



**5** Sheikh Sabah library in New Delhi 'beacon of knowledge'



**11** Fake-branded bars slip dirty gold into world markets



**19** Playing ketchup in Spain - thousands wage tomato fight



**27** Jokic: Serbia's beloved big man of basketball



# Kuwait receives 42,000 books looted during Iraqi occupation

## Baghdad also exerting tremendous efforts on issue of missing Kuwaitis



KUWAIT: (Left) Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations' Affairs Counselor Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah and Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ambassador Hazem Al-Yousefi shake hands as Acting UN Resident Coordinator Hideko Hadzalic looks on during a handover ceremony of stolen books yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Visiting Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ambassador Hazem Al-Yousefi announced yesterday that Iraq handed over to Kuwait 42,000 books belonging to Kuwait National Library and Kuwait University. These books, recently found in Iraq, were "seized" by troops of the former Iraqi regime during Kuwait's occupation in 1990. Yousefi said in a statement to journalists on sidelines of the delivery ceremony. Iraqi authorities are seeking to close the file of Kuwaiti properties in Iraq before the year end, said Yousefi, adding competent authorities were waiting for a decision in this respect by Prime Minister Adel Abdelmahdi.

Moreover, Iraq is exerting tremendous efforts to close the file of the missing Kuwaitis, the Iraqi undersecretary stated. The Baghdad authorities are using satellite images and advanced drilling machines, he said, reconfirming that the intensive efforts led to the recent discovery of the mass grave in Samawa desert

containing remains of 46 human bodies, 32 of whom were identified as deceased Kuwaitis.

Yousefi affirmed that the Iraqi government is serious about efforts to close all pending files "caused by the former regime". Stressing the depth of the ties between the two brotherly countries, the Iraqi official indicated at reciprocal visits by senior officials of the two countries as a prelude to a new period of relations, joint investments and mutual cooperation.

Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations' Affairs Counselor Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah confirmed that the ministry of foreign affairs had taken delivery of 800 boxes containing 42,000 books from the Iraqi side. The books belong to the national library and Kuwait University, he added. The books and other items that had been brought back were part of Kuwait's archives, which were stolen during the blatant Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Continued on Page 24



Cartons of books returned by Iraq are seen yesterday.

### News in brief

#### 8-yr-old girl hangs herself

KUWAIT: An eight-year-old Indian girl hanged herself in her parent's home in Jleeb. Police received a call from Jleeb health center about a dead girl brought by her father. Forensics officers and the coroner went to the center and had suspicions over her death, so they went to her house and found the rope with which she had hanged herself. The girl's father said he had left her at home to bring her mother from work, and when they entered the house, they found her hanging in the bathroom. The prosecutor considered it a suicide case and asked detectives to investigate. — Al-Jarida

#### US concerned over India registry

WASHINGTON: The head of a US government advisory board on Tuesday voiced concern over India's drive to register citizens in the northeastern state of Assam, amid fears it could disenfranchise millions, most of them Muslims. "...We remain concerned with the potential abuse of the National Register of Citizens in Assam and the resulting introduction of a religious requirement for citizenship, which are contrary to the ideals of religious freedom in India," said Tony Perkins - chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Joining his statement of concern was member of the commission Anurima Bhargava, who said the registration "must not become a means to target and render stateless the Muslim community in northeastern India". — AFP

#### Israel army opens Farsi accounts

JERUSALEM: Israel's army has opened social media accounts in Farsi in a bid to reach out to the people of Iran, the military said on Twitter yesterday. The new Twitter, Instagram and Telegram accounts will enable Iranians "to see for themselves that they are not the enemy, the oppressive Iranian regime is", the army said. "The people of Iran deserve to hear the truth, and that's exactly what we will share," the army said on its Twitter account. The new accounts, which have garnered thousands of followers within days of launch, posted what the army described as the "command and control chart" of the Iran's elite Quds Force which Israel says was planning a drone attack from Syria. — AFP

#### Iran publicly hangs murderer of imam

TEHRAN: Iran yesterday hanged in public a man convicted of murdering the leader of main weekly prayers in the southern city of Kazeroun, state news agency IRNA said. Hamid Reza Derakhshandeh was executed at the scene where he killed the cleric on May 29, IRNA reported, citing the chief justice of Fars province, Kazem Mousavi. Mohammad Khorsand suffered fatal injuries when attacked with a "cold weapon" while returning from a ceremony during Ramadan, IRNA said. — AFP

## MPs back 'regulated' privatization, social media crackdown

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A number of MPs said yesterday they are ready to support privatization of some public services, but linked it to strong regulation by the government to create jobs for citizens and prevent misuse. MP Safa Al-Hashem said she has no objection to any government plan to privatize public services provided there is a strong government monitoring of the resulting companies in order to avoid misuse, exploitation of people

and hiking the cost of services.

But the lawmaker said she remains very cautious in supporting privatization, since Kuwait's experiment in this field has not been encouraging, adding that the performance of governments has also been below expectations. Privatization has remained a highly controversial issue in Kuwait because of unsuccessful instances in the past, most of which did not improve services but resulted in an increase in prices.

MP Khalil Al-Saleh said he prefers the privatization of the management of public services without privatizing the service itself, saying this method improves the service and leads to the creation of more jobs for Kuwaitis. The lawmaker said privatization of management will result in a major transformation in the performance of public services, adding that he opposes full privatization because previous experiments have not been promising. Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani

## Queen allows PM to suspend UK parliament

LONDON: Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday announced the suspension of parliament in the final weeks before Britain's EU departure date, enraging anti-Brexit MPs. The pound slid on the surprise news, which opponents branded a "coup" and a "declaration of war", although US President Donald Trump weighed into the row by praising Johnson as "great". The Conservative leader's move to close parliament for a month will give pro-EU lawmakers less time than they expected to try to thwart his plans for a possible

no-deal Brexit on Oct 31.

Queen Elizabeth II has approved the request to close what has been the longest session of parliament in nearly 400 years, and reopen it on Oct 14 setting out Johnson's fresh legislative program. Seemingly caught on the hop, incensed anti-Brexit MPs were left scrambling for a way to stop the move. Johnson's announcement came after six opposition parties said on Tuesday they would first seek to legislate to prevent leaving the EU without a deal when parliament returns from a summer recess next week.

Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the main opposition Labour Party, has said he wants to call a vote of no-confidence in Johnson's government, which commands a majority of just one seat. John Bercow, the speaker of parliament's lower House

Continued on Page 24



LONDON: Members of the anti-Brexit Our Future, Our Choice (OFOC) a youth movement supporting a people's vote on the Brexit deal, demonstrate outside the gates to Downing Street yesterday. — AFP

## US to open direct talks with Houthis; govt retakes Aden

WASHINGTON/ADEN: The United States is preparing to open direct talks with Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in a bid to end Yemen's war which has claimed thousands of lives, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday. The proposed initiative, the first direct negotiations between Washington and the Houthis in over four years, comes as the rebels have stepped up missile and drone attacks on neighboring Saudi Arabia.

"The United States is looking to prod Saudi Arabia into taking part in secret talks in Oman with Houthi leaders in an effort to broker a ceasefire in Yemen," The Wall Street Journal reported, citing unnamed people familiar with the plans. The move could open the first significant channel between President Donald Trump's administration and the Houthis at a time when fears of a broader regional war are growing, the newspaper said.

The toppling of the Yemen government by the Houthis in 2015 triggered the launch of a Saudi-led mil-



ADEN: Fighters of the UAE-trained Security Belt Force patrol a street in an area near Aden International Airport yesterday. — AFP

itary intervention to quell the rebel forces, but the Yemen conflict has since become even more complex and multi-layered. The US negotiating team would be led by Christopher Henzel, a veteran diplomat who became the Trump administration's first ambassador to Yemen in April, the newspaper said.

Continued on Page 24

## US nixes Harvard student's visa, axes 'Palestine' from list

WASHINGTON: A Palestinian teenager admitted to Harvard University said he was detained for hours at Boston's airport and refused entry into the United States after officers disapproved of his friends' political comments on social media. Ismail Ajjawi, who lives in Lebanon, said that an officer also asked him about his religion during eight hours of questioning Friday at Logan International Airport, according to an account he provided to the campus newspaper, The Harvard Crimson.

After five hours of searching his phone and laptop, Ajjawi said that an officer called him into a room and "started screaming at me". "She said that she found people posting political points of view that oppose the US on my friend's list," he said in the statement to the Crimson. The 17-year-old said

Continued on Page 24

## Local

# Amir receives Saudi King's envoy, greetings on recovery from recent health setback

## Sheikh Sabah receives congratulatory cables from Moroccan King, Palestinian President



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Saudi State Minister and member of the Cabinet Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahd Al Saud, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photo

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince, the visiting Saudi State Minister and member of the Cabinet Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahd Al Saud, who conveyed to His Highness the best greetings from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud over His Highness' recovery

from his recent health setback, wishing His Highness the best of health and more prosperity for Kuwait under His Highness' wise leadership. In return, His Highness the Amir thanked them for their best sentiments, wishing them the best of health and more prosperity for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The meeting was attended by Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Acting Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Mohammad Daifallah Sharar.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable from King Mohammed VI of Morocco, congratulating

him on recovery from his recent health setback. In the cable, the King of Morocco wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellbeing, and Kuwait further progress and prosperity under his judicious steering. In response, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of gratitude to the King of Morocco, voicing much thanks and appreciation to him for his warm sentiments and sincere supplications. His Highness the Amir wished the Moroccan leader well and the Kingdom of Morocco and its people perpetual development and prosperity under his sagacious guidance.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a congratulatory cable from Palestinian President and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Mahmoud Abbas, over his recovery from a recent minor health setback. Abbas expressed his sincere joy over His Highness the Amir's recovery, wishing him good health, and Kuwait further prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir. His Highness the Amir addressed a cable back to the Palestinian President, expressing gratitude over his concern and kind words as well as wishing Palestinians to achieve all the legitimate rights and aspirations. — KUNA

## Amir, Crown Prince receive state officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of the Supreme Judicial Council, President of the Court of Cassation, and President of the Constitutional Court Counselor Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawaa.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a book from Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received President of the Supreme Judicial Council, President of the Court of Cassation, and President of the Constitutional Court Counselor Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawaa. His Highness then received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah. In addition, His Highness the Amir received Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, who handed His Highness a book titled 'Kuwait in 400 Years'. In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Counselor Yousef Al-Mutawaa, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince then received Sheikha Intisar Al-Sabah, who handed His Highness a book titled 'Kuwait in 400 Years'. — KUNA



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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a book from Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

## NBK launches last session of summer internship program

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched recently the fourth and last session of the 2019 Summer Internship Program. The program is custom-made for high school and college students aged between 14 and 21 years. The five-hour daily sessions of two-week internship featured a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to providing the interns with invaluable knowledge on a variety of subjects such as: the team work, creative thinking, means of self-expression and modern banking work procedure, in addition to helping interns to have greater exposure to daily banking work procedures.

For the third consecutive year, NBK Summer Internship Program partners with LOYAC. This partnership aims at enhancing the Summer Internship Program with new challenges and is part of the ongoing partnership between NBK and LOYAC. The LOYAC training sessions included an introduction to the civil society sector, highlighting Civic Engagement and how values influence behavior.

NBK Summer Internship Program is specially designed for high school and college students as an extension of NBK's education outreach services. The program demonstrates NBK's long-standing social involvement as well as its national commit-



ment towards providing the young generations with the appropriate opportunities to experience firsthand how the actual pro-

fessional banking issues and transaction are handled and processed. NBK is proud of the outcome of the 2019 summer inter-

ship program and is looking forward to welcome the students who couldn't register this year in NBK's next year program.

Local

# Ending Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands only acceptable solution: Kuwait

## Israel continues attacking Palestinians, expanding settlements: Kuwait's envoy

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait affirmed refusal to any solution for the Israeli-Arab conflict that does not involve ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands since 1967. The remarks were made by Kuwait's permanent ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Mansour Al-Otaibi during the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) session on the situation in the Middle East late Tuesday. Otaibi noted that almost 25 years had passed since the Oslo Accord was signed, but no progress was seen in implementing the agreement, as Israel continues attacking Palestinians and expanding settlements. Israel is still violating the international law by building illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, forced displacement of Palestinian citizens, arresting Palestinians and destroying buildings, he said.

The situation got worse in Palestine after the US announced recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving embassies to the city, Otaibi said. He added that such actions and violations led the Palestinian government to stop exerting efforts to achieve peace with Israel. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that it is the UNSC's responsibility to meet the needs and ambitions of the Palestinian people and protect civilians against Israeli violence. Moreover, he called on the international community to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to allow the organization to continue providing education, health and social services to Palestinian refugees.

Despite the escalating tension, the Arab states still look forward to reach a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-

Israeli conflict. This includes recognizing Palestine as an independent state, protect the Palestinian right of return, grant Palestinians the right to decide their own fate and compensating Palestinian refugees, in accordance with article number 194 of the UN General Assembly.

**Criminal act**

Separately, Kuwait has renewed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motives, as it is a criminal act that is not justified and should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. This came in a speech last night by Kuwait at the Security Council session on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, which was delivered by Ambassador Otaibi. "The fight against terrorism calls for mobilizing all international efforts to confront this criminal scourge by taking measures to ensure respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance," he said. He pointed out that despite the victories achieved by the international community against the

terrorist organizations, especially against the so-called Islamic State or Daesh and the military defeat suffered by the organization in Syria with the fall of the city of Baghuz in the province of Deir Ezzor in March, but the Islamic State was not fully eliminated.

Otaibi added that the so-called Islamic State operates and grows secretly in Iraq, Syria and other regions around the world by developing its methods, whether in terrorist operations, financing such operations or recruiting individuals according to the available resources. He noted the report of the Secretary-General, which indicat-



**KAFR QADDUM:** An Israeli soldier detains a Palestinian child during clashes following a weekly protest against the expropriation of Palestinian land by Israel, in the village of Kafr Qaddum, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on August 23, 2019. — AFP

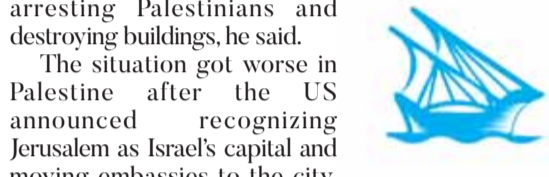
ed that the so-called IS is still able to send money to carry out its acts of sabotage in ways that are difficult to detect by the authorities in light of the wealth they control, which amounts to about \$300 million. The war against IS in Iraq and Syria has left many humanitarian and security threats and challenges, for example, the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, returnees, migrants and their families, he said.

**Radical ideologies**

Prisons were an incubator that contributed to the nurturing and dissemination of radical ideologies among inmates suffering from poverty, marginalization and discrimination, which required further cooperation and com-

munication among Member States and with the support of relevant United Nations entities in further strengthening the rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts of prisoners, including convicts and those convicted of crimes of terrorism.

Otaibi pointed out that Kuwait has established a rehabilitation center specialized in providing guidance and reform for all those affected by thought outside the scope of sound thought, where members of the Center go through a program aimed at qualifying everyone with extremist ideology. Otaibi pointed out that preventing and combating the financing of terrorism is also one of the most prominent challenges facing countries in their efforts to combat the threat of terrorism. — KUNA



### Kuwait condemns terrorism 'in all its forms'

## Kuwaiti FM receives call from Pakistani counterpart

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call yesterday from Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi. The two sides discussed the latest regional and international developments.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign

Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with Libya's Charge D'Affairs Ali Ahmad Al-Alous. During the encounter, they discussed Kuwaiti-Libyan relations and the latest regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Libya's Charge D'Affairs Ali Ahmad Al-Alous. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received yesterday Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Netherlands Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi. — KUNA

## OIC chief hails Amir over regional, int'l efforts



Yusef Al-Othaimeen

**JEDDAH:** Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Yusef Al-Othaimeen yesterday commended the regional and international efforts of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. "Comprehensive development witnessed by Kuwait under His Highness the Amir is a source of pride," Othaimeen said. The OIC chief also spoke highly of Kuwait's effective involvement in all pro-

grams spearheaded by the largest Muslim bloc, in addition to its essential part in various causes. Othaimeen, further, congratulated His Highness the Amir, government and people of Kuwait on Sheikh Sabah's recovery from a recent health problem, wishing him well and Kuwait and its people perpetual security and stability. — KUNA

Ready for the Beach ??

**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961

Subscribe or renew your subscription  
& get K.D 50

**1 Coupon FREE**

**50 K.D**

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait | Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7  
Fax: 24835620 - 24835621 | E: info@kuwaittimes.net

## Local

# Endangered animals seized at southern border checkpoint

## Operation based on regulations banning unauthorized trade in endangered species

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Nuwaiseeb customs officers seized 20 monkeys and a pelican from a suspect who arrived from a Gulf country. The officers called the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to collect the animals. The operation took place after the Environment Public Authority were tipped off about an attempted smuggling of endangered animals through the Nuwaiseeb land border checkpoint south of the country. It came based on regulations that bans unauthorized trade in endangered species in accordance with CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), of which Kuwait is a signatory.

In other news, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said that a video clip on social media showing a man moving around in Hawally with a sharp object prompted policemen to locate the suspect, who took the object away and arrested him. The department also com-

mented on a social media claim that a "wanted" Kuwaiti arrived in the country and was not arrested by saying that the person has a case at the public prosecution, but there is no arrest warrant or travel ban against him.

Separately, police arrested an Arab man who stabbed a compatriot three times during a fight. Investigations revealed that the suspect had booked an airline ticket, so a travel ban was placed on him and he was arrested at Kuwait International Airport. In another case, a lieutenant colonel fell from a high place while storming a place in Salwa. The officer sustained severe injuries and was taken to hospital. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti youth in his 30s was detained at Salwa police station accused of attempted murder, encouraging immorality and colluding with three vehicles before escaping. Al-Jarida daily reported yesterday. A police source said a charge of attempted murder was made against him because he deliberately ran over a woman, her daughter and son. Detectives were able to arrest him hours after the incident. The man confessed to the charges except harassment.



KUWAIT: This picture released by the Customs Department yesterday shows the endangered animals confiscated at the Nuwaiseeb land border checkpoint.

## Officials mull security preparations for 'Ashura'

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Naham met husseiniya officials yesterday in the presence of Undersecretary for General Security Affairs Lt Gen Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs Maj Gen Abdelaziz Al-Hajiri and other senior officials. The meeting discussed preparations to secure husseiniyas marking 'Ashura' on Muharram 10th and the days leading to that date. The undersecretary urged husseiniya goers to comply with the law and police instructions in the vicinity of husseiniyas.

## Voluntary work basic resource for sustainable development: Official

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Voluntary work is a collection of ethics, principles and values that encourage goodwill activities that go beyond self-benefit to reach others, Chairman of the Kuwait Society for Education Establishments Dr Faisal Al-Enezi said. Enezi was speaking during the opening of a conference and exhibition of voluntary work at Jumeirah Hotel under the patronage of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

He said the importance of voluntary work comes out of a social and economic approach to contribute to moving the individual forward. "Volunteering urges the adoption of initiatives that enable the individual to contribute and provide them with an activity to spend their spare time and benefit themselves and the society at the same time," he noted. He added that it is important to educate both the individual and society on the importance of voluntary work and its positive effects.

"Voluntary work has many features including having volunteers gaining field and administrative experience and employing human energy to serve the society through forming work teams for self-development in various aspects that benefit the volunteers and the society," Enezi added. He said voluntary work forms one of the society's development measures and reveals the extent of its awareness and interaction with various issues, besides being a form of political participation between the individual and decision maker.

Enezi said advanced societies are more caring and celebrate voluntary work, which has now become a basic resource for sustainable development and reflects the citizen's awareness of its role in the advancement of their country. He said the aim behind the conference is to project voluntary work and show what the Kuwaiti society presents to civil society organizations, whether the public or private sectors, which covers all contributions presented by voluntary teams under the administration of the social affairs ministry, NGOs, societies and unions.



KUWAIT: Participants in the exhibition.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received at the ministry's diwaniya yesterday 43 policewomen who recently graduated from the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences. The new officers swore in before the minister, who then issued decisions to appoint them in the Ministry of Interior. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

## Kuwait signs KD 109 million infrastructure deal to push mega housing project

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of Public Works Dr Jenan Ramadan Boushehri signed a deal yesterday worth nearly KD 109 million (\$356 million) for infrastructure work in a

blossoming southern residential area. The project is significant since it links Kuwait's Al-Mutlaa city with other adjacent areas where traffic volume can reach up to 70 percent, Boushehri, who is also Minister of State for Housing, told the press. The deal is part of a series of similar projects that aim to prop up a national strategy for broad development, all of which are running on schedule, the minister revealed. The project mainly entails adding more driving lanes to roads by the entrance to Al-Mutlaa city, according to the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation's Acting Director General Suha Ashkanani. It also deals with the construction of electrical networks, traffic signs, pedestrian bridges, in addition to other utilities, added the official. — KUNA

## KRCS helps needy kids get back to school

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday delivered some 2,000 backpacks laden with crucial school supplies to impoverished children, just in time for the new academic year. The initiative is an earnest effort on the venerable Kuwaiti charity's part to help the children get an auspicious start to the new school year, KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer told the press. The annual endeavor is a testament to the charity's commitment to a sound education and a demonstration in support of students, he added. — KUNA



Legalese

## Being creative in Kuwait



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

The Kuwaiti society is definitely unique. As Kuwaiti nationals, we really appreciate the fact that we have financial stability, giving us the opportunity to be creative or take a leap of faith in our ability to create - although I believe that everyone should take a leap of faith in their ability to create. As humans, we are creators. So even if you do not have the financial perks that Kuwaitis receive, you are still an internal part of this society, and I urge you to have faith in your ability to be creative and to do your own thing and share and inspire others with your work, whether it is singing, creating art, writing songs, making YouTube videos or whatever it is that fulfills your purpose.

From a legal point of view, there are a few things to consider though when being creative, and today I thought it is important to discuss them.

### Copyrighting

**Question:** As a writer, I want to copyright my work. Where do I go, and what information should I be aware of?

**Fajer:** Copyrighting in Kuwait is done at the National Library of Kuwait, which is located on Arabian Gulf Road. Copyrighting is usually done in a timely manner and is internationally for writers for a minimal fee. The copyright is valid for 50 years usually, and the author has the following rights:

1. To have their name or an anonymous name as a writer.
2. The author has the right to ban any changes or edits to their work, or to order the court to do so.
3. To have all mentions of their work cited to the author.
4. To ban any amendments or rewrites of their works.

**Question:** I am a creative person working on a wide range of artistic pieces, and I would like to know if I can copyright my pieces?

**Fajer:** Yes, you can copyright your pieces. In fact as a general rule, you can copyright any creative works such as books, editorial pieces, poems, songs, lectures, theatrical works, podcasts, any art, photography, maps, illustrations, computer programs ie coding, translations and research. You cannot copy general ideas, official documents or daily news and events.

### ISBN number

**Question:** I have written a book and I want to get an ISBN number - where can I copyright my book? Any other thing I should be aware of?

**Fajer:** We have a department in Kuwait that is specifically for literary copyright - it is located at the National Library of Kuwait. You will need to fill out a form and submit your work to the department. The process for protecting your literary work takes on average around a week, and you will get an international ISBN number that you can use worldwide.

Another common question I get for copyrighting books is whether Kuwait guarantees certificates of ownership of literary work that includes explicit material. The answer to this question is yes - you can get your book copyrighted even if the content has explicit material. There are only two topics that cannot be copyrighted - but these do not include explicit material. This does not mean that your book can be published or sold in Kuwait, as you will need approval before doing so.

For questions or queries, please email us at [info@il-legal.com](mailto:info@il-legal.com).

## Crimes

### Ministry to build condolences halls

KUWAIT: Official sources said the social affairs ministry has received official approvals to build halls to receive condolences, similar to wedding halls. They said the ministry has received site allocations to build the halls and they will be distributed over all governorates in the first stage, and more halls could be built later. The sources said the aim is to make matters easier for citizens and expats, because sometimes it is difficult to find a place to receive condolences, adding that the halls will be rented for a fee, in addition to a refundable deposit. They said the social affairs ministry will put forth tenders to build the halls as soon as it receives the site plans officially. — By A Saleh

### Proposals approved

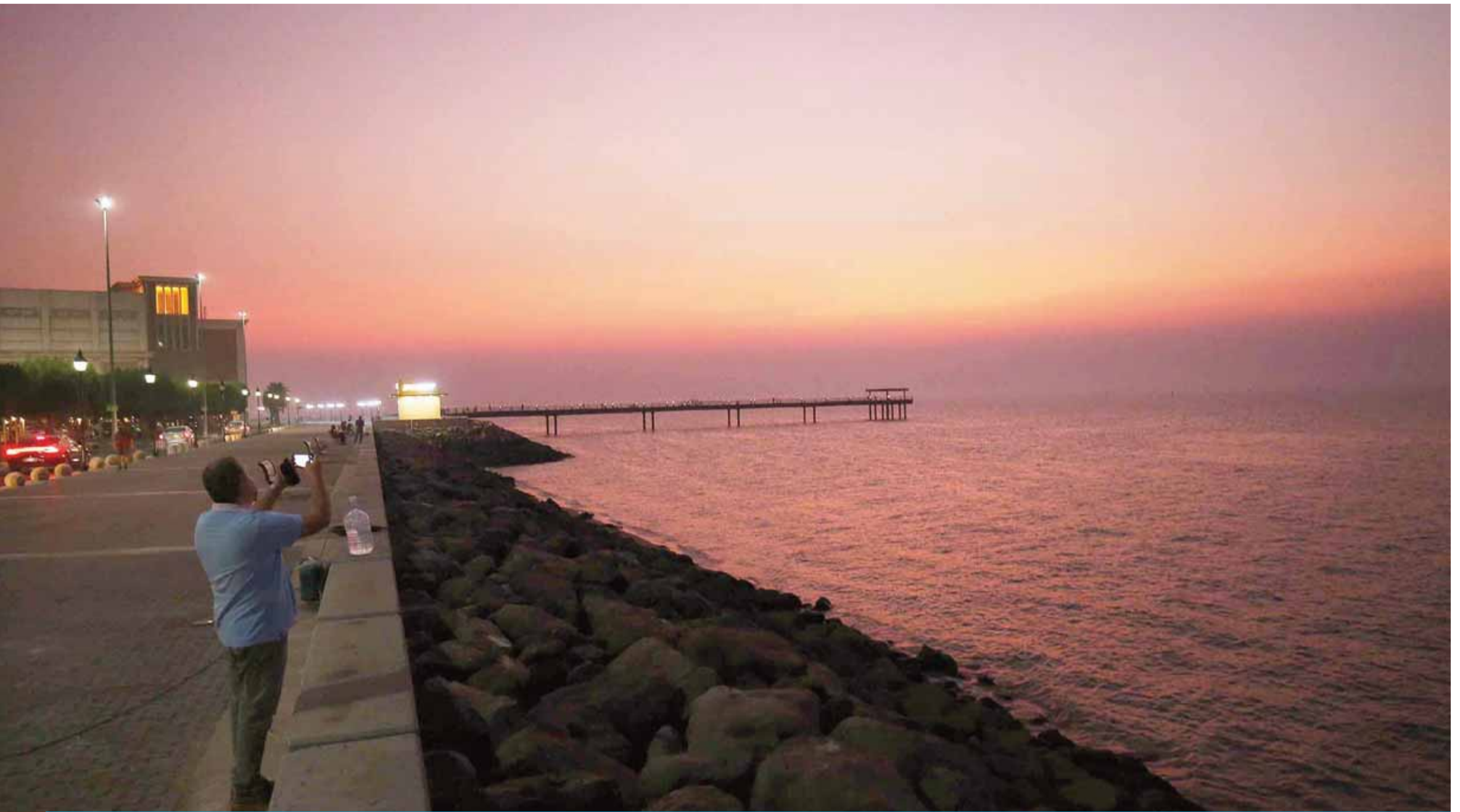
KUWAIT: The Municipal Council's technical committee approved a proposal of the chairman with regards to allocate station at the coastline for tourists' transportation. It also approved the communication ministry's request to allocate a tower site for the national center for ship traffic system (VTC) and search and rescue (SAR) and navigation guides (ATON). The committee rejected a request by the public facilities management company to use the roofs of multilevel car parking buildings for new ideas and projects. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi

### System malfunction

KUWAIT: The communications ministry said a malfunction hit its internal network caused its automated subscription collection system to stop. The concerned department equipped the exchanges with temporary computers until the network is repaired in the coming days. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A man snaps a photo of the sky after sunset on a beach in Sharq yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

### Sheikh Sabah library in New Delhi ‘beacon of knowledge’

NEW DELHI: The Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Library in New Delhi is a cultural beacon of knowledge par excellence, an Indian academician said yesterday. Vice Chancellor of the prestigious Indian University Jamia Millia Islamia Najma Akhtar said during a meeting with Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassem Al-Najem that the library is very rich with Arabic books references and has turned into a major source of information for the researchers.

Najma Akhtar, who is serving as the first woman Vice Chancellor of the university ever since its establishment in 1920, said that there is a number of students and researchers specializing on Arab culture, Islamic history from various Indian regions are regularly visiting the library, opened in 2011 at the Indo-Arab Cultural Center at the university. She added that the library is yet another landmark in the history of strong and long-standing relations between the two friendly countries and hailed the interest of Kuwait Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the field of education and knowledge production. She pointed out that the electronic linking of the library with distinctive libraries in Kuwait such as

the National Library and the Library of Kuwait University will provide enhanced opportunity for students and academicians in India to find more references and resources. The Jamia VC also praised Kuwait's humanitarian role in various international forums and the role of his His Highness the Amir in resolving various issues around the globe.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Najem said that India was the cradle of human civilization and bonds with Kuwait in several areas including academic, cultural and scientific are strong. Kuwait is always committed to harnessing all efforts to participate in academic and cultural activities around the world and activate bilateral agreements signed with friendly countries in these areas for mutual benefit, Ambassador Najem stressed. Scholarships, faculty and student exchange programs between universities and scientific centers should be tapped for the benefit of the people in both the countries, he added. Under the guidance of the humanitarian leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait is striving to spread knowledge across the whole world and bring peoples of different cultures together, the ambassador concluded. —KUNA



NEW DELHI: Vice Chancellor of the prestigious Indian University Jamia Millia Islamia Najma Akhtar receives a memento from Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassem Al-Najem. — KUNA

### Kuwaiti aid for flood-hit Sudan touches down tomorrow

KHARTOUM: A Kuwaiti plane carrying humanitarian aid meant for the victims of flash floods across Sudan will land tomorrow, said the Gulf state's ambassador to Khartoum Bassam Al-Qabandi. "Our efforts to come to the aid of the Sudanese people come upon the instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," the Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. The Kuwaiti plane is laden with 40 tons of food to be delivered to the people of Sudan, he said, expressing hope that the aid would mitigate the misery they have been living in. He thanked all concerned parties in Sudan for their efforts to allow unimpeded and timely delivery of the crucial aid across



Ambassador Bassam Al-Qabandi

the impoverished nation. Torrential rains and floods have battered Sudan for over a month, affecting nearly 200,000 people across 15 states. —KUNA

الجزيرة  
**Jazeera.**

**I LOVE LONDON**

**Daily flights**  
From KD 100 Return

Jazeera Airways is now flying daily to London Gatwick from October 27<sup>th</sup>. Visit the UK capital and enjoy great shopping, historic sites, wonderful entertainment and excellent restaurants. With Jazeera it's all a lot closer! Travel in comfort on-board our new A320neo in a choice of three cabins: Business, Premium Economy and Economy.

