306000	Omani Riyal			
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.650			Japanese Yen		3.881		US Dollars Mint		0.301200	0.306000	Qatar Riyal			
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.411			Syrian Pound		1.590		Asia				Saudi Riyal			
				Nepalese Rupees		2.679		Bangladesh Taka		0.002982	0.003783	Syrian Pound			
				Malaysian Ringgit		73.480						Tunisian Dinar			
				Chinese Yuan Renminbi		43.520						Turkish Lira			
				Thai Bhat		10.870						UAE Dirhams			
												Yemeni Riyal			



## Business

## KAMCO Oil Market Monthly Report

# Cloud over global economic growth weighs on oil demand and prices

## IEA expects a demand surge during second half of 2019

**KUWAIT:** In one of the longest running declining streaks in recent months, OPEC crude oil prices plunged 12.3 percent while Brent crude declined 15 percent during the first six trading sessions of August-19 led by intensifying trade dispute.

Recent data releases from various economic agencies across the globe has hinted to an imminent global economic slowdown. This has affected prospects of oil market rebalancing this year as was expected earlier and has forced forecasters to further lower oil demand outlook. On the other hand, the geopolitical issues in the Gulf region that supplies around a quarter of global crude oil has had minimal impact on oil prices as economic concerns weigh on prices.

On one hand, there is the unresolved trade conflict that continues to cast a shadow over world economic growth. The data points have led to investor concerns and a great deal of volatility in financial and commodity markets. On similar lines, India's auto sector recorded an 18.7 percent decline in sale of passenger vehicles, the steepest monthly in 18 years. In Europe, Germany is reportedly on the brink of a recession with its GDP declining during Q2-19, albeit marginally by 0.1 percent. And with Eurozone quarterly growth at 0.2 percent, the ECB is said to be preparing a stimulus package in September-19.

In terms of oil demand, the IEA further lowered its outlook for the year as it reported slowest demand growth since 2008 during the first five months of the year. According to the agency's latest monthly report, demand declined for the second time this year in May-19, and the aggregate demand growth during the first five months stood at 520 tb/d, due to weak demand from India and the US. While stating that demand outlook stays fragile, the IEA lowered full year 2019 demand growth forecast by 100 tb/d to 1.1 mb/d and by 50 tb/d for 2020 to 1.3 mb/d. Nevertheless, the IEA expects a demand surge during 2H-19 that would significantly help in tightening the market. In a similar move, the OPEC also lowered its 2019 non-OPEC demand growth forecast by 40 tb/d citing economic woes but said that supplies would be lesser than previous forecasts. Meanwhile, OPEC continued to lower production during July-19 pumping at just below the 30 mb/d mark.

### Oil prices

After seeing marginal m-o-m price improvement in July-19, oil prices plunged during the August-19 with Brent crude reaching as low as \$55.03 per barrel as of 7-August-19 when it declined by 6.1 percent in a single day. Prices went below the \$60/b mark for the first time since the end of January-19, with average prices for the first half of the month declining by more than 8 percent m-o-m. A bearish view from the IEA as well as to some extent from the OPEC in their respective monthly reports also supported the oil price decline. Concerns continue to weigh on the

demand side of the oil market while supply continued to remain above the 100 mb/d mark during July-19 as per IEA report, which also said that it could further lower demand outlook numbers if the trade war continues. Meanwhile, the oil inventory build in the US during the last two weeks further added to pressure on oil prices. After declining for seven consecutive weeks, US crude stocks have gained over the last two weeks by a total 4.0 million barrels to reach 440.51 million barrels. The inventory data came in line with rig count data released by Baker Hughes.

According to the latest weekly US rig count report, active oil rigs increased by 6 last week to reach 770 rigs. Nevertheless, despite lesser number of rigs as compared to last year, US oil production has continued to ramp up due to improving productivity in most of the oil basins this year. Average crude prices witnessed slight improvement during July-19 as declines during mid-month was offset by gains during the first half and last week of the month. Average OPEC crude prices gained 2.8 percent m-o-m to reach \$64.7/b while Kuwait crude averaged at \$64.9/b recording a slightly higher m-o-m gain of 3.7 percent. On the other hand, Brent crude declined by -0.2 percent to average at \$63.9/b during July-19.

### World oil demand

World oil demand growth expectations for 2019 were lowered by 0.04 mb/d to a growth of 1.1 mb/d as demand is now expected to average at 99.92 mb/d, according to OPEC's latest monthly report. The revision reflected lower-than-expected oil demand growth estimates for the OECD region during Q1-19 with data being revised downward by 0.05 mb/d for the quarter due to lower demand during March-19 in OECD Americas. Demand growth numbers for the non-OECD region was also revised downward by around 0.13 mb/d for Q2-19 reflecting lower-than-expected demand data for the Other Asia and the Middle East regions. The revision in Other Asia was led by slower construction and economic growth that led to lower demand from India, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore while the Middle East region witnessed the impact of fuel substitution and subsidy reduction policies.

The latest monthly data for the US as of May-19 showed a decline in oil demand by 0.5 percent y-o-y as diesel fuel and fuel oil demand faltered due to high historical base and fuel substitution with natural gas while gasoline demand declined due to lower miles travelled and weak auto sales. Nevertheless, preliminary demand data for June-19 and July-19 showed positive demand trend led by rising diesel, jet kerosene and LPG/NGL requirements while gasoline demand continue to remain weak partly offsetting the growth.

In OECD Europe, demand data for 1H-19 showed marginal decline in the European Big 4 countries led by weak demand from the road transportation sector as seen from

the 3 percent decline in auto sales during 1H-19, and jet fuel in the transportation sector, although auto sales witnessed a 12th consecutive month of decline during June-19. Oil demand growth projections for 2020 remained unchanged at 1.14 mb/d with total demand expected to average at 101.05 mb/d. Nevertheless, with the ongoing economic pressure, the OPEC report said that next year's growth projections are subject to downside risks.

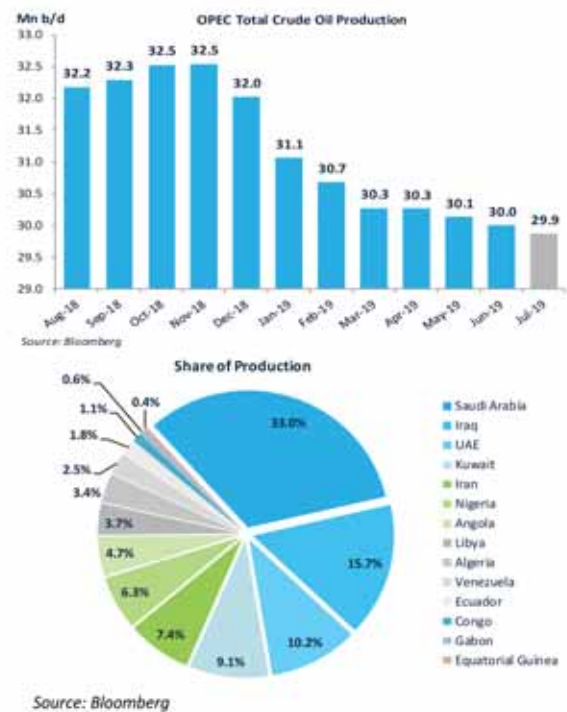
Growth next year is expected to come primarily from non-OECD countries, primarily China and Other Asia, while in the OECD region, OECD Americas are expected to show demand growth while OECD Europe and Asia Pacific regions are forecasted to show demand decline.

### World oil supply

According to OPEC, world oil supply continued to increase during July-19 adding 0.23 mb/d as compared to the previous month to average at 98.71 mb/d. The increase was once again primarily on the back of non-OPEC supply that increased by 0.48 mb/d to average at 69.11 mb/d mainly coming from Canada, Norway, The UK, Australia, India, Brazil and Azerbaijan. Higher non-OPEC production pushed down OPEC market share by 30 bps to 30.0 percent during July-19. For the full year 2019, non-OPEC oil supply growth forecast was once again lowered by 72 tb/d to a growth of 1.97 mb/d with total supply expected to average at 64.39 mb/d. The downward revisions reflected lower-than-expected oil production in the US (-35 tb/d), Brazil (-59 tb/d), Thailand (-28 tb/d) and Norway (-16 tb/d) during 1H-19 that was partially offset by higher expected output from Canada (+56 tb/d) for the full year reflecting higher output in Q2-19 after the government of Alberta eased mandatory production adjustments.

### OPEC oil production & spare capacity

OPEC crude production once again declined during July-19 reflecting continued efforts from OPEC countries to support prices. This was the eighth consecutive month of decline for the group which saw average monthly production declining by 2.7 mb/d. Production averaged at 29.87 mb/d with a decline of 130 tb/d according to Bloomberg data, while OPEC secondary sources showed average production rate of 29.61 mb/d with a m-o-m decline of 246 tb/d. Based on OPEC's production figures, the compliance to the OPEC+ agreement was around 144 percent during July-19. According to OPEC data, Saudi Arabia undertook a deep production cut of 134 tb/d and produced at 9.7 mb/d while Iran, Libya and Venezuela collectively lowered production by 121 tb/d during the month. Recently, an attack on Saudi Arabia's Shaybah field in the southeast led to a temporary spike in oil prices, but production remained unaffected in the facility. Meanwhile, the sanction-led decline in oil production in Iran and



Venezuela reflected during July-19 output. Iran produced at an average rate of 2.2 mb/d as compared to 2.3 mb/d during the previous month while Venezuela produced at 760 tb/d according to Bloomberg. A Reuters report citing tanker data showed that oil exports from Iran have dropped to as low as 100 tb/d during July-19. Oil production in Nigeria remained flat at around 1.9 mb/d, while the other swing producer, Libya, showed a decline of around 50 tb/d during July-19 after Libya's NOC declared force majeure on crude loadings at the Zawiya port due to a disruption at its Sharara oil field.

Oil production in Kuwait remained stable at around 2.7 mb/d, however, the country is reportedly in talks with Saudi Arabia to start production from the Neutral Zone which has a production capacity of around 0.5 mb/d. Similar talks are reportedly initiated between Kuwait and Iraq after the two signed a contract last month to conduct a technical study for joint frontier oilfields. Nevertheless, the oil minister of Kuwait said that the country is fully committed to the OPEC+ cuts with its share of compliance reaching as high as 160 percent during July-19. He added that the concerns regarding global economic slowdown are exaggerated and that oil demand would pick up during 2H-19 and would help reduce the glut of oil inventories gradually.

## Japan Inc backs Abe's tough trade stance vs S Korea

**TOKYO:** Japanese companies broadly support Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's tough trade stance against South Korea, a Reuters poll found. Three-quarters of companies in the monthly Reuters Corporate Survey approved of Abe's explanations for curbing exports to South Korea of materials used to make computer chips. More than nine in 10 predicted Japan would win if Seoul takes its complaints to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The acrimonious trade dispute between the Japan and South Korea, two US allies, grew out of a row over wartime forced labor. Abe last month tightened curbs on exports to South Korea of three high-tech materials needed to make memory chips and display panels. The government this month cancelled South Korea's fast-track trade status.

Removing South Korea from a "white-list" of favored export destinations means some Japanese exporters face more paperwork and on-site inspections before they can win permits, which could slow Korea-bound exports for a wide range of goods. In the survey, companies were split on whether the trade curbs will affect the Japanese economy. Some companies said they won't be affected as they don't directly engage in business with South Korea.

Those seeing an impact from the export

curbs expressed concerns including the global slowdown and spreading trade frictions, worsening Japan-South Korea ties, weaker corporate profits and long-term competitiveness of their firms. "As we stand on the brink of a recession amid trade frictions, it's undesirable to take such steps that could accelerate the downtrend," a manager at a wholesale firm wrote in a survey response.

Others disagreed. "It's obvious that the Moon (Jae-in) administration is putting its utmost priority on reconciliation with North Korea at a time when North Korea proceeds with nuclear development," wrote a manager at an electric machinery maker. "It's only natural to deprive South Korea of most-favored-nation status."

In opinion polls last month, the liberal Asahi newspaper found 56 percent of the public felt Abe's trade moves were "reasonable", while the conservative Yomiuri found 71 percent supported the measures.

Seoul sees the export curbs as retaliation over a dispute about wartime forced labor, while Tokyo cited unspecified security reasons. Asked how they evaluate Japanese government's explanation for its export curbs against South Korea, about three-quarters of companies in the Reuters poll said it has been explained fully or to a degree. The survey, conducted July 31-Aug. 14 for Reuters by Nikkei Research, canvassed 504 midsize and large Japanese manufacturers and non-manufacturers. Managers respond to the survey on condition of anonymity to voice their opinions more freely.

### Forced labor dispute

A fresh dispute over wartime forced



**TOKYO:** A crane unloads a container from a cargo ship at the international cargo terminal at the port in Tokyo on Monday. — AFP

labor was triggered last year when a South Korean court ordered Japanese firms to compensate some of their former laborers. The dispute brought bilateral ties to their lowest point in decades. Japan argues the issue was settled by a 1965 treaty normalizing bilateral ties. South Korea President Moon said on Friday that Seoul would be open to dialogue with Tokyo as needed, in a carefully choreographed message at his address marking Korea's independence from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule. If South Korea brings its complaints against Japan's

export curbs to the WTO, an overwhelming 94 percent of companies in the Reuters poll said Japan would win.

"Japan's argument stands to reason. No other country including the United States is siding with South Korea," one manager wrote. "Still, Japan needs to lobby hard to win the backing of other countries," the manager said, given that South Korea in April won the bulk of its appeal in a dispute at the WTO over import bans and testing requirements it imposed on Japanese seafood. — Reuters

## Argentina's new economy chief: Peso stability is top priority

**Buenos Aires:** Argentina will stand by the 2019 fiscal targets it has agreed with the International Monetary Fund and work to stabilize its currency, which lost 18% of its value last week, new Treasury Minister Hernan Lacunza said yesterday.

Minutes after being sworn in by President Mauricio Macri, Lacunza told reporters the government will stick with the goal of erasing its primary fiscal deficit this year, despite a series of spending measures announced last week aimed at spurring growth in the recession- and inflation-racked economy.



**Buenos Aires:** Argentina's Central Bank president Guido Sandleris leaves after offering a press conference at the Central Bank headquarters in Buenos Aires yesterday. — AFP

He said his top priority will be to stabilize the peso, which tumbled after Macri, who has run a business-friendly government, was drubbed in an Aug. 11 primary election by Alberto Fernandez. The center-

left Peronist candidate is now expected to defeat Macri in an Oct. 27 general election. The peso opened 1 percent weaker on Tuesday at 55.55 per US dollar. Argentina's economy is expected to shrink 1.5 percent this year, according to the latest central bank poll of analysts. The analysts expect growth for 2020 to be 2.0 percent. "This is a complicated time for Argentina," said Lacunza, formerly the chief of economy for Buenos Aires province.

"We want to leave a solid economic platform for whichever candidate wins" the presidential election, he said, adding that Argentina had a primary fiscal surplus in July and that he expected a surplus in August as well. Macri, struggling to revive his campaign for a second term, is betting that the new treasury chief can help stabilize the economy. Last week, Macri announced a cut in taxes on food and personal income along with increased welfare spending, raising concern his administration will miss its fiscal targets. "We are closely following recent developments in Argentina and are in ongoing

dialogue with the authorities as they work on their policy plans to address the difficult situation that the country is facing," the IMF said in a statement. "An IMF staff team will travel to Buenos Aires soon," said the statement, which was signed by IMF spokesman Gerry Rice. The IMF's next review of Argentina's economy on Sept. 15 should provide a sign of whether the lender of last resort still thinks the country can pay its debt obligations. Government bonds denominated in dollars are harder to pay when the peso weakens.

A crunch point will come in the second quarter of 2020, when Argentina is scheduled to make \$20 billion in debt repayments, up sharply from \$5.6 billion in the first quarter of next year. Nicolas Dujovne, the former treasury minister, quit on Saturday, saying he believed the country needed "significant renewal" of its economic team. Central bank chief Guido Sandleris also told reporters yesterday that the bank would continue to sell reserves in an effort to halt the peso's slide. — Reuters

## Inverted what? Searches for obscure financial term spike on Google

**NEW YORK:** Searches on Google for "inverted yield curve" have spiked after the unusual bond market phenomenon presented itself last week for the first time in over 12 years and helped tank Wall Street amid chatter that an economic downturn was imminent. Following a tweet from US President Donald Trump referencing the "CRAZY INVERTED YIELD CURVE!", the term made its way onto news websites and radio and television reports that rarely delve into financial topics. Even late-night TV star Stephen Colbert devoted a portion of his show trying to decipher what it means when the yield on 10-year US Treasury notes falls below those for 2-year notes.

As it happens, that abnormal bond market dynamic often precedes US recessions, and when it appeared last Wednesday for the first time since 2007, it rattled investors worried that a US-China trade war might kill both a record-long economic expansion and a decade-long bull market for stocks. US web searches for "inverted yield curve" are on track in August for their highest month on record, and more than double the next highest month December 2005, according to Google's Google Trends analysis tool. December 2005 was the last time 2-year and 10-year Treasury notes entered an inversion trend, one that would continue through 2007 and be followed by the global financial crisis and the harshest recession since the Great Depression.

Bond yields are a main measure of the return the securities deliver to investors, and they are also a proxy for interest rates. When the yields on bonds of different maturities are plotted on a graph, it produces a curve that typically has an upward slope because investors expect greater compensation for the risk of owning longer-maturity debt. An inversion, when shorter-dated yields are higher than longer-dated ones, implies that investors see greater risks in the near future.