Book now at [jazeeraairways.com](http://jazeeraairways.com) or call 177.



Malaysian former PM Najib 'pivotal' in IMDB plunder

## 25 killed as gunmen ignite fire in Mexico bar



GAZA: Security forces loyal to Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas carry away the body of their comrade Salama Al-Nadeem, 32, during his funeral in Gaza City yesterday. —AFP

# Gaza under alert after bombings

## Suicide attacks kill three police officers

GAZA: Hamas said yesterday that two overnight bombings killed three Palestinian police officers in the Gaza Strip in what witnesses called suicide attacks as the Palestinian enclave was placed under a state of alert. Witnesses told AFP that both bombings were suicide attacks by assailants on motorbikes, but there was no official confirmation.

A source familiar with the investigation said a Salafist movement in Gaza, which is run by Islamist movement Hamas, that sympathizes with the Islamic State jihadist group was suspected. Hamas's interior ministry confirmed the three deaths, but spoke only of two "bombings" in Gaza City without providing details. It said two of the police officers were 32 and the third was 45. Two separate police checkpoints were targeted, it said.

An investigation was underway as authorities pledged to track down the "masterminds". New police checkpoints were set up in Gaza City. Hamas leader Ismail Haniya sought to reassure Palestinians in the enclave of two million people. "We assure our people that whatever these explosions are, they will be brought under control as with every previous event, and will not be able to undermine the stability and steadfastness of our people," he said in a statement.

### Hundreds gathered for funerals for the three police officers.

Suicide bombings are rare in the Gaza Strip. In August 2017, a suicide bomber killed a Hamas guard in southern Gaza on the border with Egypt. Hamas has run the Gaza Strip since 2007 but has been regularly criticized by more radical Salafist groups in the impoverished, Israeli-blockaded coastal territory. The Israeli military said it had not carried out any air raids at the time of the latest bombings.

### Tensions with Israel

The bombings come at a sensitive time. Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008 and tensions have again risen in recent weeks ahead of Israel's September 17 elections. Israel's military on Tuesday bombed a Hamas military post after militants in the strip fired a mortar round across the border, the latest in a string of such incidents this month. On Monday, Israel launched air strikes against Hamas in response to rocket fire, while it also halved fuel deliveries to the enclave. The punitive reduction in the flow of fuel to the strip's main power station means a cut in Gaza's already rationed electricity supply.

The incidents have threatened a fragile truce that had cooled several severe flare-ups between Hamas and Israel in recent months. Brokered by UN and Egyptian



GAZA: Relatives of Hamas security member Salama Al-Nadeem, 32, look upon his funeral procession in Gaza City yesterday. The Gaza Strip was in a 'state of alert' yesterday after explosions in the Palestinian enclave. —AFP

officials, the ceasefire also involves aid to the Gaza Strip from Qatar. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is widely seen as wanting to avoid an escalation in Gaza before the polls due to the political risk involved, but he has faced calls for strong action from his electoral opponents.

As a result, there has been speculation in Israel that Hamas has turned a blind

eye to recent rocket fire and infiltration attempts by more radical elements instead of preventing them in a bid to pressure Netanyahu into further concessions. Hamas has not claimed responsibility for the recent cross-border incidents. Other militant groups, most prominently Islamic Jihad, also operate in the Gaza Strip. —AFP

## Amsterdam drug culture turn bad

AMSTERDAM: Long famed for its casual attitude to marijuana use, the Dutch capital Amsterdam says it now has a serious problem with hard drugs that has brought increased violence and corruption at the hands of "hustlers, parasites and extortionists". Money from the lucrative trade in drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy as well as marijuana has also found its way in the city's flourishing real estate market, according to a city-commissioned report entitled

### "The Other Side of Amsterdam".

Although marijuana is illegal in the Netherlands, Amsterdam's famed "coffee shops" have for decades sold it openly for the pleasure of residents and tourists alike. Prosecutors do not press charges for possession of small amounts and the report said police had largely given up on trying to enforce small drug offences in the face of widespread social acceptance.

But this policy has de-facto spread to other drugs, it said. "Amsterdam has given free rein...to a motley crew of drugs criminals, a ring of hustlers and parasites, middle-men and extortionists, of dubious notaries and real estate agents," the report said. At the top of the criminal chain are wealthy organized crime bosses who may not be physically located in

Amsterdam, the report said. At the bottom are "criminal lackeys such as scooter and taxi chauffeurs and even youthful messenger-boys set to follow quite a career path: offering murder as a service."

Recent studies found that 21 percent of Amsterdam's population has used marijuana in the past year and 17 percent had used "hard drugs" such as cocaine and ecstasy, it said. Health authorities estimate up to 70% of people attending dance festivals may use ecstasy, it said. Mayor Femke Halsema said she accepted the report's criticisms. She intended to continue current programs, especially those aimed at countering drug money entering the real estate market, and to improve Amsterdam's cooperation with law enforcement, Halsema said in a statement. —Reuters

## US news anchor apologizes after comparing black colleague to ape

WASHINGTON: A television news anchorwoman in the US apologized on-air after comparing her black colleague to a gorilla, NBC News reported Tuesday. Alex Housden of KOCO 5 News in Oklahoma City made the remark last Thursday during a segment on an ape whose handler was running the local zoo's Instagram for the day. When a video of a baby gorilla appeared on screen, Housden, who is white, turned to her black co-anchor, Jason Hackett, and said that the ape "kind of looks like you," NBC reported.

The following day, a tearful Housden apologized to Hackett, saying: "I said something yesterday that was inconsiderate, it was inappropriate, and I hurt people." "I want you all to know from the bottom of my heart, I apologize for what I said. I know it was wrong and I am so sorry." Hackett accepted her apology, but acknowledged that the words "cut deep for me." "I want this to be a teachable moment and that lesson here is that words, words matter," he said. "There's no doubt about that."

The incident comes amid heightened racial tensions in the US following a series of remarks by Republican President Donald Trump directed at lawmakers from the Democratic opposition that have been criticized as racist. The president in July said four Democratic lawmakers of color should "go back" to where they came from, then later called Baltimore, a majority-black city, a "dangerous & filthy place." —AFP

International

# Hezbollah to hit back at Israel, but war unlikely: Deputy chief

## Concern grows in region about new Hezbollah-Israel war

BEIRUT: Hezbollah will respond with a "surprise" strike against Israel after drones crashed in Lebanon, but a new war remains unlikely, the Iran-backed movement said, amid heightened fears of a full-scale confrontation between the longtime adversaries. Israel has not claimed responsibility for the two drones that crashed at the weekend in the Hezbollah-dominated southern suburbs of Beirut. One of them exploded, causing some damage to Hezbollah's media centre in the district, but nobody was hurt.

"I rule out that the atmosphere is one of war, it is one of a response to an attack," Hezbollah deputy leader Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a TV interview on Tuesday night. "Everything will be decided at its time." Lebanon's Hezbollah is planning a

"calculated strike" but seeks to avoid a new war with Israel, two sources allied to the Shiite Muslim group, which fought a deadly month-long war with Israel in 2006, told Reuters earlier on Tuesday.

A regional security official said the drone incident was "a strike that dealt a blow to Hezbollah's capabilities in the realm of precision-missile manufacturing". "Israel's message to Hezbollah here, writ large, was: Keep manufacturing, and we will keep hitting you." Asked what would happen if Hezbollah escalates after responding, the official said: "I imagine that Israel would then step up its strikes and wipe out this capability altogether. The details of these sites are known. The ball would now appear to be in Hezbollah's court."

Despite signs that Israel and Hezbollah do not want a new full-scale conflict, tensions over the drones and an air raid in Syria that Israel says thwarted an Iranian attack have emerged at a sensitive time in the Middle East. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to appear decisive ahead of elections in three weeks. Iran and the United States are at odds over a 2015 nuclear deal.

Shiite militias in Iraq, many of whom are backed by Iran, blame recent blasts at their weapons depots on the United States and Israel. In a speech on Sunday, Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah described the drone crashes as the first Israeli attack in Lebanon since the 2006 war. Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Nasrallah should "calm down", also issuing warnings to

Lebanon and Qassem Soleimani, commander of the overseas arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Precise details about where the drones were fired from have yet to emerge. In response to questions about the origin or target of the drones, Qassem did not give details in the interview with Russia's RT Arabic channel. He added that Hezbollah, which says the drones were rigged with explosives, saw it as an attack that it must respond to, so that Israel does not upset the status quo and set its own terms. "We want the strike to be a surprise...and so there is no interest in diving into the details," he said. "The coming days will reveal this." In his speeches over the past year, Nasrallah has often said an all-out war with Israel was unlikely. — Reuters

## World War II: The key dates

PARIS: World War II started 80 years ago with the German invasion of Poland and drew in several countries before it ended six years later with Japan's surrender. It was the world's deadliest conflict, estimated to have killed 40 to 60 million people, more than half of whom were civilians. Here are key dates in the war.

### Nazis invade Poland

Adolf Hitler's Nazi forces invade Poland from the west on September 1, 1939, prompting Britain and France to declare war on Berlin two days later. Soviet forces attack Poland from the east on September 17, under a secret pact with Germany, and the city of Warsaw surrenders 10 days later.

### Northern France occupied

After occupying Denmark and Norway, Hitler launches a major offensive against Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and France in May 1940. France's wartime leader Philippe Petain on June 17 announces its capitulation: on June 22 he signs the armistice that allows Nazi forces to occupy the north of the country. On June 18 French General Charles de Gaulle calls from London for resistance. Petain sets up a government headquartered in

the central spa town of Vichy that collaborates with the occupying German forces.

### Battle of Britain

On August 13, 1940, the Battle of Britain begins with German bombers carrying out massive attacks on cities such as Coventry and London, the raids continuing for nine months. Faced with British resistance, Hitler abandons his planned invasion of Britain and declares, later in August, a blockade of the British Isles with his submarine fleet.

### Soviet Union attacked

On June 22, 1941, Berlin turns east and launches an attack against the Soviet Union. The German army is halted at the gates of Moscow in December by a Soviet counteroffensive. However its siege of Leningrad, now Saint Petersburg, will last nearly 900 days until January 1944.

### Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 1941, Japan-allied with Germany attacks the US military base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, destroying most of the US Pacific fleet. The Americans, led by Franklin D. Roosevelt, enter World War II the next day.

### Extermination

On January 20, 1942, Hitler ramps up at a Berlin conference his "Final Solution" plan to exterminate Jews, in particular by mass killings in concentration camps. Some six million Jews are slain, as well as many political prisoners, including resistance fighters, homosexuals and gypsies.

### North Africa defeat

In October 1942 British troops defeat the German Afrika Korps in Egypt, handing the Nazi army its first major setback. In November thousands of British and American forces land in North Africa, leading to the surrender in 1943 of German-allied troops in the region.

### Battle of Stalingrad

On February 2, 1943, the five-month Battle of Stalingrad ends with Soviet victory over the Nazis. It is the first Nazi surrender in Europe since the war began, and costs the German army half a million men.

### D-Day in France

In November 1943 the Allies agree to attack Germany via occupied France. D-Day is on June 6, 1944, when more than 156,000 mainly American, British and Canadian troops land on the Normandy beaches. They overwhelm the Germans and liberate Paris on August 25.

### Germany surrenders

The Soviet army arrives in Berlin in April 1945 and captures the city by early May. Hitler commits suicide on April 30. On May 8 Germany surrenders unconditionally, ending the war in Europe.

### Japan capitulates

On August 6 and 9 US aircraft drop atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively. On September 2, 1945, Japan officially surrenders. World War II is over. — AFP

## Scientists create albino lizards



ATHENS, Georgia: This undated handout photo obtained yesterday shows an albino lizard. — AFP

WASHINGTON: A team of scientists at the University of Georgia has successfully performed gene-editing on reptiles for the first time, creating a pair of albino lizards the size of a human index finger. In a paper describing the breakthrough in the journal Cell Press on Tuesday, the researchers said it could help us better understand vision problems in humans with albinism. The powerful gene-editing technology known as CRISPR has led to big breakthroughs in mice, plants and humans, but getting it to work on reptiles had proved impossible because of key reproductive differences.

"For quite some time we've been wrestling with how to modify reptile genomes and manipulate genes in reptiles, but we've been stuck in the mode of how gene editing is being done in the major model systems" said Doug Menke, co-author of a paper that described the work in Cell Press on Tuesday. By contrast, gene-editing techniques have been researched extensively on so-called "major model systems" like mice, chicken, and certain species of fish and frogs.

CRISPR gene-editing is usually performed on freshly fertilized eggs or single-cell zygotes, but the technique is difficult to apply to egg-laying animals. If you try to do it after fertilization, millions of cells will have already grown, and trying to penetrate the leathery, flexible shell at that stage may kill the embryo, Menke said. — AFP



**TOYOTA**

**Rush**  
MODEL 20RU-L  
Starting from  
KD. 5,050  
Installment  
KD. 97



**AVANZA**  
MODEL 19AVZ-H  
Starting from  
KD. 4,450  
Installment  
KD. 86



**FORTUNER**  
MODEL 19FT2A  
Starting from  
KD. 8,325  
Installment  
KD. 160



**INNOVA**  
MODEL 19INH  
Starting from  
KD. 7,250  
Installment  
KD. 140





**TEST DRIVE THE ABOVE MODELS AND RECEIVE 4 TICKETS FOR**



- ✓ COMPLIMENTARY 3 YEARS/30,000 KMS SERVICE PACKAGE\*
- ✓ COMPLIMENTARY MUSAADA ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
- ✓ COMPLIMENTARY 3 YEARS T-CONNECT SERVICE
- ✓ 5-YEAR UNLIMITED MILEAGE/WARRANTY
- ✓ COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION & 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY INSURANCE
- ✓ COMPLIMENTARY KD 50 FUEL CARD

IN COOPERATION WITH:








Mohamed Naser AlSayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.  
A subsidiary of ALSAYER Holding






1803803  
toyota.com.kw

Al-Rai: 4th Ring Road • Assaq Al-Qurain • AL-AHMADI: Eastern Ahmadi • AL-JAHRA: Industrial Area • SHUJAIYAH: Al Tial Showroom • NEW FLEET SALES CENTRE: ARDIYA Exit: 2020/2023

## International

# 25 killed as gunmen burst into a strip club in eastern Mexico

## Attackers ignite fire in Mexico bar

**COATZACOALCOS:** At least 25 people were killed and 11 badly wounded when gunmen burst into a strip club in eastern Mexico, doused it with gasoline and ignited a raging fire, officials said yesterday. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador condemned Tuesday night's "shameful" attack in the city of Coatzacoalcos, and said federal authorities would investigate evidence that it may have stemmed from collusion between the state prosecutor's office and organized crime. The attack is the latest to rock the state of Veracruz, a flashpoint in bloody turf wars between Mexico's rival drug cartels and a hotbed of political corruption.

Survivors said gunmen descended on the bar, the Caballo Blanco (White Horse), in a hail of bullets, blocked the entrances and set the club alight. But because of the loud reggaeton music pounding inside, many patrons and dancers did not even notice the attack until the entire bar was in flames, they said. "They arrived in several vehicles, with rifles and pistols. They threatened the security guards at the door and took control of the main entrance," one survivor told an AFP reporter, speaking on condition of anonymity, as frantic family members rushed to the bar looking for their loved ones.

Veracruz Governor Cuauhtemoc Garcia tweeted that authorities had identified one of the attackers as Ricardo "N"-Mexican law bars the release of suspects' full names—adding that he was a repeat offender known as "La Loca" ("The Crazy One"). The suspect was previously arrested last month, but was released by prosecutors within 48 hours, Garcia said, vowing that "this vile crime... will not go unpunished." President Lopez Obrador said federal authorities would investigate why the suspect had been released, and whether there was a conspiracy between the state prosecutor's office and organized crime.

"There's a problem there that needs to be investigated regarding the actions of the Veracruz prosecutor's office,"

he told a press conference. "There are two things going on here: one is this shameful act by organized crime, the most inhuman thing possible; the other, which is also reprehensible, is a possible conspiracy with the authorities." "We have to categorically separate organized crime from the government," added Lopez Obrador, a leftist elected last year on a stern anti-corruption platform.

### Attackers blocked exits

Veracruz is one of the most violent states in the country. Its strategic location on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico makes it a popular route for drug cartels and for human traffickers bringing undocumented migrants to the United States.

Bloody battles between warring cartels and gangs frequently erupt in the state. Coatzacoalcos has been among the cities hardest hit by the violence. The White Horse was one of the last nightclubs in the once-booming port city of 235,000 people, which has fallen on hard times along with Mexico's oil industry, of which it was a hub. Survivors said the bar was bustling when the gunmen burst in. The attackers blocked the emergency exits, and many of the victims died of smoke inhalation, authorities said.

The interior of the bar was wrecked and charred, with chairs overturned and debris littering the floor. The naked body of a woman who had been mid-routine was sprawled on the dance floor next to the striptease poles. Outside, anguished relatives cried and embraced as they waited for news, while soldiers, police and paramedics worked the scene. "I just want to know if he's OK," said a mother looking for her son, who was a cleaner at the bar, after searching for him in vain at local hospitals. "Have you seen my daughter? She was a dancer," said another.

### Hit squads, corruption

Mexico has been hit by a wave of violence since



**COATZACOALCOS:** Mexican soldiers stand guard outside a bar where 23 people were killed by a fire in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz yesterday. — AFP

declaring war on drugs and deploying the army to fight its powerful cartels in 2006. Since then, more than 250,000 people have been murdered, including a record 33,753 last year. The situation in Veracruz has been particularly grim. Jailed ex-governor Javier Duarte (2010-2016) is accused

of presiding over a rash of corruption and human-rights abuses. Two former state police chiefs and a string of ex-officials have been charged with running hit squads that abducted and presumably killed unwanted individuals during Duarte's administration. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Honduras eyes Jerusalem 'office'

**MEXICO CITY:** Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez will travel to Jerusalem to inaugurate a "diplomatic office" in the city on Sept 1, the Honduran government said in a statement on Tuesday. The office represents an extension of Honduras's embassy in the country, the Honduran government said. Hernandez said in March that he would open a trade office in Jerusalem. It was not immediately clear how the diplomatic office would be related to a trade office. The Honduran president's office and foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Hernandez has in recent months signaled that his government is mulling moving the Honduran embassy to Jerusalem. His comments follow the formal recognition by US President Donald Trump of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. Last May, Trump moved the US embassy to the disputed city. — Reuters

#### Gambia's Jawara dies at 95

**BANJUL:** Dawda Jawara, the first president of The Gambia following independence from Britain, died yesterday at the age of 95, officials said. Current President Adama Barrow, in online comments, described Jawara's death as "a great loss to the country in particular and humanity in general". Fisheries Minister James Gomez said that "the former head of State Sir Dawda Jawara died this afternoon. Flags would fly at half mast" and the body will lie in state for mourners to pay their respects. Jawara, a Glasgow-trained veterinary doctor, led the former British Colony to Independence on 18th February 1965 until July 1994 when his reign was brought to an end by a bloodless military coup led by Yahya Jammeh, who went on to rule the tiny West African state for 22 years. The Gambian presidency, in a statement on Twitter announced that a state funeral would be held today. — AFP

#### Air raids hit near Turkish post

**BEIRUT:** Air raids hit near a Turkish military post in northwest Syria yesterday, a war monitor said, after Ankara vowed to take necessary steps to protect its troops deployed across the border. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said warplanes fired at areas surrounding a Turkish observation post in Sheir Maghar, located in the jihadist-run Idlib region. The Britain-based monitor said it was not clear if the aircraft belonged to Russia or the Syrian regime, both of which have pounded Idlib with heavy air strikes since late April. Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said that the post itself was not hit. The raids near Sheir Maghar came after Syrian government forces surrounded another Turkish observation post in the nearby town of Morek last week, according to the Observatory, which relies on sources inside Syria for its information. — AFP

#### Morales thanks G7 for 'tiny' aid

**LA PAZ:** Bolivia's leftist President Evo Morales gave a half-hearted welcome Tuesday to a G7 pledge of \$20 million to fight the Amazon wildfires, describing it as "tiny." An underwhelmed Morales said the aid from the most industrialized countries was part of the world's "obligation" to preserve the Amazon rainforest. "I welcome that small, small, tiny contribution of \$20 million from the G7 - that is not help, it is part of a shared co-responsibility, as all peoples have the obligation to preserve the ecosystem," Morales told Bolivia's Radio Panamericana. The richest nations "should contribute a lot, and not only when there are fires," the president said, adding that he hoped the aid would arrive as quickly as possible. Bolivia is one of nine South American countries to share the Amazon rainforest. While fires in Brazil have captured the world's attention, Bolivia has been fighting its own blazes that Morales said had destroyed 1.2 million hectares since May. — AFP

## Facebook tightens political advert rules ahead of US election

**WASHINGTON:** Facebook Inc is tightening its political ad rules in the United States, it said yesterday, requiring new disclosures for its site and photo-sharing platform Instagram ahead of the US presidential election in November 2020. The social media giant is introducing a "confirmed organization" label for US political advertisers who show government-issued credentials to demonstrate their legitimacy. All advertisers running ads on politics or social issues will also have to post their contact information, even if they are not seeking the official label.

Advertisers must comply by mid-October or risk having their ads cut off. Under scrutiny from regulators since Russia used social media platforms to meddle in the 2016 US presidential election, Facebook has been rolling out ad transparency tools country by country since last year. Since May 2018, Facebook has required political advertisers in the United States to put a "paid for by" disclaimer on their ads. But the company said some had used mis-



**Photo shows the logo of the US online social media and social networking service, Facebook. Facebook said it would tighten its rules for political ad spending ahead of the 2020 US elections, notably by requiring more information about who is paying for campaign messages. — AFP**

leading disclaimers or tried to register as organizations which did not exist.

"In 2018 we did see evidence of misuse in these disclaimers and so this is our effort to strengthen the process," said Sarah Schiff, product manager at Facebook.



**LONDON:** A demonstrator, wearing a mask depicting Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and a mock gravestone inscribed with the words 'RIP British Democracy' protests outside the gates to Downing Street in central London yesterday. — AFP

## What is Queen's Speech; why has PM called one?

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is calling a Queen's Speech for Oct 14, a move his opponents say is an attempt to limit opposition to Brexit weeks before the country is due to leave the European Union. Johnson rejected the criticism as "completely untrue", saying the Queen's Speech would give him the chance to set out his domestic program while allowing ample time for discussion of Brexit in parliament.

### What is a Queen's speech?

It is used by the government to lay out plans for the coming year. It typically lists the main priorities and legislation the government aims to pass. Queen Elizabeth reads the speech, written by the government. It is the highlight of a day of elaborate ceremony, known as the state opening of parliament, which marks the beginning of a new parliamentary session.

### Is PM doing anything unusual?

On the surface, no. Typically, a Queen's Speech is held every year. Johnson is a new prime minister, who took over from Theresa May in July, and so would be expected to have his own legislative priorities. Because of the volume of legislation that was anticipated ahead of Brexit, the current parliamentary session has lasted more than two years. The last Queen's Speech was in 2017. The government says a

new program is overdue. Parliament is normally suspended for a few days ahead of a Queen's Speech. In recent years this suspension has lasted for between five and 20 days.

### Why are people so angry?

Because of the timing, Britain is weeks away from making its most important strategic decision in decades over how, and even whether, it leaves the EU. The decision to hold the Queen's Speech on Oct 14 shaves several days off an already small number of parliamentary sittings before Oct 31 - the Brexit deadline. Johnson says he wants to leave the EU with an exit deal to smooth the transition, but if he can't get one, he'll leave anyway. A narrow majority of lawmakers have shown they do not want a no-deal exit and are hoping to use parliamentary procedures to stop Johnson and force him to request extra time from the EU.

### What happens next?

Parliament returns from its summer break on Sept 3 and sits for at least a week. The government has said it will begin procedures to start the suspension on Sept 9. The last sitting day before the Queen's Speech is expected to be shortly after that, but has not yet been confirmed. This gives those opposed to a no-deal Brexit just a few days to get their plans in motion. On Oct 14 the Queen will formally re-open parliament and deliver the speech. This will be followed by a debate lasting several days on the contents of the speech and culminating in votes on Oct 21 and Oct 22. Winning these votes will be a crucial test of Johnson's ability to govern. However, if he loses and his government is subsequently toppled by a vote of no confidence, he would have scope to delay his resignation and a new election until after Oct 31. Between the speech being delivered and the votes upon it, Johnson will travel to Brussels in search of a last-minute, renegotiated exit deal. — Reuters

## Let it burn: US fights wildfires with fire, backed by Trump

**COYOTE:** It was the kind of fire that has terrified communities across the drought-ridden US West in the past few years: a ponderosa pine forest ablaze in the mountains of New Mexico filling the air with thick, aromatic smoke. Except this fire was deliberately set by state penitentiary prisoners, dressed in red flame-resistant clothing and dripping a mix of gasoline and diesel around trees and scrub.

The managed burn - a low-intensity controlled fire - was meant to clear undergrowth and protect the Santa Fe National Forest, and surrounding villages, from future wildfires that are growing more frequent and severe across the West with climate change. After a century of trying to extinguish blazes within hours, US forest managers are increasingly starting them or letting natural fires burn to clean out fuel that can turn a wildfire into a catastrophe that destroys watersheds and homes.

Above-average moisture levels this summer have reduced the number of large wildfires across the country and allowed more controlled fires that mimic lightning strikes. "We learned from our mistakes of putting fires out, building up a continuous fuel base," said James Casaus, the US Forest Service (USFS) official running the managed fire near mountains where his grandfather used to burn forest clearings to improve sheep pasture.

The federal shift took on new urgency after wildfires burned over 10 million acres in both 2015 and 2017, the highest rates since 1952, according to National Interagency Fire Center data. At the same time, federal and state firefighting costs more than tripled to more than \$4.5 billion in the decade to 2018. The tipping point came last year when flames engulfed Paradise, California, killing 86 people in the state's deadliest wildfire on record as the number of homes and structures destroyed nationwide more than doubled from 2017.

Walking around the ruins of Paradise, President Donald Trump blamed the tragedy on California's poor forest management, even though the blaze began in an area of federal forest. In December, he signed an executive order to speed projects to reduce "hazardous fuels" through forest thinning, burning and a nearly 20% increase in USFS timber sales. Environmentalists generally welcomed the shift towards "forest restoration", but were alarmed by Trump's tactics, especially increased logging. The USFS, distrusted by some environmentalists for its role as a giant timber agency during much of its history, in June proposed a change to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to exclude certain projects from environmental assessments (EAs) and public comment to speed hazardous fuel and restoration work. — Reuters



## International

# Two killed as Japan orders 870,000 to flee heavy rains

## Rains pound southwest Japan; emergency warning issued

**TOKYO:** Two people were confirmed dead yesterday as heavy rains pounded southwest Japan, prompting flood and landslide warnings and orders for 870,000 people to seek safety. More than a million more people were advised to leave their homes after the country's weather agency raised the alert to its highest level for parts of northern Kyushu. The emergency warning is issued "if there is a significant likelihood of catastrophes".

Officials confirmed two deaths, one in western Saga prefecture where a man was found in a car that had been swept away. A second man died in Fukuoka as he tried to escape from a car trapped in rising floodwaters. Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said a third person, in Saga, was in a state of "cardiorespiratory arrest"—a term usually employed by Japanese officials to indicate a person's death before it is officially confirmed by a doctor. "There are many reports of damage in different areas due to flooding of rivers, landslides, and submerged houses, and there is a possibility of serious damage occurring in the coming hours," Suga added. Evacuation orders and advisories issued by local authorities are not mandatory, although officials urge residents to heed them. For those leaving after such warnings, government shelters are available, and some choose to stay with friends and family as well.

The fire and disaster management agency said it had already received multiple reports of flooded houses in Saga and Nagasaki prefectures. "We are seeing unprecedented levels of heavy rains in cities where we issued special warnings," a spokesman for the Japan Meteorological Agency told reporters. "It is a situation where you should do your best to protect your lives," weather agency official Yasushi Kajiwara said. He also urged those living in areas

currently under evacuation advisories to act quickly. The weather agency issued its highest warning for heavy rain early morning, before downgrading it mid-afternoon. Still, the agency said heavy rain was likely to continue in western Japan, with high risks of landslides and flooding.

### 'Like a sea'

In Saga, a mother wearing a life vest in a rescue boat told public broadcaster NHK she had been saved from the floodwaters. "I was so scared as I have a little child. I'm worried there could be worse damage because there's an ongoing power outage," she said.

Elsewhere, a man in a shelter in Saga said he was sleeping as the floodwater entered his home. "When I woke up, water surged to my feet," he told NHK. "I've never seen anything like this. It's important to evacuate early." The JMA's emergency warnings affect areas in Saga, Fukuoka and Nagasaki, where the severe weather has also disrupted transport, forcing the suspension of some train services and some road closures.

Television footage showed rivers swollen by the rain and parked cars sitting in muddy brown water nearly up to the vehicles' roofs. Small landslides have already been reported. At a station in Saga, stranded passengers sat on benches with water around their ankles. A woman living near an overflowing river said she had been woken by the sound of heavy rain and a warning alarm on her phone indicating a disaster alert. "This is very rare. Rice fields and other places are flooded. It's like a sea," she told NHK.

Japanese authorities regularly urge people to take evacuation orders seriously, particularly after disastrous heavy rains last summer in Japan's west killed more than 200 people. Many of the deaths were blamed on the fact



**OMACHI:** An aerial view shows submerged houses and buildings following heavy rains in Omachi, Saga prefecture yesterday. — AFP

that evacuation orders were issued too late and some people failed to follow them. Entire neighborhoods were

buried beneath landslides or submerged in floodwaters during the disasters. — AFP

## Malaysian former PM Najib 'pivotal' in 1MDB plunder

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's ex-prime minister Najib Razak played a pivotal role in plundering state fund 1MDB and hundreds of millions of dollars were illicitly channeled to his bank account, a prosecutor said yesterday at the opening of his biggest graft trial. Claims that Najib and his cronies pilfered massive sums from the fund and spent it on everything from real estate to artwork contributed to the defeat of his long-ruling coalition to a reformist alliance.

After losing power last year, the former prime minister was arrested and hit with dozens of charges related to 1MDB. He is expected to face several trials. The first started earlier this year but yesterday's is the biggest, with Najib accused of 21 counts of money-laundering and four of abuse of power, centering on allegations that he illicitly obtained 2.28 billion ringgit (\$540 million) from 1MDB.