Google Trends provides data on the frequency of searches during a time period relative to other time periods. It does not provide actual numbers of web searches. After Google searches for "inverted yield curve" spiked in 2005, searches for the term entered a lull for over a decade until December 2018. That is when yields on 5-year notes dropped below yields on 2-year notes, setting off talk of a potential recession and questions about whether the more closely watched 10-year yield would invert, as it eventually did last week. The US yield curve has been slowly flattening since 2013 or earlier, and while economists and central bank policy makers have hotly debated its significance, the trend has mostly gone unnoticed by the public. The spread between US 2-year and 10-year note yields has slipped below zero before each of the last five US recessions, although it has taken anywhere from 12 to 24 months for the recession to occur. — Reuters



## Business

# The all-new Nissan Altima: Technology to take the lead



**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait exemplifies the all-new Nissan Altima. The sixth generation of Nissan's best-selling sedan comes with a new benchmark in design, driving enjoyment and technology built within the new Altima.

The car features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two new powertrains, and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility features.

It is longer and wider than the previous generation with a highly balanced, aggressive stance and the option of 19-inch wheels and tires. Inside, the all-new premium interior features a wide 'gliding wing' instrument panel - which accentuates the exterior's low cowl and hood, helping create an open, airy environment. The all-new Altima benefits from a rich heritage of 25 years of presence in the market, now in its 6th generation with more than 5.5 million vehicles sold, the New

Altima sets new levels of standards in the Kuwaiti market be it for its design, technology, safety or mere pleasure of driving.

Key interior comfort and convenience features

*Sixth generation of Altima sets new standards for Nissan sedan design and comes complete with Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies and new powertrains*

include upgraded seats with added bolstering for improved holding and support. The car also features Apple CarPlay and an 8-inch multi-touch colour display for complete in-car entertainment and ease



of driver control.

Cutting-edge Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies have been integrated into the 2019 Altima as standard. These include Nissan's Rear Cross Traffic Alert, which helps drivers to detect stationary objects when reversing. When an object is detected, the system warns the driver with visual and audible warnings. The all new Altima also provides front, side and rear safety monitoring and intervention technologies - including Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Lane Departure Warning (LDW), radar-based Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) and High Beam Assist (HBA).

Two new engines have been introduced on the 2019 Altima. Standard on all 2019 Altima grade levels is a new 2.5-liter DOHC inline 4-cylinder direct injection engine. More than just the gains in horsepower and torque, the new engine offers improvements in smoothness and cabin quietness, along with enhanced fuel



economy and cleaner emissions.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites its customers to visit its showrooms to experience the new ALTIMA and discover its new features.

## Robust baht, travel trends rattle Thai tourism market

**BANGKOK:** A strong Thai baht and a slowdown in arrivals from China are battering the kingdom's moneymaking tourism machine even as the country hopes to welcome a record 40 million visitors by the end of the year. Most travellers to Thailand are from China and other countries in the region, but millions also come from Europe and the US and currency conversion rates impact decisions when budgeting for trips.

"It absolutely has an effect, when compared to other Asian country currencies they would rather go to Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore or Indonesia," said Wichit Prakobgosol, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents. Before the baht strengthened, Chinese visits were already flagging after a boating disaster in Phuket last year killed dozens of mainland tourists.

Visits from China fell almost five percent in the first six months of the year compared to the same period in 2018, according to official statistics. Past surges are also unlikely to repeat.

Last year total visits from all countries rose more than 7.5 percent compared to 2017. But after the first half of this year the increase was only climbing towards 1.5 percent. Tourism and currency woes weighed on economic growth, which slid to 2.3 percent in the second quarter this year-the lowest in almost five years. —AFP

## Huawei wins EISA's 'Best Smartphone of the Year' award for 2nd year running

**KUWAIT:** Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) received an award from the European Image and Sound Association (EISA), a group comprising 55 of the world's most respected consumer electronics magazines. Huawei's P30 Pro was named "EISA Best Smartphone 2019-2020" by the Association, the second year in a row Huawei has won this category.

The EISA called out the Huawei P30 Pro's low-light photographic capabilities as being "by far the best you can currently get from a smartphone." It also praised the ultra-wide lens, portrait mode and the periscope 5x telephoto lens saying that it "surpasses any of its competitors."

"We are honored to receive another award from EISA and pleased with the recognition of the P30 Pro. With every device, Huawei is committed to bringing new and improved smartphone photography experience to consumers, pushing the limit of smartphone camera capabilities with the latest technologies," said Li Changzhu, Vice President of the Handset Business, Huawei Consumer Business Group. The EISA also recommended the Huawei P30 Pro as the perfect companion for dedicated photographers, believing it marked yet another impressive advance in mobile photography.

The Huawei P30 Pro has taken an incredible step in mobile photography introducing the innovative Huawei SuperSpectrum Sensor, an optical SuperZoom Lens, a new Huawei Time of Flight (ToF) Camera, and enhanced optical and AI image stabilization technology.

The unmatched Leica Quad Camera System features



a 40MP main camera, a 20MP ultra-wide angle camera, an 8MP telephoto camera, the Huawei ToF Camera and a 32MP front camera. The new periscope telephoto lens allows more optical zooming capabilities to be tucked in a compact body without losing image quality. Together with the color saturation provided by the 40 MP main camera, and stability of OIS and AIS, the SuperZoom Lens offers 5x optical, 10x hybrid and 50x digital zoom with great resolution and rich detail. The Huawei P30 Pro's elegant double 3D curved glass body and 6.47" OLED Dewdrop display is both dust and water resistant and powered by the Kirin 980, the world's first 7nm mobile process chipset. The P30 Pro also sports a class leading 4200 mAh battery, which lasts up to two days of regular phone use.

EISA members include expert media across the full spectrum of consumer electronics from over 30 countries, and each member contributes to one or more of EISA's six Expert Groups-namely photography, mobile devices, Hi-Fi, home theatre audio, home theatre display & video, and in-car electronics. Every year, EISA members nominate a list of products that they consider the standout performers in each of these Expert Groups. Nominations are then presented at EISA's AGM, where members conduct an in-depth deliberation before voting for the winner of each category.

The award will be formally presented to Huawei during IFA at the EISA Awards Ceremony on September 6th in Berlin, to coincide with the opening of the IFA consumer electronics show.

## Humbled Deutsche Bank faces battle in its own backyard

**FRANKFURT:** Online retailer Zalando is just the kind of fast-growing German business with foreign expansion plans that Deutsche Bank Chief Executive Christian Sewing needs to help drive the struggling lender's recovery. In an attempt to draw a line under years of scandals and heavy losses, Sewing is pulling back from investment banking and rebuilding Deutsche Bank's corporate division by deepening existing relationships and attracting clients beyond its traditional blue-chip customers.

But when Deutsche has tried to expand its business with Zalando by offering to hold more of its cash for free, rather than charging a fee, Zalando has declined.

The company, whose revenue has grown to 5 billion euros (\$5.6 billion) in the 11 years since it was founded, wants to continue to spread its risk by leaving its cash with a wide range of institutions, sometimes for a fee. "Deutsche Bank is a systemically relevant bank but, nevertheless, we see a possible risk and are trying to

the best of our knowledge to mitigate the risk and to have a good sleep at night," Dominika Kilka-Roth, who heads Zalando's risk management, told Reuters.

She added that Deutsche remains one of Zalando's "main banks" and that the relationship was good.

Yet Zalando's stance indicates it could be a tough slog for Sewing, who wants corporate banking to be the soul of Deutsche Bank, just as it was when the lender was founded in 1870 a year before German unification. Since Deutsche Bank embarked 20 years ago on its ultimately failed but costly drive to become a Wall Street trading powerhouse, a lot has changed in its domestic market.

A growing number of domestic and foreign banks muscled in on its business while it was distracted by its global investment banking ambitions, leaving a far more crowded German market now.

German lenders Commerzbank and HVB, a subsidiary of Italy's UniCredit, have been pursuing German corporate clients both large and small for some time and are bringing in more senior bankers to accelerate their push.

At the same time, foreign banks, including US giants JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, have been making inroads while Standard Chartered recently set up shop across the street from Deutsche with a view to targeting German companies. What's more, ever since the financial crisis, German companies are

more likely to use multiple lenders, making it harder for Deutsche to re-establish itself as a so-called Hausbank for German corporates.

Deutsche's push also comes as Germany, which is Europe's biggest economy, risks sliding into recession for the first time since 2013 after years of punishingly low interest rates.

On Friday, shares in Deutsche Bank hit a record low below 6 euros. In 2007, before the global financial crisis took hold, the shares peaked at above 90 euros.

### 'Lost our compass'

Earlier this year, the German government pushed for Deutsche to merge with cross-town rival Commerzbank to stabilize the lender. But the talks failed, leading Deutsche to announce its major revamp and corporate push last month. Sewing recognizes Deutsche has lost ground but is determined to press on with his strategy to make the bank the go-to institution for company treasurers and to help more German companies become global powerhouses.

"This is the business Deutsche Bank was founded for, however, we have to admit that we lost our compass in the last two decades," Sewing said in July. "Now we will make the business stronger than ever before." Deutsche plans to merge its corporate banking businesses across various divisions into one large unit, and target mid-sized German firms, known as the Mittelstand, as well as blue-chips.

Michael Schleef, Deutsche's head of corpo-

rate banking in Germany, told Reuters there had been a 58% increase in incoming orders since Oct. 1, though he declined to give details. Calls and visits to clients were up 50 percent per banker after years of stagnation and the feedback was "very positive", he said.

Deutsche is also planning to expand in new markets in eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, he said. "We aren't feeling any uncertainty from clients." Mittelstand companies are the backbone of the German economy but have long felt neglected by Deutsche, turning to smaller rivals instead. Mario Ohoven, president of a federal association of Mittelstand companies, said a lot will depend on whether Deutsche approaches them as a partner, or an arrogant banker.

A big problem for Deutsche as it embarks on the new strategy is that it has been slipping down the German league tables. So far this year, Deutsche has been absent from several major deals involving German firms. When chipmaker Infineon Technologies bought America's Cypress Semiconductor for \$10 billion - the biggest overseas deal by a German company in 2019 - it was advised by Credit Suisse, Bank of America and JPMorgan.

Takeovers for fees from mergers and transactions involving German companies this year, Deutsche has slipped to sixth place, according to data from Dealogic. Deutsche had ranked among the top five banks since at least 2000, often in top spot. Deutsche has slipped down the table for syndicated loans for German

companies too, according to Dealogic. It still ranks first for their bond issues but its market share has plunged by two-thirds since 2000, the data shows.

Deutsche also dropped to sixth place from fifth in league tables for transaction banking between 2016 and 2018, according to Coalition, which analyses the banking industry.

And in a sign companies are spreading their business around more, 22 out of 27 German companies active in deals awarded a smaller share of fees to their primary bank over the past five years than in the previous five years, according to a Reuters analysis of Refinitiv data.

### 'Long journey'

The intensified competition at home is epitomized by the case of Duerr, a 120-year-old company that makes factory equipment for the auto industry. In 2014, Duerr counted Deutsche among its seven main banks for a syndicated loan. In a new agreement this month, Deutsche is now one of 13, a wider circle that includes Bank of China, Dutch bank ING, and JPMorgan.

"Nobody puts all eggs in one basket," said Christian Aue, a vice president for corporate finance and treasury at Duerr. Andreas Thomae of fund manager Deka, which is a large investor in Deutsche, said: "It is now extremely important for the bank that corporate customers accept the new strategy." —Reuters



## What's On

# Salt Restaurant at the Jumeirah Messilah beach hotel and spa scoops various awards

Salt Restaurant at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa received four of the highly coveted awards at the World Luxury Restaurant and Spa Awards ceremony held in St Petersburg, Russia. The glittering event was attended by more than 200 international guests representing 90 countries, 450 spas and 270 restaurants from all around the world. Inspired by the finest seafood, Salt, the hotel's premium destination for seafood lovers won the "Most Romantic Atmosphere", "Luxury Seafood Restaurant", "Most Luxurious Ambiance" and "Eclectic/International Cuisine" awards.

Savino Leone, General Manager of Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, said: "We feel honored to count four wins for Salt Restaurant at World Luxury Restaurant and Spa Awards. A heartfelt thank you to our customers for their continuous support and for voting for us. It is an outstanding achievement and I'm proud to congratulate the whole team's passion and dedication." The World Travel Awards are voted for by travel and tourism professionals, business and leisure travel consumers worldwide and these accolades recognize Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa commitment to excellence over the last twelve months.



## Lulu Hypermarket launches Back to School promotion

Lulu hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched their Back to School promotion with a range of special offers on school-related stationery and accessories yesterday at all Lulu outlets. The promotion, slated to end on 10 September, offers students a wide range of amazing and enticing products to prepare them for their return to school.

One of the main attractions is a one-year warranty on all school bags purchased during the promotion period. Also, during the promotion is a special offer backed by Byju learning App that provides a coupon for every KD 10 purchase that enlists them in a draw. Ten lucky winners picked through the draw will be presented

with a slice from the overall grand prize of KD 10,000.

Adding to the excitement of back to school time is special cool offers that cover diverse products, notably more than 50 percent discount on stationery and school products, including brand backpacks, lunch bags, school uniforms, shoes, and school trolley bags among others. LuLu Hypermarket's 'Back to School' promotion is part of the brand's efforts to consistently meet consumer demands, while allowing them the opportunity to receive fabulous savings, and shop for quality products at affordable prices. The promotion also helps make shopping an exciting experience for families.

## CBK concludes summer training program for employee children

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) concluded its summer training program, which was organized during the months of June and July for the children and relatives of employees aged between 16 and 22. The camp was conducted to fill their leisure time and join together the various branches and departments of the bank. The summer training program aimed to provide students with a

professional life experience through the participation of bank staff in field training and the completion of some banking activities in an interactive banking environment. The Bank's organization of such training programs reflects CBK's commitment to social responsibility towards its employees and supporting male and female students by providing them with appropriate training opportunities.



## Ties announcement

Dear Brother/Sister, this is to inform you that our Purification and Prayer class will resume today, Wednesday August 21st, 2019 at 11am. In this class, we will discuss the occasions on which our supplications are granted directly, what to do when you go early to the masjid after the Prayer Call, the ruling and merits of a congregational prayer, and the optional prayers performed before and after the obligatory ones, and their merits. Come and learn the hows and whys of physical and spiritual purity to perfect your prayer.

## KFH organizes 2nd FIFA PlayStation Tournament for Hesabi customers

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized FIFA 19 PlayStation tournament for its Hesabi customers for youth. This comes as part of the Bank's keenness to offer tailored products, services and activities that meet the interest and lifestyle of the youth. Over 120 Hesabi customers participated in the event that was held at 360 mall amidst massive public attendance. The winners received valuable prizes worth over KD 1000 distributed as follows: KD 600, KD 300 and KD 200 for the champion, the runner-up and the third-place

winner respectively.

KFH offers "Hesabi for Youth" with a variety of privileges as part of its continued endeavor to provide adequate customer care, innovate new products and services and fulfill the needs of all customers of various age categories and interests. Services and products are tailored to suit customers' needs and provide distinguished serve as per global standards in regard to quality, accuracy and speed.

"Hesabi" program has been designed to meet the needs of youth and aspire for their active

lifestyle. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesabi prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc. "Hesabi for Youth" represents the ambitions and expectations of youth segment and is in line with KFH aspirations to attract the largest portion of youth who represents the major part of Kuwaiti society. Also, the account represents KFH initiative to diversify banking services and products.



## Pair earthy, hearty mushrooms with equally hearty farro

To start, we used the pasta method (an abundance of water) to boil our farro, which ensured the grains cooked evenly and required only half an hour. We then moved on to the mushrooms, sauteing them with shallot and thyme until the moisture evaporated and the mushrooms achieved some browning. Scraping up the browned bits in the pan with sherry rounded things out with sweetness and acidity before we added the farro.

We prefer the flavor and texture of whole farro: pearled farro can be used, but the texture may be softer. Do not use quick-cooking or pre-steamed farro (read the ingredient list on the package to determine this) in this recipe. The cooking time for farro can vary greatly among different brands, so we recommend beginning to check for doneness after 10 minutes.

### WARM FARRO WITH MUSHROOMS AND THYME

**Ingredients**  
Servings: 6  
Start to finish: 1 hour  
1 1/2 cups whole farro  
Salt and pepper  
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
12 ounces cremini mushrooms, trimmed and chopped coarse

1 shallot, minced  
1 1/2 teaspoons minced fresh thyme or 1/2 teaspoon dried  
3 tablespoons dry sherry  
3 tablespoons minced fresh parsley  
1 1/2 teaspoons sherry vinegar, plus extra for seasoning

### Preparation

Bring 4 quarts water to boil in large pot. Add farro and 1 teaspoon salt and cook until grains are tender with slight chew, 15 to 30 minutes. Drain farro, return to now-empty pot, and cover to keep warm. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in 12 inch skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Add mushrooms, shallot, thyme, and 1/4 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until moisture has evaporated and vegetables start to brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in sherry, scraping up any browned bits, and cook until skillet is almost dry. Add farro and remaining 1 tablespoon oil and cook until heated through, about 2 minutes. Off heat, stir in parsley and vinegar. Season with pepper and extra vinegar to taste and serve.

311 calories; 79 calories from fat; 9 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 247 mg sodium; 45 g carbohydrate; 8 g fiber; 2 g sugar; 9 g protein.



## Health &amp; Science

# Pollution-free hydrogen: New green energy breakthrough?

**PARIS:** Scientists said yesterday they have developed a way of extracting hydrogen from oil without releasing greenhouse gases — a breakthrough they hailed as a “silver bullet” for cleaner energy and the climate. Unlike petrol and diesel, hydrogen produces no pollution when burned. It is already used by some car manufacturers to power vehicles and may also be burned to generate electricity.

But until now the wide-scale roll-out of hydrogen technology has been prohibited by the high cost of separating it from hydrocarbons. Currently the vast majority of hydrogen used for vehicles is derived from natural gas, the extraction process of which produces planet-warming methane. Now a group of Canadian engineers say they have come up with a method of getting hydrogen directly from oil sands and oil fields, while leaving carbon dioxide and methane in the ground.

The team behind the research, which was unveiled at the Goldschmidt Geochemistry Conference in Barcelona, said the technology had the potential to supply Canada's entire electricity requirement for the next 330 years — all without releasing any greenhouse gases. “Low-cost hydrogen from oil fields with

no emissions can power the whole world using mostly existing infrastructure,” Grant Stem, CEO of Proton Technologies, which is commercializing the extraction method said.

“This is the silver bullet for clean energy and clean climate.”



**This is the silver bullet for clean energy**

With global energy demand rising in lockstep with emissions, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change says the world needs to work rapidly to curb greenhouse gases or risk dangerous temperature increases. Strem said the method could produce hydrogen at between \$0.10-0.50 per kilo, compared with the current production cost of around \$2 per kilo.

Even abandoned oil fields still contain

significant amounts of oil. Strem and the team found injecting oxygen into the fields raised their underlying temperature, freeing hydrogen that can be filtered from other gases. “The only product in this process is hydrogen, meaning that the technology is effectively pollution- and emission-free,” said Strem. Experts greeted the possible breakthrough with guarded optimism.

“Making hydrogen from hydrocarbons using oxygen is nothing new — the trick is not releasing the CO2 to the atmosphere,” said Jeremy Tomkinson, Company Director and CEO at NNFC The Bioeconomy Consultants. “It would be really exciting if they had found a way of... ensuring the carbonaceous gases remain locked underground — letting them go to atmosphere would result in no difference to burning the oil above ground at far less energy burden.” Professor Brian Horsfield, from the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam, said that extensive field testing would be needed to see how the system works on an industrial scale. He nevertheless called the project “highly innovative and exciting.” Declining oilfield infrastructures now stand to get a new lease of life.” — AFP

## Singapore to trial driverless buses booked with app

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore will next week begin a public trial of driverless buses that can be booked with an app, part of ambitions to roll out autonomous vehicles across the city-state. Well-organized and high-tech, Singapore has become a testbed for self-driving vehicles, developing home-grown technology and inviting foreign companies to trial their own.

Four driverless mini-buses will follow a 5.7 kilometer route on the resort island of Sentosa from August 26 to November 15 for the public trial, said ST Engineering, the Singaporean company behind it. Visitors can use an app on their phones to book the shuttles, which will pick them up and take them to selected destinations such as a golf club, the beach and an historic fort. Those without mobile phones can book the shuttles from kiosks along the route, with the free service operating on weekdays for four hours. The buses will have

a driver to take control if necessary. At a demonstration yesterday, two of the vehicles negotiated a roundabout with little difficulty and stopped at intersections on a main road to allow cars to pass. They can operate in moderate rain — but have to stop during heavy downpours, which are common in the tropical, Southeast Asian city. Vincent Chong, president and chief executive of ST Engineering, said the buses were equipped with “advanced, multi-sensor technology” and “built to operate in complex urban environments”.

The company aims to roll out the shuttles in a few years time to other parts of Singapore to transport people from home to subway stations and back, and hopes they can help tackle a shortage of drivers in the city-state. In 2016, US software firm nuTonomy became the world's first company to launch driverless taxi trials in public in Singapore, beating rival Uber by weeks. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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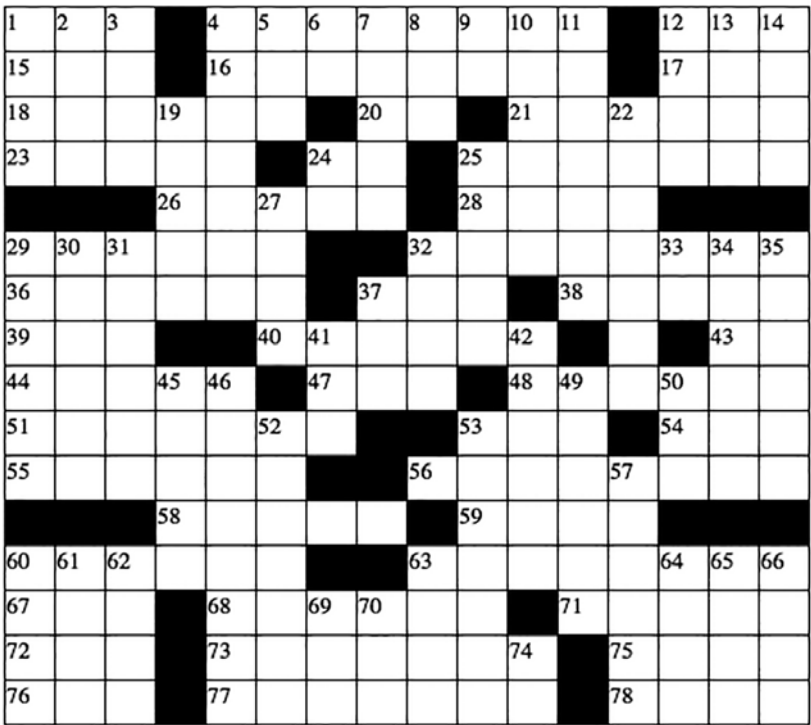
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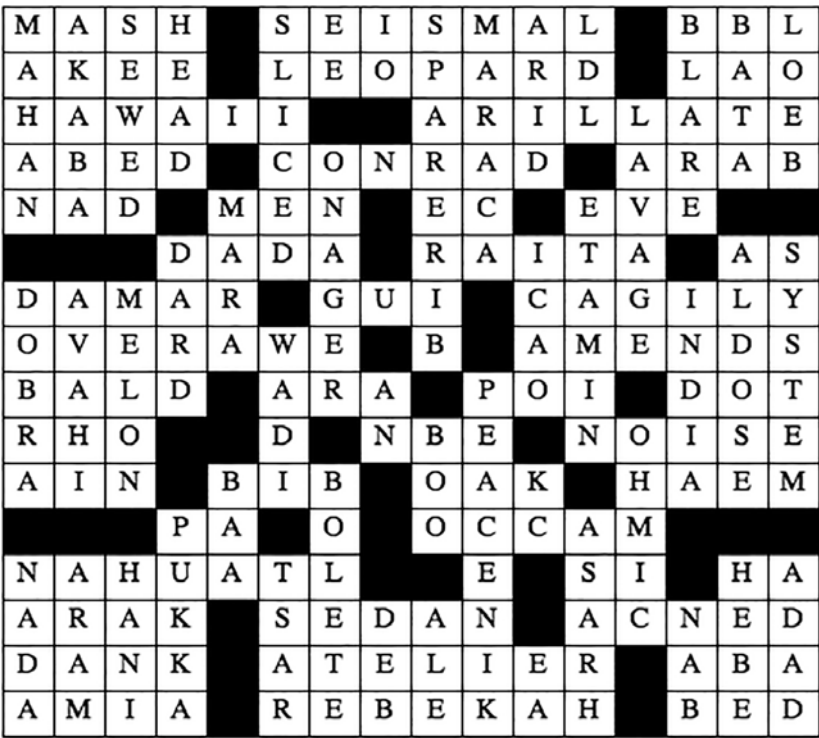
ACROSS

1. Feline mammal usually having thick soft fur and being unable to roar.  
4. Flycatching warbler of eastern North America the male having bright orange on sides and wings and tail.  
12. A young woman making her debut into society.  
15. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).  
16. An official who evaluates property for the purpose of taxing it.  
17. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.  
18. Any of various water spirits.  
20. A state in New England.  
21. One of the persons who compose a social group (especially individuals who have joined and participates in a group organization).  
23. A genus of Ploceidae.  
26. Having the same or similar characteristics.  
28. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.  
29. Having gaps or spaces.  
36. Having a melody (as distinguished from recitative).  
38. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.  
39. The month following February and preceding April.  
40. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.  
43. After noon.  
44. Of or pertaining to hearing or the ear.  
47. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.  
48. Of or belonging to an accium.  
51. Estimation of the amount of lumber in a log.  
54. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.  
55. Coffee-flavored liqueur made in Mexico.  
56. Belonging to or governing a diocese n.  
58. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.  
59. Toward the mouth or oral region.  
60. A branch of the Tai languages.  
67. A cgs unit of work or energy.  
68. Medium-sized penguins occurring in large colonies on the Adelie coast of Antarctica.  
71. At or near the beginning of a period of time or course of events or before the usual or expected time.  
72. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.  
73. Of animals.  
75. A growth in strength or number or importance.  
76. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).  
77. Any of various small free-living plant-parasitic roundworms.  
78. A notable achievement.

DOWN

1. A sudden and decisive change of government illegally or by force.  
2. A former copper coin of Pakistan.  
3. Scottish chemist noted for his research into the structure of nucleic acids (born in 1907).  
4. Herbs, shrubs and trees.  
5. The compass point midway between east and southeast.  
6. An honorary degree in science.  
7. A general conscious awareness.  
8. Anterior pituitary hormone that stimulates the function of the thyroid gland.  
9. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.  
10. Of or relating to the Gypsies or their language or culture.  
11. (music) A tremulous effect produced by rapid repetition of a single tone or rapid alternation of two tones.  
12. United States labor organizer who ran for President as a socialist (1855-1926).  
13. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.  
14. Gymnastic apparatus consisting of two parallel wooden bars supported on uprights.  
19. A state in the Rocky Mountains.  
22. Containing or constituting or characterized by pleasing melody.  
24. A radioactive transuranic element.  
25. A program that is broadcast again.  
27. The content of cognition.  
30. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.  
31. Formerly a contemptuous term of address to an inferior man or boy.  
32. Make a plat of.  
33. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.  
34. A parliamentary monarchy in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula.  
35. (Arthurian legend) The battlefield where King Arthur was mortally wounded.  
37. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.  
41. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.  
42. A city in central Tanzania.  
45. Lessen the intensity of.  
46. Worthy of the greatest honor or distinction.  
49. The act of escaping physically.  
50. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.  
52. Large family of important mostly marine food fishes.  
53. Someone who helps to open up a new line of research or technology or art.  
57. Third son of Elizabeth II (born in 1964).  
61. Using speech rather than writing.  
62. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.  
63. Obtained from various tropical plants.  
64. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.  
65. Other than what is under consideration or implied.  
66. Colored or impregnated with dye.  
69. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.  
70. Less than normal in degree or intensity or amount.  
74. Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a time when ideas and great communication about your ideas will take on an increased importance. You have a knack for putting the feelings of a group into words and may serve as a teacher or spokesperson. If you have ever considered a vocation in teaching, now may be the time to do something about it. You might even consider volunteering to teach an adult reading class. You may be able to encourage a friend to join you in this venture. Humanitarian efforts can affect your work and life-path. You have an opportunity to take control and become more disciplined. Friends, group projects and community concerns may play a key role in your career.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Good practical job-related thoughts and ideas are available as usual. Figuring things out is one of the things that take on special significance. You have a strong urge to organize things your work area. There is much mental busywork as well. The ability to communicate with superiors or describe what you see brings attention to what you say. Your timing should be perfect for just about any project you want to attempt. Be careful not to push too hard as you could become too dominating. You may feel the need to care for others or to have them care for you. You sense what is needed and you move forward to take care of the essentials or to lend a helpful hand.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are able to cut through whatever problems present themselves and get at what is necessary to find, repair or substitute whatever it takes to make things work. You work well with those in authority who are independent. Clear decisions affecting others could be made today. You may be sought after by your co-workers for advice and direction regarding professional and perhaps, emotional issues. Be wise to keep any information you hear in confidence, under your hat. You could find yourself engaged in nonconformist causes, always ready to promote what is independent and innovative. You like radical approaches and find yourself in support of whatever is new or whatever breakthrough ideas are next in line.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a challenging day. You may, however, want to set aside time to attend a lecture or business meeting on the technical level. Later, emotional considerations may block or oppose how you proceed with a plan. Someone may get pushy or obscure the real choices and the right path. Give yourself time to think things through. Stay away from speculative ventures. It is not a good idea to squander your resources. You are practical and conscientious about your own personal choices and how you conduct your life. These attributes take on a special importance now as the young people in your family, and perhaps friends, depend on your thinking to help



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Frustration, especially in getting things accomplished, may set today's mood. You are, however, able to rise above any difficulty... Seen or unseen. If possible, this is a better time to stay on the path and just keep moving forward. You can handle any glitch in the process and will eventually learn to be more patient with yourself. Sometimes the process of well-traveled steps points the way to the end result that is appreciated the most. This afternoon, exchanging information takes on more significance. Being more involved with neighbors or your siblings is important after your workday has ended. A sense of belonging and nurturing is an issue.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are a very forceful speaker and communicate with great enthusiasm. There are opportunities to speak to small and large groups this day. This could be in a lecture, a work meeting, teaching, etc. Words just flow out and always demonstrate a heartfelt concern that brings them home to your listeners. You have no trouble putting your feelings into words; in fact, you may have to exercise some control over your tongue, for you can be quick to say things. You may be sought after for your advice and guidance regarding very personal and emotional issues.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Chocolate

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



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



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a good time to buddle down and concentrate on your work. Your managerial abilities and sense of responsibility prove successful. Your career assumes a more solid form—a firm foundation. Preach or teach what is on your mind today. Your words contain a timely message that is good for all to hear. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation this afternoon as you visit with a friend or family member. You are learning to ask good questions and you can quickly get to the root of a matter that helps in understanding viewpoints. Listening and adding your comments when asked is what makes you a favorite. You may find yourself on the phone later today as you busy yourself cooking or look for a special recipe to trade.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be surprised when others express appreciation for your ability to know just what needs to be done, and you contribute your expertise to whatever is needed. This could be in the workplace with a team that needs coaching, support or guiding. Real insight into your own inner workings could surface in a manageable form. Every day is different, and you enjoy your work and the people you work with as each person is dedicated and enthusiastic. At home this afternoon you may realize that although much effort goes into your workday, the people at home also need your attention.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a good day to get things done. You are a unique individual, with talents that do not compare to many—think positive. You are able to apply real discipline or organization. You find yourself in a very practical mood and working with, instead of against, yourself. You have a yearning to move toward the more challenging issues soon. Consider your choices carefully today because at some hour you may be contemplating some big changes for your business. You are in a good position to add your advice or guidance for those who ask.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Something you say or communicate may go against your own best interests. You could clash with an older person or one in authority at this time. Not perhaps a good time for you to try out new things or break away from an old routine. You might say this is not the day to do two things at once. Slow your pace at bit and you will find you will have accomplished much more than you thought possible by day's end. Intense feelings and strong attachments make for hot times and you are fiercely loyal, if not sometimes possessive. You are not at all superficial but always get to the heart of things. This is good for business and politics, particularly at work.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

What were normally clear ideas before today may become a bit fuzzy at this time—it may be hard to be logical. This may be a good time for list making. Seeing both sides of an issue and figuring out resolutions to opposing views are the things that take on the most importance in your life as well. You may get insights into your living situation or support system. There are new ideas about your past history and new approaches to established facts. You could receive unexpected help or support from those around you for whatever you want to accomplish.

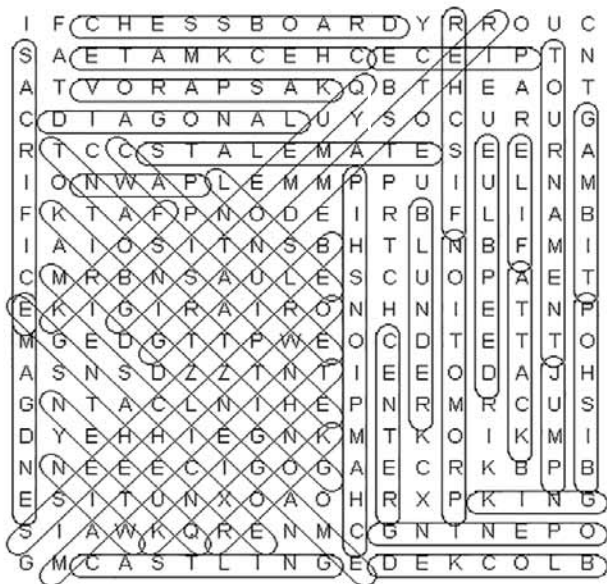


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are enthusiastic to perform your duties in the workplace today. You may be so prepared that you anticipate rewards. You enjoy working puzzles and your analytical abilities are at a high point. You can really get your thoughts and ideas across—good communication. It is time to put your plans to work and move forward with your career goals. You may find that a co-worker or partner will join in and ascend the corporate ladder with you. A friend from long ago may contact you this afternoon. Much conversation over old times may find you looking through the scrapbook this evening. A sense of belonging and nurturing are important now. You may want what others have but you may also decide you like the way you have set up your own life to run.