Opening the trial, lead prosecutor Gopal Sri Ram said that Najib used an "elaborate charade" and played a "pivotal role" in plundering 1Malaysia Development Berhad, a fund established with the ostensible aim of boosting Malaysia's economy. "His objective was to enrich himself," the prosecutor told the packed High Court in Kuala Lumpur, as he outlined how 1MDB funds were channeled in a "circuitous route" between 2011 and 2014 to Najib.

Najib—who was also finance minister—put himself in "sole control" of the fund's important affairs and used



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's former prime minister Najib Razak (center) arrives at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

his position "to exert influence over the board of 1MDB to carry out certain abnormal transactions with undue haste", he said. In August 2013, over two billion ringgit was sent to Najib's account at a Malaysian bank before it was quickly transferred out again, according to the prosecutor. When news emerged of the looting, Najib sought to cover his tracks by producing "sham" documents that claimed the money was a donation from an Arab prince, Gopal said. "The accused took active steps to evade justice," he added.

### Crucial in 1MDB saga

The court also heard the former premier was the "mirror image" of fugitive financier Jho Low, who has been charged in both Malaysia and the United States, and the two men "acted as one" when it came to their dealings with 1MDB. Low, a chubby, bespectacled Malaysian jet-setter known for partying with Hollywood A-listers, held no official positions at 1MDB but exerted huge influence over its operations. The case relates to a crucial part of the 1MDB saga. When reports surfaced in 2015 that huge sums linked to the fund had flowed into Najib's bank account, it dramatically ratcheted up pressure on the leader and he became increasingly authoritarian.

The attorney-general later cleared Najib of any wrongdoing, saying the money was a personal donation from the Saudi royal family, and closed down domestic investigations. The 66-year-old, who was in court for the start of the trial, denies all the charges. Speaking after yesterday's proceedings, lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said Najib "has been misled. Jho Low himself has misled many people, has misled the bank and misled 1MDB". Najib faces up to 20 years in jail for each of the abuse of power charges and five years in jail for each of the counts of money-laundering.

Four witnesses testified at yesterday's hearing, including three government officials and the former director of a digital services company paid to manage Najib's online presence. Prosecutors wrapped up their case Tuesday in Najib's first trial, which involves the theft of 42 million ringgit from a former unit of 1MDB. The judge will rule in November whether it is strong enough to continue. The US Department of Justice, which is seizing assets in America allegedly bought with looted 1MDB money, believes that \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund. — AFP

## Could Trump gamble big on Iran? Skepticism reigns

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump is not afraid of surprises but could he take one of the biggest shifts of all in his foreign policy — easing sanctions on Iran? Washington is widely skeptical that Trump will shift course on Iran, with his hawkish advisors long pushing a hard line aimed at crippling the clerical regime. But Trump, who earlier shocked by meeting North Korea's leader, appeared open on Monday as French President Emmanuel Macron proposed a summit in the coming weeks with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani.

Responding to a suggestion by Macron, the host of a Group of Seven summit in the coastal resort of Biarritz, Trump said that Iran "may need some money to get them over a very rough patch" in the form of a line of credit. The idea is part of a French-led effort to keep alive a 2015 deal under which Iran drastically scaled back its nuclear work. The accord was negotiated under former president Barack Obama and trashed by Trump.

Barbara Slavin, director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, said Macron was likely trying to buy time and keep Iran in the deal — sending a message as well that Trump could be gone after elections next year. Iran has played down the possibility of a summit, with Rouhani saying that the United States must first lift all sanctions — which have badly hurt an economy that had soared following the nuclear agreement.

### Hawks opposed

Slavin doubted Trump would end sanctions — or that any gesture would lead to a summit, the most likely venue for which would be on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York next month. "Rouhani wouldn't meet Obama, who negotiated the deal. All Obama managed to get is a phone call with Rouhani; they didn't even get a handshake on the sidelines of UNGA," Slavin said. "Trump has punished Iran more than any president in American history, for complying with an international agreement! So why would Rouhani reward Trump with this photo-op?" she said.

Unlike with North Korea, where Kim Jong Un has relished the image of standing next to Trump for leader-to-leader talks, the United States has been toxic for Iranian politicians since the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the Western-oriented shah. Any sanctions relief would face heated resistance from aides led by national security advisor John Bolton, who before his appointment advocated attacking Iran and toppling its regime.

"The idea that Iran would receive some tangible economic benefit merely for stopping doing things that it shouldn't have been doing in the first place is just a non-starter," Bolton told Radio Free Europe on Tuesday. The Trump administration, which is closely allied with Iran's rivals Saudi Arabia and Israel, has demanded far-reaching changes from Iran beyond its nuclear program including ending support for groups around the region such as Lebanon's Hezbollah militants and Yemen's Houthi rebels.

### Supremely stupid idea

Mark Dubowitz, head of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, which pushes a hard line on Iran, said the idea of a summit could show that sanctions drove the regime to diplomacy. But he warned against the credit line proposed by Macron, which reportedly could be worth as much as \$15 billion to help stabilize Iran's economy.

"This is a supremely stupid idea. Those who rightly condemned Obama in 2013-2015 for offering premature sanctions relief to the regime in Iran, instead of increasing the pressure, should be all over this," he tweeted. Nikki Haley, Trump's former ambassador to the United Nations who is popular with pro-Israel advocates, criticized Macron for inviting Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to the G7 summit. "Manipulative of Macron to do this and very insincere. #NotWhatFriendsDo," she tweeted. — AFP

## Indian state bans unnecessary surgery on intersex babies

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian state has banned sex assignment surgery on babies whose sex is not clear at birth, a health official said yesterday, in a first to protect intersex children. The landmark move was made in response to an April order by Tamil Nadu's top court to prohibit such surgeries — which research suggests can cause long-term mental and physical damage — except in life-threatening situations.

"The (government order) was issued as per the high court's directive to protect intersex children from these so-called normalizing surgeries," said a ministry official, who declined to be named as he was not authorized to speak to the media. About 1.7% of children are born intersex — with reproductive organs, genitals, hormones or chromosomes that do not fit the usual expectations of male and female, the United Nations says.

Doctors often perform surgery to make intersex babies genitalia look and function like that expected of males or females, in the belief it will make their lives easier and ease parental distress. But calls are growing to outlaw gender alignment surgery unless it is medically needed, for example, to help urination or menstruation. Intersex activists say numerous surgeries on young children without their consent can cause psychological damage. Portugal banned unnecessary surgeries on children with sex variations last year — the second country globally after Malta.

"Nowhere in India has this been done before," said Philip C. Philip, an LGBT+ activist at the Human Rights Law Network, urging better education in medical schools so doctors understand intersex bodies. "This is the first time that intersex persons and their concerns are being dealt with." In its order, Tamil Nadu's government announced that it will set up a committee, including doctors and a social worker or intersex activist, to ensure that the "exceptional clause of life-threatening situation shall not be misused".

At least 10,000 intersex babies are born each year in India, but infanticide, abandonment and mutilation are common, according to LGBT+ rights groups. LGBT+ campaigners called for parents and medics to be educated about intersex babies — who are often confused with transgender people in India — to boost support and acceptance. — Reuters



**KASHMIR:** Residents drive along a busy road in Srinagar yesterday. The Himalayan valley is under a strict lockdown with movement restricted and phone and internet services cut since August 5 — imposed hours before India's decision to bring Kashmir under its direct rule. — AFP

## At least 500 protests in Kashmir lockdown

**SRINAGAR:** At least 500 incidents of protest have broken out in Indian Kashmir since New Delhi revoked its autonomy more than three weeks ago, a senior government source said yesterday, as authorities promised to create 50,000 jobs in the restive region. The Himalayan valley is under a strict lockdown, imposed hours before India's decision to bring Kashmir under its direct rule. Movement is restricted and phone and internet services have been cut.

The lockdown, as well as the deployment of tens of thousands of extra troops to reinforce the 500,000 based in Kashmir, was ordered amid fears of unrest in a region where separatists have waged an armed rebellion against Indian rule since 1989. But protests have broken out, including in the main city of Srinagar, with police using pellet guns and tear gas to disperse the crowds. A senior government source told AFP at least 500 protests and incidents of stone throwing have occurred since August 5, with more than half taking place in Srinagar.

Nearly 100 civilians have been injured so far, with a further 300 police and more than 100 paramilitary troopers hurt, the official added. "The number of protests could be much higher and bigger without the blockade in force," the official told AFP, adding that "anger and public defiance is constantly rising". "Efforts for easing the conditions are made all the time but nothing seems to be working for now. There is nervousness spreading in the security establishment."

Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik said yesterday the lockdown was necessary because "every Kashmiri life is valuable to us". "There has been no civilian casualty, only the few who got violent were injured, these also have below the waist (non-fatal) injuries." AFP has spoken to relatives of three people they alleged died due to violence from the security forces, including a man and woman who died in separate incidents after tear gas was released near them, and a teenager who drowned while being chased by police.

Malik added that the decision to revoke autonomy — which will allow non-residents to buy land and apply for government jobs in the region — would "change the face of Kashmir in six months". He vowed to preserve the "identity, language, culture and heritage of Kashmir", which locals fear will be diluted if there is an influx of migrants from other parts of India, and create 50,000 jobs in the next few months.

The lockdown would be eased gradually, although internet services will continue to be suspended for some time, he said, stressing that the web was being used by agitators. The Supreme Court yesterday gave the government one week to respond to a legal challenge calling for an end to the communications blackout to allow for media reporting. The court also said several petitions challenging the removal of the constitutional clause on Kashmir's autonomy would be heard in October.

In Srinagar, residents are refusing to resume their normal lives in an act of defiance, an AFP reporter said. While authorities have reopened schools, students have stayed away. Told to keep open all day or "don't open at all", some shops have remained shut. — AFP

## Analysis

**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961  
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief  
**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## Cargo ships urged to cut speed, pollution

Moving cargo ships into the slow lane, an idea French President Emmanuel Macron floated at the G7 summit in Biarritz, would be one way to cut maritime transport's giant carbon emissions footprint. Here, AFP looks at how the debate took shape and is evolving:

### Ecological impact

Shipping represents 2.3 percent of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, according to French transport trade body Armateurs de France and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) - a bigger share than the 2.0 percent generated by the aviation industry as estimated by the International Aviation Organisation (OACI). Much of the impetus for slow steaming is the fact that the more than 90,000 large scale commercial vessels such as container ships, oil tankers and bulk freighters which ply their trade across the world's oceans are primarily powered by heavy, high sulphur and high nitrogen-content fuel which contributes to airborne particulate matter.

The contribution of maritime transport contribution to global CO2 emissions "should hit 17 percent by 2050 if nothing is done," says France's Higher Institute of Maritime Economics (ISEMAR) as maritime freight volumes are expected to quadruple by then.

### Commitments already taken

The IMO has already decided to limit the level of sulphur compounds in marine fuels to 0.5 percent from a current upper limit of 3.5 percent from next year outside defined sensitive zones already subject to a 0.1 percent cap. In April last year the IMO adopted a strategy to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 40 percent by 2030 from their 2008 level and 50 percent by 2050 in a sector where experts estimate one large container ship emits as much sulphur gases as millions of cars. But "the negotiations are foundering on the adoption of short term measures" to make the strategy a reality, the French government admitted following a May meeting with the IMO.

### Improve fuel or drop fossil energies

In order to respect the new mandated norms from next year, shipping firms will have to switch to marine fuel with lower sulphur content. Future compliance will also require the firms to equip their vessels with exhaust gas cleaning systems - dubbed "scrubbers" - or find alternative means of propulsion. The liquefied natural gas (LNG) notably being adopted by the future vessels of several French shipping firms look to be the preferred solution today but will require infrastructure upgrades as well as specific on-board storage capacity plus a suitable motor. Other solutions to explore do not on the surface appear well-suited to long-haul shipping - such as biofuels, hydrogen or electric-powered vessels or even the re-invention of sailing boats.

### Slow down

Macron considers letting off less steam by slowing down to be "one of the most efficient ways of reducing emissions" and France suggested going down that route to the IMO in April. By way of example, an oil tanker which drops its speed from 12 to 11 knots can cut its fuel consumption by 18 percent - or by 30 percent if speed is cut to 10 knots, according to the French ministry for ecological transition. Trimming speed also cuts sound pollution and well as the risk of collisions with whales.

### Protect some zones

French container and shipping group CMA CGM, touting its goal to act as "a model for sustainable global prosperity," last week committed itself not to ply the Northern Sea Route through the Arctic off the coast of northern Siberia, a route which global warming, in melting sea ice, is today rendering navigable. Until now, expensive icebreakers have been a prerequisite to navigate the route, which can lop up to a fortnight off cargo journeys to Europe from Asia.

Given the group ranks third globally as a maritime container transport provider, it is taking a risk given the time but also the amount of fuel savings to be made from taking a shorter route than through the Suez Canal or via the Cape of Good Hope. France is pushing for greater regulation of pollutant emissions in the Mediterranean by 2022, along the lines of existing rules for the Channel and the North Sea as well as the Baltic Sea.

### Target ports too

Ports will also have to be targeted as ships continue to burn fuel even when they are at rest, adding to the pollution output. One potential solution is to plug them into the ports' electric supply but that is not always logistically possible while the ships themselves have not been designed for plug in connections. French group Stef's La Meridionale and Corsica Lines are nonetheless experimenting with the idea in Marseille. — AFP

All articles appearing on this page are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein.



Brazilian farmer Hello Lombardo Do Santos and a dog walk through a burnt area of the Amazon rainforest near Porto Velho in Brazil's Rondonia state on Aug 26, 2019. — AFP

## Amazon fires create image nightmare for Brazil

Scorched forests, government inaction and presidential insults - fires in the Amazon rainforest are having a disastrous effect on Brazil's international image, analysts warn. "This is the worst crisis Brazil has had for its image in 50 years," former government minister Rubens Ricupero told O Globo newspaper. The daily Folha de S.Paulo lamented "the worst disaster in the history of Brazilian diplomacy in decades." "We find ourselves alone and ashamed," it said.

While a stronghold of Internet support remains for President Jair Bolsonaro, another part of the Twitterverse has unleashed its fury against the far right leader. He has been sharply condemned by both the Brazilian and international press for his handling of record-setting fires in the world's largest tropical rainforest over the last week. "With his gaffes, idiocy, chauvinism, ignorance ... Bolsonaro is building his image in the world and destroying Brazil's," one Twitter user charged. The fires took on an international dimension over the weekend, as French President Emmanuel Macron tackled the topic on Twitter during the G7 summit and said "our house is burning." The summiters also discussed the fires at the meeting in Biarritz. Caving in to pressure, Bolsonaro called a crisis meeting that same night to mobilize the military against the fires. Macron and Bolsonaro have repeatedly butted heads over the issue, sometimes deviating from the point at hand. Macron called Bolsonaro's comments implying that French first lady Brigitte Macron was not attractive "extraordinarily rude" while Bolsonaro accused Macron of treating Brazil with a "colonialist mentality."

### 'International pariah'

As Macron wished for a Brazilian president who could "behave himself properly", government ministers in the South American country upped their scorn for France and Bolsonaro demanded the French president apologize, to no avail. "I have never seen a Brazilian president express himself in such a way," said Gaspard Estrada, a Latin American expert at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. "That will leave a mark."

And although the spat with France was the most visible, Brazil also found itself in hot water with much of the rest of the international community over the Amazon crisis. Robert Muggah, from a Rio de Janeiro think tank called the Igarape Institute, pointed out other actors with whom Brazil has clashed. "The president has damaged the country's relationship with allies, including France, Germany and Norway."

Berlin and then Oslo suspended around \$70 million in Amazon protection money earlier this month. Bolsonaro shot back that Norway should send its share of the funds to Germany so Chancellor Angela Merkel can "reforest Germany". Ireland and France have threatened to withdraw their signatures from a trade agreement between the European Union and a South American trading bloc called Mercosur, which includes Brazil. And Finland is considering a boycott of Brazilian products. "Brazil has gone from being a global model of forest conservation to an international pariah," Muggah said. "The president has only himself to blame."

Bolsonaro, on the other hand, has claimed he has "restored Brazil's credibility". The country garnered international praise for its efforts to fight deforestation in the 2000s after hosting the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

According to Estrada, "Brazil today is on its way to destroying its foreign policy" and is "largely isolated". Besides cultivating a relationship with Israel, Bolsonaro has put all his foreign policy eggs in the American basket, an investment that has not necessarily paid hefty returns. Though US President Donald Trump offered Bolsonaro his "full and complete support" in his fight against the fires, "the US didn't offer quite the level of support for Brazil with the G7 that Bolsonaro hoped for," Estrada said, an outcome that exposes the newer president's "naivete".

"Bolsonaro has got on everyone's bad side" and "the effect on Brazil's image and international reputation will be lasting," said Estrada. "He has forgotten that he does not live in the White House but at the Planalto palace in Brasilia," said Estrada. The Amazon crisis has come at an already difficult time for Brazil's diplomatic climate, which has taken a hit since Bolsonaro took office in January. The retired military officer has offended allies with policy decisions seen as erratic. First, he had to backtrack after taking a harsh tone with China, Brazil's top trading partner. Then he found himself entangled in the politics of the Middle East as several Arab countries threatened to boycott Brazilian meat after Bolsonaro floated the idea of following Trump's example in moving his country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. — AFP

## J&J verdict sends opioid makers a billion-dollar warning

The US pharmaceutical industry faces tens of billions of dollars in potential damage payments for fueling the opioid addiction crisis after Oklahoma won a \$572 million judgment against drugmaker Johnson & Johnson. One day after the healthcare giant was found guilty of flooding the market with highly addictive painkillers, another top opioid producer, Purdue Pharma, was reported to have offered \$10-12 billion to settle more lawsuits before they come to trial.

Dozens more companies in the US prescription drugs chain - giants like Teva Pharmaceuticals, Allergan, Mallinckrodt, Walmart, CVS and Walgreens Boots - could face similarly large payouts as the next major opioids case gears up in Ohio. Nearly 2,300 lawsuits similar to Oklahoma's have been rolled into one trial to begin in October. The states, cities, towns and Native American tribes who filed the suits are demanding huge sums to pay for the fallout of the crisis - overwhelmed health and social systems, families unable to care for themselves, and babies born addicted to the drugs.

### \$453 billion damage estimate

The case has drawn comparison to the \$206 billion the tobacco industry agreed to pay 46 states in 1998 for the consequences of decades of nicotine addiction. In the consolidated Ohio case, one estimate submitted to the court puts the total costs that communities face due to

the epidemic at \$453 billion over the coming decade. In the Oklahoma case, Judge Thad Balkman said the \$572 million would cover estimates of just one year of "abatement," or mitigation efforts related to the rash of addiction and overdose deaths the state has experienced.

Balkman said J&J's aggressive promotion of prescription painkillers, downplaying and hiding the high addiction risks, "compromised the health and safety of thousands of Oklahomans". That was a clear message for the companies accused of doing the same in the Ohio case. Purdue, which settled out of court early on in the Oklahoma case for \$270 million, confirmed Tuesday it was in talks to avoid going to trial in Ohio as well.

"While Purdue Pharma is prepared to defend itself vigorously in the opioid litigation, the company has made clear that it sees little good coming from years of wasteful litigation and appeals," the company said in a statement. The company, whose Oxycontin painkiller became an emblem of the addiction epidemic, and whose wealthy owners the Sackler family have come under international scorn, would not confirm or deny the media reports that it had offered up to \$12 billion to resolve its liability. However, it said, "The people and communities affected by the opioid crisis need help now. Purdue believes a constructive global resolution is the best path forward, and the company is actively working with the state attorneys general and other plaintiffs to achieve this outcome."

### Millions addicted

The cases seek to address the costs of millions of Americans sinking into addiction after using potent opioid painkillers that the companies churned out and doctors freely, and often criminally, prescribed over the past two decades. Well over 400,000 people died of opioid overdoses in that period, while the companies involved raked in billions of dollars in profits. And while the flood



In this file photo taken on March 23, 2016 Oxycodone pain pills prescribed for a patient with chronic pain are seen in Norwich, Connecticut. — AFP

of prescription opioids into the black market has now been curtailed, addicts are turning to heroin and highly potent fentanyl, where the risk of overdose and death is even higher. Even so, the lawsuits are complex and legally challenging. The producers, wholesale distributors and pharmacies that liberally distributed the prescription painkillers argue they acted legally in a highly regulated industry, and say the fault lies mainly in doctors over-prescribing the drugs. The Oklahoma and Ohio suits depend on evidence showing the drug industry knew the risks and covered them up, encouraging overprescription to make more money.

Both suits rely on "public nuisance" laws that are rarely used in such a case, and J&J says it will appeal Monday's judgment based in part on the over-expansive use of the statute. But University of Georgia law professor Elizabeth Burch said the Oklahoma case brought out evidence about the drug companies' behavior that had not been seen before - evidence that could hurt the defendants in the Ohio trial. — AFP

## Son of famed Afghan commander Massoud steps into spotlight

Eighteen years after the assassination of revered anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, his only son is hoping to continue the mission against the insurgents by jumping into Afghanistan's chaotic political fray. With America seemingly on the brink of a deal with the Taliban that would see the Pentagon slash its troop presence in Afghanistan, 30-year-old Ahmad Massoud wants to galvanise anti-Taliban groups and stop the emboldened fighters from ushering in a new wave of hardline Islam.

Following in the steps of his father, who rallied various groups under the banner of the United Front - also known as the Northern Alliance - the younger Massoud wants to build a grand coalition of anti-Taliban elements that can oppose the insurgents politically at first, and militarily if necessary. "I really pray and hope that Afghans and Afghanistan never see another bloodshed," Massoud told AFP in an interview at a family home in Kabul. "God forbid. But if it comes, not just myself, but there are... hun-



Ahmad Massoud

Ahmad Shah Massoud

dreds of thousands of young people who are like me. We are ready to pick up guns."

### Lion of Panjshir

Massoud plans to officially launch his political movement on Sept 5 in Panjshir, his family's original home valley north of Kabul that neither the Soviets nor the Taliban ever conquered. In a fractious country where a grim gallery of brutal

warlords and squabbling grifters is woven into the political tapestry, Afghans still cling to Ahmad Shah Massoud as a unifying figure who could have led the country to a Taliban-free future, were it not for his murder by Al-Qaeda operatives. Dubbed the "Lion of Panjshir", the elder Massoud still emblazons billboards, blast walls, car windows and even coffee mugs in the capital and across the country. "He was a one-of-a-kind character in Afghan history and I don't think anyone can be like him," Massoud said in fluent English, tinged with a slight London accent from seven years in Britain. But comparisons to the mujahideen commander are inevitable, especially in a country where the baton of power often passes seamlessly from father to son, and where unifying political figures are vanishingly rare.

Massoud, who returned to Afghanistan in 2016, also bears more than a passing resemblance to his dad, especially since growing a beard and donning the same sort of beige pakol, or Afghan woollen hat, that his father sported. The elder Massoud was assassinated aged 48, when his son was 12, two days before the seismic events of 9/11 that would forever shape Afghanistan's history and trigger the US-led invasion to hunt Osama bin Laden and topple his Taliban hosts. After his father's death, Massoud finished his schooling in Iran then moved to England to train as an officer at the country's Sandhurst military academy - his second choice after failing to get into West Point in New York - before completing two degrees in London. — AFP

## Business

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019

**12** HSBC to cut fees, offer rebates to boost struggling HK firms**13** ECB lending pace picks up as EU economic clouds gather**14** Steak-crazy Argentines keep buying beef even after peso stokes prices

KUWAIT: Gold bangles are displayed at a jewellery shop in downtown Kuwait. —File photo

# Fake-branded bars slip dirty gold into markets

## Forged bars worth \$50m stamped with Swiss refinery logos in last three years

**LONDON:** A forgery crisis is quietly roiling the world's gold industry. Gold bars fraudulently stamped with the logos of major refineries are being inserted into the global market to launder smuggled or illegal gold, refining and banking executives tell Reuters. The fakes are hard to detect, making them an ideal fund-runner for narcotics dealers or warlords. In the last three years, bars worth at least \$50 million stamped with Swiss refinery logos, but not actually produced by those facilities, have been identified by all four of Switzerland's leading gold refiners and found in the vaults of JPMorgan Chase & Co. one of the major banks at the heart of the market in bullion, said senior executives at gold refineries, banks and other industry sources.

Four of the executives said at least 1,000 of the bars, of a standard size known as a kilobar for their weight, have been found. That is a small share of output from the gold industry, which produces roughly 2 million to 2.5 million such bars each year. But the forgeries are sophisticated, so thousands more may have gone undetected, according to the head of Switzerland's biggest refinery.

"The latest fake bars ... are highly professionally done," said Michael Mesarić, the chief executive of refinery Valcambi. He said maybe a couple of thousand have been found, but the likelihood is that there are "way, way, way more still in circulation. And it still exists, and it still works."

Fake gold bars - blocks of cheaper metal plated with gold - are relatively common in the gold industry and often easy to detect. The counterfeits in these cases are subtler: The gold is real, and very high purity, with only the markings faked. Fake-branded bars are a relatively new way to flout global measures to block conflict minerals and prevent money-laundering. Such forgeries pose a problem for international refiners, financiers and regulators as they attempt to purge the world of illicit trade in bullion.

High gold prices have triggered a boom in informal and illegal mining since the mid-2000s. Without the stamp of a prestigious refinery, such gold would be forced into underground networks, or priced at a discount. By pirating Swiss and other major brands, metal that has been mined or processed in places that would not otherwise be legal or acceptable in the West - for example in parts of Africa, Venezuela or North Korea - can be injected into the market, channelling funds to criminals or regimes that are sanctioned.

Word of the forged bars began to circulate quietly in gold industry circles after the first half of 2017, when J.P. Morgan, one of five banks which finalise trades in the \$10 trillion-a-year London gold market, found that its vaults contained at least two gold kilobars stamped with the same identification number. 10 people familiar with the matter told Reuters. Reuters couldn't determine exactly where the vaults were.

J.P. Morgan declined to directly address questions about the fraudulent bullion, or comment on

any of the details in this story. "It's our standard practice to immediately alert the appropriate authorities and refineries should we discover mis-marked gold kilobars during routine checks and procedures," the bank said in a statement. "Fortunately, we have yet to have an incident resulting in a loss to the firm or a client."

When others who store and trade such gold found forged bars, they returned them to the refiner concerned, some of whom have operations in Asia. Bars returned to Switzerland have been reported by refiners to the Swiss authorities who impounded them, refiners said.

Swiss Customs said 655 forged bars were reported in 2017 and 2018 to local prosecutors in Ticino, a region bordering Italy that contains three of Switzerland's four large refineries. "In all cases the marking of the 1 kg bars were fake," a Customs official said by email, without commenting further.

The public prosecutor in Ticino confirmed it had received three reports of gold bars with suspect serial numbers, but said it could not disclose more information. The police in Neuchâtel, where Switzerland's other large refinery is located, said neither it nor local prosecutors there had received reports of any forged bars. Switzerland's Attorney General said its office was not concerned with the topic at present.

Refinery executives said forged bars had also been reported in other countries.

### Handy format

Kilobars are small - around the size and thickness of a cellphone - unlike the roughly 12.5-kilo gold ingots typically stored in the vaults of the world's central banks. Kilobars are the most common form of gold in circulation around the world, passing fluidly between banks, refineries, dealers and individuals. The identifying features stamped onto a bar's surface include the logo of the refinery that made it, its purity, weight, and a unique identification number. Each one is worth around \$50,000 at current prices. In parts of Southeast Asia, it's not uncommon for individuals to use gold instead of cash for big purchases such as real estate, bankers and analysts said. "It's the only investment tool that goes from institutional investors like banks to the public and back again," said an executive at a Swiss refinery.

Japan has a long-established problem of gold smuggling in which the forged brands could be put to use, refinery executives said. Swiss brands are not the only ones to have been pirated, but are the most targeted due to their global reach, executives said. Switzerland's four largest refineries - Valcambi, PAMP, Argor-Heraeus and Metalor - process around 2,000-2,500 tons of gold a year, worth around \$100 billion. Their trademarks are among the most common and trusted in the industry. PAMP and Metalor declined to comment on the record; Argor said there was always a risk brands would be counterfeited, and recommended people buy bars only from trusted distributors.

For recipients, the pirated bars pose a compliance threat: Anyone who holds such metal - including jewellers, banks and electronics firms - risks inadvertently violating global rules designed to keep metal of unknown or criminal origin out of circulation. The rules aim to staunch gold supplies that fund conflict, terrorism or organized crime, damage the environment or undermine national governments.

Governments in America and Europe are legislating to force banks and manufacturers of items such as jewellery and electronics to take more responsibility for their mineral suppliers. For example, a clause in the Dodd-Frank Act adopted by the United States obliges US companies to disclose whether gold they use has come from countries in central Africa where it could have been mined to fund conflict.

Richard Hayes, chief executive of the Perth Mint in Australia, one of the world's largest refiners, said his company had not encountered fraudulently branded Perth Mint kilobars. But, given the experience of other refiners, he has no doubt they are circulating. "It's a wonderful way of laundering conflict gold," he said. "The gold is genuine, but it's not ethically sourced ... They look completely genuine, they assay correctly, and they weigh correctly as well."

The perfect appearance makes the bars highly effective. "Because gold is completely fungible," Hayes said, "you can bleed it into genuine production. It's very, very hard to control." J.P. Morgan supplies gold from major refiners for many of the world's biggest banks, jewellers and investors, and the discovery of the forged bars in its vaults triggered a full review of the gold it held, market sources said. One said this sweep unearthed around 50 fraudulently-branded bars. Another said it found several hundred. J.P. Morgan did not comment.

People in the industry familiar with the matter said the number of forged bars, and their high quality, meant their production must be well organized. An analysis of the bars' movements suggested they had been made in Asia, they said. But the gold in them could have been melted and re-melted after being mined anywhere. J.P. Morgan responded to its discovery by deciding to stop buying any gold in Asia that had not come freshly made from a small clutch of refineries it trusted, five people familiar with the decision said. J.P. Morgan declined to comment. Other banks have also restricted gold purchases in Asia, 15 people in the industry said. "Anything that has even the chance of being iffy they are not going to be involved in," said Alexander, the analyst at GFMS Refinitiv.

Reuters approached five large banks that trade gold in Asia, several of which have vaulting facilities. HSBC declined to comment in detail but a spokesman said it only bought bars directly from a small group of refiners accredited, like the Swiss, by the London Bullion Market



DUBAI: A jewellery shop-keeper demonstrates gold bars.

Association (LBMA). It said it had found no counterfeits. UBS did not comment on counterfeit bars, but said it only sells gold processed by LBMA-accredited refiners. Standard Chartered declined comment, saying "this is not an issue that affects us." ANZ said it buys previously cast bars from "a select group of counterparties" and its policy, which had not been changed by the counterfeits, was to re-melt and recast them before selling them on. No one from ICBC Standard was available to comment.

### Three nines

The number of fake bars being found has dropped since 2017. But refiners say the forgeries are becoming increasingly sophisticated, so the problem may have grown. In 2017, Valcambi's Mesarić said, hundreds of bars were found stamped with the same identification number. The bars' markings also had spelling errors, flaws in logo images, or print that was too deep or shallow, other refiners said.

Today, the forgeries are more precisely made, using what appears to be sophisticated machinery, Mesarić said. There can still be giveaways, such as indentations from a robotic gripper or repeated imperfections in a cast mold. But these are easy to miss. The most reliable way to identify the fakes is to test their purity. Gold is available on world markets in varying levels of purity: For professionally produced kilobars, the most common standard is 99.99 percent - known in the trade as "four nines." An analysis of three counterfeit-branded bars by one Swiss refinery showed that two of them were 99.98 percent pure, and the third 99.90 percent.

Though short of legitimate professional stan-

dards, even that level of purity is difficult to achieve, and takes advanced equipment to detect. Swiss Customs said of the 655 bars reported to local prosecutors in Ticino, the purity fell slightly below 99.99 percent in some cases.

"The level of counterfeit is becoming really good. Even for us it is hard to tell," said a Swiss refinery executive who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They are, however, slightly less pure because the people doing the counterfeits don't have the equipment we have."

### Tamper-proof ink, micro-surface scans

The refineries are responding to the problem with technology. Metalor this year began to put spots of tamper-proof ink on its bars. Like the security features on banknotes, these display different features when viewed under certain light or through filters. PAMP and Valcambi perform a micro-surface scan of their bars and supply machines or phone apps that can scan each one and verify whether their surfaces match the refinery's records. Argor said its bars had various security features, but declined to elaborate for security reasons.

The LBMA, which accredits global refineries to vouch for the quality of their output, is drawing up standards for security features. It has also proposed a global database containing information about every kilobar produced, as a way of cross-checking the products to add an extra layer of security. "Any security feature can be duplicated that's on the bar itself," said the LBMA's chief executive, Ruth Crowell. But most of the refiners' security features have only been introduced recently, and no database is planned until 2020 at the earliest. —Reuters



## Business

# ECB lending pace picks up as EU economic clouds gather

## German consumer sentiment stable despite downturn fears

**FRANKFURT:** Growth in lending to eurozone businesses and households accelerated in July, the ECB said yesterday, ahead of a key central bank meeting expected to unleash new economic support measures. Loans to non-financial companies and European households rose by 3.6 percent in July compared with a year ago, after having already picked up by 3.5 percent in June.

A breakdown of the data showed that lending to households grew by 3.4 percent, while lending to financial companies excluding insurance companies and pension funds was up by 2.4 percent.

Growth in loans accorded to industrial and commercial companies meanwhile held steady at 3.9 percent on a 12-month basis—the same rate as in June. The strong lending is a sign that companies are struggling, said Stephanie Schoenwald of KfW Research.

"As far as the economy is concerned, robust lending growth is more of a warning signal than a bright spot," she said. "To cushion the weak order situation and high inventories, companies are currently in need of additional financial resources, above all to bridge liquidity gaps."

The ECB's key interest rates are already at historic lows. But the bank's chief Mario Draghi signalled after a meeting in July that it could unleash a new round of easing measures and cut rates further to fight sluggish growth and shore up stubbornly low inflation. Since that meeting, economic clouds have continued to darken, with the bloc's biggest economy Germany now projected to slide into recession in the third quarter.

Official data this month showed economic growth in the 19-country eurozone slowing to 0.2 percent in the

second quarter of 2019, after expanding by 0.4 percent in the first.

The threat of a no-deal Brexit has also risen drastically since Boris Johnson took over as British prime minister. In a move enraging anti-Brexit MPs, Johnson on Wednesday suspended parliament until two weeks before the UK is due to leave the EU, meaning that his opponents will have less time than expected to thwart his plans to quit the bloc at the end of October.

German consumer sentiment is stabilizing after three months of decline, according to a regular poll published yesterday, despite fears of a looming recession. Nuremberg-based pollsters GfK said their forward-looking consumer barometer stood at 9.7 points, unchanged from August when it had fallen to its April 2017 level. The data came after a further drop in business confidence Monday, which reached its lowest level since November 2012 in August, against the backdrop of the economic slowdown and the US-China trade war.

The Bundesbank or central bank warned last week that the German economy could enter recession in the third quarter as a result of a "sharp contraction" in industrial production.

German consumer expectations of economic development fell a further 8.3 points, having dropped 6.1 points the previous month, to minus 12 points, its lowest since January 2013, the GfK noted.

The barometer for income expectations only dropped by the slight margin of 0.7 points to 50.1. Future developments will "depend mainly on the situation on the labor market," said GfK, noting that "the situation is becoming more difficult in export sectors such



The headquarters of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany. —Reuters

as the automotive industry" due to trade conflicts. However, the survey found households are generally

more interested in spending their money, with the indicator climbing 2.5 points to 48.8 points. —AFP

## Russia aims high with new passenger plane

**ZHUKOVSKY, Russia:** Russia was set to unveil yesterday its new passenger plane MC-21, billed as a competitor to Boeing and Airbus even as the project is overshadowed by sanctions and setbacks with its predecessor, the Superjet.

President Vladimir Putin formally opened the MAKS air salon outside Moscow Tuesday with Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was enticed with Sukhoi fighter jets and treated to ice-cream as demonstration squadrons roared overhead.

The showpiece of this year's MAKS is the new civilian aircraft, which will be formally shown to potential clients after more than a decade in the making and multiple delays. Putin lauded Russia's aircraft builders and their "unique traditions" which permit the country to "remain among the flagships of the global aerospace industry" and produce "breakthrough projects" such as the MC-21 and Mi-38 and Ka-62 helicopters. The salon is the first since Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), a conglomerate of the country's main civilian and military aircraft makers, was put in the hands of state-owned corporation Rostec last year.

The handover, to be formally completed next year, was billed as a way to steer the industry toward more stream-

lined management and kindle new airplane projects.

### Wings clipped

The medium-haul MC-21, which is produced by Siberian-based manufacturer Irkut and seats up to 211 passengers, is the industry's big hope after setbacks with the regional Sukhoi Superjet 100 liner, launched in 2011 as the first post-Soviet civilian airplane. "MC-21 is a modern, improved mid-range plane, which is set to compete on the market with Airbus 320 and Boeing 737," said Oleg Panteleyev, an aviation analyst who heads industry website Aviaport.ru. An MC-21 prototype made its maiden flight in 2017 but serial manufacturing has been delayed, in part due to US sanctions affecting the production of its carbon composite wings. Though it was supposed to be put in service at the end of 2018, Rostec chief Sergei Chemezov said this year the first MC-21 planes will be delivered to Russian state-owned Aeroflot airline only in 2021.

The domestically-made composite material needed to go through testing, but "in the nearest future we will start making the wing and testing it on the plane", Chemezov said in May.

The first batch of MC-21 aircraft were also to be equipped with US-made Pratt & Whitney engines, according to a contract signed before the sanctions blocked further deliveries. The three variants on show at salon use the American engines, while future production will use Russian-made PD-14 engines. Sanctions against Moscow, gradually introduced since 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine, have



MOSCOW: Russian passenger plane MC-21-300 performs at the MAKS 2019 International Aviation and Space Salon opening day in Zhukovsky outside of Moscow. —AFP

hit several Russian industries, and Rostec and Chemezov were put on the US Treasury's sectoral sanctions blacklists.

### Buyer 'fears'

While military aircraft makers are financially supported by the Russian airforce, which has been ordering new planes in recent years, the main hurdle for Russia-made civilian aircraft has to do with finding foreign clients, said Panteleyev. "They have to compete with foreign manufacturers which have much larger scope for promoting their planes," he said. Russia's previous, much-lauded Superjet was initially well-received but many clients later

backed out due to difficulty in servicing it and getting parts replaced.

Several accidents also contributed to a poor image for the plane, most recently in May, when 41 people died in a fire after crash landing with full fuel tanks in Moscow. The investigation into the accident is ongoing. Superjet had minor problems that could be fixed by continued investment, but "because so few planes were sold, they can't get enough money from turnover for these works", Panteleyev said. At the outset, Superjet had targeted 20 percent of the market for regional planes, but is now mostly used by state-owned Aeroflot. —AFP

## BP to exit Alaska in \$5.6bn deal

**WASHINGTON:** British oil giant BP said yesterday it will sell all of its Alaska operations for \$5.6 billion, exiting the state after 60 years to help meet divestment goals.

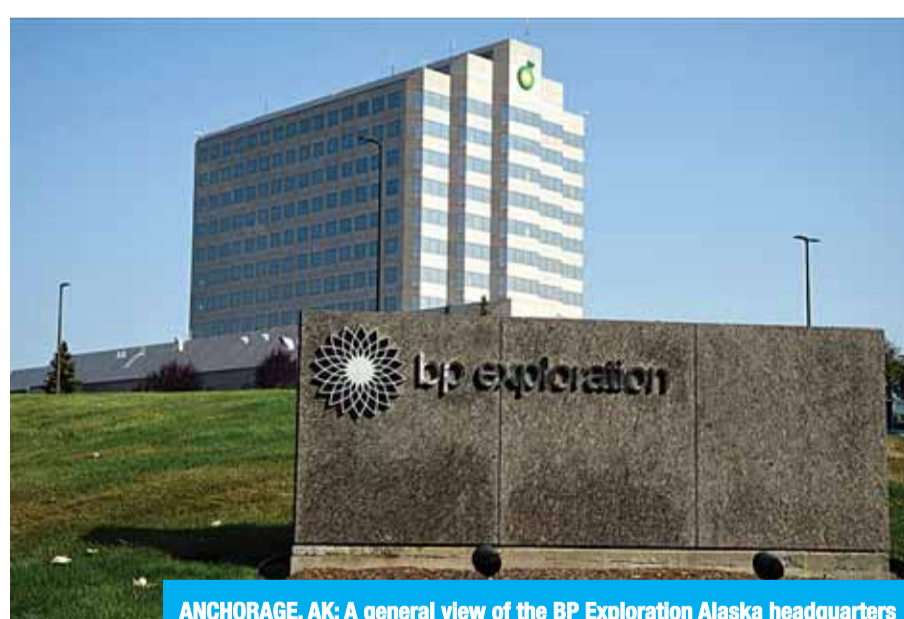
The local firm Hilcorp Alaska will acquire the BP assets, including operations in the mammoth Prudhoe Bay oilfield, BP said in a statement. The sale, which is due to be completed next year, is part of BP's \$10 billion divestment program to help the company shore up its balance sheet.

In June, the company said it would sell assets in Egypt's Gulf of Suez to a

Dubai firm for an undisclosed sum. Projects elsewhere in the world are now better suited to BP's long-term strategy and were thus "more competitive for our investment," BP chief Bob Dudley said in the statement.

"Our exit from Alaska does not in any way diminish BP's commitment to America."

The sale to Hilcorp involves a \$4 billion payment up front, with the remainder coming in earnout payments over time. BP's Alaska production is expected to average 74,000 barrels per day in 2019, according to the company. The British oil major first entered oil-rich Alaska in 1959 — the same year it officially became a US state—and helped construct the 800-mile (1,300-kilometer) Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The company last month posted a 35 percent drop in quarterly profits due to falling oil prices. —AFP



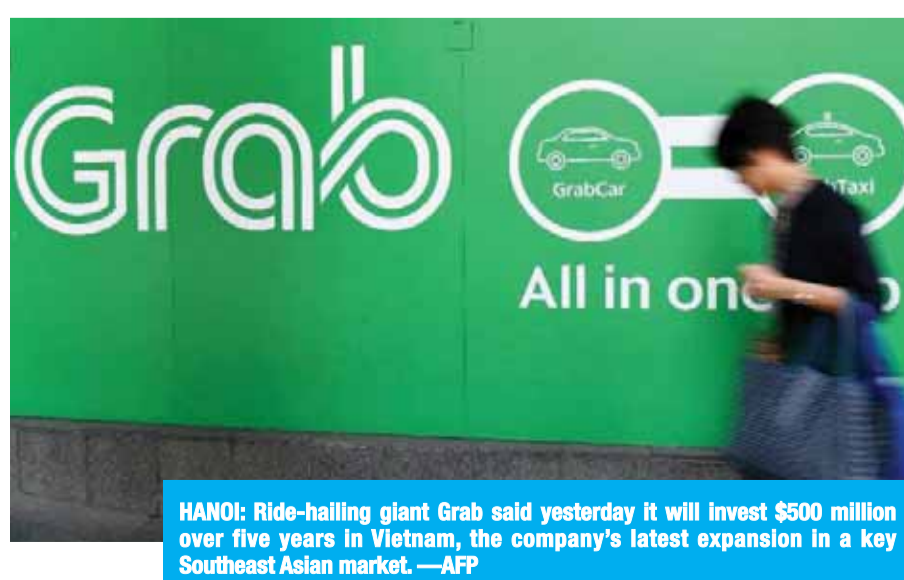
ANCHORAGE, AK: A general view of the BP Exploration Alaska headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska. —AFP

## Ride-hailing firm Grab to invest \$500m in Vietnam

**SINGAPORE:** Ride-hailing giant Grab said yesterday it will invest \$500 million over five years in Vietnam, the company's latest expansion in a key Southeast Asian market. The Singapore-based firm has grown rapidly since it ended a bruising battle with Uber last year by buying its US rival's ride-hailing and food operations in the region. Grab, which operates in eight Southeast Asian countries, has already ploughed large sums into Vietnam since enter-

ing the market in 2014. The fresh investment will be used for new services in areas such as financial technology and logistics, as well as expanding existing transport, food and payment offerings. "This investment is a reflection of our redoubled commitment to Vietnam," said Russell Cohen, Grab's head of regional operations. "The country's rapidly developing economy and young, mobile-first population makes it ripe for the adoption of digital services."

With a population of around 100 million, Vietnam is among the fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia. Last month Grab said it would invest \$2 billion in Indonesia over the next five years, as it seeks to take on local ride-hailing giant Gojek, with some of the money coming from Japan's SoftBank Group. Grab has received investments of more than \$4.5 billion over the past year, with Toyota, Hyundai and Microsoft among the other firms providing support. —AFP



HANOI: Ride-hailing giant Grab said yesterday it will invest \$500 million over five years in Vietnam, the company's latest expansion in a key Southeast Asian market. —AFP

## US consumer confidence dips slightly

**WASHINGTON:** US consumer confidence fell less than expected in August, with households still upbeat about the labor market despite an escalation in trade tensions, which has cast a shadow over the longest economic expansion in history.

While the survey from the Conference Board on Tuesday did not change expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates again next month, it further reduced the chances of an aggressive easing to counter the effects of the trade war, including tighter financial conditions.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell told a conference of central bankers last week that the economy was in a "favorable place," but reiterated that the US central bank would "act as appropriate" to keep the economic expansion, now in its 11th year, on track. The Fed lowered its short-term interest rate by 25 basis points last month for the first time since 2008, citing trade tensions and slowing global growth. Financial markets have fully priced in another quarter-percentage-point cut at the Fed's Sept. 17-18 policy meeting.

"The consumer remains confident despite the ongoing trade war between the US and China and this bodes well for the economic outlook in the second half of the year," said Chris Rupley, chief economist at MUFJ in New York. "Consumers may have even seen July's rate cut as good medicine for the economy which will help keep the economy on the sustainable growth path."

The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index slipped to a reading of 135.1 this month from a slightly upwardly revised 135.8 in July. The index was previously reported at 135.7 in July. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast it dropping to 129.5 in August. The survey's present situation measure rose to 177.2, the highest reading since November 2000, from 170.9 in July.

The Conference Board, however, cautioned that if the trade conflict persists, "it could potentially dampen consumers' optimism regarding the short-term economic outlook." Consumers' expectations, based on their short-term outlook for income, business and labor market conditions, slipped to a reading of 107.0 this month from 112.4 in July. President Donald Trump on Friday announced a new round of tariffs on Chinese imports, hours after Beijing unveiled retaliatory tariffs on \$75 billion worth of US goods. On Monday, the two economic powerhouses sought to ease tensions, with Beijing calling for calm and Trump predicting a deal. The Conference Board survey's findings are in stark contrast with a University of Michigan survey, which showed consumer sentiment dropping to a seven-month low in early August and a measure of current conditions hitting its lowest level since late 2016. According to the University of Michigan, monetary and trade policies had heightened consumers' uncertainty about their future financial prospects. The Conference Board survey places more emphasis on the labor market, while the stock market has a huge influence on the University of Michigan survey. The dollar was little changed against a basket of currencies, while US Treasury prices rose. Stocks on Wall Street were lower.

The Conference Board survey's so-called labor market differential, derived from data on respondents' views on whether jobs are plentiful or hard to get, jumped to 39.4 in August from 33.1 in July. That measure closely correlates to the unemployment rate in the Labor Department's employment report. "This could signal a drop in the unemployment rate in August," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets in Toronto. "So, despite growing worries, businesses don't appear to be cutting staff or even slowing the pace of hiring all that much." The unemployment rate is at 3.7 percent. Other data on Tuesday showed house price inflation continuing to slow, which together with lower borrowing costs could provide a jolt to the housing market, which has been mired in weakness since last year. —Reuters

## Business

# Steak-crazy Argentines keep buying beef even after peso stokes prices

## Butcher shops see profit margins shrink amid skyrocketing inflation

**BUENOS AIRES:** Times are hard in recession-hit Argentina and the peso currency's latest crash has jolted food prices higher. But in a country where eating beef is considered more a right than a luxury, people are stretching their budgets to keep buying steak while butcher shops see profit margins shrink.

Social life revolves around weekend barbecues for Argentines, rich and poor. The cherished image of the gaucho cowboy, wandering the pampas on horseback and dining on top quality steak around the fire, is as much a part of the nation's identity as the tango, Evita Peron, and financial crises.

The latest economic setback occurred earlier this month when a landslide victory for the populist opposition in an Aug. 11 primary vote sparked a run on the peso and hobbled business-friendly President Mauricio Macri's campaign to win a second term in October's presidential election.

Stunned by the peso's fall, Argentina's cattlemen - who export much of their produce - pulled back from selling and waited for the volatility to pass. The supply cut had the effect of raising prices. Many Argentines kept buying steak, nonetheless, opting to cut household budgets in other areas before depriving themselves of their main source of protein.

"Argentines can stop buying clothes and other items but they won't stop buying meat, even while they complain about prices," said Orlando Mamani, working a meat counter in a grocery store in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of Belgrano. And complain they did, even as they lined up to buy at butcher shops across the capital. "Prices are up 15 percent to 20 percent since the primary. The election result was really a surprise," said Julio Basmagian, 70, as he left a butcher's store with purchases under his arms.

"Beef for us is very important. It's very unusual for an Argentine to get through a day without eating

beef in one form or another."

But as a retiree living on a fixed income, Basmagian said he may have to cut back if prices keep rising. "I just don't have the budget," he said. Consumer price inflation is expected at more than 3 percent this month, Macri said on Tuesday, up from 2.2 percent in July. But meat price increases seem to be outpacing inflation, according to consumers and butchers interviewed by Reuters. Official price data for August will not be available until next month.

With Argentina's main parties having already chosen their presidential candidates, the primary served as an opinion poll ahead of October's election. Macri's poor performance caused an 18 percent slide in the peso, raising default fears by making it harder for Argentina to honor its dollar-denominated debts. It has revived memories of Argentina's 2001-2002 default and economic crisis, which tossed millions of middle-class Argentines into poverty.

### Gizzard king

"It is not that meat is very expensive. It's that wage earners believe it is very expensive because they believe they have the right to eat beef every day," said Miguel Schiariti, head of Argentina's CIC-CRA meat industry chamber. Schiariti said supply had dropped 30 percent at Buenos Aires' main livestock market of Liniers after the primary.

"When prices go up like this, everyone complains, including me," said butcher Miguel Narciso, 57, while he cut thin slices of beef used to make the popular local dish milanesa.

"The demand is always there. But supply goes down when ranchers get nervous about the peso and wait to see what's going to happen before selling," said Narciso, his white apron splattered with blood at a butcher shop called Nucho in the middle-class Buenos Aires neighborhood of Caballito.



**BUENOS AIRES:** A man shows Argentine pesos outside a bank in Buenos Aires' financial district, Argentina. —Reuters

His boss, Carlos Principe, the capital's self-anointed "Gizzard King" - emblazoned in red letters on the shop's overhead sign - has heard complaints from clients over rising prices since the primary threw Argentine politics on its head.

"Ranchers cut back livestock supply due to the

uncertainty, so livestock prices rose 18 percent. But I can't raise my retail price by more than about 10 percent without losing customers," Principe said.

"So we are losing money for now but what am I gonna do? I have a business to maintain and employees who have to keep working."

## Dell EMC, VMware collaborate to redefine network for the cloud era

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Yesterday at VMworld 2019, Dell Technologies (NYSE:DELL) announced new advancements in software-defined networking so customers can simplify and help lower the cost of networking in today's multi-cloud world.

"Dell EMC and VMware are rebuilding the network for the cloud era - with everything open, automated and software-defined," said Tom Burns, senior vice president & general manager, Dell EMC Networking & Solutions. "New SD-WAN solutions powered by VMware and network fabric management delivered by SmartFabric Director raise the stakes when it comes to network virtualization and security in today's highly-distributed software-defined enterprise. We're just getting started on our combined innovation."

### Dell EMC SD-WAN Solution

Legacy wide area networks (WANs) struggle to keep up with the modern, multi-cloud traffic demands. At the edge, the new Dell EMC SD-WAN Solution helps customers move away from complex, slow-to-innovate and expensive branch office networking to a SD-WAN platform that uses cloud capabilities and economics. Previewed at Dell Technologies World, the new solution is now globally available and supported. This Dell EMC SD-WAN Solution delivers all-in-one simplicity - combining VMware SD-WAN by VeloCloud software available as a flexible subscription with highly-engineered and efficient modern appliances in multiple configuration options - all backed by world-class Dell EMC support, supply chain, and services.

VMware SD-WAN by VeloCloud includes: a choice of public, private or hybrid cloud network for enterprise-grade connection to cloud and enterprise applications; branch office enterprise appliances and optional data center appliances; software-defined control and automation; and virtual services delivery. Software subscription options can be upgraded to accommodate changing business requirements for features, duration and bandwidth.

### The Dell EMC SD-WAN Solution has three key components:

- SD-WAN Edge powered by VMware - networking specific, purpose-built appliances designed for high efficiency and reliability
- SD-WAN Orchestrator - cloud-based management and orchestration software services from VMware, managed by Dell EMC
- SD-WAN Gateways - a global network of more secure, application-focused access gateways from VMware to handle WAN traffic

Dell EMC SmartFabric Director - Visibility for Both Physical and Virtual Networks

Dell EMC and VMware also announced SmartFabric Director - an innovation in software-defined networking that enables the physical switch underlay infrastructure to keep pace with the changing demands of virtualized and software-defined networks. Dell EMC SmartFabric Director enables data center operators to easily build, operate and monitor an open network underlay fabric based on Dell EMC PowerSwitch Series switches. This is important for organizations that have embraced software-defined networking and need to help make sure their physical underlay networks are finely tuned for that overlay environment. A lack of visibility between the two layers can lead to provisioning and configuration errors, hampering network performance.

This innovative solution from Dell EMC and VMware extends the companies' shared vision of a software-defined data center by simplifying the definition, creation and deployment of data center fabrics with intent-based auto-provisioning and enhanced visibility and management between virtual and physical network environments.

## KFH-Bahrain announces winner of Libshara grand prize \$50,000

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House Bahrain "KFH- Bahrain" recently announced Ebrahim Ali Malalla as the winner of the 7th Grand Prize of the Bank's 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account in the amount of USD \$50,000. In addition, 40 monthly winners each received a prize of \$1,000, and 60 winners were awarded \$500 in the special segment categories for "Our Women", "Our Children", "Our Savers", "Our Cards", "Jazeel" as well as "VIVA". The draw was held at KFH-Bahrain's headquarters at Bahrain World Trade Centre under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and several members of the Bank's management team.

Commenting on the occasion, Khalid Al-Maarafi, Executive Manager and Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain revealed, "We would like to congratulate all of July's winners as well as Ebrahim Ali Malalla for winning the

Grand Prize; and thank them for investing their money in "Libshara" account. We will continue to launch unique promotional campaigns that also support our vision of offering the best rewards, in recognition of our customers' loyalty and support and for being our partners."

The Grand Prize winner, Ebrahim Ali Malalla said, "I am very delighted to win the Grand Cash Prize of "Libshara." this has opened a lot of opportunities for me: I encourage everyone to invest in the Libshara account to perhaps be as lucky as myself and win one of many valuable prizes. I would like to thank all the employees at KFH - Bahrain for their great efforts and for continually working to provide the best services and products in the local banking sector."

"Libshara" is a Sharia-compliant account that provides tremendous opportunities to win a variety of valuable prizes, including grand and monthly prizes alongside special segments. Customers who have a "Libshara" saving account will automatically enter monthly draws upon saving an amount of BD50 or its USD equivalent for a minimum period of 30 days. Customers' chances of winning are increased according to the length of period invested, where they receive two chances for a 180-days investment, and 3 chances for a 360-days investment.



**Khalid Al-Maarafi presenting the award to Ebrahim Malalla**

Four remaining lucky winners of the "Libshara" account will each receive a luxurious apartment in Durrat Marina, as part of the Grand Prizes in 2019. Furthermore, sixty monthly winners receive an amount of \$500 each for the categories "Our Women", "Our Children", "Our Savers", "Our Cards" and customers who open their

"Libshara" accounts online will be included in the new "Jazeel" category. KFH - Bahrain is also initiating a collaboration with "VIVA" Telecommunications Company to present 10 monthly vouchers worth \$500 for small and medium enterprises upon spending BD50 or more on corporate services.

## Ooredoo announces successful conclusion of its offers on Galaxy Note 10 series

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait yesterday announced the successful conclusion of its recent unmatched offer that brought Samsung's latest Galaxy Note 10 and Galaxy Note 10 Plus series flagship smartphones to Ooredoo's customers. The offered devices were available for a limited period in all branches as well as the company's eShop. All customers who purchased any of the offered devices during the 48-hours offer were presented with new Samsung wireless power banks as exclusive valuable gifts. Offering these attractive and unmatched deals comes as a further testament of Ooredoo's unremitting endeavors to provide customers with the best and most innovative telecom products and services that truly fit with customers' lifestyle and enhance the way they con-



nect and optimize digital life

Ooredoo offered both Galaxy Note 10 and Galaxy Note 10 Plus smartphones in Aura Black, Aura Glow and Aura White colors. Additionally, the new Samsung gadget which is by all means an ultra-powerful and intelligent phone, has an array of new and exciting features that include a 6.8-inch Dynamic AMOLED screen with QHD+ resolution, a 10 MP front (selfie) camera which has autofocus, dual-pixel PDAF.

The phone has a quad-camera setup on the rear, featuring a 12MP primary sensor with a wide-angle lens, a 12 MP 2x optical zoom equivalent telephoto lens camera, and a 16 MP camera with an ultrawide-angle (depthvision) lens. The Galaxy Note 10 Plus uses the Octa core 2.7 GHz/2.4 GHz/1.9 GHz processor, 12 GB RAM and it runs Android 9 Pie based Samsung One UI software. It has a dual-SIM card slot, 4G LTE and it is powered by a 4300mAh battery.



## Burgan Bank presents exclusive back to school offer to its credit-card holders

**KUWAIT:** On the occasion of back to school, Burgan Bank announced a very exclusive deal with "Eastpak" to offer their credit card holders a 50 percent discount on all bags during a three-day promotional period taking place at the

"Eastpak" store in Boulevard Mall. The offer will start on Thursday 29th August until Saturday 31st August, 2019.

Nasser Al Qaisi - Chief Retail Banking officer of Burgan Bank said, "We want to help students gear up for the upcoming school and university season. This offer will satisfy their need of trendy, high-quality bags to support their daily requirements."

The "Eastpak" store is a global lifestyle brand that provides a variety of innovative modern-day bags, luggage and travel items built for urban mobility. The "Eastpak" brand combines style and creativity into its street-smart backpacks, convenient shoulder bags and unique travel inventions, making

it easy to move across town or across the world.

Burgan Bank customers can benefit from the discounted offer by using their Burgan Bank credit cards. To know more about Burgan Bank's latest offers, or any of its products and services, customers can visit any of the Burgan Bank's branches or Burgan Bank's Instagram page on @BurganBankKuwait or contact the call center.



**Nasser Al-Qaisi**

What's On

# Exclusive offers and amazing prices from X-cite's Back-to-School Season

To brighten up this year's back-to-school season, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, Kuwait's largest electronic retailer, announced the launching of its exclusive offers with amazing prices on all modern school supplies, including stationery, laptops and tablets from August 21 until October 8.

Thanks to X-cite's wide selection of products, students will be looking forward to getting back to school this year supplied with all latest essentials available at the best prices possible. Considered as Kuwait's one-stop-shop, X-cite's showrooms are the ultimate destination providing students with laptops, tablets, printers and accessories, along with many other products especially provided for a well-ordered return with the right back-to-school items suiting all age groups, including teachers.

Apple products' lovers can take advantage of this promotion and get a new MacBook with X-cite's special students discount of 12%, or own a

premium Lenovo device available with a 20% discount. Moreover, customers can benefit from a 20% discount on HP Envy and HP Specter line up, as well as a 30% off on HP Lhasa and OJ Pro printers' series. X-cite's variety of special offers dedicated for students includes as well a 10% discount on Amazon Kindle products and Wacom devices. Additionally, the company is granting its customers a 50% discount on Microsoft Office and QuickHeal anti-virus when bought with any PC.

Through its customer-centric concept, X-cite offers customers competitive quality and prices to serve every segment, providing them with the highest level of service, engaging with them, and earning their trust through supporting services and offerings. X-cite also enables customers to shop from the comfort of their homes through its free mobile app and shopping website at [www.xcite.com](http://www.xcite.com).

X-cite has established itself as a leading

brand in providing the latest products to customers as it continues to build strong relations with international brands in the electronics sector. Continuously seeking to satisfy the needs of its customers, X-cite provides them with diverse services that enable customers to experience products and interact with them, and the service of buy online and pick the product in store, whether in their 27 showrooms or through the website, designed to make online shopping a fast and easy experience. X-cite also offers premium maintenance and purchase services at most of its major showrooms throughout Kuwait and other services such as free delivery and X-care packages. To stay updated on the latest events, monthly promotions and offers, subscribe to the daily newsletter on [xcite.com](http://xcite.com), follow X-cite's social media channels on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, @xcitealghanim, or Facebook, XcitebyAlghanim, or visit the online store at [www.xcite.com](http://www.xcite.com)



## LOYAC restores the homes of needy families

Within the framework of youth goals that create a sense of community, LOYAC volunteers have renovated six houses of needy families within the Homes Program, which is sponsored by Alghanim International General Trading and Contracting Co. Youstra Al-Essa, Director of Community Service Department at LOYAC, said: "27 volunteers contributed to the restoration of six houses in some areas of Kuwait. Students help promote the principle of teamwork and our volunteer teams are a celebration of different cultures."