Yesterday's Solution

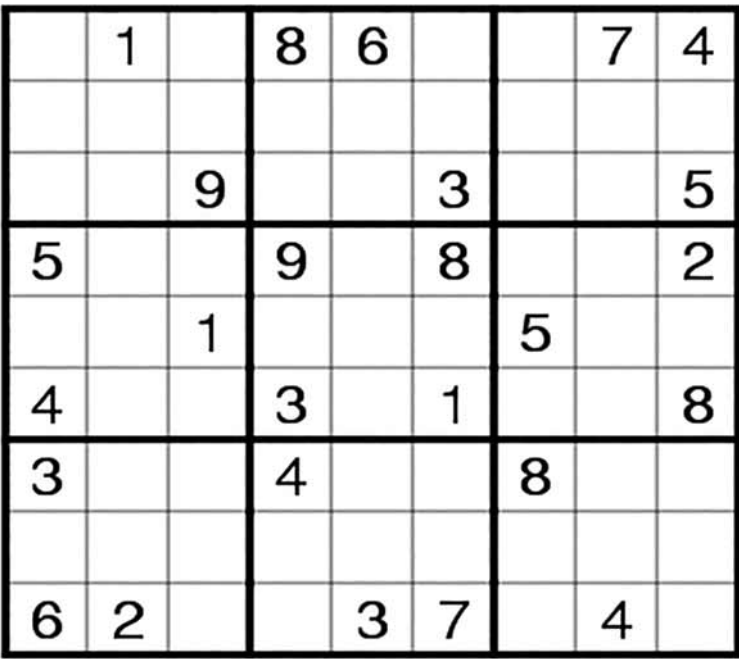
Chess



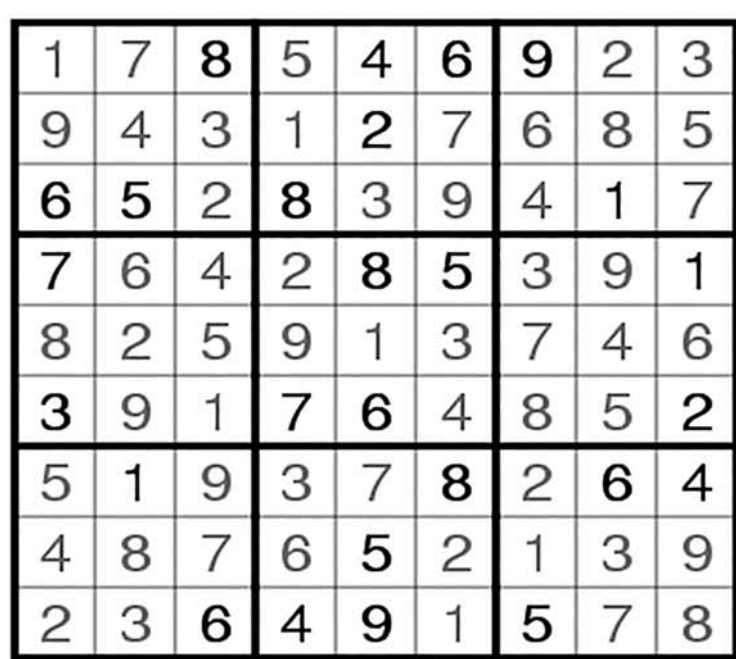
- |             |              |             |            |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| ATTACK      | CHAMPIONSHIP | GRANDMASTER | PAWN       |
| BISHOP      | DEEP BLUE    | JUMP        | PIECE      |
| BLITZ CHESS | DIAGONAL     | KASPAROV    | PROMOTION  |
| BLOCKED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

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

Daily Sudoku



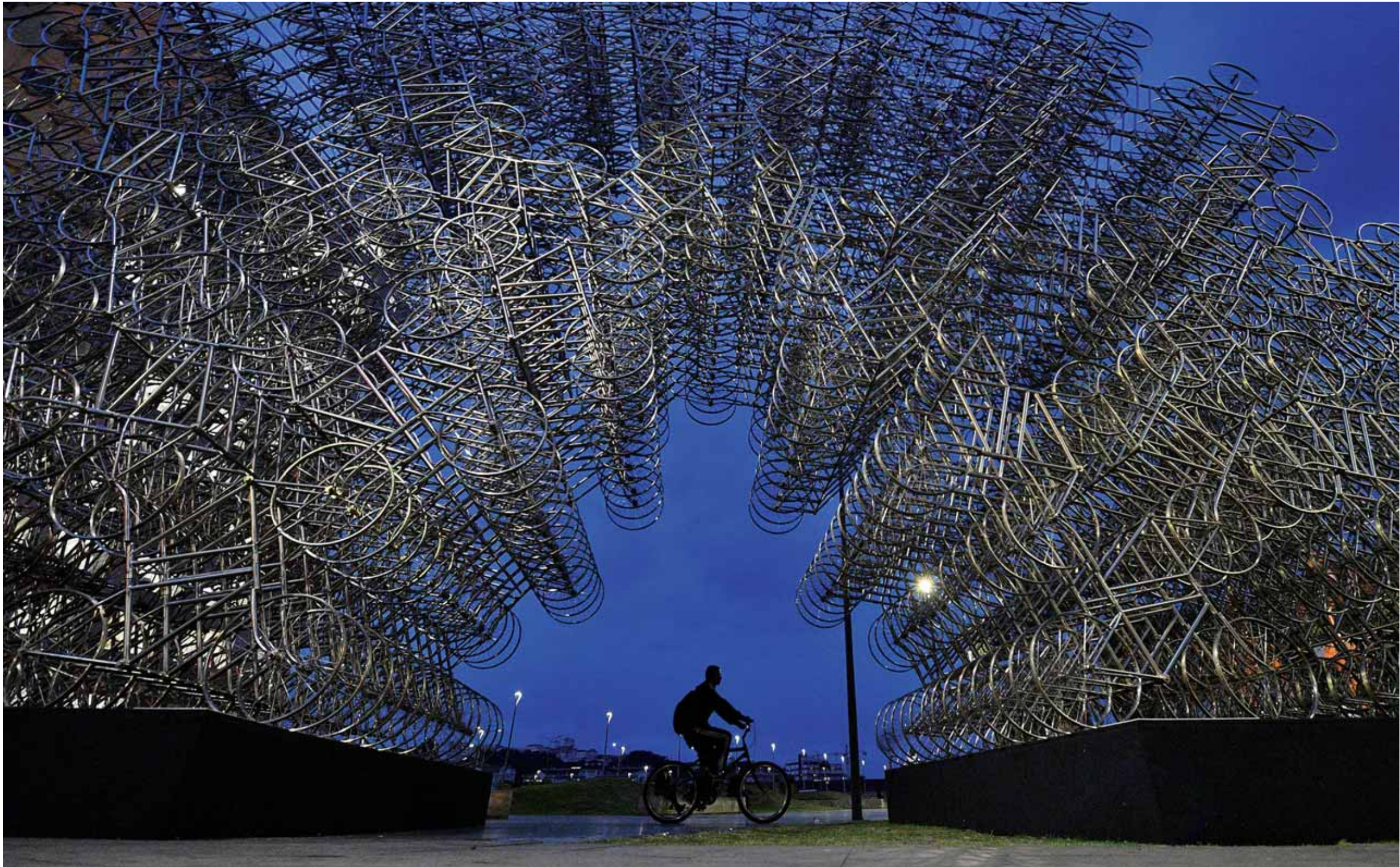
Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019



A man rides his bike past an art installation entitled 'Forever Cycles' by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The installation is comprised of over 1000 stainless steel bicycles and is part of Ai Weiwei's exhibition, which opens in Rio de Janeiro today. — AFP



Children attend a film screening as part of the mobile cinema "Komina Film" initiative organized by Syrian-Kurdish filmmaker Shero Hinde, at a school yard in the village of Shaghbir Bazar. — AFP photos



Children attend a film screening as part of the mobile cinema "Komina Film" initiative organized by Syrian-Kurdish filmmaker Shero Hinde.



A member of Syrian-Kurdish filmmaker Shero Hinde's mobile cinema "Komina Film" initiative prepares a laptop connected to a projector and screen for a film screening for children.

## Mobile cinema brings movie magic to Syria Kurd children

### Excited children

In a schoolyard of rural northeastern Syria, boys and girls break out into giggles watching Charlie Chaplin's pranks, a rare treat thanks to a mobile cinema roving through the countryside. In Kurdish-held areas of the northeast, filmmaker Shero Hinde is screening films in remote villages using just a laptop, projector and a canvas screen. "We've already shown films in towns but we wanted children in the villages to enjoy them too," said the bespectacled 39-year-old with thick greying curly hair. With some films dubbed into Kurdish and others subtitled, he and a team of volunteers want to spread their love of cinema across Rojava, the Kurdish name of the semi-autonomous northeast of war-torn Syria. "Our goal is that in a year's time, there won't be a kid in Rojava who hasn't been to the cinema," the Kurdish filmmaker said. Sitting on coloured plastic chairs in the village of Sanjaq Saadun just before dusk, the boys and girls watch wide-eyed as the first black-and-white images of "The Kid" appear on screen. Lively piano music rings out across the school basketball court, as Chaplin plays a tramp who rescues an orphaned baby in the 1921 silent movie. Laughter rises above the darkened playground as he tries to clean the baby's nose or to feed him from a kettle strung from the ceiling.

### 'Something beautiful'

Across the Kurdish-held region, old cinemas once showed American B movies, Bollywood fare and porn, but they have lost their audiences and closed. In local minds, cinema is also tied to tragedy, after a fire ripped through a theatre in the nearby town of Amuda in 1960, killing more than 280 children. The mobile cinema, says Hinde, aims to introduce young children to the magic of the silver screen from the early days of moving pictures—something he missed out on as a schoolboy. "When we were kids, the cinema was that dark place," said the filmmaker, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a green t-shirt. In primary school, he and others were taken to see films inappropriate for their age and in substandard conditions, he recalled. It was only later that he discovered "the truth and beauty of cinema". To give today's children a different experience, "we're now trying to substitute that darkness for something beautiful and colorful", he said.

The mobile cinema's objective is also to screen "films linked to protecting the environment and personal freedoms", Hinde said. On another evening in the village of Shaghbir Bazar, children rushed in before the film started to grab front-row seats. On show that day was "Spirit", an American animated adventure film about a wild stallion captured by humans who dreams of breaking free and returning to his herd. Among the audience, Amal Ibrahim said her son Kaddar,

"Forty years ago, I would go to the cinema and watch the film from outside through the window," said Jawli. "It was such a great feeling when the lights dimmed and the film started." Hinde's own credits include "Stories of Destroyed Cities", a feature-length film about three towns in Syria and Iraq on the road to recovery after Kurdish forces expelled the Islamic State group. Apart from spearheading the defeat of the jihadists, Syria's Kurds have largely stayed out of the country's eight-year



seven, and daughter Ayleen, six, were brimming with excitement. "They could hardly wait to come. They've never been to the cinema before," she said in Kurdish. Even some of the village's older men had turned up to see the cartoon adventure, after not having been to the cinema in decades. Standing to one side, they reminisced about the films of their youth. Adnan Jawli, 56, came along with his two children. "Today, I brought my kids to the cinema and all my memories are flooding back," he said.

war, instead working towards autonomy after decades of marginalization. Though Kurdish-led fighters are still battling sleeper cells, Hinde and his team are already looking to the future. Beyond their roving cinema, they dream of opening a movie theatre at a fixed location. "But that will depend on the war ending and stability returning to the country," he said. — AFP

Children attend a film screening as part of the mobile cinema "Komina Film" initiative organised by Syrian-Kurdish filmmaker Shero Hinde.



# International launch set for Disney+ streaming service

The Walt Disney Company said on Monday its streaming television service will debut in November in the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the Netherlands. Offering film and TV entertainment including its "Star Wars" and Marvel franchises as well as its ABC content and an extensive library acquired from 21st Century Fox, Disney+ hopes to be a major challenger to Netflix.

It will launch in Canada, Netherlands, and the US on November 12, and in Australia and New Zealand a week later, the company said, and is expected to expand to most major markets within the following two years. The entertainment giant also announced deals for Disney+ to

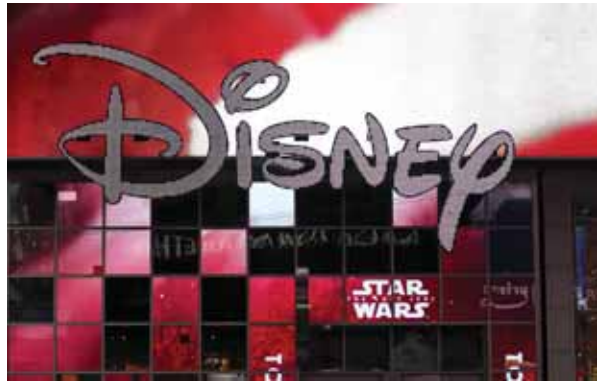
be available on Apple, Google, Microsoft, Roku and Sony internet-linked devices.

Chief executive Bob Iger said during a recent earnings call the company would take advantage of its control of Hulu to bundle an ad-supported version of the streaming television service with Disney+ and ESPN in the US for a monthly subscription price of \$12.99. Iger said Disney was "focused on leveraging Fox's vast library of great titles... for example reimagining 'Home Alone,' 'Night at the Museum,' 'Cheaper by the Dozen,' and 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' for a new generation on Disney+."

Former Fox superhero movie franchises including "X-Men," "Fantastic 4" and "Deadpool" will now come

under the Marvel umbrella, Iger said, adding that parent company Disney sees "great long-term value" in the titles. The increasingly competitive TV streaming marketplace will soon feature HBO Max, Apple and NBCUniversal platforms as well as Netflix and Amazon Prime. Disney+ will launch at a subscription price of \$6.99 monthly in the US. — AFP

In this file photo the Disney logo is displayed outside the Disney Store in Times Square in New York City. — AFP



In this file photo singer Billie Eilish performs onstage at The Greek Theatre in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos



In this file photo Lil Nas X performs onstage during the 2019 BET awards at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California.

## 'Old Town Road' finally dethroned from US top singles chart

Lil Nas X has finally been dethroned after 19 weeks atop the US charts, Billboard announced on Monday, with pop star Billie Eilish besting his viral hit "Old Town Road." Eilish's song "Bad Guy" spent nine nonconsecutive weeks in second place before finally unseating overnight sensation Lil Nas X's infectious country-trap smash. "congratulations to billie eilish!! u deserve this!!" tweeted the 19-year-old rapper on Monday. Like Lil Nas X, Eilish soared to fame over the past few months after releasing an acclaimed debut album "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" in March.

Prior to its release, Eilish, a goth-inspired 17-year-old who is the first musician born in the 2000s to top the Billboard Hot 100, had already won a fervent online fan-

base for her bold pop style that features heavy bass and tinges of trap and EDM. "Congratulations @billieeilish Well deserved. Your persistence paid off. Thanks everybody. It was a hell of a ride," tweeted country star Billy Rae Cyrus, whose remix with Lil Nas X had ushered along the meteoric success of "Old Town Road."

A previously unknown Atlanta rapper, Lil Nas X last month broke the record of 16 weeks on the industry's most closely watched singles chart. That was set by 1995's "One Sweet Day" by Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men and matched by the 2017 Latin juggernaut "Despacito" by Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee and Justin Bieber. — AFP



Actor Javier Bardem holds a banner for Greenpeace as he poses for photos in Times Square in New York. — AFP

## 'Save our oceans,' Oscar winner Bardem tells UN

Oscar-winning actor Javier Bardem made an impassioned plea at the United Nations to save the world's oceans Monday. The Spaniard, a keen environmental activist, called on countries to agree to a treaty that would protect at least 30 percent of seas by 2030. "We just can't afford to get it wrong," he told an intergovernmental meeting at the UN's headquarters in New York. "Whatever happens during this conference will have a deep impact on the life of our oceans and on the future of humankind."

"Delegates must know that the world is watching," added Bardem, who won an

Academy Award for his role in 2007 film "No Country for Old Men." Bardem spoke as a representative of Greenpeace, which is campaigning for the Global Ocean Treaty being discussed at the UN. The environmental group says the UN's 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea does not go far enough to protect the planet's oceans. It wants a network of sanctuaries to protect marine life that goes beyond national jurisdictions. Governments hope to agree on the treaty sometime next year. — AFP

## Robbie reveals 'surreal' script read of Once Upon A Time In Hollywood

Margot Robbie opened up about her "surreal" first read of the "Once Upon A Time In Hollywood" script at Quentin Tarantino's house. The 29-year-old actress - who portrays Sharon Tate in the acclaimed director's ninth film, which runs at 2h 45m - was only allowed to read the screenplay in the 56-year-old filmmaker's kitchen while he watched TV in another room. In an interview with Empire magazine, she

said: "It was like, 'You can sit and read it and then I'm taking it back.' "It was seriously one of the most surreal moments in my life, sitting at his kitchen bench. There was one copy of the script and it had his writing on it."

"I'm such a slow reader, so I was there for like four hours 'cause it was also really, really long. He's like, 'I'm just watching Dexter'. "I would've thought he'd be watching some obscure Italian Western or something, but he was like, 'No, I'm really into Dexter right now.' "So he kept hopping back in to the kitchen being like, 'Are you done yet?' And I'm like, 'No, I'm halfway!'" The 'Wolf of Wall Street' star went on to explain that one of the things that impressed her the most about Quentin was his "amazing beer knowledge". She said: "He was like, 'Do you need anything?' I'd been there for so long by that point, reading. "I was like, 'Can I have a beer please?' And he's like, 'I've got a VB,' which is a very Australian beer that I've never seen outside of Australia ever in my life. "Interactions like that with Quentin seem to happen all the time where he just says something so flippantly and you're like, wait, what? "People credit him often for his film knowledge, (but) they're totally failing to recognize his amazing beer knowledge." — Bang Showbiz



Margot Robbie



## Aml Ameen joins Charming the Hearts of Men

Aml Ameen has joined 'Charming the Hearts of Men'. The 34-year-old actor - who is best known for his roles in 2006 crime drama 'Kidulthood' and ITV television series 'The Bill' - has joined the cast of the upcoming indie romance, which is set in a "politically-charged era", alongside Kelsey Grammer. The new film has been written by Susan DeRose, who will also helm the project; while Richard T. Lewis will produce and cameras will roll this August in Georgia. The movie is set in 1964 and will centre on the creation of legislation which led to the Time's Up movement today.

The film has been described as a "fictional account inspired by true events that altered the world for women in America and deals with the discrimination that both black and white women suffered". 'Frasier' star Kelsey, 64, is set to play Southern Congressman Worth - who meets Grace Gordon, a woman who has returned home due to the sudden death of her father to find herself in a society with "little hope and virtually no power without a male provider" and the pair embarks on a mission to change society for the better.

## Emotions stir in Jerusalem as HBO's 'Our Boys' hits local airwaves

A new HBO series on the killing of a Palestinian youth after three Israeli teens were murdered in a deadly summer five years ago is stirring up painful memories for bereaved families on both sides of the conflict. "Our Boys", which premiered in Israel and the United States last week, centers on Mohammed Abu Khdeir, a 16-year-old Palestinian who was abducted near his East Jerusalem home and burned to death by three Israelis, two of them also teenagers, in July 2014. "I wish I could reach into the screen and grab hold of my son," Abu Khdeir's mother, Suha, told Reuters, her voice breaking, soon after watching the first two episodes of the series, a co-production of HBO and Israel's Keshet International and produced by Movie Plus.