On the other hand, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Alghanim International General Trading and Contracting, Mohammed Fouad Alghanim, "The work of LOYAC contributes significantly to the potential of our young academics and employs them to serve the community. It reinforces the moral responsibility of the individual and their sense of his value as a human being through this type of initiative."

"To achieve the objectives of Alghanim International General Trading and Contracting Company and LOYAC, we have developed a plan to renovate 20 houses for needy families in 2019, this comes as a social and moral responsibility towards the Kuwaiti society as Alghanim International Company is a Kuwaiti national company working on community development."

## ICSK organizes training for teachers

The Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK Senior, Kuwait organized a training session for the teachers on 22nd Aug, 2019 in the school auditorium. The resource person for the training program was Dr Sr Lydia Fernandes, Teacher Educator at St Anns College of Education, Bangalore.

Dr Sr Lydia also happens to be a member in the World Council of Education [California]. The program commenced with a silent prayer. The Principal of ICSK Senior, Dr V Binumon extended a warm welcome to Dr Sr Lydia. Sr Lydia began the session by talking about self power. She spoke about the two most important requirements of a Professional Teacher and stressed on the fact that modeling is the way of teaching and in futuristic education. She also added that the EQ level of

a child unlike the IQ level could be developed.

Apart from these she stressed on facts like 'Procrastination is the thief of time' and by building a positive self esteem, treating problems as opportunities, building strong professional ethics and obligations and loyalty towards management. She counseled the teachers to prioritize amongst themselves.

Yesterday the teachers were a sage on the stage but today they are a guide by the side. An interesting questionnaire session was opened to all for further comprehension and all queries regarding better teaching were cleared. The Vice Principal of ICSK Senior, Dr Sam T Kuruvilla, delivered the vote of thanks and the Principal Dr V Binumon presented Dr Sr Lydia with a memento as a token of love, gratitude and appreciation.



## TIES announcement

The TIES Center cordially invites you to another session on the Stories of Prophets today, August 29, 2019 at 7pm. In this class, we will discuss why and how Pharaoh's dignitaries incited him to kill Musa (AS), his response to that and the eventual consequence. We will also examine the complaints of Musa's followers, how he comforted them, and their eventual response.

We will also discuss why the Pharaoh will be consigned to the Hell-fire. Finally, we will explore Allah's assurances to Musa (AS) and his followers, what Musa (AS) said in seeking Allah's protection, and the significance of seeking Allah's help and protection always. Come and learn more about the life and times of Prophet Musa (AS) in a serene and relaxed environment.

## Brazilian Shrimp and Fish Stew

Pickled hot cherry peppers are usually sold jarred, next to the pickles or jarred roasted red peppers at the supermarket. Haddock or other firm-fleshed, flaky whitefish may be substituted for cod. We prefer untreated shrimp, but if your shrimp are treated with sodium, do not add salt to the shrimp in step 2. Our favorite coconut milk is made by Aroy-D. Serve with steamed white rice.

### Ingredients

#### Pepper Sauce

- 4 pickled hot cherry pepper (3 ounces)
- 1/2 onion, chopped coarse
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/8 teaspoon sugar
- Salt

### Stew

- 1 pound large shrimp (26 to 30 per pound), peeled, deveined, and tails removed
- 1 pound skinless cod fillets (3/4 to 1 inch thick), cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- 3 garlic cloves, minced



### Salt and pepper

- 1 onion, chopped coarse
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can whole peeled tomatoes
- 3/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded, and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 green bell pepper, stemmed, seeded, and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 (14-ounce) can coconut milk
- 2 tablespoons lime juice

### Preparation

For the pepper sauce: Process all ingredients in food processor until smooth, about 30 seconds, scraping down sides of bowl as

needed. Season with salt to taste and transfer to separate bowl. Rinse out processor bowl.

For the stew: Toss shrimp and cod with garlic, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in bowl. Set aside. Process onion, tomatoes and their juice, and 1/4 cup cilantro in food processor until finely chopped and mixture has texture of pureed salsa, about 30 seconds.

Heat oil in large Dutch oven over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add red and green bell peppers and 1/2 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, 5 to 7 minutes. Add onion-tomato mixture and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring frequently, until puree has reduced and thickened slightly, 3 to 5 minutes (pot should not be dry).

Increase heat to high, stir in coconut milk, and bring to boil (mixture should be bubbling across entire surface). Add seafood mixture and lime juice and stir to evenly distribute seafood, making sure all pieces are submerged in liquid. Cover pot and remove from heat. Let stand until shrimp and cod are opaque and just cooked through, 15 minutes. Gently stir in 2 tablespoons pepper sauce and remaining 1/2 cup cilantro, being careful not to break up cod too much. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve, passing remaining pepper sauce separately.

## Easy pancakes

The pancakes can be cooked on an electric griddle set to 350 degrees. They can be held in a preheated 200-degree oven on a wire rack set in a rimmed baking sheet. Serve with salted butter and maple syrup or with one of our flavored butters: Ginger-Molasses Butter, Orange-Almond Butter, or Pumpkin Spice Butter.

### Ingredients

- 2 cups (10 ounces) all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup plus 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups milk

### To Prepare

Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt together in large bowl. Whisk eggs and 1/4 cup oil in second medium bowl until well combined. Whisk milk and vanilla into egg mixture. Add egg mixture to flour mixture and stir gently until just combined (batter should remain lumpy with few streaks



of flour). Let batter sit for 10 minutes before cooking.

Heat 1/2 teaspoon oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-low heat until shimmering. Using paper towels, carefully wipe out oil, leaving thin film on bottom and sides of skillet. Drop 1 tablespoon batter in center of skillet. If pancake is pale golden brown after 1 minute, skillet is ready. If it is too light or too dark, adjust heat accordingly.

Using 1/4-cup dry measuring cup, portion batter into skillet in 3 places, leaving 2 inches between portions. If necessary, gently spread batter into 4-inch round. Cook until edges are set, first sides are golden brown, and bubbles on surface are just beginning to break, 2 to 3 minutes. Using thin, wide spatula, flip pancakes and continue to cook until second sides are golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes longer. Serve. Repeat with remaining batter, using remaining 1/2 teaspoon oil as necessary.

### Orange-Almond Butter

#### Ingredients

- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 2 teaspoons grated orange zest
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

### To prepare

Microwave 2 tablespoons butter in medium bowl until melted, about 1 minute. Stir in orange zest, honey, almond extract, salt, and remaining 6 tablespoons butter. Let mixture stand for 2 minutes. Whisk until smooth. (Butter can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.)

Health & Science

# Amazon fires just a tipping point: Forestry group chief

**YOKOHAMA:** The fires tearing through the Amazon represent a "tipping point" for the health of the rainforest, the head of a top global forestry management body said yesterday, urging the world to do more to save the trees. The situation in the Amazon is "very urgent," stressed Gerhard Dieterle, executive director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation, an intergovernmental agency group that promotes sustainable forestry use.

"This is something that might affect the integrity of the Amazon as a whole, because if the forest fires spread, the grasslands become more prone to forest fires," Dieterle told AFP on the sidelines of a conference on African development. "Many experts fear it may be a tipping point" for the rainforest, as the latest figures show a total of more than 82,000 fires blazing in Brazil, even as military aircraft and troops help battle them.

More than half of the fires are in the massive Amazon basin. Some of the blazes are down to natural causes, Dieterle said, but they are mostly started deliberately by farmers clearing land for agriculture. "If tropical dense forests are affected by forest fires, they need many, many years to regroup. It will alter the climate, the local climate, the national climate and the regional climate. It will also have an influence on the global climate," said the forestry expert.

Asked about the G7's \$20 million pledge

to combat the flames, Dieterle said it was "a beginning but much more is needed." "This is the national sovereignty of Brazil... if they ask for funding, I think the world might be willing to provide more resources," he said. On Tuesday, a spokesman for President Jair Bolsonaro said Brazil would be prepared to accept foreign aid to fight the fires, provided they control the cash.

Earlier, Brazil had appeared to reject the G7 overtures during a war of words between Bolsonaro and French President Emmanuel Macron, who hosted the meeting of the global elite. "Mr Macron must withdraw the insults he made against me," Bolsonaro told reporters in the capital Brasilia on Tuesday. Dieterle made his comments on the sidelines of the TICAD conference on African development held in Yokohama near Tokyo.

Earlier he warned delegates that "deforestation and forest degradation continue at an alarming rate in many African countries." Given the expected rise in African populations from 1.2 billion today to 4.4 billion by the end of the century, he also sounded the alarm bell over a lack of wood products for construction and cooking. "In the same way we talk about food security, we need also to talk about 'wood security' and 'water security'. We must focus more on the role and use of productive forests before it is too late," Dieterle said. — AFP



Handout picture released by Greenpeace showing smoke billowing from the Jamanxim National Forest - APA (Environmental Protection Area) - in the Amazon biome in the municipality of Novo Progresso. — AFP

## Wildlife trade protections for giraffes, sharks

**GENEVA:** A global wildlife summit has decided to regulate international trade in giraffes and a range of shark and ray species and tighten protections for elephants, otters and other endangered species. Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) wrapped up a 12-day meeting in Geneva yesterday, after approving a long line of proposals to tighten protections.

The treaty, created more than four decades ago, regulates trade in over 35,000 species of plants and animals and contains mechanisms to help crack down on illegal trade and sanction countries that break the rules. The Geneva meeting decided for the first time to list giraffes in its Annex II, thus requiring tracking and regulation to ensure all trade of the species is sustainable, amid a feared "silent extinction" of the gentle giants.

The African giraffe population as a whole has shrunk by an estimated 40 percent over the past three decades, to just under 100,000 animals, according to figures available to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). — AFP

CLINIC

PAGE





248 33 199

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY



Dr. Ensad Selim  
Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Ahmed Emira  
Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Ibrahim Abed  
Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Mohab Al-Kilani  
Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Mohammad Shaheen  
Orthopedic Surgeon



Dr. Mohammad Arab  
Orthopedic Surgeon




1808088 taibahospital.com


fb @taibahospital

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

— These services include, but are not limited to, the below:

- Bone fractures and traumas
- Sports injuries
- Spine surgeries
- Arthroplasty surgeries and revisions
- Foot and ankle surgeries
- Limb deformities
- Pelvic fractures
- Hand surgeries





1808088 taibahospital.com

fb @taibahospital





**Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally**  
Senior Registrar



**Dr. Abeer Khattab**  
Specialist



**Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid**  
Consultant



**Ophthalmology Services**



Cataract Surgery



Glaucoma



Retina



General Ophthalmology



Follow-Up All Treatments

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @haadclinic

Whatsapp Us: +965-6000 2184



Dr Sahar Ghannam

Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser

Timing: Saturdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am to 5 pm

Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm

Friday is a holiday.

Address: Fourth Ring Road - Abdallah Fadalah Street, Meidan Hawally, opposite fire station - block 35, building 31.

Clinic Phones: 25610407/ 409/ 314 Fax: 25610465  
Mobaile: 90974754/ 99166746




Email: drsgderma@gmail.com

To advertise on this Page

Call: 24833199 ext:101,102 or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617

or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

WELCOME

Dr Tammam Abou Ali

Consultant ENT, Head & Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon.

Membership of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.

10 years work experience in Zain Hospital, MOH Kuwait.

Ex Head of ENT Department in Farwajia Hospital, MOH Kuwait

10 years work experience in UK and Ireland.



- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF
- Snoring and OSAP Surgery
- Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques
- Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty
- Salivary gland and parotid surgery
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Micro laryngeal surgery



1 888 883

www.qmc-kuwait.com

fb @qmc Kuwait

Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!



Dr. Kiran Turaka  
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Zareena Zahir  
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Hassan Khan  
Senior Cardiologist



Dr. P. Seshendra Nath  
Orthopedic Consultant (AUSTRALIA)  
Specialist in Neck, Shoulder, Hip and Knee



50721507

24551555

www.exircenterkw.com

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCES

Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

Tel : 24568857 / 24568859 info@exircenterkw.com www.exircenterkw.com



# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

**DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY**  
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology  
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.  
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada  
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- Diagnosis & treatment of Otolology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders.
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

**Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122**

@Malhajry

**DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

**ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:**

- o Dermatology board certified.
- o Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- o Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- o Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

- o Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- o Laser Treatments.
- o Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- o Body & Face Contouring.
- o Injectable Fillers & Botox.

SHARQ, Ahmad Alieber st., Building b8, Floor 13.  
Tel.: (+965) 22060777.  
@Drbuhaimed, @Renovabb, @dardonabb  
Email: drbuhaimed@beautybeyond.com.kw  
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

Renova  
BEAUTY & BEYOND

**To advertise on this Page**

**Call: 24833199 ext:101,102**  
**or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617**  
**or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com**

**Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine**  
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

مسشفى دار الشفاء  
Dar Al Shifa Hospital  
Tele:1802 555

daralshifa

**DR KHALED ALMERRI**  
Consultant interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

**Specialized in:**

- 1-Diagnosis and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6-Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

alsalam.int.hospital

**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist

- Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- Fellow of the European Board Otorhinolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the British Laryngological Association
- Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the Eurpean Laryngological Society

**Specialized in:**

- Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- Vocal cord augmentation.
- Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- Thyroid surgery.
- Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- Treatment of snoring.
- Treatment of vertigo.

alsalam.int.hospital

**IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC**  
INTERNATIONAL CLINIC  
مركز تخصصي في الرعاية الصحية  
PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE

**American Board Certified in General Surgery**  
**Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)**  
**Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation**  
**Member of many prestigious surgical societies.**

- Day case surgeries
- Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, Ingrowing nail)
- Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- Breast surgeries
- Hernia repair
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant  
http://www.international-clinic.com  
Tel: 1886677  
ic\_kwt

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

- General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- Single Port Surgery
- Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer
- Surgical treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- Stomach Balloon insertion & removal
- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- Laparoscopic mini bypass
- Transanal minimally invasive surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء  
Dar Al Shifa Hospital  
Tele:1802 555

daralshifa  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

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

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

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

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

**Academic Certificates - Training**

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

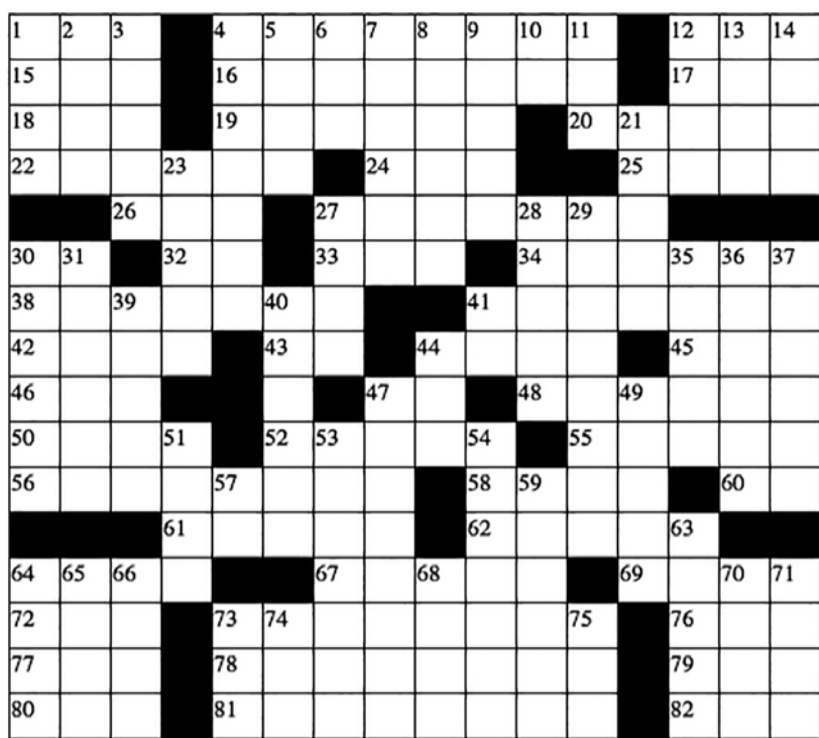
**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2293



ACROSS

1. Noisy talk.
4. Genus of European perennial herbs yielding medicinal alkaloids.
12. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
15. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
16. Hunting with dogs that are trained to chase game by sight instead of by scent.
17. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
18. Extremely pleasing.
19. Of or located in the upper part of a town.
20. Lower in esteem.
22. An authoritative person who divines the future.
24. An angular shape characterized by sharp turns in alternating directions.
25. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
26. (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
30. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
32. The ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle.
33. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
34. The first light of day.
38. Glazed earthenware decorated with opaque colors.
42. In or of the present month.
43. A Russian river.
45. An accountant certified by the state.
46. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
48. East Indian flying squirrel.
50. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
52. A Hindu disciple of a swami.
55. A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
56. Convert code into ordinary language.
58. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
60. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
61. A platform built out from the shore into the water and supported by piles.
62. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
64. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
67. Worthy of imitation.
69. A short labored intake of breath with the mouth open.
72. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
76. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
77. A proportion multiplied by 100.
78. Pearl oysters.
79. A light touch or stroke.
80. An associate degree in applied science.
81. Made less brittle by heating and then cooling.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
2. The sixth month of the civil year.
3. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
4. Any of numerous spiny large-headed broad-mouthed usually scaleless scorpaenoid fishes.
5. Brick that is laid sideways at the top of a wall.
6. Not in.
7. A selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitor commonly prescribed as an antidepressant (trade name Prozac).
8. United States assassin of President John F. Kennedy (1939-1963).
9. A characteristic language of a particular group (as among thieves).
10. Not out.
11. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
12. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
13. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
14. One of the common people.
21. (in Scotland) A child.
23. King of France elected in 987 and founding the Capetian dynasty (940-996).
27. (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.
28. A unit of weight for precious stones = 200 mg.
29. A member of a North American people formerly living in the Colorado river valley in Arizona.
31. A member of the eastern branch of the Sioux.
35. Come to pass.
36. The food served and eaten at one time.
37. A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
39. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
40. (anatomy) A structure that resembles a shell in shape.
41. The 17th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
44. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
47. By necessity.
49. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
51. Climbing vine native to China.
53. German hero.
54. Of or pertaining to adnexa.
57. (chemistry) P (potential of) H (hydrogen).
59. A salt of any halogen acid.
63. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
65. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
66. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
68. A collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn.
70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
71. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
73. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
74. A piece of jewelry that is pinned onto the wearer's garment.
75. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a great time to become friends with your co-workers as you work together. A period emphasizing an enhanced sense of personal possibility has just begun. This is a time of tremendous psychological growth, which can lead to personal success if you work through with it. You might also find that you will put on the pounds if you are not careful. Everything points to your taking the initiative. In the working world you will find yourself coming up with all sorts of productive ideas. This could mean a new advertising strategy or new sales approach. At home or in your own artistic expression it could just be the touch that gains you recognition.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone. Those around you, or the situation you find yourself in, may not feel right to you—you could be challenged. However, this is of short duration; you are in the mood to seek the right solution for all. Your instinctive thinking at this time is toward becoming focused and completing unfinished business. You have a love affair going with the mind and you value the intelligent use of words, ideas, thoughts and such. This afternoon you may enjoy games of trivia. You love to talk and may find yourself in several good conversations all day long.



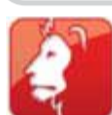
Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This morning you may find you are at odds with others regarding matters of convention. If you do not become carried away by other people's foolish ideas you will be able to insert some positive, commonsense alternatives to projects that may need salvaging. Connecting with others through an attitude of teamwork will make for profitable results. Your enthusiasm could become popular, particularly if you point out the good points that others have created and how they will fit with the group. This makes you ideal as a teacher or group leader, especially with young people. Know when to pull back and take the back seat, so to speak. You will feel real harmony this afternoon from those around you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have blind courage and sheer guts—a self-starter. Innovations—new and possibly unconventional approaches to being productive or making money—are in order today. Independence is a very good thing. We are all connected, but we also need to be in control of our own goals and this is something you strongly work to achieve. Listen to your own inner guidance particularly if you have the sense of being pulled into investments or other projects that seem to distract you from your path of success. Your response to life is becoming more original and innovative. You look to home and family for support and encouragement. Security and having roots are important to your productivity now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a great time to be working in group or team situations. Discovering what you truly believe in—fighting for it, even—is a high personal priority now. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the areas where this takes place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Learning what makes people tick is exciting and enlightening psychological information. There is an emphasis on close relationships and a preoccupation with ideas of fairness and harmony that are part and parcel of the mental cycle you have just begun. This afternoon you may decide to shop and prepare for the winter months ahead—perhaps it is time for a new style—hair or clothes. Romance is an outlet for much of your energy this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a period of increased mental activity and sensitive communication with others. Intellectualism, the exchange of ideas and the idea of being smart as a fox are the things that have a special appeal and importance at this time. You are most persuasive with others and eloquent in making yourself understood. You should be able to get your ideas across with ease. The makings for a bright and witty day are at hand. Your communication skills are at a high-water mark. New understandings of those around you bring about a special time of enjoyment.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find that both your personal growth and your career depend on how you can handle the very sensitive psychological material that may be coming up now. You will benefit from analytical insights, getting to the heart of things; penetrating. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. This is a time of much energy and drive, perfect for beginning a new project or taking care of business—very physical too. You may be asked for your advice and counsel regarding some very personal and emotional issues. You will have an opportunity to either be a listener or to lend a helping hand without getting in too deep. An evening out for dining and dance is possible tonight, perhaps even a little romance.



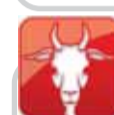
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

An announcement at work this morning may cause you to want to review parts of your education that you have not had a chance to put to good use. Consider your options and put your good sense to use. If you are very discreet, you can restore a difficult situation at work to a state of harmony. A new professional assignment appeals to you this afternoon. You may feel that you will be able to make those important strides forward as you take on this new assignment. If you are not as technically skilled as you would like, this is a good time to invest in a class or the equipment you need. Someone you respect will be able to advise you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Secrets, taboos and mysteries appeal now. Learning the process of finding solutions holds your interest. This may mean that some numbers did not add up properly, and you are usually able to detect the missing link. Someone may have lost something important or a similar problem has your attention—don't lose track of your goal for today. Your instinctive orientation at this time is toward getting down to basics and eliminating any misunderstanding or mistake. You uncover answers from the most unexpected places. You could receive unexpected help today or support from others.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

New forms of creativity and self-expression seem to open up new avenues for accomplishments. Increased confidence and a more outgoing manner may be the keys that open many a new door in your career. This is certainly a time during which your career or life path undergoes a certain amount of change and transformation. You find yourself firmly against sidetracks: the unessential. You can really home in on how to solve problems and get where you want to go. Your support system that consists of family and friends becomes more secure at this time. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential things in your life and develop what is most basic and true in your environment.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a project due at work today and you enjoy being able to concentrate on it. There are no interruptions and if you wish, others are ready to lend a helping hand. A number of new goals make a lot of sense to you and you work to create greater success. Feeling successful and prosperous is the first step toward becoming those things. Picture yourself living the life you want to lead and you will be very pleased at the outcome. A family member, perhaps a child, wants to share some quality time with you this afternoon.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Others will follow your lead today. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional importance for you now. You could come up with plenty of new ideas for making the work you are doing run as smoothly as possible. Your instinctive orientation now is toward getting down to business and accomplishing your goals for the day. The power of organization on a social scale—business, politics and such—seems to take on a larger-than-life energy, as you enter into a new cycle. It's as if ambition and authority are answers in themselves, rather than only a means to an ideal objective. This could be a time during which your career undergoes a certain amount of change and transformation. You are focused and attentive to your work.

Wordsearch Puzzle

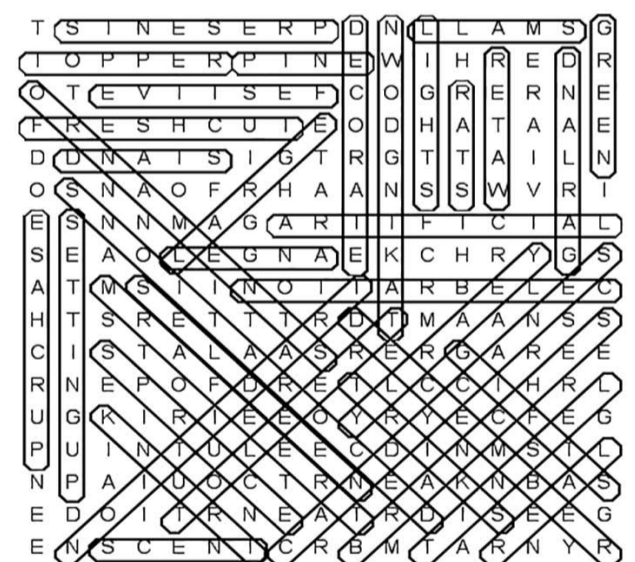
Classic Toys

Find and circle all of the toys that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a quote by G. K. Chesterton.



- BALLOON
- BARBIE
- BEACH BALL
- BOP BAG
- CAP GUN
- CHATTY CATHY
- EASY BAKE OVEN
- ETCH A SKETCH
- FINGER PAINT
- FLATSY DOLL
- FRISBEE
- G.I. JOE
- GUMBY
- GYROSCOPE
- HOT WHEELS
- JACKS
- KALEIDOSCOPE
- KAZOO
- KEN
- LEGO
- LITE BRITE
- LITTLE PEOPLE
- MATCHBOX CAR
- MECCANO
- MR POTATO HEAD
- NERF BALL
- PADDLE BALL
- PLAY-DOH
- PLAYMOBIL
- POGO STICK
- POKEY
- POP GUN
- RADIO FLYER
- RUBIK'S CUBE
- SILLY PUTTY
- SIZZLERS
- SKIPPING ROPE
- SLINKY
- SOCK MONKEY
- SOMA CUBE
- SPIROGRAPH
- SUPER BALL
- TEDDY BEAR
- TINKERTOY
- TIN SOLDIERS
- TONKA TRUCK
- VIEWMASTER
- WATER PISTOL
- WEEBLES
- WIFFLE BALL
- WIZZZER
- YO-YO

Christmas Tree



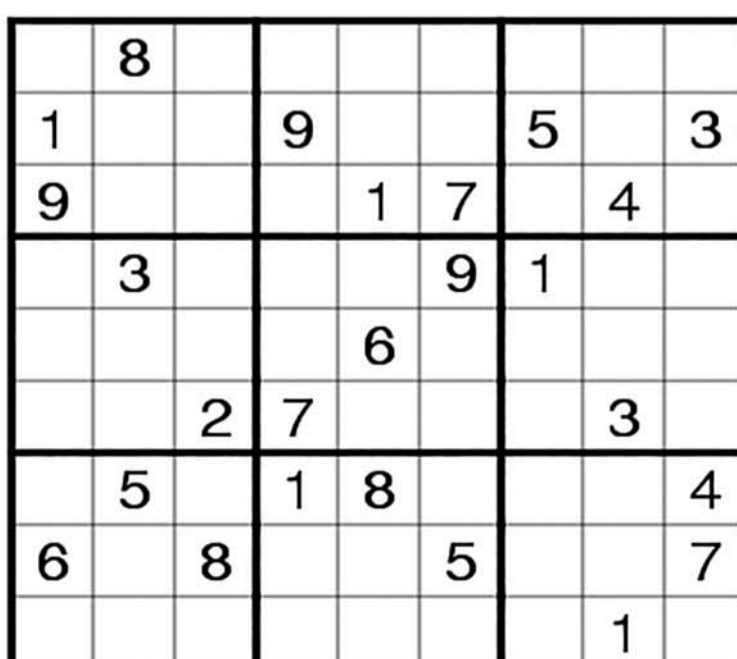
- ANGEL
- ARTIFICIAL
- BRANCHES
- CANDY CANES
- CELEBRATION
- DECEMBER
- DECORATE
- DECORATIONS
- FESTIVE
- FRESH CUT
- GARLAND
- GIFTS
- GREEN
- LARGE
- LIGHTS
- NEEDLES
- ORNAMENTS
- PINE
- PURCHASE
- REAL
- SCENT
- SETTING UP
- SKIRT
- SMALL
- SPRUCE
- STAR
- STAND
- TAKING DOWN
- TINSEL
- TOPPER
- TRADITION
- TREE FARM
- TREE LOT
- TRUNK
- WATER
- YEARLY

The hidden message is: THE TRADITION OF HAVING A CHRISTMAS TREE ORIGINATED IN GERMANY

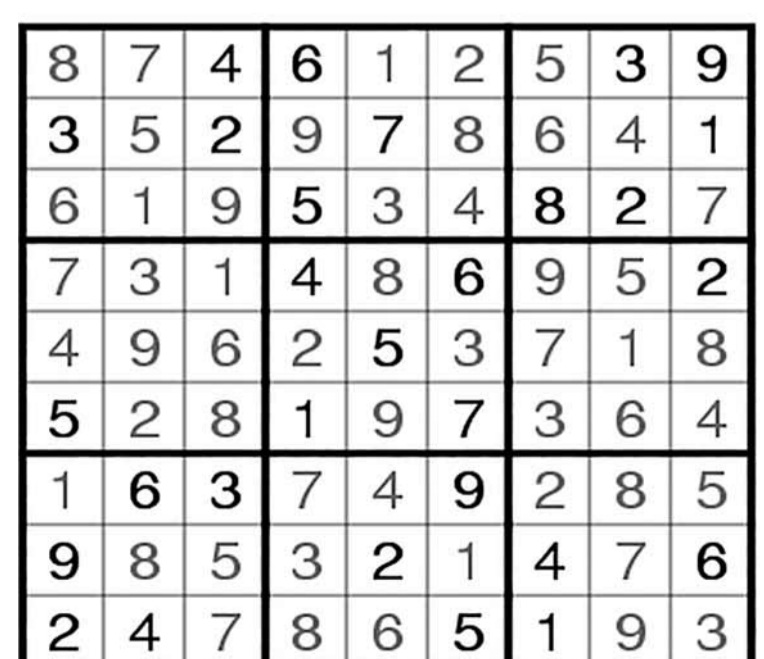
Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019



## Playing ketchup in Spain - thousands wage the **Tomatina** fight



**T**housands of revelers hurled tons of tomatoes at each other yesterday, cavorting in the red pulp beneath their feet in the Spanish town of Bunol. Organizers of the annual Tomatina festival tossed 145 tonnes of over-ripe tomatoes into the crowd from six large trucks, quickly converting the town into a sea of pink and red.

Some revelers wore goggles to protect their eyes and some buildings were draped with tarpaulin to preserve their walls, while others got soaked with the pulp, creating a scene worthy of a modern art painting. The Tomatina is said to have originated from a spontaneous bust-up amongst villagers in 1945. It was banned for a while during the 1950s at the height of General

Francisco Franco's dictatorship, but survived to gain popularity across Spain in the 1980s and today draws large crowds of visitors from abroad as well as Spaniards. The town hall distributed more than 20,000 tickets to the festival this year. — Reuters



Revelers covered in tomato pulp take part in the annual "Tomatina" festival in the eastern town of Bunol, yesterday. The iconic fiesta, which is billed at "the world's biggest food fight" has become a major draw for foreigners, in particular from Britain, Japan and the United States. — AFP photos



## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies



US actor Brad Pitt arrives by taxi boat yesterday during the 76th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP photos



File photo shows Venice Film Festival Director Alberto Barbera (right) and a guest attends the 'Yomeddine' premiere during the 17th Marrakech International Film Festival.