"The show brought me right back to the pain, to the day he was kidnapped," she said. Prosecutors said Abu Khdeir's convicted killers were avenging the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens - Naftali Frankel, Gilad Sha'er and Eyal Yifrah - in the occupied West Bank two weeks earlier by members of the Islamist group Hamas. The deaths of the four youths spiraled into a seven-week war between Israel and Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. HBO's 10-episode dramatization dissects Israel's internal investigation into the three ultra-Orthodox Jews eventually convicted of Abu Khdeir's murder and the frantic initial days after his parents learned of his disappearance and death.

The Hebrew- and Arabic-language series was written,

directed and produced by two Jewish Israelis and an Arab Israeli, who mix documentary footage with live production to delve into the micro details they say drive the conflict. "We live in an extremely nuanced world where wars erupt because of tiny things," co-director Joseph Cedar, 50, said in an interview alongside collaborators Hagai Levi and Tawfik Abu Wael. "We tried to peel back the layers of this hate crime," he said. But some bereaved Israeli families have said the show largely glosses over the murder of the three Israeli teens, who are referenced throughout the series but not included as characters.

Two Hamas suspects in the murders were killed in a 2014 shootout and in 2015 an Israeli court sentenced a third Hamas member to three life terms for the teens'

abduction and murder. "The balance is not clear to someone viewing the show, who thinks 'we murder them, they murder us,'" said Merav Hajaj, whose daughter, an army officer, was killed along with three other cadets in a Palestinian truck ramming attack in Jerusalem in 2017. Hajaj, 49, wrote a letter signed by some 120 bereaved Israeli families criticizing HBO and requesting the program list the number of Israelis killed in Palestinian attacks through the years. Levi said the creators felt they had portrayed the context of Abu Khdeir's killing. "But the crime is the story," he said. — Reuters





# English town celebrates local hero ED SHEERAN

The little-known town of Ipswich in eastern England has historically prided itself on farming and football, but is now celebrating the stellar pop career of its most famous son, Ed Sheeran. The global hit machine's journey to stardom began in the nearby town of Framlingham, where he played his first gig in front of around 30 people. Fourteen years later, the singer is capping off a two-year international tour, on which he played for almost nine million people, with four homecoming shows in Ipswich.



A musician performs during the re-opening of The Swan pub in Ipswich, east England.

An exhibition entitled "Made in Suffolk", will mark the event, tracing the career of the singer/songwriter responsible for hit singles such as "Shape of You", which helped him amass a £160 million (\$194 million, 175 million euro) fortune. The show reveals his steely determination to make it in the music business and the unfailing support of his parents, who sold merchandise during his early concerts.

A video montage follows his journey from babyhood to adulthood, with his round face and shock of red hair a constant presence as he tries his hand at the piano, drums and the guitar, always with a smile on his lips. A written account details how as a boy Edward Christopher Sheeran sang in the choir and played cello

in the school orchestra in Framlingham while a photograph captures him busking in the street, guitar case open to accept donations, aged 13.

### Natural showman

Ian Johnson, who spotted Sheeran when he was 16 and helped him break through, told AFP how he was "impressed with... the way he engaged the audience at that age". His career took off with the 2011 release of his first album, "+", followed by a series of hits including "Don't", "Thinking Out Loud" and "Castle On The Hill", which explores his love of growing up in rural Suffolk. The exhibition presents both the superstar who electrifies crowds at concerts in Germany, Australia and the United States-captured by photographer Mark Surridge-and also the four-time Grammy winner's more private side.

A bronze sculpture depicting a young Ed and his brother embracing each other is on show, as well as several drawings, including an Andy Warhol inspired self-portrait in orange and black, his favorite colors. A series of portraits by the painter Colin Davidson, who counts Queen Elizabeth II as one of his previous subjects, reveal "the Ed I think we might see whenever he's seemingly unaware of anyone else being in the room," he told AFP. "I like to think that's the mood that he's in whenever he's on his own, creating his work or writing songs," added the painter.

### 'Humble' guy

Other highlights of the free exhibition, which runs until spring 2020, are two of his guitars, one of which he named "Cyril", and which starred in more than 300 concerts in 2009. There is also a puppet of the performer used in the video clip for "Sing". In Ipswich, the superstar is a hero. The Swan pub in the town Centre sells postcards and other memorabilia, and even keeps a bottle of Sheeran's favorite ketchup in a Plexiglas box "in case Ed comes".

Singer Barney Holmes, who jammed with Sheeran about ten years ago, told AFP his success could be explained partly because "everyone can relate to an underdog". "You have this really humble, sweet, pale ginger guy... but he was a sweet guy that you just didn't expect to have such a big presence," Holmes said after a gig in the pub. "I think that's the Ed Sheeran effect." — AFP



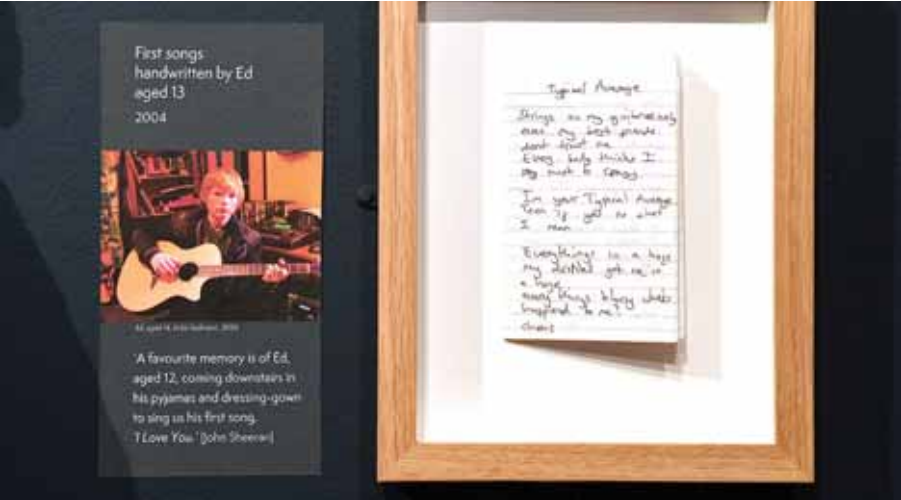
A cased bottle of Heinz tomato ketchup is pictured on display inside the re-opened Swan pub in Ipswich.



An award for 6x platinum record sales for British musician Ed Sheeran's single 'Shape of You'.



A gold play button, awarded to British musician Ed Sheeran for achieving 'one million subscribers' on YouTube is pictured during a press preview.



A song, written by British musician Ed Sheeran when he was 13-years-old, is pictured during a press preview of the exhibition "Ed Sheeran: Made in Suffolk".



British musician Ed Sheeran's 'Dean' guitar, used by the artist for busking, gigging and studio recording in his early to mid-teens, is pictured during a press preview.



A puppet of British musician Ed Sheeran, used the music videos for the songs "Sing" and "Happier", designed by Steve Troop and BJ Guyer of Puppet Design Studios.



An award for 2x platinum record sales for British musician Ed Sheeran's album 'X' is pictured during a press preview.



Pedestrians walk past shops in Ipswich, east England.





Hundreds of people take part in the seventh edition of the Drum Orchestra in Florianopolis, south Brazil. Drummers braved the pouring rain to play songs by the Beatles, Deep Purple and Kiss among others, in an attempt to break the world record set in Manchester, England when 798 drummers played together. — AFP photos

# PILGRIMS GATHER FOR COSMIC-LIKE RITUAL IN BULGARIA'S MOUNTAINS



Members of an international religious movement called the White Brotherhood perform ritual dance on the top of the Rila Mountain.



Members of an international religious movement called the White Brotherhood perform ritual dance on the top of the Rila Mountain, near Babreka lake.



Members of an international religious movement called the White Brotherhood perform ritual dance on the top of the Rila Mountain, near Babreka lake. — AFP photos

Thousands of pilgrims gathered Monday in Bulgaria's Rila mountains to welcome their "spiritual" new year with a cosmic-like dance performed in concentric circles, creating a striking image on the verdant mountain plain. The white-clad dancers hiked up to Bulgaria's Seven Rila Lakes at an altitude of 2,100 meters (6,900 feet) and performed a special meditative dance known as "paneurhythmy" for more than an hour under the sound of singing and violins. They are followers of the Universal White Brotherhood—an esoteric society that combines Christianity and Indian mysticism and was founded by Bulgarian theologian Peter Deunov back in 1897 but banned during communism and still considered a sect by the country's Christian Orthodox Church.

It emphasizes brotherly love, healthy habits, positive thinking and living in harmony with nature. The movement does not keep track of its numbers but is believed to have tens of thousands of followers worldwide, possibly more—the majority of them in France, Belgium and Switzerland but also as far as the US, Canada, Mexico, Iceland and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its followers believe that positive cosmic energy is at its strongest in the region of the Seven Rila Lakes around August 19 and that paneurhythmy will help them channel it and spread it around the world. "Paneurhythmy combines music and movement (...) With these exercises we get in touch with the physical, the spiritual and the divine worlds," said Ventsislav Kuninsky, a 59-year-old machine engineer and follower of the Universal White Brotherhood for 30 years.

Others found purely individual pleasure and health benefits in the exercises that seem graceful and easy but are in reality quite strenuous to perform. "For me this is a recharging, a reconnection to nature, the road to good



health and the road back to my heart because nowadays we have become very reasoning, we think a lot. "Here, as banal as it may sound, everything is love," said 40-year-old Ralitsa Kovacheva, who discovered Deunov's teachings five years ago. Medical research published in 2013 suggested that regular practice of paneurhythmy improves balance and physical endurance while lowering aggression, boosting optimism and combating depression. — AFP

Members of an international religious movement called the White Brotherhood perform ritual dance on the top of the Rila Mountain.



Members of an international religious movement called the White Brotherhood perform ritual dance on the top of the Rila Mountain.



# Classifieds

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

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

**BY NIGHT:** Hot to relatively hot with light to moderate south westerly wind to light north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	<div>SFC. CHART20/08/2019 0000 UTC</div>
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	27 °C	
ABDALY	46 °C	29 °C	
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C	
JAHRA	46 °C	28 °C	
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	28 °C	
SALMIYAH	40 °C	34 °C	
AHMADI	40 °C	34 °C	
NUWAISIB	44 °C	29 °C	
WAFRA	46 °C	27 °C	
SALMY	44 °C	30 °C	

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	08/21	Very hot	47 °C	27 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	08/22	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	47 °C	28 °C	NW-SE	12 - 38 km/h
Friday	08/23	Hot	46 °C	27 °C	NW-N	10 - 32 km/h
Saturday	08/24	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	45 °C	26 °C	NW-SE	10 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:54
Sunrise	05:18
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:27
Sunset	18:25
Isha	19:45

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	27 °C
MAX. RH	33 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	NW 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mookan** Kumar Kannan S/O Mookan holder of Indian Passport No. J0976988 having permanent address 173-68 A, Melapidavoor, Manamadurai, Sivagangai-Dist, Tamilnadu - 630606, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: KUMAR KANNAN, surname: MOOKKAN, S/O: MOOKKAN. (C 5573)

I, **JOSEPH** MEPURATHU VARUGHESE holder of Indian Passport No: N1869225, issued on 20-01-2016 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my given name as JOSEPH MEPURATHU and surname as VARUGHESE. Jleeab Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579)

I, **RITA** PHILIP, holder of Indian Passport No. K7924609, issued on 11-11-2012 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my given name as RITA and surname as PHILIP. Jleeab Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579)

I, **JOSEPH** MEPURATHU VARUGHESE, holder of Indian Passport No. N1869225, issued on 20-01-2016 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my son's given name as REUBEN VARUGHESE and surname as JOSEPH in his Passport No. N9724089 issued on 19-05-2016 at Kuwait. Jleeab Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579)

I, **JOSEPH** MEPURATHU VARUGHESE, holder of Indian Passport No. N1869225, issued on 20-01-2016 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor

P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my son's given name as REJOY VARUGH-ESE and surname as JOSEPH in his Passport No. R8273659 issued on 27-08-2017 at Kuwait. Jleeab Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579)

I, **Hanif** (Given Name) Salman Mohammed (Surname) holder of Indian Passport No. J5396300 having permanent address: OFF Mira Bhayander Road, Shanti Park, Mira Road (East), Dist Thane-401107, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as: Given name: Salman Mohammed and Surname: Hanif for all purposes. (C 5667) 19-8-2019

I, **Sajjad** Husain Mukadam Hakimuddin hereby declare that I have changed my name to Hakimuddin Mukadam henceforth, I shall be known as Hakimuddin Mukadam for all future purposes. Address: Bohra Street Mandsaur Madhya Pradesh. (C 5577)

I, **VINCENT** SIREs JOAQUIM ANTONIO RODRIGUES holder of Indian Passport No. L0080611 having permanent address: House No. 869, Varik Vaddo, Curtorim, Salcette, Goa, 403709, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as: Given name: VINCENT SIREs and Surname: RODRIGUES (C 5578) 18-8-2019

### SITUATION WANTED

**Finance** auditor (Internal - External) with 10 years experience looking for a suitable job. Email: ahm\_slis@yahoo.com Mob: 60025033 (C 5575)

**HR-Admin** Executive 10 years + experience in GCC with accounting background looking for a suitable job. Email: mazen\_bh@yahoo.com Mob: +965 50687025 (C 5576) 18-8-2019



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 21/8/2019				Departure Flights on Wednesday 21/8/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	JZR	713	Sohag	00:10
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	MSC	412	Asyut	00:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	JZR	707	Luxor	00:20
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:40
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	FEG	342	Sohag	01:05
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	JZR	723	Alexandria	01:05
MEA	406	Beirut	01:20	IGO	1758	Kochi	01:10
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	JZR	409	Delhi	01:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	2703	Madinah	01:20
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	363	Colombo	02:00
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	111	Doha	02:10
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	MEA	8916	Madinah	02:20
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	MSR	619	Alexandria	02:35
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	859	Istanbul	02:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
JZR	102	Lahore	02:55	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	THY	769	Istanbul	03:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:00
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
NIA	1604	Luxor	03:10	QTR	1087	Sohag	04:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JZR	1735	Cairo	04:40
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	QTR	1077	Cairo	04:40
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	OHY	351	Istanbul	05:00
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10
ETH	3424	Bahrain	04:15	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:15
KAC	796	Madinah	04:25	KAC	103	London	05:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	JZR	703	Asyut	05:30
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	ETH	3425	Addis Ababa	05:45
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	715	Sohag	05:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	212	Dammascus	06:30
RBG	215	Sohag	05:35	GFA	649	Amman	07:00
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	JZR	251	Amman	07:10
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	121	Dubai	07:15
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	RBG	216	Sohag	07:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	BAW	113	Doha	07:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	JZR	156	London	08:00
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	165	Rome	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	IGO	1767	Mumbai	08:10
KAC	2704	Madinah	07:15	JZR	151	Mashhad	08:15
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:30	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	545	Cairo	08:50
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	301	Beirut	08:50
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC	793	Madinah	08:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	561	Amman	08:55
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	511	Mashhad	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	117	New York	09:05
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	QTR	1085	Doha	09:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:15	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	157	Istanbul	09:20
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:40
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	JZR	731	Cairo	09:45
SAW	703	Dammascus	10:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:55
JZR	119	Dammascus	10:00	KAC	301	Istanbul	09:55
IAW	157B	Al Najaf	10:00	OMA	642	Muscat	10:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC	101	London	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:30
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
QTR	1074	Mosha	11:00	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	10:40
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	KAC	617	Doha	10:40
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	SYR	342	Dammascus	11:00
IGO	1755	CNN	11:30	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	11:00
NIA	1405	Sohag	11:30	SAW	704	Dammascus	11:00
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	IAW	158B	Mangalore	11:20
TBZ	6605	Mashhad	11:55	AXB	890	Riyadh	11:20
JZR	704	Asyut	11:55	JZR	221	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	716	Sohag	11:55	GFA	214	Istanbul	11:45
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	KIS	6033	Mashhad	12:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:30	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05





Athletes take part in the women's windsurfing RS:X class competition during a sailing test event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, off the coast Enoshima in Kanagawa prefecture yesterday. — AFP

## Facebook launches tool to let users...

Continued from Page 1

Currently, commercial websites visited by a customer who also has a Facebook account may send Facebook details of that visit, prompting the social network to show that person ads related to any product they may have searched for. With the new Facebook tool, users will be able to see a summary of information that other apps and websites have sent Facebook through business tools such as Facebook Pixel or Facebook Login. They then have the option of disconnecting this information, or all future off-Facebook

## US tests cruise missile after...

Continued from Page 1

We won't react to provocations," Russia's deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told state news agency TASS. "We will not allow ourselves to get drawn into a costly arms race," Ryabkov said the test showed Washington had been working on such missiles long before its official withdrawal from the deal. In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said: "This measure from the US will trigger a new round of an arms race, leading to an escalation of military confrontation." He warned that the test "will have a serious negative impact on the international and regional security situation". The US should "let go of its Cold War mentality" and "do more things that are conducive to... international and regional peace and tranquillity", Geng added. The missile was launched from the US Navy-controlled San Nicolas Island off the coast of California. Speaking in France Monday before news of the US test

## Yemen separatists drive out govt...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the UN's special envoy to Yemen warned yesterday that the war-ravaged country faced the prospect of breaking apart unless an agreement ending the decades-long conflict is found urgently. Martin Griffiths told the UN Security Council that there is "no time to lose" in brokering a peace deal to bring the fighting to a close. "The fragmentation of Yemen is becoming a stronger and more pressing threat," the British diplomat said via videolink from Jordan. "The stakes are becoming too high for the future of Yemen, the Yemeni people and the wider region. Yemen cannot wait," he added. Griffiths condemned the takeover of Aden by the STC. "We certainly cannot underestimate the risks that these events pose for the future of the country," Griffiths told delegates. "No country can tolerate the stresses of internal conflict indefinitely," he added saying the war must be brought to an end "swiftly and peacefully." On Aug 10, the Security Belt Forces ousted loyalists of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi from what was the capital of the formerly independent south in clashes that left around 40 people dead. They agreed to a withdrawal under pressure by Saudi Arabia and the UAE - both key to the military coalition supporting the Yemeni government against the Houthis - but retain control of key military sites. Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-

activity, from their account. The new feature will be rolled out first in Ireland, South Korea and Spain, and then everywhere else over the coming months, Facebook said. "We expect this could have some impact on our business, but we believe giving people control over their data is more important," it said. Last month, US regulators slapped Facebook with a record \$5-billion fine for data protection violations in a wide-ranging settlement that calls for revamping privacy controls and oversight at the social network. "We've agreed to pay a historic fine, but even more important, we're going to make some major structural changes to how we build products and run this company," Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg said at the time, adding that "we're going to set a completely new standard for our industry," he said. — AFP

launch broke, President Vladimir Putin said Russia would only deploy medium- or shorter-range missiles in response to similar moves by the US. "If the United States produces such offensive systems, we will also do so," Putin said at a press conference before meetings with French leader Emmanuel Macron. Moscow and Washington have long criticized the treaty but Putin said it was the US that made the decision to "unilaterally" withdraw. The missile tested on Sunday was a version of the nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missile. The ground-launched version of the Tomahawk was removed from service after the INF was ratified. Earlier this month Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said the US had already begun work to develop "mobile, conventional, ground-launched cruise and ballistic missile systems". "Now that we have withdrawn, the Department of Defense will fully pursue the development of these ground-launched conventional missiles as a prudent response to Russia's actions," Esper said. But he also insisted the US was not embarking on a new arms race. "The traditional sense of an arms race has been in a nuclear context," he said. "Right now, we don't have plans to build nuclear-tipped INF-range weapons. It's the Russians who have developed non-compliant like-ly, possibly nuclear-tipped weapons." — AFP

Hadhrami said the latest flare-up will undermine peace talks. "What Abyan governorate is witnessing is an unjustified escalation by the STC," the Yemeni foreign ministry quoted him as saying. "It is something that is rejected and unacceptable and will undermine mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia. We reject the continued provision of financial and military support by the UAE to outlawed STC forces in Yemen," he added. In an interview with pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat, STC spokesman Nizar Haitham said the group was open to dialogue but ruled out any withdrawal from the military posts in Aden. "There will be no dialogue if we were to hand over all the positions... what will there be left to negotiate," he said in remarks published yesterday. South Yemen was a separate state until it merged with the north in 1990. Four years later, an armed secession bid ended in occupation by northern forces, giving rise to resentments which persist to this day. The Saudi-led military coalition sent a delegation to Aden - the Hadi government's base since the Huthi rebels took over Yemen's capital Sanaa in 2014 - on Thursday to discuss the new front in the country's crisis. The UAE is Saudi Arabia's main partner in the coalition fighting the Houthis, but trained and equipped the separatists. Analysts say the break between Hadi's internationally recognized government and the separatists reflects a wider rift between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. Griffiths said he held a "positive and engaging" meeting with Saudi's deputy defense minister Prince Khaled bin Salman on Monday to discuss the crisis. "Tireless role under Khaled bin Salman's leadership to restore order and stability in south Yemen," he tweeted yesterday. "We agreed on the need for continuous dialogue." — AFP

## Tearful Tlaib says grandma advised...

Continued from Page 1

Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, the first two Muslim women ever elected to the US Congress, had planned a trip last week to the Jewish state and Palestinian territories, where they expected to meet with activists and officials on both sides. But on Thursday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government bowed to urging from President Donald Trump and barred them, accusing them of supporting a boycott against Israel. Shortly after that, the Israelis partially reversed course and offered Tlaib alone permission to visit her grandmother if she accepted restrictions and promised not to promote the boycott. Speaking together in Omar's hometown of St Paul, Minnesota in their first public appearance since the trip's cancellation, Tlaib and Omar accused Israel of bowing to

## India's Moon probe enters...

Continued from Page 1

launch due to a technical glitch. India's first lunar

## Rebels withdraw from key area...

Continued from Page 1

And in recent weeks, regime forces have inched forward at the southern edges of the bastion. In the early hours of yesterday, anti-Assad fighters pulled back from the town of Khan Sheikun and the countryside to its south, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said. The withdrawal means a key Turkish observation point in the nearby town of Morek, as well as a string of surrounding villages, are effectively surrounded by government forces. Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP. All roads leading out of the area are either controlled by government forces or within range of their guns, he said. Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said his country had no intention to move the post from Morek. "We will do whatever is necessary to ensure the security of our soldiers and observation posts," he said. An HTS spokesman, meanwhile, denied its forces had withdrawn from the countryside around Morek, adding they had regrouped in the south of Khan Sheikhoun after heavy bombardment. Russia claimed rebel attacks against a key Russian air base to the west of Idlib and on regime-held civilian areas had continued despite the presence of the Turkish posts. "We have warned our Turkish colleagues that we would respond," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. Assad also hit out at Turkey in a statement, saying "the latest battles in Idlib uncovered... Ankara's clear and unlimited support for terrorists", using his term for both militants and rebels. Khan Sheikhoun lies on the highway connecting Damascus to second city Aleppo, which has long been a key government objective. On Monday, a Turkish

Trump and trying to hide the reality of the Palestinian situation. Tlaib pointed out that it is common for US lawmakers to visit Israel and meet a wide range of activists. "What is not common occurrence is members of Congress being barred from entering a country on these fact-finding missions unless they agree to strict set of rules," she said. "It is unfortunate that Prime Minister Netanyahu is apparently taking a page out of Trump's book, and even direction from Trump, to deny this opportunity," she said. Omar called the decision to ban the two of them "nothing less than an attempt by an ally of the United States to suppress our ability to do our jobs as elected officials." Referring to the \$3 billion in aid the US gives to Israel each year, Omar said, "this is predicated on their being an important ally in the region and the only democracy in the Middle East. But denying visit to duly elected members of Congress is not consistent with being an ally." She blasted Trump for using the visit as a political cudgel against them and the Democrats. "We know Donald Trump would love nothing more than to use this issue to pit Muslims and Jewish Americans against each other," Omar said. — AFP

mission in 2008 — Chandrayaan-1 — did not land on the Moon, but carried out a search for water using radar. A soft landing on the Moon would be a huge leap forward in India's space program, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi determined to launch a manned mission into space by 2022. India also has ambitions to land a probe on Mars. In 2014, India became only the fourth nation to put a satellite into orbit around the Red Planet. — AFP

military convoy crossed the border into Idlib and headed south along the highway, drawing condemnation from Damascus. Ankara alleged an air strike had targeted its troops, while a Syrian pro-government newspaper said regime aircraft had targeted a rebel vehicle leading them. Yesterday, the convoy was at a standstill just north of Khan Sheikhoun, after government forces to the south cut the road into the town the previous day. An AFP correspondent said air strikes and machine gunfire from government helicopters peppered the road leading back north. Air raids continued on areas north of Khan Sheikhoun yesterday, including in the town of Binin where the AFP reporter saw a man pulled from the rubble alive. The war has killed more than 370,000 people since it started with the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2011. Successive rounds of UN-backed peace talks have failed to stem the bloodshed, and in recent years have been overshadowed by a parallel negotiations track led by Russia and Turkey, dubbed the Astana process. Under the September deal, Turkish troops were to monitor a planned buffer zone around Idlib after militants had withdrawn from it - but that pullout failed to materialize. Syria expert Sam Heller said the government's latest advance had shown Turkish monitoring points might complicate its recapture of territory, but could not prevent it. "It's not yet clear what Damascus and Moscow will do next," he said. It is unclear "if they will seize the opportunity to take more areas, or stop to consolidate their new positions and put some pressure on Ankara" to implement its side of the buffer zone deal, he told AFP. Analyst Samuel Ramani said the government's accusation of Turkish support for its opponents could provide a "pretext for further Syrian army incursions". But "for Russia, holding the Astana coalition together is a chief priority," he said. Aid organizations have warned any large-scale government offensive to retake Idlib would spark one of the worst humanitarian crises of the war. — AFP



# Smith ruled out of third Ashes Test after concussion

## Smith’s absence will be a huge blow to Australia who hold 1-0 lead

**LONDON:** Australia’s star batsman Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test beginning tomorrow after suffering concussion, Cricket Australia announced yesterday. The 30-year-old — who has scored two centuries and 92 in his three innings in the first two Tests — was felled by a Jofra Archer bouncer on Saturday in the first innings of the second Test at Lord’s.

Smith’s absence will be a huge blow to Australia who hold a 1-0 lead in the five Test series and victory at Headingley would ensure they retained the Ashes. Their other batsmen have not looked convincing — experienced opener David Warner has totalled just 18 in his four innings — with Smith being the lynch-pin.

“Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test at Headingley, with coach Justin Langer confirming the news after the batsman sat out Australia’s training session on Tuesday,” Cricket Australia announced on their website.

The team doctor Richard Saw had the final say on whether Smith played or not and he was seen speaking with him during team training yesterday. According to the website vice-captain Pat Cummins patted Smith on the shoulder and coach Justin Langer wrapped his arm round the former captain as the rest of the squad trained without him.

Smith — who has risen to number two in the world batting rankings — was pictured with his head in his hands and Langer looking glumly at the ground.

Smith, whose two centuries in the first Test were pivotal in Australia taking a 1-0 lead, returned to bat on Saturday despite the blow to the side of the head that felled him. He added 12 runs before being out.

However, he was unable to play on the fifth and final day on Sunday as he awoke feeling “groggy”. Australia held on to draw the Test with his concussion substitute Marnus Labuschagne playing a key innings.

The Ashes series is the first being played under the International Cricket Council’s new concussion substitute regulations, as part of the inaugural World Test Championship.

The regulations allow players who have suffered head or neck injuries to be replaced fully by a substitute, who was previously restricted to fielding alone. During Saturday’s play Smith was wearing a helmet without the additional stem guard neck protection introduced following the death of his former Australia team-mate Phillip Hughes who was hit by a bouncer in a domestic Sheffield Shield match in Sydney in 2014.

Australia, bidding for their first Ashes campaign triumph on English soil in 18 years, lead the series thanks to a 251-run win at Edgbaston a fortnight ago. In that match, Smith marked his first Test since completing a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa with superb innings of 144 and 142. Smith has two weeks to be ready for the fourth Test in Manchester, which starts on September 4, with a three-day tour match in Derby from August 29-31. — AFP



**LONDON:** In this file photo taken on August 17, 2019 Australia’s Steve Smith falls to the ground after being hit in the head by a ball off the bowling of England’s Jofra Archer (unseen) during play on the fourth day of the second Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at Lord’s Cricket Ground. — AFP

## N Zealand better acclimatised after close Galle loss

**COLOMBO:** New Zealand’s loss in the first Test against Sri Lanka had been a lot closer than the six-wicket defeat suggested and the side had learned a lot about how best to play in local conditions, according to pace bowler Tim Southee.

New Zealand’s only warm-up game was badly affected by torrential rain and the Black Caps went into the match in Galle a little underdone. Despite that, Southee felt his side had been competitive throughout and it was really only a century-stand between captain Dimuth Karunaratne (122) and Lahiru Thirimanne (64) as they chased 268 for victory that separated the two sides.

“We played some good cricket throughout the five days but Sri Lanka were just better in the back end of the game,” said Southee, who was confirmed yesterday as the captain for the Twenty20 series following the second Test in Colombo.

“We showed glimpses throughout and the guys learned a lot from playing in these conditions. “Hopefully we can put in the hard work and turn out a performance over the next test match.”

Southee and his fellow pace bowler Trent Boult, who will miss the three-match T20 series along with regular captain Kane Williamson, were barely used on an unresponsive Galle pitch. The spin trio of Ajaz Patel, Will Somerville and Mitchell Santner combined for 128 of the 179 overs bowled by New Zealand in the match.

Southee bowled just seven overs in the first innings and 12 in the second. “It’s a tough one because you know that you’re only going to get a short spell, so you walk a fine line of not trying too much and trying to keep it tight but still trying to take a wicket,” the 30-year-old added.

“I guess we’re doing more of a support role for the spinners who are more attacking in these conditions.”



**COLOMBO:** New Zealand’s cricket team captain Kane Williamson (R) plays football with teammates during a practice session at P. Sara Oval cricket stadium in Colombo yesterday, ahead of their second cricket Test match against Sri Lanka to be played tomorrow. — AFP

New Zealand’s top-six batsmen failed to truly fire in the first Test with only Ross Taylor, who scored 86 in the first innings, and wicketkeeper BJ Watling (77 in the second), posting substantial scores.

The fact the visitors set Sri Lanka a target at all was due to the tail wagging in their second innings, with Somerville scoring a career-best 40 not out, while Southee (23) and Boult (26) chimed in with handy cameos. Patel also scored 14 as the number 11.

“The tail did a great job to get a competitive score in

the third innings,” Southee said. “If you look around the world the good sides do have contributions from the tail.

“When you have a batsman like BJ who bats so well with the tail then its about hanging in and trying to support him in the job he does. “If you’re able to leak out as many runs as possible then that makes it tougher for the opposition.” The second Test starts in Colombo tomorrow with Santner under the most pressure to hold his place and he could be replaced by leg spinner Todd Astle or all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme. — Reuters

## Indian bowler Sreesanth’s ban reduced to seven years

**MUMBAI:** Indian fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth’s ban for alleged spot-fixing has been reduced to seven years, with the sanction period coming to an end on Sep. 13, 2020, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has said.

The decision comes after the Supreme Court of India set aside the life ban imposed on Sreesanth by the BCCI and asked the board to reconsider the length of any fresh ban. “I am of the view that banning Sreesanth from participating in any kind of commercial cricket or from associating with any

activities of BCCI or its affiliates, for a period of 7 years with effect from September 13, 2013,” BCCI ombudsman DK Jain said in a statement.

“The date from which, the period of ban imposed by the Disciplinary Committee had commenced, will meet the ends of justice.” Spot-fixing involves the manipulation of individual incidents within a match which may not affect the outcome of the contest.

Sreesanth along with his Rajasthan Royals team mates Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan were arrested by Delhi police on suspicion of spot-fixing during the sixth edition of the IPL in May 2013.

The BCCI followed the arrest of Sreesanth with their own charges against the player relating to the match against Kings XI Punjab, played on May 9. Sreesanth has maintained that all the charges against him are false. He has played 27 tests, 53 one-day internationals and 10 Twenty20 internationals, claiming a total of 169 wickets. — Reuters

## Waugh wowed by deceptive Archer’s ‘X-factor’

**LONDON:** England fast bowler Jofra Archer has the “X-factor” that unsettles opposition batting lineups, said former Australia captain Steve Waugh who believes the evenly-balanced Ashes series would be decided by a few key moments.

Archer made his Test debut in the drawn second match at Lord’s and produced several spells of menacing quick bowling, hurrying the Australian batsmen up and forcing them into evasive action from deliveries that averaged more than 145kph. He was also involved in the Test’s major talking point when Steve Smith was felled following a sickening blow in the neck from an Archer bouncer. He also hit Marnus Labuschagne, who replaced Smith on the fifth day and became the first concussion substitute in Test cricket, in the face grill of his helmet.

“It gives you the X-factor, knowing that you have that sort of bowler in your lineup when you can intimidate the opposition,” Waugh told a Cricket Australia podcast. “You can make things happen on a flat pitch and potentially get wickets in clumps.

“He’s a real asset to England.” Waugh did not find any problems with Archer’s stamina either after the Barbados-born

24-year-old bowled 44 overs and took 5-91 at Lord’s. “If he plays four Test matches in a row that will test him out,” Waugh said.

“So far he’s come through with flying colours. (He bowled) 40 overs and each one was as quick as the previous one. “He had an impressive debut but Test cricket is about longevity and how you back up and how you handle conditions. But from England’s point of view, so far so good.”

Waugh, who stared down some of the fastest bowlers in the world like Malcolm Marshall and Shoaib Akhtar in a career that netted more than 10,000 Test runs, said that Archer had one of the more economical bowling actions he had seen.

“I can’t say I have ever seen anyone bowl like that,” he said. “He ambles in, gets very close to the crease, makes the most of his height. “He has got a very simple action and in a lot of ways a similar action to (Australian fast bowler) Glenn McGrath in that it’s very repeatable. I can’t see too much going wrong with it.

“His control is very good for that reason. He has that deceptive pace and has a wicked bouncer so that is something our team will have to analyse and work out to play him.” While Australia had won the first test at Edgbaston by 251 runs, the way England fought back in the second test at Lord’s indicated how close the Ashes series would be.

“It really depends on who wins the big moments,” Waugh said. “It will come down to who is consistent. I think we can win the series and England will probably say they think they can. “It will make for a great last three test matches.” — Reuters

## Former Aussie coach Lehmann delighted at Yorkshire return

**LONDON:** Darren Lehmann, who stood down as Australia coach in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal, is to take charge of the Leeds-based team in next year’s inaugural The Hundred tournament.

The 49-year-old — who was cleared of involvement in the scandal which resulted in Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft being banned — told Press Association Sport he was delighted to be returning to Yorkshire.

The former Australian batsman who represented his country in 27 Tests and 117 One Day Internationals was part of the Yorkshire side that won the county championship in 2001, their first since 1968.

“It’s great to be back. I hoped I’d get the chance when I heard about it and I’m so excited the opportunity came along,” Lehmann told PA, 18 months on from the so-called ‘sandpaper-gate’ scandal in South Africa in March last year.

“It was a great experience of my career to play here, where the passion for the game is second to none. “The connection is strong, I have so many family and friends around and I was lucky enough to be involved in ending Yorkshire’s long wait for a county championship win in 2001.”

Lehmann, who underwent counselling following his resignation, told the BBC he had no interest in returning to international cricket. “No, I’ve gone past that,” said Lehmann, who coached Australia from 2013-18.

“It’s more about tournaments and having a bit of fun. “I’ll certainly stay away from international coaching, I don’t want to travel that much anymore.”

Lehmann, who won two World Cups as a player and added a third when he coached Australia to the 2015 trophy, is pleased that Smith, Warner and Bancroft have all been recalled following their bans and are playing in the Ashes series which the tourists lead 1-0 after two Tests.