File photo shows French-Polish director Roman Polanski poses during a photocall prior to the screening of his movie "D'après une histoire vraie" ("based on a true story") at the Cinematheque in Paris.

## Films vying for Venice's Golden Lion

Twenty-one films are competing for the prestigious Golden Lion award at the Venice film festival, which kicked off yesterday and runs until September 7.

Here are the films:

"La Verite" (The Truth), by Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda-opening film  
 "The Perfect Candidate", by Saudi Arabian director Haifaa al-Mansour  
 "About Endlessness", by Swedish director Roy Andersson  
 "Wasp Network", by French director Olivier Assayas  
 "Marriage Story", by US director Noah Baumbach  
 "Guest of Honour", by Canadian director Atom Egoyan  
 "Ad Astra", by US director James Gray  
 "A Herdade", by Portuguese director Tiago Guedes  
 "Gloria Mundi", by French director Robert Guédiguian  
 "Waiting For The Barbarians", by Colombian director Ciro Guerra  
 "Ema", by Chilean director Pablo Larraín  
 "Lan xin da ju yuan" (Saturday Fiction) by Chinese director Lou Ye  
 "Martin Eden", by Italian director Pietro Marcello  
 "La Mafia Non è Più Quella Di Una Volta" (The Mafia Is No Longer What It Used To Be), by Italian director Franco Maresco  
 "The Painted Bird", by Czech director Václav Marhoul  
 "Il Sindaco Del Rione Sanita" (The Mayor of Rione Sanita), by Italian director Mario Martone  
 "Babyteeth", by Australian director Shannon Murphy  
 "Joker", by US director Todd Phillips  
 "J'accuse" (An Officer and a Spy), French-Polish director Roman Polanski  
 "The Laundromat", by US director Steven Soderbergh  
 "No.7 Cherry Lane", by Hong Kong director Yonfan fio. — AFP



French actress Juliette Binoche waves as she arrives by taxi boat to attend a photocall for the film "The Truth" (La Verite) presented in competition.

# Star-studded Venice opens under cloud of controversy

The glitzy Venice film festival kicked off yesterday, as row after row of groomed actors arrived by taxi boat for the 11-day celebration of international cinema. But the world's oldest film festival is already off to a shaky start, as fury over the inclusion of controversial directors adds to criticism about a lack of women directors in the running for its top prize.

Rows about filmmakers Roman Polanski and Nate Parker threaten to take some of the sheen off a selection featuring a dazzling array of major stars including Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Kristen Stewart, Meryl Streep and Scarlett Johansson at the festival—a launchpad for the Oscars. After the festival was pilloried for including just one female director in 2018, the 21-strong line-up for this year's prestigious Golden Lion award includes two women.

Festival director Alberto Barbera said last year that he would rather quit the renowned event—where three of the last five Oscar best picture winners were premiered—than give in to pressure for quotas. This year, scrutiny over gender disparity has been aggravated by a selection that has sparked particular fury—that of Polanski, who was convicted for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old in 1978. The inclusion in a sidebar event of US director Parker, who was embroiled in a rape trial while still at university, has also sparked criticism. Melissa Silverstein, founder of campaign group Women and Hollywood, has accused the festival organizers of being "completely tone-deaf." "We all know that the world has changed post #MeToo," she told AFP. "Programming decisions are deliberate and very thought-through. None of this information is hidden. The question I ask is, 'Is this a lack of awareness or deliberate indifference?'"

### 'New sensitivity'

Barbera, who is credited with revitalizing the festival—first held in 1932 — has defended the line-up. He insists that films are chosen on merit and has stressed that "numerous films this year deal with the theme of the feminine condition in the world which, even when directed by men, reveal a new sensitivity." He added this was proof that high-pro-



English singer Melanie Janine Brown, known as Mel B, poses as she arrives by taxi boat.

file scandals had "left their mark". The 76th Venice festival opens with Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda's "The Truth", starring French heavyweights Catherine Deneuve and Juliette Binoche, about a French film star whose decision to publish her memoirs prompts a mother-daughter reunion which turns fiery.

Binoche was among the stars seen in the city, as the organizers put the finishing touches on preparations for the opening. Saudi Arabia's Haifaa Al-Mansour, the maker of the acclaimed "Wadjda", is one of the two women directors vying for the top prize. Her film "The Perfect Candidate" tells the story of a doctor trying to become her town's first female candidate in elections in the conservative kingdom. Newcomer Shannon Murphy is the other female contender, with her Australian comedy-drama "Babyteeth".

Stars Adam Driver, Penelope Cruz and Robert De Niro are due on the red carpet at the glamorous

Lido island, where the curtain will also come up on the new DC Comics blockbuster, "The Joker". Trailers for the film starring Joaquin Phoenix, which traces the origins of Batman's nemesis, have already been viewed more than 80 million times. US director Steven Soderbergh will also see his take on the Panama Papers investigation, "The Laundromat", premiered, while Brad Pitt plays an astronaut in James Gray's highly anticipated sci-fi drama "Ad Astra".

### Fury over Polanski, Parker

Nate Parker's 2016 debut film about a slave revolt, "The Birth of a Nation", was derailed after it emerged that he was accused of raping a fellow student, who later killed herself. Parker was acquitted, but he later said, "I look back on that time as a teenager and can say without hesitation that I should have used more wisdom." Fellow black American director Spike Lee has vowed to travel to Venice to support Parker, whose film "American Skin" tells the story of a Marine veteran whose son is killed by police.

But it is the premiere of Polanski's historical thriller about the persecution of the French Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus, "An Officer and a Spy", which is likely to make the most headlines. The 86-year-old "Rosemary's Baby" director is suing the Academy of Motion Pictures for stripping him of his membership. Polanski will not appear in Venice to promote "An Officer and a Spy", representatives for the film told AFP.

The festival opens as the accusations that sparked America's #MeToo movement are back in the spotlight. Harvey Weinstein, once one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, pleaded not guilty to two new charges of sexual predatory assault Monday, as a judge postponed his trial to 2020. — AFP

## Placido Domingo accusations highlight transatlantic #MeToo split

More weeks after sexual assault allegations against Placido Domingo became public, a chorus of bravos resounded in Salzburg for the prolific opera singer, who blew kisses while receiving a standing ovation. It was his first of several upcoming European performances—he will appear in Szeged, Hungary yesterday—that remained on deck despite the #MeToo scandal festering against him, with numerous women saying the 78-year-old sexually harassed them over the course of decades.

Classical music companies stateside were quick to err on the side of caution, with the Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Opera immediately canceling his upcoming performances when news of the accusations broke. But houses in Europe took more of a wait-and-see stance, with some throwing their support behind the storied tenor-turned-baritone. And as many American performers publicly condemned the alleged actions, European singers jumped to his defense.

Mezzo-soprano Maria Jose Suarez, who performed alongside Domingo several times, said she saw women "chase after him."

"What I saw was someone who is kind, who is a man who loves women, like I love men, and that is not a problem," she told Spanish news radio. The divergent reactions underscore a split between the US and Europe over the #MeToo movement, highlighting their longstanding cultural debate on how a society should or should not celebrate the art of individuals despite lurid testimonies concerning their actions.

### Free pass for artists

Filmmaker Roman Polanski is perhaps the most prominent cultural figure that Europe has welcomed despite his conviction for statutory rape in the United States, which continues to seek his extradition since he fled to France in 1978 while awaiting sentencing. Polanski is now set to show his 13th production at the Venice Film Festival, but still has no US distributor. Woody Allen's latest film was dropped by

Amazon amid renewed scrutiny of his alleged sexual assault of his adopted daughter, an allegation he fervently denies.

It may never be shown stateside, even as it's starting to screen in Europe. Dubbing the continued acceptance and praise of such figures "just horrible," Audrey Clinet, co-founder of EROIN, a company dedicated to supporting emerging female film directors, said a sort of "free pass" is still being given to creative types valued for their contributions to the arts. In France, Clinet said, cultural figures "still publish books, they're still invited on TV shows." "It's insane to see that—everyone knows what kind of people they are," the 32-year-old Parisian, who is now based in Los Angeles, told AFP. "Why are they still working?"

### 'European sensibility'

For decades, many defenders of powerful men accused of sex crimes have cited the cliché that American culture still clings to conservative Puritan sensibilities. That viewpoint surfaced again as the #MeToo movement took off in 2017, after film mogul Harvey Weinstein fell from grace. French screen legend Catherine



Deneuve was among 100 women to sign an open letter defending men's freedom to "hit on" women and railing against the new "puritanism."

Americans too have pointed to a certain "European" art of seduction in letting accusations slide: actress Anjelica Huston, who was at the party where Polanski's crime took place, says it was just the way things were. "It's a story that could've happened 10 years before in England or France or Italy or Spain or Portugal, and no one would've heard anything about it. And that's how these guys enjoy their time," the 68-year-old star said in an interview with New York Magazine earlier this year. "It was a whole playboy movement in France when I was a young girl," said the actress, who has starred in several of Allen's films. "It was de rigueur for most of those guys like Roman who had grown up with the European sensibility."

### 'Lazy shortcut'

French historian Laure Murat of the University of California, Los Angeles, rejected that viewpoint in a 2018 interview with French publication Mediapart, saying "to shout about puritanism and censorship is a lazy shortcut." Behind the systematic defense of the "great artist," Murat pointed to "a deliberate desire to not join the debate." Two years on, Clinet worries that scandal fatigue is overwhelming the initial fire of #MeToo.

She's optimistic for the future, though, because youth on both sides of the Atlantic are growing up with "a new education" when it comes to issues of sexual harassment and gender equality. Still, "women's rights is something we have to defend every day," she said. "It will never end." — AFP

In this file photo Spanish tenor Placido Domingo speaks during a press conference to present 'Macbeth' the opera by Giuseppe Verdi based on William Shakespeare's tragedy in Teatro Real in Madrid. — AFP



In this file photo US actor Robert De Niro (left) and US film director Martin Scorsese (right), arrive at the Marrakech International Film festival. — AFP

## Netflix gives Scorsese's 'Irishman' brief theater run

Netflix's star-studded gangster movie "The Irishman" will receive only a limited release in theaters, it said Tuesday, as debate rages in Hollywood over the disruption caused by deep-pocketed streaming giants. Martin Scorsese's long-awaited crime epic starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino cost \$175 million to produce, and is part of Netflix's long-running bid to gain the traditional film industry's acceptance—and top awards—as an A-list content provider. But campaigners including director Steven Spielberg have suggested that films produced and released by streaming firms should not be eligible for the Oscars.

"The Irishman" will appear in select US theaters for 26 days before its global Netflix release on November 27, the company said. Netflix is juggling its commercial interests with Oscar ambitions, as Academy Award rules require at least a seven-day run in theaters. But any hopes of a full theatrical release were dashed after talks with major multiplex chains over a longer window appear to have broken down. The film will show in mainly independent cinemas, after the likes of Cineplex, Regal and AMC held firm on their traditional 90-day window, according to Hollywood press reports.

Many who support the exclusion of streaming content from the Oscars have suggested that streaming at home or on devices does not capture the true experience of cinema.

The battle between traditional cinema and streaming came sharply into focus after Netflix's impressive haul at the Academy Awards earlier this year. Netflix gave a 23-day theatrical run to Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma," which earned a whopping 10 Oscar nominations, winning three. On Tuesday, it released plans for a number of awards season films, including Meryl Streep's "The Laundromat," and "Dolemite is My Name" starring Eddie Murphy.

The ten feature films will have theatrical windows ranging from one week to one month. "The Irishman" will be released in limited Los Angeles and New York theaters from November 1, before hitting additional cities in the US and UK from November 8. It tells the decades-spanning, true story of powerful union leader Jimmy Hoffa (Pacino), crime boss Russell Bufalino (Joe Pesci) and Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran (De Niro), who claimed he killed more than 25 people on their orders. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features



This photo shows a farmer taking a break while harvesting matcha tea leaves in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture. — AFP photos



Photo shows farmers harvesting matcha tea leaves in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture.



Photo shows farmers using a tea harvester to collect matcha tea leaves in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture.

# CAN GLOBAL MATCHA CRAZE SAVE JAPAN'S TEA INDUSTRY?

From matcha ice cream to cake and chocolate, producers of traditional Japanese green tea are capitalizing on growing global interest in its flavor—even as demand for the drink declines at home. At Shigehiko Suzuki's tea shop in central Japan, adorned with a traditional "noren" drape, the customers are flooding in but more to scoop up gelato or cake than to sip the bright-green tea. In 1998, Suzuki's company Marushichi Seicha started making powdered matcha green tea—traditionally made using a bamboo whisk in a tiny room. The firm now exports 30 tons of green tea to the US, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Suzuki puts down to a more westernized diet. "The number of Japanese who regularly drink tea is decreasing while there are more Japanese who enjoy various kinds of food, so tea doesn't sell like before," said the 55-year-old. Japanese traditionally drink green tea with rice but are doing so less as the diet becomes less dependent on the grain. Sensing the shift, Suzuki branched into matcha-flavoured ice cream nine years ago, opening a shop where customers can choose gelato from seven levels of bitterness. It became so popular, he opened two stores in Tokyo and one in Kyoto, matcha's traditional home.



Photo shows Japanese tea leaves being dried in the machine at a tea factory in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture.



Photo shows farmer Yoshio Shoji checking his Japanese tea field in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture.

"The demand for matcha is rapidly growing in the world... There's demand for ice cream, desserts and coffee," Suzuki told AFP at his shop in Fujieda, 170 kilometers (105 miles) southwest of Tokyo. Japan exported more than 5,000 tons of green tea—mainly to the United States—last year, 10 times more than two decades ago. But in Japan, the consumption of green tea leaves for drinking dropped from 1,174 grams per household in 2001 to 844 grams in 2015, according to the latest government data—a trend

**'Not many successors'**  
Tea growers like 67-year-old Yoshio Shoji are also jumping on the bandwagon to grow matcha leaves—as they command a higher price than "sencha", needle-shaped leaves used to make the traditional Japanese drink. The matcha leaves sell for 3,100 yen (\$30) per kilo on average, compared to 1,400 yen for sencha, according to the Japanese Association of Tea Production. But Shoji said tea fields are shrinking as farmers get too old for the physically demanding work. "The oldest one is over 80. There are not many successors," he told AFP as he gazed out over his tea fields on the mountain slopes. "The tea price is dwindling and the work is tough."

Tea leaves were first brought from China to Japan in the early ninth century and the tea was treated more as a medicine at that time. Matcha developed in 16th-century Kyoto when tea master Sen no Rikyu established the traditional tea ceremony known as "chanoyu." Sencha was invented two centuries later and its manufacturing method spread quickly. Now, sencha accounts for half of 80,242 tonnes of green tea produced annually in Japan, compared to 3.3 percent for matcha tea leaves—although production of the latter is growing.

**'Unfashionable'**  
Traditional Japanese tea also suffers from something of an image problem, argues Suzuki, as it is considered the preserve of older generations. "It is mainly the over-60s who drink tea. The younger people are, the more they drink coffee... Tea is no longer attractive to customers. Our priority is to boost its appeal," he said. Some tea rooms are trying to modernize the traditional drink to pull in younger punters. At Tokyo Saryo, a stark-white zen-style space in a quiet neighborhood, "barista" Yuka Ihara brews

Japanese tea in special glass cups. "There's the cultural tea ceremony and practical bottled tea. But something in-between, like a cafe where customers can enjoy tea in comfortable surroundings, didn't really exist before," Ihara said.

"It's important to come up with new ways to present and taste tea, as well as new recipes to let people rediscover the value of Japanese tea," Mikito Tanimoto, creative director who founded Tokyo Saryo in 2017, said Japanese tea is regarded as "unfashionable." "But we can make it more cool." But despite these innovative efforts, there is widespread skepticism that the decline can be stemmed. "The Japanese sell kimonos and tea ceremonies—the cultural side—overseas but in the meantime, farmers are crying" because they cannot survive, said Stephane Danton, the French owner of a Japanese tea shop in Tokyo.

Danton infuses green tea with various flavors from mango to plum to cater to the palate of foreigners not used to the bitterness of Japanese tea. And while Suzuki has enjoyed some success in expanding his matcha products, he doubts whether the industry can be saved given intense global competition. "As matcha is popular around the world, it's now made everywhere in the world. Japan is no longer the only country making it. We'll face global competition." — AFP



Photo shows farmer Yoshio Shoji checking his Japanese tea field in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture.



Photo shows a man filling a bag with dried Japanese tea leaves at a tea factory in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture.



Photo shows bags of dried Japanese green tea leaves in a tea factory in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture.

## Sheep reintroduced to London's Hampstead Heath after 60 years

Sheep have been reintroduced to London's Hampstead Heath for the first time since the 1950s to test an environmentally friendly way of maintaining the area. Five sheep will be allowed to graze for a week-long trial period which could be extended if it proves successful. As an alternative to mowing, grazing allows for greater biodiversity, ensuring a suitable habitat for wildlife including amphibians, small mammals, and wildflowers. Situated in North London and covering 790 acres, Hampstead Heath is one of the most popular green spaces

in London, receiving over 9 million visitors a year. The sheep will graze at The Tumulus on the heath, an ancient Roman monument that folklore claims is the gravesite of Celtic queen Boudica. John Beyer, vice chair of the Heath & Hampstead Society, said the plan was inspired by the romantic vision of cattle grazing on the heath depicted in 19th century works by artist John Constable. Karina Dostalova, chairman of the City of London Corporation's Hampstead Heath management committee, said reintroduction of grazing had been an aspiration for

many years. "The Heath has a long history of sheep-grazing, with farmers taking their flock to the site before taking them to market in the City," she said. Sheep were often seen in London's parks in the 20s and 30s as a way to keep down mowing costs, and as an eco-friendly option it may be coming back into fashion. In 2018, sheep roamed around Green Park in the centre of London as part of a conservation effort. — Reuters

# ZEE5 Global partners with the EUROSTAR Group in the Middle East to roll out offline subscriptions



In yet another key announcement for the Middle East region, Global digital entertainment platform ZEE5, yesterday announced its partnership with UAE based digital retail giant, the EUROSTAR Group. This strategic partnership will enable people across the GCC countries to access ZEE5's huge library of 100,000 hours of entertainment content through subscription packs available at any of Eurostar and its partner outlets across GCC.

Customers in UAE and other GCC markets can now buy any ZEE5 subscription pack by simply walking into their nearest EUROSTAR retail outlet and choosing between ZEE5's daily, weekly, monthly and annual subscription packs, at 1.49 AED, 5.99 AED, 18.99 AED and 149.99 AED respectively without needing a credit card. Select outlets will also provide a full product demo for interested customers.

A subscription to ZEE5 will provide EUROSTAR customers in the GCC access to 100,000 hours of content in 17 languages, including Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Bangla and Marathi. ZEE5's content catalogue spans across 2000+ movies including Bollywood Blockbusters and World Digital Premieres like Simmba (Ranveer Singh), Kedarnath (Sushant Singh Rajput, Sarah Ali Khan), Veere Di Wedding (Kareena Kapoor Khan), TV shows like Sembaruthi, Chembaruthi and Kum Kum Bhagya, Originals like Kaafir (starring Dia Mirza) and The Final Call (starring Arjun Rampal) and much more. The bouquet also packs in 60+ Live TV channels including ZEE TV, ZEE Keralam, ZEE Tamil, ZEE Marathi, top news channels, and others.

Archana Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global said, "With the largest range of Indian content including 2000+ movies and exclusive TV shows across genres, ZEE5 is fast becoming the go-to destination for Indian content for multiple audience segments in the GCC who want compelling stories in the language of their comfort. Reaching these audiences through every touch point, to enable them to discover and experience ZEE5 is critical and enabling offline subscriptions via retail is a key initiative. We're very happy to announce our partnership with



Archana Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global

Eurostar, one of the leading digital retail Groups across the GCC to make ZEE5 available through their outlets."

Shaan Jethwani, Executive Director of Eurostar said "We are thrilled and privileged to join hands with ZEE5. The current paradigm shift on consumers TV watching, coupled with Eurostar's legacy on Pay TV distribution along with ZEE5's unmatched content propositions are poised for sure success and it's going to create a new experience for audiences in their living room."

Customers can access ZEE5's huge content bouquet on five different devices at any given time across mobile phones, tablets, laptops, desktops, smart TVs, etc. ZEE5 can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or iOS App Store. The app is also available on Samsung Smart TVs, Apple TVs, Android TVs and Amazon Fire TV. ZEE5 is also available on www.ZEE5.com.

## Kosice city: A natural center of trade, culture, and education

The second biggest town of Slovakia Kosice is not only the center of eastern Slovakia but also the core of the Eastern Carpathians where several ethnicities live. The city Kosice on the Hornad river on the western edge of the Kosicka kotlina basins has a long and agitated history and its present is also dynamic. It has been the most important town of the region for centuries and a natural center of trade, culture, and education.



### History

The medieval town of Kosice was founded approximately on the half way from the Abbey to the castle. The first written mention of its existence is from 1230. In the first historical documents it was referred to as Villa Cassa, later the in Latin Cassovia, German Kaschau, Hungarian Kassa, and the Slovak Kosice.

The town citizens acquired important privileges of the royal borough in 1342. The date of 7 May 1369 is especially important for the town because it received, the document of coat of arms signed by the king as the first European town. Today it is celebrated as the "Day of Kosice". In the 15th century Kosice with its 7 thousand inhabitants became the second biggest town of the Kingdom of Hungary following Buda and Bratislava.

The 20th century has dramatically changed the town of Kosice although the motifs were mostly political. The town was included in the new state formations: on the last day of 1918 it was included in the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic; in 1938 it was annexed by Horthys Hungary for more than six years.

In April 1945 the Czechoslovak Government met for the first time on homeland ground and issued the document known as the Kosice Programme of the Government treating the after-war arrangement of the free Republic.

However, some other attributes of Kosice also changed, particularly its size, ethnic structure and its general appearance. Its population more than doubled after the Second World War. New housing estates were constructed for immigrants from the rural area.

Today the majority of its inhabitants are Slovaks coexisting here with Hungarian, Czech and Roma minorities. The Vychodoslovenske zelezarne (East Slovakian Iron Works, today US Steel) became the biggest company not only of Kosice but also of the country in general.

### Hucul tour

Tourist riding club is situated on the outskirts of Kosice, in beautiful in the east of Volovske Hills. Hucul Klub Kosice offers a wide range of services that appeal to both children and adults. You can try recreational riding, guiding horse riding, carriage ride or sleigh. It also organizes courses of riding, trips on horseback into the countryside, multi-day journey and hippo-camps. Spend your free time in a pleasant natural environment in the company of horses. If desired, cleaned and dressed horse will be prepared at the designated hour. All activities take place under the guidance of experienced.

### Jasovska Cave

Jasovska Cave is located in the Medzev Upland in the western part of the Kosice Basin. The cave became the first show cave in Slovakia in 1846, however the upper parts had been known as early as the 13th century and the inscription from 1452, which records the victory of Jan Jiskra's from Brandys military force, represents the oldest written mention in Slovak caves. It is located on the most eastern projection of the Slovak Karst, in the Medzev Upland close to the eastern edge of the Jasovska Plateau, on the western side of the Jasov village. The lower entrance to cave is on the right.

### Kosice children historic railway

The Kosice children's single-track historical railway with a length of 4.2 km located in the Cermel Valley near Kosice. The railway was built in the years 1955 - 1956 as the Pioneer Railway, and it was the first recreational railway in the then Czechoslovakia. Children's railway is in fact a historical museum railway. Currently, the children's railway runs until the end of October regularly from Cermel to Alpinka, as well as back. Enjoy a ride through the autumn Cermel Valley and enjoy historic train sets. The children's railway ends at the railway station. Alpinka (formerly Pionier).



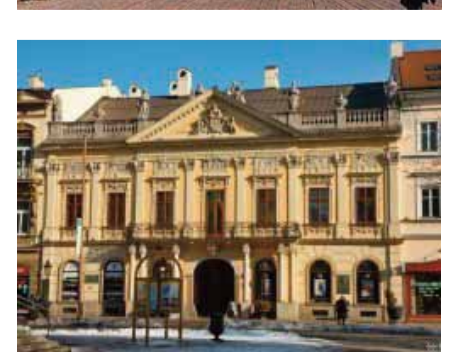
### Ski resort Kavecany

Sport and recreation Kavecany resort is located 6 km from the center of Kosice, at an altitude of 420-600 meters above sea level. The ski season lasts from mid-December until the end of March. The resort offers 5 ski trails with a length of 2.95 kilometers. For skiers there are 9 lifts with a capacity of 7432 persons per hour. The slopes are artificially snowed and daily maintained. Also, skiers can use the ski service and rental, ski and snowboard school. Cross country ski trails include 4 lapses with a length of 14 km altogether.



### Jakab's palace

Breathtaking Gothic palace located in Kosice city park was built at the end of the 19th century by a significant architect Arpad Jakab from Kosice as his private residence. Interesting is that he used the parts of the construction of the Cathedral of St. Elizabeth that have been discarded in its reconstruction. After the liberation of Kosice by the Red Army in 1945 it was the residence of the Czechoslovak president Edvard Benes.



# Classifieds

Thursday, August 29, 2019



Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

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



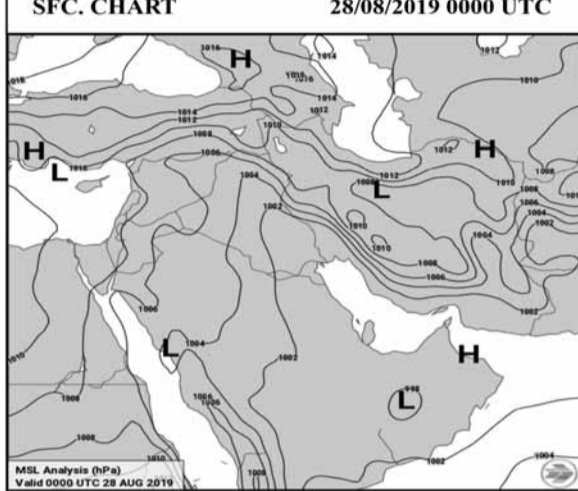
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817  
 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h .

**BY NIGHT:** Hot to relatively hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for mist forming over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 28/08/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	29 °C			
ABDALY	49 °C	32 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	48 °C	33 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	41 °C	33 °C			
AHMADI	39 °C	34 °C			
NUWASIB	47 °C	29 °C			
WAFRA	48 °C	28 °C			
SALMY	48 °C	30 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	08/29	Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	47 °C	28 °C	NE-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Friday	08/30	Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	47 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Saturday	08/31	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	45 °C	26 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Sunday	09/01	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	49 °C	27 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:01
Sunrise	05:24
Zuhr	11:49
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:15
Isha	19:35

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	29 °C
MAX. RH	51 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	SE 36 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

## BHASIN co.

Established 1950  
**The Uniform People**



For Highest Quality of School Uniforms

We tailor and supply uniforms for army, police, security, school, scouts, hotels, catering companies and industrial establishments plus flags of all countries, cricket, golf and badminton equipment.

SHARQ: Ground Floor, Bldg 1122, Block 12, Omar Ben Al-Khattab St. Tel: 2243352 / 22435301 FAX: 22407940  
 FARWANIYA: Tel: 24314839 / 24318720  
 Email: bhasin@bhasinuniforms.com  
[www.bhasinuniforms.com](http://www.bhasinuniforms.com)  
 Timing: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm & from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, ROCHELLE D MELLO (given name) holder of Indian Passport No. Z2814386 do hereby change my name as ROCHELLE (given name) D MELLO (surname) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents.

No. Z1847102 is Chodisetty Madhavi and permanent address being, 67-8-5B, Ashok Nagar, Behind GPT, Kakinada-533003, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. Hereby correct my given name as Sri Lakshmi Madhavi and surname as Chodisetty. Immediate effect. (C 5670) 28-8-2019

Faiza Abdul Karim holder of Passport No. K7914117. I am changing my name to Faiza Abdul Karim Rajiwate with immediate effect. (C 5668) 23-08-2019

I, NOREEN MARGARET D MELLO (given name) holder of Indian Passport No. Z2809495 do hereby change my name as NOREEN MARGARET (given name) D MELLO (surname) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents. (C 5581)

My name as per Indian Passport

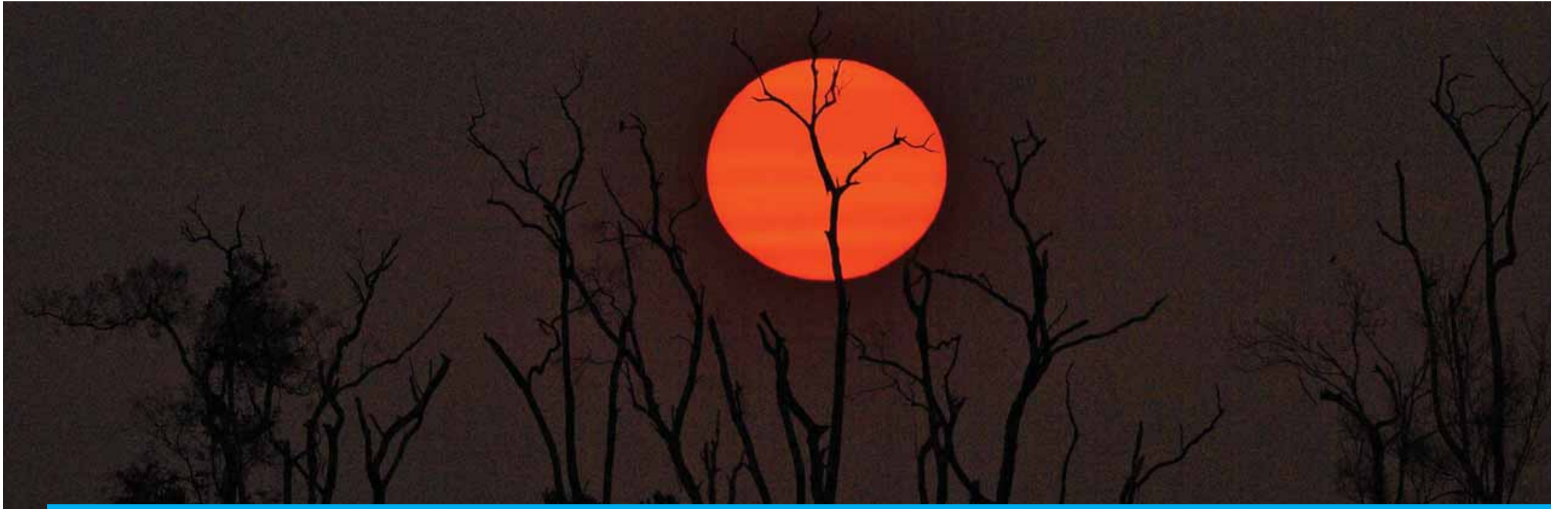
**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

## EMERGENCY ☎ 112

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

### Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Thursday 29/8/2019				Departure Flights on Thursday 29/8/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	241	Alexandria	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	MSC	406	Sohag	00:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	FEG	342	Sohag	01:05
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	IGO	1758	Kochi	01:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	THY	773	Istanbul	01:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:50
PGT	828	Istanbul	02:00	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	PGT	829	Istanbul	02:59
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
JZR	734	Cairo	02:35	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	JZR	111	Doha	03:25
JZR	722	Alexandria	02:40	JZR	409	Delhi	03:30
JZR	254	Amman	02:40	JZR	701D	Asyut	03:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	JZR	713	Sohag	03:50
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	THY	769	Istanbul	03:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
JZR	262	Beirut	03:10	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
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
JZR	406	Kochi	03:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	OHY	351	Istanbul	05:00
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:15
MSR	0516	Doha	04:25	MSR	0517	Mumbai	05:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	JZR	771	Istanbul	06:30
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	745	Sharm el-Sheikh	06:45
IGA	170	Bahrain	05:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	251	Amman	07:10
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	JZR	121	Dubai	07:15
KAC	548	Alexandria	05:55	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	BAW	156	London	07:40
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	KAC	173	Munich	07:55
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:25	JZR	211	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	KAC	193	Trabzon	08:10
KAC	106	London	06:40	KAC	181	Paris/NCE	08:10
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	IRA	606	Mashhad	08:10
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	IGO	1756	CNN	08:10
QTR	8511	Doha	06:55	KAC	163	MXF	08:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	505	LCA/Beirut	08:40
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	177	Vienna	08:45
IGO	1755	Doha	07:05	KAC	561	Amman	08:55
IRA	601	Tehran	07:10	QTR	8512	Doha	08:55
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:10	KAC	121	AGP	09:00
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	117	New York	09:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	KAC	791	Madinah	09:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	QTR	1085	Doha	09:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	KAC	157	Istanbul	09:20
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	731	Cairo	09:45
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
IRA	675	Lar	09:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:55
JZR	702D	Asyut	09:55	KAC	301	Istanbul	09:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	OMA	642	London	10:00
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	101	London	10:05
JZR	714	Sohag	10:00	GFA	210	Bahrain	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	617	Doha	10:40
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	10:40
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
OMS	223	Muscat	11:00	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:55
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	SVA	513	Riyadh	10:55
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	11:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	JZR	221	Bahrain	11:35
AHY	119	Baku	12:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:40
JZR	410	Delhi	12:10	OMS	224	Muscat	11:45
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	JZR	309	BJV	11:45
JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	12:25	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05



The sun sets behind burnt trees of the Amazon rainforest south of Porto Velho on Tuesday. — AFP

## In Ethiopia, a rehab center takes on addiction to qat

**MEKELE, Ethiopia:** Yonas Getu Molla started chewing qat as an architecture student, when he and his friends would munch on the leafy stimulant late into the night to help them study. When they closed their books, their heartbeats racing, they would seek out depressants like vodka and cannabis to dull the plant's amphetamine-like effects so they could sleep. Yonas blames qat for leading him into drug and alcohol addictions, which cost him his career, his savings and the respect of his family. "One substance would follow the other substance," he said. "It's like a coin - the back and the front."

At the state-run Substance Rehabilitation Centre, he has been forced to give up qat alongside his other addictions - a rare approach in a region where few are trying to tackle the controversial habit. While banned in many countries, chewing qat is commonplace in Ethiopia and the wider Horn of Africa region. Many see it as a cultural activity rather than a societal problem. However, some users

are frank about the side effects: Loss of appetite, damaged teeth and lack of sleep.

The habit can also drain household finances. A user in the capital Addis Ababa would expect to pay around \$4 a day for qat from the eastern city of Harar, long a center of production. Ethiopia's average annual per capita income is \$783, according to the World Bank.

Welday Hagos, a clinical psychologist and director of the Mekele-based center - Ethiopia's only free, long-term drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility - believes that qat is a gateway drug to harder substances. He told AFP that more than 80 percent of the 500 patients who have stayed there since it opened in 2015 started out chewing qat. "After that they add cigarettes, after that they add alcohol. That's why it is the main gate for different drugs," said Welday. "We are not on the right track," he said. "We have to increase the knowledge of our population of the consequences of qat chewing."

Much like harder drugs, quitting qat takes a physical and emotional toll on longtime users, Welday said. They complain of everything from irritability to nightmares and wild fluctuations in appetite. Despite the complaints, there is little consensus among health experts on how addictive qat actually is. As well as individual and group therapy sessions, users treated at the center are prescribed medication for withdrawal symptoms. They are also offered "spiritual sessions", the chance to work out in a makeshift gym or by playing football and entrepreneurship training.

Qat is Ethiopia's second-biggest export behind coffee, with heavy traffic to neighboring Djibouti and Somalia. Domestic consumption is also growing especially among university students, Welday said, referring to several studies, including one published last year. Sporadic campaigns by local civil society groups have failed to result in a ban like those imposed in Britain and the United States. "In some parts of the country, espe-

cially in the eastern parts, people do not see it as a problem," Welday said. "They use it for cultural celebrations and other things, similar to alcohol."

In an area of Addis Ababa known as Little Mogadishu, qat is often referred to as "green gold". On a recent afternoon, its sleepy streets came alive with the arrival of a van bearing freshly picked qat from Harar. After crowding around the van and bartering for sacks of the green leaves, a group of five young men arranged their plastic stools in a circle on the roadside. Shielded from the sun by an umbrella, they praised the virtues of qat while stuffing wads of it into their mouths.

The leaf, they said, serves as a pain reliever, an appetite suppressant and an anti-depressant. They said that it calms the population, making it easier to police. And they claimed that it lowers their sex drives, making them less likely to cheat on their wives. Those who use qat while working said that it brought them to a state known as "merkana", which

they described as an intense but joyful concentration that made them more productive. The men had little patience for claims that qat was a "gateway drug". "People who say that are people who were already addicted to alcohol, to different kinds of drugs," said Ousman Abdulahi. "When you do qat, it just makes you focus."

However, some residents of the Substance Rehabilitation Centre say their lives were ruined by qat even without moving on to other addictions. Mohammed Kelifa, 30, chewed qat for nine years. He would stay up all night chatting up women on Facebook, he said. After his wife found out, their marriage ended in divorce. He believes his three-month stay at the rehab center helped him quit qat for good. Now he looks forward to rebuilding his life. "I want to remarry and start a family and get my self-respect back," he said. "Most people, when they leave this place, they fear that they will relapse, but I don't have that feeling." — AFP

## US to open direct talks with Houthis...

Continued from Page 1

Under the administration of former president Barack Obama, US officials held brief talks with Houthi leaders in June 2015, just three months after the Saudi intervention began, to convince them to attend UN-sponsored peace talks in Geneva to resolve the crisis. The Geneva conference and further rounds of negotiations failed to resolve the crisis, which has pushed impoverished Yemen to the brink of famine.

The Wall Street Journal said US officials were set to meet with Saudi leaders to push them to take a diplomatic approach. Prince Khalid bin Salman, the Saudi deputy defense minister and brother of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, arrived in Washington this week for talks with a number of US officials. The Journal said he would meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Meanwhile, Yemen government forces reclaimed the interim capital Aden and its presidential palace yesterday, a minister said, pushing back separatists who seized the city and other parts of the south earlier this month. The separatists' losses came nearly three weeks after the pro-independence Southern Transitional Council (STC) took control of Aden, the government's base since Houthi rebels took over the northern capital Sanaa in 2014.

Forces loyal to the internationally recognized government of Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi were able "to secure the presidential palace in Aden and the surrounding areas," Information Minister Moammer Al-Eryani tweeted. "The national army and security services have full control over the province's districts."

The clashes between the STC and government forces -

who for years have fought alongside each other against the Houthis - have raised concerns that the famine-threatened country could break apart entirely. The separatists' seizure of Aden was seen as a major gain allowing the Security Belt, a paramilitary force loyal to the STC, to press on to take other strategic areas.

However, the Yemeni government drafted in reinforcements from the north and mounted a pushback that appears to have met little resistance. An AFP correspondent in the east of the city witnessed shelling by advancing government forces who came fresh from their success in taking back control of Abyan province to the east yesterday. A pro-government source told AFP that fighting had erupted in the streets of Aden as loyalist troops fanned out there.

Abyan was the second southern province to be retaken by government forces in southern Yemen in days following clashes with the Security Belt. Earlier in the week, government forces also regained control of Shabwa province after beating back an attack by STC forces. The Yemeni interior ministry issued a statement urging the separatists to "lay down their arms" and surrender.

The new fighting comes despite repeated calls for a ceasefire by a Saudi-led coalition, which intervened in the war in 2015 in support of the government after the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa and much of Yemen - the Arab world's poorest nation. Since then, the conflict has killed tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, in what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. While they have also fought against the Houthis, STC forces want to see South Yemen regain the independence it gave up with unification in 1990. The separatists want to address what they say is a history of exploitation and marginalization of their people. "We will sail together towards the safe harbor chosen by our people who have fought for this for so long," STC leader Aidarous Al-Zoubeidi - a popular and charismatic figure in the south - said in a speech on Tuesday. — Agencies

Johnson's suspension decision, said: "It is blindingly obvious that the purpose of prorogation now would be to stop parliament debating Brexit". "Shutting down parliament would be an offence against the democratic process."

The pound slumped more than one percent at one stage, but shares rose as London-listed multinationals stand to gain from a weaker currency. Johnson's move "certainly caught markets off-guard", noted Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda. Corbyn called it "an outrage" and a "smash-and-grab on our democracy in order to force through a no-deal exit", while Labour's finance spokesman John McDonnell branded it a "coup".

Liberal Democrat Brexit spokesman Tom Brake tweeted: "The mother of all parliaments will not allow him to shut the people's parliament out of the biggest decision facing our country. His declaration of war will be met with an iron fist." Lib Dem MP Sarah Wollaston said Johnson was "behaving like a tin pot dictator". Robert Craig, a constitutional expert at Durham University, said there was "theoretically absolutely nothing wrong" with the suspension, noting it was normal for a new leader to start a fresh parliamentary session. "But the reason that it is causing outrage is because it's reducing the number of available days for parliament to stop a no-deal."

Analyst Maddy Thimont Jack, from the Institute for Government think-tank, said the timing was controversial. "I don't think it's a constitutional crisis," he told AFP, adding: "Stopping no-deal is definitely still possible. There is still time." A petition against the move has already collected around 350,000 signatures, meaning it will be debated by MPs. More than 70 parliamentarians have also launched a fast-track legal bid at the highest civil court in Scotland, aimed at preventing Johnson from suspending parliament. — AFP

## Kuwait receives 42,000 books...

Continued from Page 1

The issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons was discussed with the Iraqi undersecretary as a humanitarian cause that concerns all Kuwaitis, he said, re-stressing that the Kuwaiti government represented by the foreign and interior ministries would spare no effort to close this file and determine the fate of all those missing. He expressed gratitude to the United Nations for sponsoring the handover in line with Security Council Resolution 2107 (issued in the year 2013) that partially mentions the necessity of bringing back

## US nixes Harvard student's visa, axes...

Continued from Page 1

that he protested that the comments came from friends and that he never posted his own political views but said his visa was nonetheless canceled and he was sent home.

The US Customs and Border Protection agency confirmed that it refused entry to Ajjawi but said it could not provide specific information due to reasons of privacy and law enforcement. "This individual was deemed inadmissible to the United States based on information discovered during the CBP inspection," said Michael McCarthy, a spokesman for the agency. A State Department official said he could not legally discuss details of the case but added: "Generally US law does not authorize the refusal of visas based solely on political statements or views if those statements or views would be lawful in the United States."

Ajjawi said he hoped to resolve his case in time to start classes next week at Harvard, one of the world's most prestigious universities. The Harvard Crimson said. President Donald Trump has made a tough line on immigration a signature issue, with his administration deciding to monitor the social media use of all visitors as well as legal immigrants. The move has prompted strong criticism from civil liberties advocates, who note that the US Constitution's First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech.

Meanwhile, Palestinian leaders are in uproar after the US State Department's website removed the territories from its list of countries and areas, following a slew of pro-Israel actions by Trump. The official website no longer has a separate entry for the Palestinian Authority. An archived version of the website from the 2009-2017 presidency of Barack Obama shows that "Palestinian Territories" were listed among countries and areas both on the opening page and in the section of the Near East bureau.

A State Department official played down the shift when asked on Tuesday. "The website is being updated. There has been no change to our policy," she said. She

Kuwaiti properties looted during the invasion.

Meanwhile, Dr Kamel Abuljelil, Director General of the National Library and Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, said the books and items are of valuable content, expressing pleasure over handing them back in a move that will bolster bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, anew.

Acting UN Resident Coordinator Hideko Hadzialic congratulated the Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaderships for this tangible improvement in bilateral relations, also valuing Kuwait's constructive role at the Security Council, in addition to its hosting a conference for rebuilding regions liberated from the so-called Islamic State in Iraq, resulting in the allocation of \$30 billion for this purpose. She also voiced satisfaction with Iraqi government efforts for backing cooperation and friendly ties with Kuwait, an approach that will facilitate resolving difficult issues between the two sides. — KUNA

did not say if the website, which recently underwent a redesign, would again include a separate entry for the Palestinian territories. But Palestinian leaders doubted that the change - which follows the removal of the term "occupied territories" in some US publications and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's musings of annexing much of the West Bank - was unintentional.

The Palestinian cabinet, after a meeting chaired Monday by prime minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, said the move "confirms the American bias towards Israel". The cabinet said that the shift "cannot override the Palestinian rights, which the world countries have unanimously recognized," as quoted by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa. Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its veteran negotiator, said the removal "is not about US national interests. This is about advancing the agenda of the council of Israeli settlers." "Deciding not to see the truth does not mean canceling its existence," he tweeted.

Dan Shapiro, who served as US ambassador to Israel under Obama, called the website change "crazy". "Palestinians are not going anywhere. US interests require engaging with them. Israel itself still cooperates with the Palestinian Authority in various ways," he tweeted. Trump has been unabashedly supportive of Israel and its rightwing leader, taking several landmark moves including recognizing bitterly contested Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

He has also slashed funding to the Palestinian refugee agency and recently encouraged Netanyahu to ban entry of two Democratic lawmakers, both Muslim women, who have been critical of Israel. The Palestinian Authority has said that it no longer considers the United States an honest broker and has refused Trump's peace initiatives, boycotting a conference in June in Bahrain aimed at development of the territories.

Also, a long-promised US proposal for Israeli-Palestinian peace will remain under wraps until Israel's elections are over in September, the White House special envoy said yesterday. "We have decided that we will not be releasing the peace vision (or parts of it) prior to the Israeli election," Jason Greenblatt tweeted. Greenblatt appeared to be clearing up confusion over the timing of the plan's release following a mixed message from Trump over the weekend. — Agencies

## Queen allows PM to suspend...

Continued from Page 1

of Commons, described the closure as a "constitutional outrage" designed to stymie debate on Brexit, with Britain currently on course to crash out without a divorce deal.

An EU summit on Oct 17-18 could decide whether Britain ends its four decades of membership without a withdrawal agreement that governs future trade relations and citizens' rights. Johnson said there would be "ample time" either side of the summit for MPs to debate Brexit. And he said it was "completely untrue" that the move was designed to stop MPs blocking his Brexit strategy. Johnson said it was to "bring forward a new, bold and ambitious domestic legislative agenda for the renewal of our country after Brexit". The government's chief Brexit adviser David Frost was in Brussels for talks yesterday.

In the seismic 2016 referendum on Britain's EU membership, 52 percent voted in favor of leaving the bloc, a result that has left parliament and the country bitterly divided. Johnson insists Britain must leave on the Oct 31 deadline - already twice-delayed - with or without a divorce deal from Brussels. Parliament has rejected three times the withdrawal agreement struck between Brussels and the government of Johnson's predecessor Theresa May.

Parliament typically goes into recess again around the annual party conference season, which kicks off on Sept 14 and ends on Oct 2. Bercow, who was not forewarned about



Sports

# Aaron Judge third-fastest 100 home runs helps Yankees down Mariners

## D-backs complete two-game sweep of Giants

SEATTLE: Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven scoreless innings, and Aaron Judge reached a milestone with a tape-measure home run as the New York Yankees defeated the host Seattle Mariners 7-0 Tuesday night. Brett Gardner also homered for the Yankees, who won their third consecutive game and remained tied with the Los Angeles Dodgers for the best record in the major leagues at 87-47. Judge hit a two-run shot off Mariners left-hander Yusei Kikuchi (5-9) in the first inning. The blast to straightaway center field hit halfway up the batter's eye and was projected by Statcast at 462 feet. The homer was the 100th of Judge's career, making him the third-fastest player to reach that mark. He accomplished the feat in 371 games, trailing only former Philadelphia standout Ryan Howard (325 games) and Yankees teammate Gary Sanchez (355).

### DIAMONDBACKS 3, GIANTS 2

Ketel Marte homered on a pitch on which he sustained a hamstring injury, and Mike Leake pitched his best game since an in-season trade, sending Arizona to a victory over host San Francisco. Kevin Ginkel pitched out of an eighth-inning jam to preserve a late lead for the Diamondbacks, who moved 1 1/2 games up on the Giants in their battle to stay relevant in the National League playoff chase. After Giants starter Jeff Samardzija was taken out of a 1-1 game after five innings, the Diamondbacks jumped on reliever Sam Coonrod (4-1) for three consecutive hits to start the sixth, with Christian Walker scoring the go-ahead run on Adam Jones' single.

### CARDINALS 6, BREWERS 3

Yadier Molina blasted two homers to power visiting St. Louis past Milwaukee for its sixth straight victory. The Cardinals have won 15 of their last 18 games while the Brewers have dropped six of their past nine. Molina went 3-for-3 with a walk, a double, two homers and three RBIs. He has seven multi-homer games in his career, and four have come against the Brewers.

### CUBS 5, METS 2

Pete Alonso set New York's single-season home run record, but Addison Russell and Javier Baez each hit two-run homers as visiting Chicago pulled out a win. Cubs right-hander Yu Darvish (5-6) continued his recent surge by tossing a season-high eight innings and allowing just one run. Alonso, the NL Rookie of the Year favorite, homered well beyond the right field fence on Darvish's first pitch of the fourth inning. It was his 42nd homer of the season, breaking a tie with Todd Hundley (1996) and Carlos Beltran (2006).

### DODGERS 9, PADRES 0

Walker Buehler threw six scoreless innings, and seven straight Dodgers reached base during a five-run fifth inning as visiting Los Angeles scored a shutout victory over San Diego. Buehler (11-3) stretched his scoreless innings streak to 13 as he held San Diego to four hits and two walks with 11

strikeouts. The Dodgers had lost three of their previous four games. The Padres saw their two-game winning streak end. Joc Pederson homered for the Dodgers, who got three hits and two runs apiece from A.J. Pollock and Matt Beaty.

### ASTROS 15, RAYS 1

Justin Verlander carried a shutout into the sixth inning before being ejected as host Houston pounded Tampa Bay. Verlander (16-5) had his streak of starts with double-digit strikeouts snapped at seven, one shy of the major league record held by Red Sox left-hander Chris Sale. Verlander recorded four strikeouts while allowing four hits over 5 1/3 innings, but he was tossed for arguing balls and strikes with plate umpire Pat Hoberg. Yordan Alvarez (3-for-5, four RBIs) posted the fourth multi-homer game of his rookie season, cranking a three-run, opposite-field shot in the fifth and a solo homer to right in the seventh.

### PIRATES 5, PHILLIES 4

The Pirates scored a tiebreaking unearned run on Rhys Hoskins' error in the ninth inning, and Pittsburgh posted a win over host Philadelphia. Locked in a 4-4 game in the top of the ninth, Pittsburgh's Kevin Newman appeared to hit an inning-ending double play on a hard grounder to second. However, first baseman Hoskins dropped shortstop Jean Segura's strong throw, preventing the twin-killing, allowing Adam Frazier to score off Hector Neris (2-5). Pirates closer Felipe Vazquez (5-1) retired all four batters he faced, including a strikeout of Bryce Harper on a 2-2 curveball to end the game.

### TWINS 3, WHITE SOX 1

Marwin Gonzalez and Jonathan Schoop belted solo home runs in the second inning, and Michael Pineda pitched five strong innings to lift visiting Minnesota to a victory against Chicago. Minnesota's bullpen preserved the club's third straight win. Sam Dyson, Tyler Duffey and Sergio Romo each contributed a scoreless inning before Taylor Rogers pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 21st save. The White Sox's lone run came on Tim Anderson's fourth-inning homer.

### INDIANS 10, TIGERS 1

Jason Kipnis, Frammil Reyes and Roberto Perez homered to help lift host Cleveland past Detroit. The Indians are now 13-1 against the Tigers this season, and they have won 12 straight against the worst team in baseball. Carlos Santana collected three of Cleveland's 13 hits. Adam Plutko (6-3) gave up one run in 5 2/3 innings and struck out nine.

### ATHLETICS 2, ROYALS 1

Marcus Semien scored a run in the first inning and drove in a run in the second as Oakland won at Kansas City. A night after scoring 19 runs on 22 hits, the A's were limited to just two runs on five hits. Mike Fiers (13-3) was the winning pitcher, picking up his 11th straight victory. He allowed one run on eight hits in 5 1/3 innings with five strikeouts and two walks. Fiers is 11-0 with a 2.41 ERA in his past 20 starts.



SEATTLE: Aaron Judge No 99 of the New York Yankees connects with his 100th career home run in the first inning against the Seattle Mariners at T-Mobile Park in Seattle, Washington. —AFP

### BLUE JAYS 3, BRAVES 1

Justin Smoak hit a solo home run and an RBI single as Toronto defeated visiting Atlanta. Zack Godley (4-5), the second of seven Toronto pitchers, allowed no runs, two infield hits and two walks while striking out two in three innings. Braves starter Mike Soroka (10-3), a Calgary native, allowed two runs in six innings, giving up eight hits and striking out one.

### ORIOLES 2, NATIONALS 0

Anthony Santander and Jonathan Villar each drove in runs in the first inning, and starter Aaron Brooks and the bullpen made them stand up as visiting Baltimore defeated Washington. Baltimore earned its third win in a row. The Orioles stopped the Nationals' five-game run, which included a three-game sweep over the Cubs in Chicago over the weekend. Brooks (4-7) gave up just two hits in six shutout innings. Four Orioles relievers handled the rest, with Mychal Givens pitching a perfect ninth inning for his 11th save.

### ANGELS 5, RANGERS 2

Kole Calhoun and Brian Goodwin came up with clutch hits in the seventh inning, Mike Trout hit his major-league-leading 43rd home run, and Los Angeles rallied for a win over Texas in Anaheim, Calif. Rangers starter Mike Minor thoroughly stifled the Angels through six innings, shutting them out on one hit. But in the seventh, the Los Angeles offense came to life, highlighted

by a two-run double by Calhoun and a pinch-hit, two-run single by Goodwin. Trout, hitless in his first three at-bats, homered in the eighth inning, ending a homerless streak of five games.

### REDS 8, MARLINS 5

Luis Castillo struck out 11 batters in six innings to beat his former team as Cincinnati defeated host Miami. Catcher Curt Casali had a big game for the Reds, tying the score 3-3 with a solo homer in the fourth inning and giving Cincinnati a lead it did not relinquish with a two-run single in the fifth. The Reds also got two-run homers from Eugenio Suarez and Nick Senzel. Suarez, who has a team-best and a career-high 37 homers, leads all National League players with 17 second-half dingers.

### RED SOX 10, ROCKIES 6

Xander Bogaerts, Jackie Bradley Jr. and Christian Vazquez homered, Brock Holt had three hits, and Boston beat Colorado in Denver. Rick Porcello (12-10) struck out five over five innings to help Boston win for the eighth time in 11 games and keep its playoff hopes alive. Sam Hilliard homered in his major league debut, and Nolan Arenado also went deep for Colorado. It was the second time a Rockies player homered in his debut this season, as Dom Nunez did it earlier this month. Colorado starter Rico Garcia (0-1) also made his big league debut and allowed six runs in five innings. —Reuters

## All Blacks pick Sonny Bill, dump Franks for WCup

AUCKLAND: All Blacks selectors backed star centre Sonny Bill Williams to help achieve an unprecedented World Cup treble in Japan but dumped veteran prop Owen Franks from their 31-man squad yesterday.

The axing of 108-Test stalwart Franks was the major surprise, although the defending champions also had no room for rampaging mid-fielder Ngani Laumape or rejuvenated flanker Liam Squire. They did, however, keep faith with struggling back Ben Smith as the New Zealanders target a third straight World Cup title and fourth overall.

Williams is among a trio of players hoping to secure a personal treble in Japan, alongside captain Kieran Read and lock Sam Whitelock. Another nine members of the squad tasted success at the last rugby showpiece in Britain four years ago, while 19 are World Cup debutants.

The squad collectively boasts 1,195 Test caps and has eight players aged 30-plus. Coach Steve Hansen said winning three titles in a row was "an awesome challenge". "We know it's going to be hard, we know it's going to be tough... we're looking forward to taking that pressure head-on," he said.

Williams, the oldest member of the squad at 34, defied his doubters after an injury-plagued season to play a key role in this month's 36-0 victory over the Wallabies in Auckland. He is now studying for a coaching certifi-

cate and another world crown might be enough to persuade him to call time on a remarkable career that also includes two rugby league NRL titles and victory in seven heavyweight boxing bouts.

### 'MOST FIERCELY CONTESTED' CUP

Hansen said two-time World Cup winner Franks had fallen victim to changes in the game, with the likes of Atu Moli and Angus Ta'avao offering more versatility. "We believe the game requires us to have big, mobile number ones and threes (props)," he said.

Hookers Dane Coles, Codie Taylor and Liam Coltman were always regarded as certainties, with Coles probably edging Taylor as preferred starter. Brodie Retallick returns from a shoulder injury to partner Whitelock in the locks, backed up by Patrick Tuipulotu and Scott Barrett, who can also play in the back row.

Read, Ardie Savea, Matt Todd and Luke Jacobson make up the rest of the loose forwards, with Squire's bid for late inclusion falling flat. The highly rated Highlander only made himself available this week after voluntarily sitting out the recent Rugby Championship to deal with fitness and personal issues.

Anton Lienert-Brown, Jack Goodhue and fellow veteran Ryan Crotty join Williams in the centres, leaving Laumape on the outer. As expected, Hansen is persisting with his new tactic of using two playmakers — Richie Mo'unga at fly-half and Beauden Barrett at fullback — to counter opponents' rush defence.

An excellent Super Rugby season sees Brad Weber join TJ Perenara and Aaron Smith in the three halfbacks selected by Hansen. Rieko Ioane,



Sonny Bill Williams

Sevu Reece and George Bridge ensure the defending champions have potency on both wings, along with the versatile Jordie Barrett. Ben Smith remains in the mix, although recent poor form and Hansen's tactical switch mean he is more likely to feature on the wing than at fullback. Hansen acknowledged the All Blacks' rivals had closed the gap on his team but warned the weight of expectation could be overwhelming for those not used to facing it.

"This World Cup looks like it's going to be the most fiercely contested yet, with a number of teams thinking that they're going to win it," he said. "This is where I think we have a small advantage — we live here all the time," he said.

The All Blacks begin their World Cup defence with a blockbuster clash

against South Africa on September 21, seeking to dominate a group that also includes Italy, Namibia and Canada.

### New Zealand: Forwards (17)

Dane Coles, Liam Coltman, Codie Taylor, Nepo Laulala, Joe Moody, Atu Moli, Angus Ta'avao, Ofa Tuungafasi, Scott Barrett, Brodie Retallick, Patrick Tuipulotu, Sam Whitelock, Sam Cane, Luke Jacobson, Kieran Read (captain), Ardie Savea, Matt Todd.

### Backs (14)

TJ Perenara, Aaron Smith, Brad Weber, Beauden Barrett, Richie Mo'unga, Ryan Crotty, Jack Goodhue, Anton Lienert-Brown, Sonny Bill Williams, Jordie Barrett, George Bridge, Rieko Ioane, Sevu Reece, Ben Smith. —AFP

keep their place in the team.

**Team:** 15-Joaquin Tuculet, 14-Sebastian Cancelliere, 13-Jeronimo de la Fuente, 12-Lucas Mensa, 11-Ramiro Moyano, 10-Joaquin Diaz Bonilla, 9-Felipe Ezcurrea, 8-Javier Ortega Desio, 7-Marcos Kremer, 6-Pablo Matera (captain), 5-Tomas Lavanani, 4-Guido Petti, 3-Santiago Medrano, 2-Julian Montoya, 1-Mayco Vivas

**Replacements:** 16-Agustin Creevy, 17-Nahuel Tetaz Chaparro, 18-Juan Figallo, 19-Matias Alemanno, 20-Tomas Lezana, 21-Gonzalo Bertanou, 22-Ben Urdapilleta, 23-Santiago Carreras. —Reuters

## Argentina ring changes versus Springboks in bid to end losing streak

PRETORIA: Argentina coach Mario Ledesma has rung the changes for the one-off Test with South Africa at Loftus Versfeld on Saturday, seeking to find the right formula to halt an eight-game losing streak just a month out

from the World Cup in Japan.

Argentina ended their Rugby Championship campaign with a humbling 46-13 loss to the Springboks in Salta last weekend and Ledesma has reacted by dropping a string of established players.

Prop Mayco Vivas will earn a first cap, while Felipe Ezcurrea will make just his third international appearance in the scrumhalf berth, with the equally inexperienced Joaquin Diaz Bonilla alongside him at flyhalf.

There is also a first cap for inside centre Lucas Mensa, which sees

## Salah 'a gentle killer': Vogel

LONDON: Egyptian star Mohamed Salah may be setting European and English football alight now but when he arrived in Switzerland he cast a few doubts in the mind of his first coach Heiko Vogel.

The 27-year-old forward — an integral part of Liverpool's Champions League success last season — has started the campaign in flying form scoring a double in last Sunday's win over Arsenal.

Vogel, though, told the German SPOX website he wondered whether Salah had the mental strength to succeed when he asked him to come for a week long trial in 2012 — on the back of scoring a double for the Egyptian Under-23 side against Basel in a friendly.

"It was always clear to me that he is an outstanding player, but whether he had the mentality? I didn't know that exactly," said Vogel. "Momo is a gentle killer. 'I would be lying if I had prophesied such a massive global career for him.'"

Vogel then asked Basel's scouts in Egypt to confirm his potential by taking video footage of him. "I wondered whether the videos had been speeded up," he said. "He had everything — the speed, the finish, the left foot."

"Then he trained on the first day (in Switzerland); everyone watched the session and we wondered if he might have a twin brother," Vogel, who picks out Arsenal's Swiss midfielder Granit Xhaka as the most impressive of the Premier League-based stars he coached at Basel with Salah and his Liverpool teammate Xherdan Shaqiri the other two, said things progressively got better.