“I’m just looking forward to watching them play,” said Lehmann ahead of the third Test which gets underway in Leeds at Headingley tomorrow. “The game has moved on and people have got to move on as well, I’m glad those guys are playing their part in a great contest between Australia and England.

“It’s been an enthralling series.” Lehmann, whose team is reportedly going to be called the ‘Northern Superchargers’, is one of four Australians already appointed coaches of The Hundred teams.

Shane Warne, Simon Katich and Andrew McDonald are the other Australians whilst South African Gary Kirsten has also been appointed a coach. Lehmann, though, is keen to promote English coaching talent.

“You’d be mad not to try and help young English coaches and work closely with them,” he said.

“I’d certainly like to get people from the county system involved and work closely with them, you’re always learning as a coach so I can learn from them and vice-versa.” — AFP



Shanthakumaran Sreesanth



Sports

# Blood and sport: The samurai slashing that brought rugby history to Japan

## Yokohama may be one of the world’s first ‘Open’ clubs: Galbraith

**YOKOHAMA:** When 70,000 fans cram into Japan’s Yokohama stadium for the Rugby World Cup final, few will be aware of the area’s rich rugby history which stretches back more than 150 years and includes one of the world’s oldest clubs.

It all started in the early 1860s when Britain sent troops to Yokohama to protect its subjects after samurai warriors slashed to death a British trader — and some of their 19th century officers turned out to be rugby fans.

According to historian Mike Galbraith, who has extensively studied Japanese rugby’s early history, the first mention of the game being played dates to 1863, only 40 years after Rugby School student William Webb Ellis famously “took the ball in his arms and ran with it”, giving birth to the sport.

As military tensions eased, the bored officers — many of them from British public schools like Rugby — took to the oval ball to pass the time. “They started playing every afternoon because the troubles subsided and so they didn’t really have anything to do. In December 1864, there’s evidence they were playing every afternoon with a few of the civilians,” Galbraith told AFP.

Two years later, in 1866, more than 40 of these early rugby players banded together to found the Yokohama Foot Ball Club. A Japanese newspaper report from January 26, 1866, records the official establishment.

“As we happen to have two or three Rugby and Winchester men in the Community, we may be certain that we shall have really good scientific play,” said an editorial in the Japan Times.

This evidence leads Galbraith to claim that Yokohama may be one of the world’s first “Open” clubs — meaning that unlike a university or school, anyone can join. “The Yokohama Country and Athletic Club appears at present to be the oldest open club in the world with contemporaneous documentary evidence of its founding,” he said.

### ‘VERY UNIQUE’

There are rugby clubs that are older, acknowledges Galbraith, but they lack such strong evidence describing their creation. “In the case of the Yokohama Foot Ball Club, there is a newspaper printed that very day describing what time it was and who the key people were and what the motions were. That’s very unique,” he said. The game then was very different to the fast-flowing sport played by professional athletes on display during the Rugby World Cup, which culminates on November 2 in Yokohama.

The founders of the Yokohama club proposed that “hacking”, or kicking opponents, be banned, while early match reports underlined the prevalence of drop-kicking in those days.

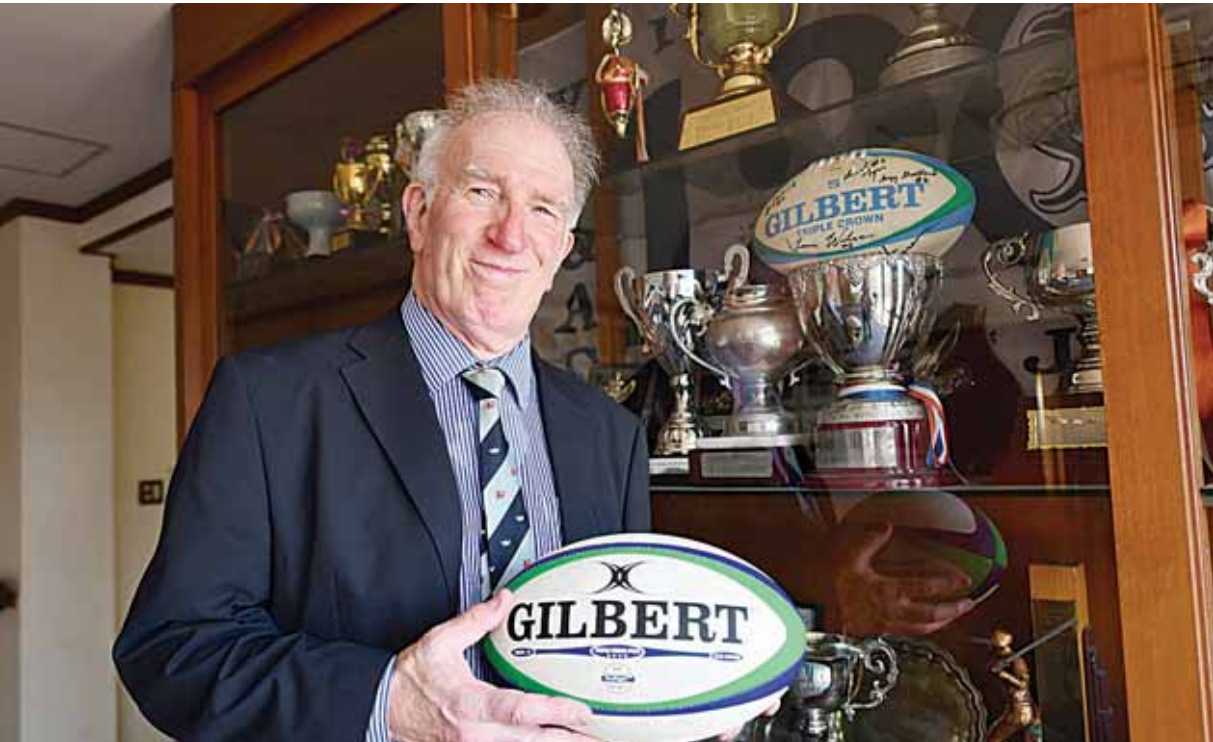
“Mr. Abbott having caught the ball made a good run through his opponents and, with a fine drop kick, scored a goal,” reads one report from the 1873 Japan Weekly Mail. Rugby gained a more solid foothold in Japan at the turn of the century when two Cambridge University alumni, Edward Bramwell Clarke and the Japanese player Ginnosuke Tanaka, introduced the game at Keio University in Tokyo.

With more Japanese taking up the game, the sport’s popularity grew quickly with crowds of 20,000 attending matches in the early 1930s, according to Galbraith.

### ‘NOT SO HEALTHY’

The Japan Rugby Football Union was formed in 1926 and a national team played its first overseas matches on a tour to Canada in 1930. In modern history, the Japanese team have been ever-present at the Rugby World Cup since the first edition in 1987, where they narrowly lost to the United States before suffering a 60-7 hammering at the hands of England.

The World Cup has seen extreme highs and lows for Japan, from a record 145-17 loss to the All Blacks in 1995 to the competition’s greatest ever upset when the “Brave Blossoms” beat the mighty Springboks 34-32 in



**YOKOHAMA:** This photo taken on June 25, 2019 shows Mike Galbraith, historian at the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club, posing beside trophies at the club in Yokohama. When 70,000 fans cram into Japan’s Yokohama stadium for the Rugby World Cup final in November, few will be aware of the area’s rich rugby history which stretches back more than 150 years. —AFP

2015 — dubbed the “Miracle of Brighton.”

Organisers hope hosting this year’s competition will accelerate the development of rugby in Japan and Asia more widely, but low attendances for club rugby and the ejection of the Tokyo-based Sunwolves from Super Rugby have raised doubts.

And what of rugby now at the Yokohama club,

where it all began? “The status today is not so healthy,” sighs Galbraith speaking to AFP at the club, which proudly displays Japan’s oldest rugby trophy and numerous team photos on its wood-panelled walls.

A dearth of members from traditional rugby-playing nations has hit the club hard, he says. “It’s more difficult to put out a 15-a-side team to play rugby.” —AFP

## Japan’s Yamada eyes World Cup spot with French club stint

**PARIS:** Japan winger Akihito Yamada said on Monday he is still targeting a spot in his country’s Rugby World Cup squad after joining French club Lyon on-loan.

Yamada, 34, who started his nation’s shock victory over South Africa at the tournament four years ago, signed for the Top 14 outfit in August on a two-month temporary deal.

The 25-time international said he had spoken to the Brave Blossoms’ coaching staff, which is led by former All Black Jamie Joseph.

“I’m trying to get back into Japan’s squad for the World Cup. I just have to train hard every day,” he told AFP.

“I came here to get fit just in case of a World Cup call-up so I’m hopeful. If there’s an injury, I told them: ‘please call me up,’” he added.

The flyer said he hoped the last-minute win over the Springboks in 2015 would serve the current group well.

“It was a great experience as a rugby player. I was lucky to be there. For Japanese rugby it was a great day. We have to use all that experience for this year’s World Cup,” he said.

### GOROMARU’S FOOTSTEPS

Yamada is the second Japanese international to join a French club ahead of the new Top 14 season after hooker Takeshi Hino was handed a trial by champions Toulouse.

The pair follow in the footsteps of former Japan backs in Ayumu Goromaru and Christian Loamanu in joining sides in the French top-flight.

“My friend Hino, I believe he can do very well in Toulouse. We chatted just before and he’s just training hard to get some gametime,” said Yamada, who plays NTT Communications Shining Arcs in Japan.

“It’s a great opportunity to make rugby bigger through Asia,” he added.

Yamada, who has scored 19 tries in his quarter of a century of Tests, said he would happily remain longer with Lyon, semi-finalists last season, if he wasn’t selected for the World Cup.

“I would like to stay here for longer in the season, because the Japanese season starts in January 2020, so there’s plenty of time,” he said.

“I would like to get into French rugby and also French culture,” he added.

Japan’s last World Cup warm-up is against South Africa on September 6 and head coach Joseph will announce his final squad following the game in Kumagaya. The hosts start their campaign against Russia on September 20 before facing Ireland, Samoa and Scotland in their pool matches. —AFP

## Al Arabi to face Al Ittihad Alexandria at Mohammed VI Soccer Championship

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Football fans should not miss the match that will be held on Aug 26 at 8:30 pm between Kuwaiti club Al Arabi and Egyptian club Al Ittihad Alexandria at the Arabi Stadium in Mansouriya. The match is part of the Mohammed VI Championship, which includes 32 teams from various Arab countries, including three Kuwaiti clubs - Arabi, Kuwait and Salmiya. This is the 32nd edition of this Arab championship, which is held in a different Arab country each season under a different name. This year the hosts are Morocco, so they have chosen the name Mohammed VI after their king. The tournament kicked off on Aug 18.

“All teams will play home and away matches to reach the semifinal. Al Arabi will play at home on August 26 facing Al Ittihad Alexandria, and then away in Egypt on September 27. One of the two teams has to win. There is one month period between the two matches. This long period was set so that these matches don’t affect the schedule of matches of each team,” said Deputy PR of Al Arabi Sports Club Hamed Al-Ali during a press conference held on Monday at the club.

## Deaf S Korean tennis player Lee notches landmark win

**WASHINGTON:** Lee Duck-hee became the first deaf player to win an ATP match on Monday, making a statement with a straight-sets win over Henri Laaksonen in Winston-Salem.

“People made fun of me for my disability. They told me I shouldn’t be playing,” the 21-year-old South Korean said after shrugging off a lengthy rain delay to post a 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 victory.

“It was definitely difficult, but my friends and family helped me get through,” Lee said. “I wanted to show everyone that I could do this.

“My message for people who are hearing impaired is to not be discouraged. If you try hard, you can do anything.”

his hip trouble would end his career, accepted a wild card into this week’s tournament in North Carolina after falling in his singles comeback in Cincinnati last week. He again showed glimpses of his once-dominant self, but was inconsistent in a 7-6 (10-8), 7-5 loss to 73rd-ranked American Tennys Sandgren in a match lasting 2 hours and 10 minutes.

“Some things were a bit better today I think,” Murray said. “I was hitting the ball a bit cleaner than I did maybe in Cincinnati... I feel like I moved fairly well to some drop shots, which maybe last week I wasn’t running to.

“So there’s some good things in there but also some stuff I would like to do better.” Murray did not even reach the court until after 10 pm, thanks to a lengthy rain delay that pushed back his start time by more than

three hours. Sandgren gutted out a tough service hold in an opening game that went to deuce nine times, saving one break point as they went to the first-set decider without a break of serve. The American needed four set points — and saved one — in taking the tiebreaker.

A deflated Murray was quickly down 3-0 with two breaks of serve in the second. He clawed one back, and broke again when Sandgren coughed up two double faults while serving for the match at 5-4.

But Sandgren broke Murray again in the next game and then took full advantage of his second chance, capping the match with a forehand winner on his first match point. “Physically, (I’m) OK considering — no pain, no discomfort. Just a little bit more tired than usual,” Murray said. —AFP

Lee, ranked 212 in the world, turned pro at 15 and achieved his best ATP singles ranking of 130th in the world in 2017, toiling mainly on the developmental Challenger circuit.

He admits that his disability can make life on court frustrating: he can’t hear line calls or the umpire’s call of the score and relies on gestures to sort out any confusion.

At Lee’s post-match press conference on Monday, his fiancée pitched in to help out a Korean translator.

It was the end of a long day for Lee, who was two points from victory when thunderstorms swept through the area.

When he and Switzerland’s Laaksonen returned some five hours later Lee quickly polished off a win he admitted he hadn’t been expecting.

“I thought that I was just going to do my best and try to stay focused, but I came out a winner,” said Lee, who had reached his first Challenger final almost three years in Little Rock in June.

Lee next faces third-seeded Hubert



This championship applies the rules of the Union of Arab Football Associations. “It’s very important for the participating teams to strictly respect the rules of this championship, or they will have to pay a high penalty reaching \$2.5 million. Also entering the stadium to watch the match will be with tickets according to the rules set by the union,” added Ali. “According to the rules of the union for this championship that we are obliged to follow, the match will not be broadcast on Kuwait TV. Only the private satellite channel Abu Dhabi Sports will be broadcasting the match live,” he explained. Ticket prices range from KD 2 to KD 5. Tickets will be available at the Arabi Sports Club and not online starting from today from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The stadium has a capacity of 20,000

seats. Mustafa Shaban gave a visual presentation about the seats at the stadium, the types of tickets and the preparations of the club for hosting the match. The media then toured the stadium to witness the preparations.

During the tour Ali, explained the preparations at the club to host this match and start the new season with a fresh new slogan - ‘The Beginning is Green’. “We have newly painted the bleachers of the stadium. We also refurbished the training rooms for the players and coaches. The only problem that we are facing in the present time is parking, as we don’t have enough space for many vehicles due to the reconstruction works at the club. So, we advise people to come early for the match and park away from the stadium,” he pointed out.



Lee Duck-hee

Hurkacz, the world number 40 from Poland, in the second round. “I’m going to go to the match with

the same attitude,” Lee said. “I’m going to do my best and see what happens.” —AFP

## Murray falls to Sandgren as singles comeback continues

**WASHINGTON:** Andy Murray on Monday fell in the first round of the ATP Winston-Salem Open, where the three-time Grand Slam champion was giving his surgically repaired hip just its second test in singles.

Britain’s Murray, who feared in January that

## Serena to return to Auckland Classic for Aussie Open

**WELLINGTON:** Serena Williams announced yesterday she will warm-up for January’s Australian Open at the Auckland Classic, a tournament that has mixed memories for the American superstar. Williams slumped to a shock second-round loss in her only previous appearance in New Zealand in 2017, lashing out at windy conditions she described as some of the “least favourite” she had ever experienced.

But she went on to win the Australian Open later that month, claiming the most recent of her 23 majors to pass Steffi Graf’s Open-era benchmark of 22.

She also announced her engagement to Alexis Ohanian while in New Zealand and it later emerged she was pregnant with her first child while competing at the tournament. Currently ranked eighth in the world, the 37-year-old said she wanted to show New Zealanders what she could do on the court.

“Oh man, I want to win that title so bad,” she said in a statement. “Last time I was there I had so much going on and although I fought through to win my first match, I know I didn’t play to my level.” —AFP



# Man United held by Wolves after Pogba’s penalty woe

## Pogba has now missed four Premier League penalties since the start of last season

**WOLVERHAMPTON:** Manchester United were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw against Wolves after Paul Pogba's penalty was saved by Rui Patrício at Molineux on Monday. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side took the lead through Anthony Martial's second Premier League goal of the season in the first half.

Ruben Neves hit a brilliant equaliser for Wolves after the interval before France star Pogba was denied by Patrício. It was a curious decision for Pogba to take the spot-kick as Marcus Rashford had scored a penalty in last weekend's 4-0 victory over Chelsea and also memorably netted the Champions League last-16 winner from the spot against Paris Saint Germain last term.

Pogba has now missed four Premier League penalties since the start of last season. United would have gone top of the table with a win, but instead they were left to reflect on an inconsistent performance that underlined why Solskjaer still has a lot of work to do to turn his team into title contenders.

While there were moments of promise in attack and defence, United didn't take their chances and crumbled too easily when they came under pressure in their second game of the season. At an average of 24 years and 173 days, Solskjaer had picked United's youngest Premier League starting line-up since the final day of the 2016-17 campaign.

Daniel James made his maiden start for United after the close-season signing from Swansea scored his first goal as a substitute against Chelsea. There was no place in the matchday squad for Chile forward Alexis Sanchez, who has been linked with Inter Milan.

Solskjaer has described James as United's 'x-factor', but the 21-year-old didn't win any friends when he was booked for diving in a failed attempt to win a free-kick from referee Jon Moss.

United threatened for the first time when another of their young guns Rashford spun past Ryan Bennett on the left side of the Wolves area and crossed towards Martial, who did not make enough contact as the ball flashed past him. It was a warning Wolves failed to heed as United took the lead with an incisive raid in the 27th minute.

**REVITALISED WOLVES**

Breaking inside from left, Luke Shaw found Jesse Lingard who moved the ball onto Rashford. Rashford slipped a perfectly-weighted pass to Martial in the Wolves area and the French forward blasted a superb strike into the roof of the net without breaking stride.

Solskjaer had called for Martial to be more clinical and, his message received loud and clear, the Norwegian clapped approvingly on the touchline. Martial's goal took him to 50 for United in all competitions since his move from Monaco in 2015.

Martial should have doubled United's lead on the stroke of half-time when he pounced on Bennett's misplaced pass and eased past Willy Boly, only to tread on the ball when he seemed certain to score.

Well marshalled by Harry Maguire, United denied Wolves a single shot on target in the first half. But Wolves were revitalised after the interval by the introduction of the speedy Adama Traore. Suddenly, Maguire and company did not look so solid and Raul Jimenez glanced a free-kick against the far post with United keeper David De Gea rooted.

Wolves' pressure paid off in the 55th minute when a short corner was worked to Neves on the edge of the area and the Portugal midfielder curled a sublime strike into the top corner. Neves's eye-catching effort survived a VAR review for offside in the build-up and he



**WOLVERHAMPTON:** Manchester United's French midfielder Paul Pogba reacts as he is fouled by Wolverhampton Wanderers' English defender Conor Coady in the area and wins a penalty during the English Premier League football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Manchester United at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, central England. — AFP

celebrated his 10th goal from outside the area since joining Wolves. United had a golden chance to reclaim the lead when Martial found Pogba in the Wolves area and the France midfielder was clipped by Conor Coady. Pogba and Rashford appeared to discuss who should take the spot-kick. —AFP

## Juventus gamble on Sarri delivering another style of Serie A title

**MILAN:** Juventus begin their Serie A campaign this weekend under new coach Maurizio Sarri as the multiple Italian champions gamble on the veteran delivering another style of Serie A title.

The Turin giants start their quest for a ninth consecutive title in Parma on Saturday but could be without Sarri on the bench after the 60-year-old was diagnosed with pneumonia on Monday.

Sarri returns to Italy after one turbulent season in the Premier League with Chelsea, having previously coached his hometown team Napoli for three seasons.

Chain-smoking Sarri's appointment, in place of the clean cut Massimiliano Allegri who had delivered the last five of their Serie A titles, is a break in tradition for Juventus.

But after also ditching their iconic black and white striped jersey last season, the club are looking for a change in direction.

Despite their success Juventus have often been criticised for their boring defensive style of play.

Club bosses want a more attractive eye-catching style of football in an attempt to increase their fan base outside of Italy.

While Sarri's only major title was the Europa League last season with Chelsea, he promises to give serial Italian champions Juventus a more dynamic style of play.

Goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, returning to Turin after a season at Paris Saint-Germain, thinks the change of direction can pay off.

"Those who follow the same path will always achieve the same results, so Juve are seeking the Champions League and wanted to try breaking away towards pastures new," said the 41-year-old.

"Sarri is not a revolution, nor a gamble. He simply represents an untested path, a whole other story."

Among Juventus's rivals this season will be Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli and Inter Milan, now coached by former Juventus boss Antonio Conte.

But Juventus have spent big giving Sarri a stellar squad to target a 36th Scudetto and their first Champions League title since 1996.

Cristiano Ronaldo, a player who Sarri insists "will make the difference", will again be central to attack with newly-signed Dutch star Matthijs De Ligt the jewel in defense alongside veterans Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci.

De Ligt's Ajax sent Juventus crashing out of the Champions League last season.

The midfield has been strengthened with PSG's Adrien Rabiot and former Arsenal star Aaron Ramsey, both acquired on free transfers but on large salaries.

For Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici all the pieces are in place for Sarri to deliver another style of football.

"We're very happy with what has been done. We bought de Ligt,



Italian coach Maurizio Sarri

who all the top teams wanted," said Paratici.

"We managed to buy him, along with two big players on free transfers: Rabiot and Ramsey, who were courted by many."

"Juve has very high-level players in all departments, a squad of absolute value." — AFP

Live			Matches on TV
			(Local Timings)
ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP			
Cardiff City v Huddersfield Town	21:45	beIN SPORTS	
Charlton Athletic FC v Nottingham Forest FC	21:45	beIN SPORTS	
Fulham FC v Millwall FC	21:45	beIN SPORTS	
Leeds United FC v Brentford	21:45	beIN SPORTS	
Preston North End v Stoke City FC	21:45	beIN SPORTS	
Queens Park Rangers v Swansea City	21:45	beIN SPORTS	
West Bromwich Albion FC v Reading FC	22:00	beIN SPORTS	



Luis Suarez (top) and Andy Carroll

ing.'Who are we playing?' "I was completely oblivious to all the football that was going on. "When I was in the helicopter to Liverpool, I was like, 'I know Stevie G (Gerrard), I know (Jamie) Carragher. Who else?' "My agent at the time had to tell me and I would get it on Google and find out the team. "It's bad because it's Liverpool players, but it's not disrespectful — I just literally didn't watch football."

Carroll whose career has been wrecked by injuries — even his Liverpool debut was delayed due to an injury he had suffered at Newcastle — also assured the Newcastle faithful that he is no longer the wild man he was in his first spell at the club. —AFP

## Salah U-turn on teammate’s harassment scandal divides Egyptians

**CAIRO:** Egypt and Liverpool star Mohamed Salah has reignited heated views about a sexual harassment scandal involving his national team-mate Amr Warda in a CNN interview which aired Monday.

After Salah sent controversial tweets that demanded the disgraced Warda be given a "second chance" during this year's Africa Cup of Nations held in Egypt, Salah directly addressed his revised stance.

"What I meant to say is that (sexual harassment) happened before and is happening now. He has to get treatment or rehabilitation just to make sure that it is not going to happen again," Salah told CNN.

Warda was kicked out of Egypt's squad over multiple claims of sexual misconduct that surfaced online in June but was reinstated at the request of his team-mates.

Salah denied having a role in Warda rejoining the team. His wide-ranging interview, which also took shots at Egypt's football federation, attracted both supportive and critical reactions.

One Egyptian tweeted "Salah is lying... he did have a direct role in bringing Warda back to the team. He

supported him with this tweets".

Another young woman enthusiastically posted "we love and support you Mo Salah!".

Former national goalkeeper Ahmed Shobair waded into the debate, noting that Salah's tweets were written in coordination with the federation's former chairman Hany Abou Rida.

The EFA board tendered its resignation after highly-fancied Egypt crashed out of the tournament at the last-16 stage following a 1-0 defeat to South Africa, a match in which Warda played.

Salah, who helped Premier League giants Liverpool win the Champions League in June, reiterated in the interview that "my position is still the same... the people misunderstand what I am saying".

The outcry on social media is still raging though.

One woman criticised how Salah had handled the scandal differently for Egyptian and international audiences.

"What a pathetic attempt to save your image in the West, sexual harasser supporter. You're not fooling anyone but your fans who were already looking the other way," she posted on Twitter. — AFP

## Man United ‘disgusted’ by racist abuse of Pogba

**LONDON:** Manchester United said they "utterly condemn" the racist abuse their World Cup-winning midfielder Paul Pogba received after he missed a penalty in the 1-1 draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers on Monday.

The 26-year-old Frenchman has missed four penalties since the start of last season — the most by a Premier League player — while team-mate and fellow penalty-taker Marcus Rashford has converted all four of his attempts in that time.

Pogba was assailed on social media, becoming the third player in England to have received racist abuse in the past week due to missing a penalty. United said they were "disgusted" by the abuse and "utterly condemn" it.

"The individuals who expressed these views do not represent the values of our great club and it is encouraging to see the vast majority of our fans condemn this on social media also," the club said in a statement.

"Manchester United has zero tolerance of any form of racism or discrimination and a long-standing commitment to campaigning against it through our #AllRedAllEqual initiative. "We will

work to identify the few involved in these incidents and take the strongest course of action available to us. We also encourage social media companies to take action in these cases."

Rashford tweeted his support for Pogba. "Manchester United is a family. @paulpogba is a huge part of that family. You attack him you attack us all..." the England international said.

Chelsea's Tammy Abraham and Championship side Reading's Yakou Meite have suffered similar abuse in the past week. Abraham missed the crucial penalty in the shootout loss to Liverpool in the Super Cup last Wednesday. The posts aimed at him were described as "abhorrent" by Chelsea and manager Frank Lampard said he was "disgusted".

Lampard also called for social media sites to do more to prevent players being abused while Abraham has said he wants to "silence the haters" with his performances on the pitch. Chelsea banned a supporter for life in July for racially abusing Manchester City's Raheem Sterling.

Five others were excluded for periods of between one and two years for abusive language. Ivory Coast international Meite missed a penalty in time added on for Reading on Sunday against Cardiff but his side had the match already wrapped up at 3-0. Some of the tweets aimed at Pogba were later deleted while several accounts appeared to have been taken down. Twitter's terms and conditions say it "takes action against behaviour that targets individuals with hateful conduct". — AFP

## Suarez who? Carroll admits low football IQ

**LONDON:** Andy Carroll has admitted his football IQ was so low he had to use Google to find out who Luis Suarez was when he joined Liverpool in 2011. Carroll moved to Merseyside for a record fee for a British player of £35 million (\$42 million) and teamed up with the Uruguyan superstar in attack.

The 30-year-old former England international striker excused his ignorance by saying he meant no disrespect to Liverpool or Suarez.

He said he was just much more interested in going out with his friends than following football off the pitch when he was making his name at his first club Newcastle.

Carroll, who has returned to Newcastle on a one year deal after being released by West Ham over the summer, had to Google Suarez while he was flying by helicopter to Liverpool to complete the transfer on the final day of the January 2011 transfer window.

Suarez had signed just days before from Ajax for just over £22 million but Carroll told the Newcastle United team website he had no idea who his future team-mate was.

"When I was here (at Newcastle), I'd go home, mess about with my mates, play football, go out, whatever, but I'd never watch football. I never knew any players," said Carroll, who earned his record move to Liverpool after scoring 31 goals in 80 appearances for the Magpies.

"I'd come in on the Friday or wake up on the Saturday morning say-



**25** Indian bowler Sreesanth's ban reduced to 7 years



**26** Deaf S Korean tennis player Lee notches landmark win



**27** Suarez who? Carroll admits low football IQ



ST LOUIS: Orlando Arcia #3 of the Milwaukee Brewers strikes out against the St. Louis Cardinals in the fifth inning at Busch Stadium in St Louis, Missouri. — AFP

## Cards lose no-hitter but shut out Brewers

### Kelly, Marte homer to lift D-backs past Rockies

**ST LOUIS:** Dakota Hudson held the visiting Milwaukee Brewers hitless for 6 2/3 innings Monday night, propelling the St. Louis Cardinals to a 3-0 victory. Hudson (12-6) exited with a no-hitter intact with two outs in the seventh inning after walking Eric Thames with his 111th pitch. Yasmani Grandal ended the combined no-hitter one inning later with a two-out double off reliever Giovanny Gallegos. Cardinals reliever Andrew Miller got the last out in the eighth inning with the bases loaded, then closed out the game in the ninth to earn his fifth save. Hudson had seven strikeouts but allowed four walks. The division-leading Cardinals won for the eighth time in 10 games. The Brewers have lost five of their past seven games. Kolten Wong (ground-out) and Dexter Fowler (single) drove in runs for St. Louis in the fifth inning, and Paul DeJong added a solo homer in the sixth.

#### Nationals 13, Pirates 0

Trea Turner hit a three-run homer, Matt Adams and Asdrubal Cabrera each hit two-run dingers, and Adam Eaton hit a solo shot as Washington cruised to victory at Pittsburgh. Washington racked up 11 runs in the first four innings, hitting eight homers Sunday in a 16-8 win over the Milwaukee Brewers. The Nationals have won seven of their past eight games and have scored 62 runs in their past five games. Nationals starter Joe Ross pitched 3 1/3 scoreless, three-hit innings before he left after getting hit in the right leg by a Josh Bell come-backer. Javy Guerra (2-1) took over and was perfect for 3 2/3 innings.

#### Rangers 8, Angels 7 (11 innings)

Isiah Kiner-Falefa's infield single scored the winning run in the 11th inning for Texas, which climbed from an early hole to beat Los Angeles in Arlington, Texas. Hunter Pence went 3-for-4 with two walks for the Rangers. Willie Calhoun and Delino DeShields had two hits each, and Scott Heineman added the first two RBIs of his career. Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer for the Angels, who left the bases loaded in the eighth and ninth innings and had the bases loaded before lining into a double play to end the 10th. Los Angeles didn't score after the second inning.

#### Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3

Carson Kelly hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning, and Ketel Marte had a two-run shot as Arizona beat Colorado in Phoenix. Arizona added two more runs after Kelly's homer when David Peralta greeted reliever Jake McGee with a two-run triple into the right field corner. All three eighth-inning runs were charged to reliever Wade Davis (1-6). Kelly's blast came after the Rockies tied the game at 2 in the top of the inning when Tony Wolters singled to drive in the second run of the game. Colorado's Charlie Blackmon hit a solo homer in the ninth off Archie Bradley, who earned his fifth save. Yoan Lopez (2-5) got the final two outs of the eighth.

#### Royals 5, Orioles 4

Nicky Lopez and Nick Dini homered on back-to-back pitches starting the seventh inning, helping Kansas City win at Baltimore. The Royals ended a two-game losing

streak while the Orioles dropped their eighth consecutive game. Kansas City scored three in the sixth and was up 3-2 when Lopez homered on the first pitch of that seventh inning off Gabriel Ynoa. Dini followed with his solo shot on the next pitch. Dini's first major league home run and gave the Royals a three-run lead. Kansas City starter Jorge Lopez (2-7) gave up one run on two hits in five innings. Ian Kennedy pitched the ninth for his 22nd save despite allowing a home run to Rio Ruiz.

#### White Sox 6, Twins 4

Jose Abreu hit a three-run homer, and Yolmer Sanchez drove in a run with a suicide squeeze to lead Chicago to a victory over Minnesota in Minneapolis. Ryan Goins went 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs for Chicago, which snapped a seven-game losing streak at Target Field. Jorge Polanco homered and drove in two runs for Minnesota, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. Chicago's Ivan Nova (9-9) overcame a rocky start to improve to 5-0 in his past six starts, allowing two runs on 10 hits over 5 1/3 innings. Alex Colome, despite giving up three hits and a run in the ninth, picked up his 24th save.

#### Astros 5, Tigers 4

Yuli Gurriel had a two-run double as part of a four-run first inning, and Houston then used some gritty bullpen work to fend off visiting Detroit. Gurriel drove home Alex Bregman and Yordan Alvarez with his double to straight-away center field and later scored on a fielding error by Tigers left fielder Brandon Dixon to cap the Astros' early

four-run outburst. Houston extended its lead to 5-2 before holding tight down the stretch, with relievers Hector Rondon, Will Harris and Roberto Osuna (28th save) putting together the final 10 outs. Ronny Rodriguez and Travis Demeritte homered for the Tigers.

#### Padres 3, Reds 2

Francisco Mejia hit a go-ahead home run in the fourth inning, and Kirby Yates worked out of a ninth-inning jam as San Diego won at Cincinnati. Josh VanMeter had an RBI single off Yates in the ninth to make it 3-2, but the closer induced a fielder's choice to retire the potential tying run in a rundown between third and home for the second out. After plunking Jose Iglesias to load the bases, Yates fanned Eugenio Suarez for his 36th save and third in three days. Greg Garcia was 2-for-4 with two runs, and Manny Machado had an RBI single for the Padres, who have won four of their past five games.

#### Mariners 9, Rays 3

Tom Murphy hit two home runs and drove in four runs as Seattle defeated Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. Austin Nola also homered for the Mariners, who improved to 5-2 on their nine-game trip. Tommy Pham and Austin Meadows went deep for the Rays, who had a two-game winning streak snapped. The Rays' lead over the idle Oakland A's for the American League's second and final wild card was trimmed to one game.

Mariners starter Marco Gonzales (13-10) pitched five innings, allowing three runs on five hits. He walked two and struck out five. — Reuters

## Players should boycott social media to combat racist abuse: Neville

**LONDON:** England women's coach Phil Neville has urged the football community to boycott social media for six months and "send a powerful message" in response to a significant rise in online

racist abuse of players.

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba became the latest high-profile player to be a target of online abuse after he missed a penalty in Monday's 1-1 draw at Wolverhampton Wanderers.

"I've lost total faith in whoever runs these social media departments, so I just wonder whether now as a football community, in terms of really sending a powerful message, is: come off social media," Neville told reporters yesterday.

"Six months - let's come off social media. Let's see the effect that it has on these social media companies, whether they're really going to do something about it." Last week, Chelsea boss Frank Lampard urged social media companies to take stricter action after 21-year-old striker Tammy Abraham was the target of racist

abuse after his missed penalty in the UEFA Super Cup loss to Liverpool.

A study released by equality and inclusion organisation Kick It Out said it received 159 reports of discrimination via social media in the English professional game last season. Yesterday, Pogba's United team mate Harry Maguire urged social media companies to verify user accounts to prevent supporters from abusing players anonymously.

It is a view which was echoed by Neville. "It's a problem not just in football - it's a problem in society, but football now is at the forefront of everybody's minds in terms of, we've got the power to do something about it," Neville added.

"Maguire said this morning about being verified, giving passport details and addresses to be held

accountable for posting such disgusting things. You can be an egg on Twitter and no one knows who you are."

Neville was speaking after announcing his 24-player squad for England women's upcoming friendlies against Belgium and Norway, handing call-ups to four debutants. Chelsea's Bethany England and Manchester City's Aoife Mannion will join the senior team for the first time, alongside two members of the bronze medal-winning Under-20 World Cup squad, 21-year-old Sandy MacIver and 20-year-old Anna Patten.

Neville has included 19 players who featured in the recent women's World Cup in France, where the team finished fourth. England face Belgium in Leuven on Aug. 29, before travelling to Berben to take on Norway on Sept. 3. —Reuters