"The second day was a bit better, but not good. 'And then came the third day. It was then that he destroyed everything, he was really unstoppable. 'It was absolutely extraordinary. He was so agile, so explosive. If he had the ball on his left foot, it was a goal."

"After that performance everyone knew why we wanted to sign him," Vogel, who was sacked on October 2012 only months after clinching the domestic double, said Salah's difficulties were understandable.

"Momo was very sure of himself, but he was immersed in a new world," said Vogel. "He had to acclimatise, in the most literal sense of the word. 'He came to us from the heat of North Africa. 'It is always difficult when you come into an environment where you don't speak the language.'"

Salah, though was keen as mustard to learn German something which Vogel did his best to dissuade him from doing.

"He couldn't speak English at all," said the 43-year-old German, who is presently coaching third tier German side KFC Uerdingen. "He wanted to learn German but I said to him: 'Slow down, champion. German is bloody difficult. Learn English, that'll be enough for you.' 'Momo had a really great agent there who could speak English, so we spoke through him.' —AFP

## Sports

# Breareley rates Stokes's Headingley performance greater than Botham's

## Anderson steps up recovery from injury ahead of fourth Ashes test

**LONDON:** Ben Stokes's astonishing match-winning performance in the third Ashes Test at Headingley upstages that of Ian Botham in 1981 at the same ground, according to former England captain Mike Breareley.

"It is hard to believe Stokes's could ever have been, or even ever will be, surpassed," wrote Botham's 1981 captain in *The Times*. Both performances included stamina and skill with the ball as well as a monumental performance with the bat, each of them securing narrow wins for England in cricket's oldest rivalry.

Stokes's 135 not out on Sunday secured an highly unlikely one-wicket win over Australia — England required 73 when the last batsman Jack Leach came to the wicket — and followed a monumental 24-over bowling stint in the tourists' second innings during which he took three wickets.

Botham's performance in 1981 was equally heroic. In spite of taking six wickets in Australia's first innings and then scoring 50 in England's first dig, Botham came to create a second time with the English following on.

His unbeaten 149 transformed the outcome of the Test, setting the stage for Bob Willis to write his name into folklore with eight wickets in the Australians' second innings as England sealed a remarkable 18-run win.

Breareley likens Stokes, Botham and another celebrated all-rounder Freddie Flintoff, who was the star of the England's 2005 Ashes victory, to "the finest specimen of the thoroughbred old English yeoman."

"Vivid though the images from the distant past are, mental pictures of rampaging bowling and batting by all three iconic all-rounders, it is difficult now to remove from the front of my mind the shock, the exhilaration, of the recent: the sheer improbability of Stokes's performance at Headingley last week," wrote Breareley.

Breareley, regarded as one of England's finest captains, said the trio rode their luck at times. "I like the

story of the man who kept complaining to God about his bad luck in life: why would God not at least let him win the lottery?"

"Fed up at last with these endless complaints, God barked down from the sky: 'Do me a favour, at least buy a ticket.' 'Stokes, Botham and Flintoff all did rather more than buy tickets. By their courage, skill, conviction and genius, they earned their luck."

### OUTRAGEOUS RUSTICITY AND DEFIANCE

Breareley, who is now a respected psychoanalyst, said there were similarities between Botham's Headingley innings and that of Stokes. "In a way, Botham's 149 not out against Australia at Headingley in 1981 started where Stokes's 135 not out left off, with outrageous rusticity and defiance, in the quest for an apparently unreachable target.

"Echoes of the village green on the respectable arena of Headingley," Breareley, who won 17 and lost just four of his 31 Tests in charge of England, said all three players would be people "to go into combat with".

The 77-year-old also credits the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for bringing Stokes back despite protestations from some after he was found not guilty of affray in a court case last year.

"Some followers of the game were minded to exclude him as a bad influence on the young," wrote Breareley. "It is to the credit of the ECB, and in the spirit of cricket, that they gave him a second chance."

Meanwhile, James Anderson bowled 20 overs for Lancashire second XI on Tuesday as he took another step towards proving his fitness for the fourth Ashes test against Australia.

England's leading wicket-taker, who is recuperating from a right calf injury, claimed 1-38 against Durham second XI at Chester on Tuesday. The 37-year-old aggravated his calf injury in the Ashes opener at



**LEEDS:** File photo shows England's Ben Stokes reacts as he leaves the pitch after England won the third Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at Headingley in Leeds, northern England. — AFP

Edgbaston and missed the following two Tests.

As part of his rehabilitation programme, Anderson featured for Lancashire's second XI against Leicestershire's second string last week, picking up two wickets.

If Anderson comes through the four-day match at

Chester unscathed he is expected to reclaim his spot in the England side for the fourth Test at Old Trafford starting on Sept 4. England pulled off a dramatic one-wicket win at Headingley to level the series at 1-1. Holders Australia will retain the Ashes if they win either of the final two tests. — Agencies

## Vettel seeking Belgian break at happy hunting ground

**SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS:** Sebastian Vettel returns to the scene of his last Formula One win at this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix and the German four-time champion will hope the Spa-Francorchamps circuit can hand him the break he needs to end a victory drought.

Vettel, winner of 52 races, has gone more than a year since he tasted victory at last year's Belgian race. While the 32-year-old has looked a pale shadow of the driver that won four titles in a row between 2010-13, his Ferrari team have also failed to produce a car that can match the might of dominant rivals Mercedes this season.

The Maranello-based team have struggled around twisty tracks, with Vettel finishing over a minute behind race-winner Hamilton in third at the last race in Hungary. But Ferrari have been better suited to high-speed layouts like Spa this season. The track that hosts Sunday's race and Monza, where Ferrari's home Italian Grand Prix will be held the week after, have been singled

out as the two best opportunities for the team to shine.

"I think it's more power-sensitive ... but there is nothing that is given," said Ferrari boss Mattia Binotto, whose team have not won since last October's US Grand Prix, after the race in Hungary. "I think the situation will be different to Budapest and we will try to prepare ourselves the best to seek the first victory."

The undulating 7km-long Spa-Francorchamps track, with its fast sweeps and flat-out blasts, is not just the longest but also among the fastest circuits on the calendar and has been a happy hunting ground for Vettel, who has won there three times.

A fourth win would see him draw level with former team-mate Kimi Raikkonen, the most successful of the current crop of drivers at Spa. But he will first have to overcome Lewis Hamilton. The Mercedes driver, who is also a three-time winner in Belgium, has won eight of 12 races this season and leads the overall standings by 62 points from team-mate Valtteri Bottas.

Neither the 34-year-old nor his Mercedes team, who have won 10 of the 12 races so far, will have been resting on their laurels with Sunday's race marking Formula One's return from its August summer shutdown.

"We're approaching the start to the second half of 2019 more like the start to a completely new season ..." said Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff. "We're looking forward to the fight."



**Sebastian Vettel**

Max Verstappen will be hoping to make it a three-way battle by putting his Red Bull team in the mix.

Verstappen, who can expect plenty of support from his orange-clad Dutch fans, has won two of the last four races, chalking up more points than even Hamilton since the Austrian Grand Prix at the end of June.

Still, his Honda-powered Red Bull could struggle to match Ferrari and Mercedes at the horsepower-depen-

dent track. The weekend could also see some driver announcements, with the futures of several drivers, including Hamilton's Mercedes team-mate Bottas, up in the air.

Red Bull have already swapped drivers, promoting Thai rookie Alexander Albon up from sister team Toro Rosso to drive alongside Verstappen starting this weekend. He will take Pierre Gasly's place, with the Frenchman going back to the Italian team. — Reuters

## World junior sprint queen Williams fails doping test

**KINGSTON:** Double world under-20 sprint champion Briana Williams could miss next month's World Championships after reportedly testing positive for the banned diuretic hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ).

The Jamaican daily *The Gleaner* said that the 17-year-old initially failed the doping test after the National Senior Championships between June 20-23 where she placed third in the 100 metres to secure a spot in the national team for the World Championships in Doha.

The newspaper said Tuesday that the 'B' sample had reportedly confirmed the presence of the substance.

Williams' representative Emir Crowne said they had not yet received confirmation of the 'B' sample and insisted that the sprinter had not done anything wrong.

Her team reportedly say that the teenager used a contaminated cold and flu medication — which she had declared on her testing protocol form — as the source of the banned substance.

"Our primary position will be that Ms Williams bears no fault in the circumstances and there should be no sanctions levied against her. That will be our primary position," Crowne told *The Gleaner*.

The medication, which does not list HCTZ as an active ingredient, was subsequently sent by Williams' team to be tested independently in the USA, where it was confirmed that it was contaminated with traces of the banned diuretic, the newspaper reported.

Florida-born Williams was just 16 when she won the 100m and 200m at last year's World Under-20 Championships in Tampere which gained her nominations for the IAAF Female Rising Star and the Laureus



**MONACO:** In this file photograph taken on February 18, 2019, Jamaican sprinter Briana Williams poses on the red carpet before the 2019 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony at the Sporting Monte-Carlo complex in Monaco. — AFP

Breakthrough of the Year Awards. The Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA) is set to name its team for Doha on September 6.

Last week, American sprinter Christian Coleman vowed to fight allegations that he missed three drug tests, saying he is confident a September hearing will clear him to compete at the World Championships. — AFP

## Smith says Archer blow brought back difficult memories

**LONDON:** Australia talisman Steve Smith said he will change nothing in his approach to facing Jofra Archer after being hit by a short ball from England's tearaway paceman but admitted the blow had revived troubling memories of Phillip Hughes.

Smith's former Australia team mate Hughes died after being struck with a bouncer during a Sheffield Shield match in Sydney in 2014, shining the spotlight on the dangers of short-pitched bowling. Smith was floored by a short Archer ball in the second test at Lord's, and although he returned to bat again after a concussion test, he was later ruled out of the third match at Headingley, which England won in a cliffhanger by one wicket. The former captain said his mind was racing after the immediate impact of the blow from Archer's delivery.

"I had a few things running through my mind, particularly where I got hit," Smith told reporters. "Like a bit of the past sort of came up, if you know what I mean, from a few years ago. That was probably the first thing I thought about."

"Then I thought, 'I'm actually OK here'. I was a bit sad, but I was alright mentally for the rest of that afternoon."

With Australia's best batsman sidelined at Headingley, all-rounder Ben Stokes scored a magnificent unbeaten century to carry Joe Root's England to victory and level the five-match series at 1-1 ahead of the fourth test at Old Trafford next week.

Smith did not relish being a spectator at Headingley but said he expected to be back in the thick of it in Manchester.

He dismissed the idea that Archer might have an edge against him should they face off again.

"No, I'm not really going to change anything. There's been a bit of talk that he's got the wood over me but he hasn't got me out," said Smith of England's tearaway paceman.

"He hit me on the head on a wicket that was a bit up and down at Lord's."

"All the other bowlers have had more success against me, I dare say, I've faced them a bit more but they've all got me out a lot more, so, yeah, pretty comfortable about that."

Smith sounded equally comfortable with the prospect of an even heavier short ball barrage at Old Trafford.

"If you bowl it up there it means they can't nick me off or hit me on the pad or hit the stumps," he shrugged.

"With the Dukes ball, I don't know — it's an interesting ploy, so we'll see what happens." Governing body Cricket Australia is looking to make neck guards compulsory on helmets within a year to give batsmen more protection. Smith said he had tried them out and his heart-rate had gone up about "30 or 40" beats per minute.

"I just feel claustrophobic. I compare it to being stuck in an MRI scan machine so it was different," he said. "At some point they're probably going to become mandatory so I am going to have to get used to them." — Reuters

## Windies keep faith with batting lineup for second India Test

**KINGSTON:** West Indies' selectors have kept faith with the batting lineup that was skittled for 100 runs in a lopsided first test against India in the Caribbean on Sunday.

Only one player has been omitted for the second Test, fast bowler Miguel Cummins who failed to take a wicket in Antigua. He makes way for all-rounder Keemo Paul, who is available after recovering from an ankle injury.

The second Test starts in Kingston, Jamaica tomorrow. India won the first test by 318 runs, with West Indies dismissed for 222 in the first innings before making only 100 in their second knock.

West Indies' top order was especially disappointing. Openers Kraigg Brathwaite (14 and 1) and John Campbell (23 and 7) went cheaply, while numbers three and four Shamarh Brooks (11 and 2) and Darren Bravo (18 and 2) did not contribute much either. — Reuters

## Sports

# Red Star, Dinamo, Olympiakos reach Champions League group stage

## Red Star held by Young Boys but advance on away goals

**BELGRADE:** Former European Cup winners Red Star Belgrade reached the Champions League group stage for the second successive season after a 1-1 home draw with Swiss side Young Boys in the play-offs sent them through on away goals on Tuesday.

They were joined by Croatian champions Dinamo Zagreb who advanced with a 1-1 draw at Rosenborg following a 2-0 first-leg win. Olympiakos Piraeus won 2-1 at Krasnodar to complete a 6-1 aggregate drubbing of the Russian side.

Roared on by a fervent 50,000 home crowd, 1991 European champions Red Star, who earned a 2-2 draw in the reverse fixture, were on the back foot for long spells but coach Vladan Milojevic was delighted after they squeezed through. "I am very proud of my players and what we achieved this evening is a tremendous success," Milojevic told a news conference.

"It was tough. I told the players before the match that giving it their best shot was all anyone could ask for. We are now looking forward to our second season among Europe's elite. "We are one big happy family at Red Star and still living the dream. We've made Serbia proud."

Left back Milan Rodic missed Red Star's best chance in the first half when he headed over the bar before midfielder Michel Aebischer twice went close to swinging the tie Young Boys' way.

### PURPOSEFUL MOVE

Red Star keeper Milan Borjan almost spilled a

deflected cross into his own net and then saved a Roger Assale sitter before the home side broke the deadlock with their first purposeful move of the night. Playmaker Marko Marin released Rodic with a delightful pass and the left back raced down the flank to deliver a sharp cross for winger Aleksa Vukanovic to head home powerfully from six metres at the near post and score his first goal for Red Star.

The Serbian champions endured a tense last 10 minutes after they half-cleared a deep cross into their penalty area and substitute El Fardou Ben turned a shot by the visitors' Saidy Janko from 18 metres into his own net.

Borjan, who was instrumental in the previous round's penalty shootout win over Copenhagen, again rescued Red Star when he tipped over a stoppage time piledriver by Jean Pierre Nsamenang.

The final whistle from English referee Anthony Taylor sparked wild celebrations among the jubilant Red Star fans, who lit flares after parking a fully decommissioned battle tank in front of the stadium on Monday.

Dinamo fell behind on the night to an early Babajide David goal before Amer Gojak struck in the 71st minute to put the tie beyond Norwegian side Rosenborg's reach. Olympiakos arrived in Krasnodar with a 4-0 first-leg cushion and although the Russian side gave themselves a glimmer of hope through Daniil Utkin's 10th-minute effort, Youssef El Aarabi scored twice for the visitors to book their group-stage berth.



**TRONDHEIM:** Rosenborg's Nigerian forward Babajide David Akintola (C) scores the opening goal during the UEFA Champions League play-off, second leg football match at Lerkendal Stadium in Trondheim, Norway. — AFP

Last season's semi-finalists Ajax Amsterdam are at home to APOEL Nicosia in Wednesday's standout fixture following a 0-0 first-leg draw in Cyprus. Bruges

are at home to LASK Linz following a 1-0 win in Austria and Slavia Prague host Romanians CFR Cluj after beating them by the same score last week. — Reuters

## Jokic: Serbia's beloved big man of basketball

**SOMBOR:** Nikola Jokic was always tall — as a teenager he had to lie down in school photos to fit inside the frame. Now the 24-year-old Serbian basketball standout is bigger than ever, spanning a huge mural on his former elementary school and living the dream of every youngster as an NBA All-Star with the Denver Nuggets.

With a slightly doughy and lumbering physique, the seven-footer (2.13m) has entranced fans and sports analysts with his uncanny precision, especially laser-sharp passes that have seen him likened to an NFL quarterback on court.

Serbs are hoping that their hometown hero — who did not play in the 2014 World Cup — can fire the country at the latest edition, which starts on Saturday in China. Beaten in the final last time, Serbia are again among the favourites to challenge holders the United States.

In Jokic's native Sombor, a sleepy northern city where Jokic returns annually, teachers remember a boy who always had a special knack with balls, even if physical exercise was not his strong suit.

"He loved playing with the ball more than anything. On the other hand, gym and athletics, he did not love... I always had to push him to do gymnastics," remembers his first physical education teacher, Robert Katona, from the humble court where Jokic honed his skills.

Gordana Ralevic, his English teacher, remembers "little" Jokic as an "excellent" academic student. As a heavier kid "he had problems with physical education... he really struggled", she told AFP. "But he fought — and succeeded, as we can see," she adds with a smile.

When the Serbian arrived in Denver as a little-known second-round pick four years ago he couldn't hold an abdominal plank for more than 20 seconds, Jokic told ESPN in a recent interview. He has since been whipped into shape by trainers, shedding some pounds while still maintaining a bulkier physique.



**SOMBOR:** File photo shows a mural depicting Nikola Jokic, the 24-year-old Serbian basketball player who plays for the NBA's Denver Nuggets, painted on a wall of his former school in his hometown of Sombor. — AFP

The work has paid off. Today, Jokic is the Nuggets' undisputed MVP, drawing praise for his creativity and exceptional statistics, blending the role of centre and point guard.

In addition to averaging 10.8 rebounds per game this season, he averaged 7.3 decisive passes and 20.1 points. He further excelled in the play-offs. According to his father, basketball was love at first sight.

"As a child, with his pacifier in his mouth, he would watch his brothers play (basketball) without moving, without making a sound, sitting on my lap," remembers Branislav Jokic, 61, a retired agricultural engineer.

His gym teacher Katona says Jokic's talent for passing — the subject of many YouTube highlight reels — was also evident at a young age. "Above all he had a tendency to look for the decisive pass, he liked it more than scoring," he says.

With a contract worth nearly \$150 million, Jokic is the highest paid Serbian player in history. His popularity is beginning to match that of Serbia's other sporting king, world

number one tennis player Novak Djokovic.

Jokic prefers to keep a low profile when he returns to Sombor, a city of 40,000 near the border with Hungary. He is still dating his high school sweetheart and will often stop by his former school to talk to young players on the small court, beneath his mural.

But most of Jokic's free time in Serbia is spent indulging his other passion: horses. "He inherited this from me," explains his father while reaching a hand out to horses in the small stable their family owns, nearby a track where they compete in harness racing.

"As a child, he would clean the stables before going to school." Jokic still enjoys doing a few laps of the track "but only for training, he can't afford to participate in a competition", explains Branislav.

He walks over to a brown horse behind a fence. "This is Dream Catcher, the first horse Nikola bought," he says. "He survived a severe tick bite and returned to competition, pursuing his dreams. Kind of like Nikola when he went to play in the States." — AFP

## Historic Bury expelled from English league, Bolton get lifeline

**LONDON:** Historic football club Bury, the first team to be expelled from the English Football League in over two decades, suffered a further blow yesterday when they were kicked out of the FA Cup. The once-proud club that only a few months ago were celebrating promotion to the third tier, were turfed out of the league late Tuesday when a takeover bid fell apart shortly before the 1600 GMT deadline set by league administrators.

The club from northwest England are the first to be expelled from the league — comprising all the divisions below the top-tier Premier League — since Maidstone United in 1992. Yesterday, a further blow fell on bitter fans awaking to the stark realisation that efforts to keep the club afloat had failed.

"Following on from their expulsion from the English Football League, Bury FC will no longer be able to participate in the FA Cup for the 2019/20 season," read an FA statement. "If the club reforms we look forward to them applying to make an application to The Football Association to re-join league competition further down the English football pyramid from the 2020/21 season."

Bury's historic rivals Bolton — one of the founders of the Football League but who have been in administration since May — won some breathing space on Tuesday when they were given 14 days to find a buyer.

For Bury, though, the bell has tolled on their time in the Football League, ending over 100 years of participation which yielded two FA Cups and produced players like former Manchester City and England great Colin Bell.

Ironically Bury, who become the

first FA Cup winners to be ousted from the league, and Bolton were due to face each other in a televised live match on Sunday week. Bury are the first team to be expelled from the third tier of English football. The remaining 23 teams will complete the season and only three instead of four teams will be relegated.

A BBC journalist at the club's Gigg Lane ground said that on hearing the news fans burst into tears with some so upset they were "crouching down to the floor". "I understand this will be a deeply upsetting and devastating time for Bury's players, staff, supporters and the wider community," said EFL executive chair Debbie Jevans.

### VICTIM

Jevans words of sympathy were dismissed by Bury North MP James Frith, who has earned praise for his efforts to save the club, inferring Bolton had been treated better. "I feel Bury is the victim ... and those left to pick up the pieces are the town and the community," Frith told BBC radio.

"Yes we will rise again and keep the faith but we shouldn't be at this point." The writing had been on the wall for Bury after a rollercoaster of a day for fans and employees alike, when C&N Sporting Risk withdrew their takeover bid offer to Steve Dale, who had bought the club last December for a single pound. Bury captain Neil Danns told talkSPORT radio that Dale had "destroyed lives". "This should never have happened," he said. "If you thought you could not move this club forward in a positive way you should never have taken over because you've literally destroyed lives, because that's what this football club meant to so many fans."

Meanwhile Bolton has been thrown a late lifeline and fans — some of whom are old enough to have attended two League Cup finals (1995/2004) — gathered late Tuesday round the statue of their greatest player, the late former England forward Nat Lofthouse known as "The Lion of Vienna". Tuesday would have been Lofthouse's 94th birthday. — AFP

## Norwich and Palace toppled in League Cup by giantkillers

**LONDON:** Premier League sides Norwich and Crystal Palace bowed out of the League Cup on Tuesday beaten by fourth tier sides Crawley Town and Colchester United respectively.

Democratic Republic of Congo-born Beryly Lubala scored Crawley's goal — his fifth of the season — in their 1-0 win over a second string Norwich side for the victors first ever win over top tier opposition.

Colchester progressed on penalties after they had held Palace to a scoreless draw after 90 minutes — Noah Chilvers converting the decisive penalty.

It was Colchester's first win over top flight opposition in the League Cup since 1979.

Watford eased a little bit of the pressure on under-fire manager Javi Gracia by securing their first win of the season beating Coventry 3-0. Newspaper reports on Tuesday said Gracia had until the second international break — in October — to save his job despite taking the Hornets to the FA Cup final last season.

Goals by Ismaila Sarr, who was making his first start

since joining from Rennes for a club record fee reported to be £30million (\$37million), Daryl Janmaat — a superb strike into the far corner for his first goal since February 2018 — and Venezuelan forward Adalberto Penaranda saw off the third tier team.

Brighton were pushed hard by Bristol Rovers before clinching the tie 2-1. Aaron Connolly put the Premier League side ahead only for the hosts to level through Tom Nicholls just after the hour mark.

However Brighton sealed their place in the next round when veteran Glenn Murray struck in time added on. Jack Wilshere scored his first goal for West Ham since the injury-plagued former England midfielder moved from Arsenal last year as the Hammers ran out 2-0 winners over fourth tier Newport County. The 27-year-old struck two minutes before half-time against the Welsh side.

Spanish midfielder Pablo Fornals — the Hammers second most expensive signing when they bought him for £24million in the summer — added a second in the second-half tucking the ball away after Felipe Anderson, who had come on early for the injured Michail Antonio, set him up.

The second round concludes with seven more matches and the likes of Everton and Leicester in action. The Premier League heavyweights such as holders Manchester City and the others who are involved in or have qualified for European competitions do not enter the fray till the next round. — AFP

## Premier League clubs' fans want improved UEFA finals experience

**LONDON:** Fans of Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur have together submitted a list of demands to European soccer's governing body UEFA after numerous complaints following the Champions League and Europa League finals last season.

A joint statement by Arsenal Supporters' Trust, Chelsea Supporters' Trust, Spirit of Shankly and Tottenham Hotspur Supporters' Trust covers various problems such as inadequate ticket allocations and inconvenient travel arrangements. "We have drawn up a six-point action plan to improve the supporter experience," the statement read. "It has been referred to the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) and Football Supporters Europe (FSE). We now call on UEFA to engage in meaningful dialogue with supporters and address these points."

The clubs' supporters called for an 80% allocation of tickets to be made available to the finalists after Liverpool and Spurs were allocated only 16,613 tickets each for the Champions League showpiece at Atletico Madrid's 68,000-seat Wanda Metropolitano Stadium.

Suggestions were also made to choose stadiums with a minimum capacity of 60,000 for the Europa League final and 75,000 for the Champions League final, helping to keep ticket prices affordable.

Arsenal and Chelsea fans struggled to get to Baku for the Europa League showpiece due to a lack of direct flights to Azerbaijan's capital.

Supporters asked UEFA to pick cities with good connectivity and the capacity to deal with thousands of visitors. They also demanded that the host country should have a clean human rights record and equality policy after Arsenal's Henrikh Mkhitaryan did not travel to Baku over fears for his safety due to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"We call upon UEFA to strengthen its dialogue with fans and request that they start by engaging with groups such as ourselves to discuss the proposals to improve arrangements for fans at the final stages of the Champions and Europa Leagues," the statement added. — Reuters

## 25 All Blacks pick Sonny Bill, dump Franks for World Cup



## 26 World junior sprint queen Williams fails doping test



## 27 Jokic: Serbia's beloved big man of basketball



NEW YORK: Naomi Osaka of Japan hits the ball against Anna Blinkova of Russia during the Round One Women's Singles match at the 2019 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. — AFP

# Osaka survives, Thiem, Tsitsipas exit

## Nadal launches his bid for a fourth US Open crown

NEW YORK: Reigning US Open champion Naomi Osaka confronted severe nerves in a rocky start to her title defense Tuesday while men's contenders Dominic Thiem and Stefanos Tsitsipas tumbled out in the first round. Osaka suffered a first-round exit last month at Wimbledon and the Japanese star struggled to put away Russia's Anna Blinkova in her opener at Arthur Ashe Stadium before prevailing 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2.

"I have a lot of really good memories here because I grew up in this area. I don't think I've ever been this nervous in my life," said Osaka, sporting a black brace on the left knee that prompted her to retire in Cincinnati.

"You want to do well after you did well last year. I definitely didn't want to lose in the third set." The top seed goes on to face Poland's Magda Linette, who captured her maiden WTA title in the Bronx last week.

Osaka must retain her Flushing Meadows crown to have a chance of remaining world number one and was tested extensively by 2015 Wimbledon junior

finalist Blinkova, who raced 4-1 ahead in the first set and saved a match point in the second to force a decider.

"I knew it was going to be a really tough battle. The only thing I would have wished is that I won the first match point," Osaka said. Two-time French Open runner-up Dominic Thiem was upset by Italian giant-killer Thomas Fabbiano 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 as three top-10 players were eliminated from Rafael Nadal's half of the draw.

"I got very tired and exhausted after two sets. I'm far away from 100 percent," Thiem said. "It was not the real me there on the court." Greek eighth seed Tsitsipas struggled with cramps and accused umpires of having "preferences" after he slumped to a 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (9/7), 7-5 defeat by Next Gen rival Andrey Rublev in a gruelling four-hour slog.

Like Thiem, it was a second successive Grand Slam first-round exit for Tsitsipas, who was hit with a point penalty in the final set for a time violation.

"This chair umpire, I don't know, he has something against me. I don't know why," said Tsitsipas, who snapped "you're all weirdos" at French official Damien Dumosis during his match. "I wish that all the chair umpires were like Mohamed Lahyani because I believe he's the best out in the game, and we need more like him in tennis because he's fair to everyone. I feel like some of them have preferences when they are on the court."

Spanish 10th seed Roberto Bautista Agut succumbed in five sets to Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan while Marin Cilic, the 2014 champion, advanced in straight sets over Slovakia's Martin Klizan.

Germany's sixth-seeded Alexander Zverev battled into the second round by defeating Moldova's Radu Albot 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2 and leading US hope John Isner smacked 29 aces in a routine win over Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain.

Wimbledon champion Simona Halep, ousted in the opening round the past two years at Flushing

Meadows, outlasted US lucky loser Nicole Gibbs 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 while two-time runner-up Caroline Wozniacki rebounded from a woeful start to beat Wang Yafan in three sets.

Nadal launches his bid for a fourth US Open crown in the night session on Ashe against Australia's John Millman, the conqueror of Roger Federer in the last 16 here a year ago. The Spaniard owns 18 Grand Slam titles, two shy of Federer's all-time record. Along with defending champion Novak Djokovic the "Big Three" have combined to win the past 11 majors and are again strong favorites.

Sloane Stephens, the 2017 US Open winner, takes on Russian qualifier Anna Kalinskaya in round one, with 15-year-old Wimbledon sensation Coco Gauff making her New York debut against Russia's 76th-ranked Anastasia Potapova.

Australian firebrand Nick Kyrgios has been assigned the "graveyard shift" as the last match on Louis Armstrong against Steve Johnson. — AFP

## Lyles skipping world double to focus on 200m gold, Bolt's record

ZURICH: Sprint sensation Noah Lyles admitted yesterday he was skipping the sprint double at next month's world championships to focus on possibly erasing Usain Bolt's name from the record books while

winning 200m gold.

The now-retired Bolt holds the world records in both the 100m (9.58sec) and 200m (19.19sec), both set at the Berlin world champs in 2009. But Lyles is hitting form at the perfect time ahead of the Doha worlds from September 27-October 6, running 19.50sec in Lausanne last month to become the fourth fastest ever runner over the 200m.

"The reason I'm not running the 100m is because I have a very strong chance of winning that 200m and I also have a very strong chance of trying to break some meet records," said the 22-year-old Lyles ahead of Thursday's opening Diamond League final in Zurich.

"I might not get another chance like this again because I plan to be doubling after this. "The 100m is

just one of those races where I'm not so strong in it that I know I'm going to come away with a win.

"I don't want to be tired in pushing for the top three in the 100m and not having that chance of getting that 200m gold." Lyles added that he was not consumed by breaking Bolt's world record.

"I don't really think about it too much," he said. "I'm not really here to take individual records, I'm just here to run fast. If that breaks a record, cool!"

But Lyles' competitive nature shone through when he acknowledged that he had not been satisfied with his 19.50sec run. "I went into that competition thinking I was going to run a 19.4," he said.

"Next time I'm in good shape, I'll be striving for some hardcore runs." Lyles will be up against defend-

ing world champion Justin Gatlin today, the veteran American still going strong at the relatively ripe old age of 37. Also in the field will be Jamaican Yohan Blake - the 2011 world 100m champion who set a meeting record of 9.67sec during his last appearance in Zurich in 2012 - British duo Adam Gemili and Zharnel Hughes, American Michael Rodgers and South Africa's Commonwealth champion Akani Simbine.

"Body wise I feel ready to go," warned Lyles, who lost his last 10m outing against Gatlin, beaten by a hundredth of a second in Monaco. "I'm very excited to see where my 100m is going to take me.

"We've put a tonne of work into the start and it's paying off. I feel pretty confident. Block practices have been going very well." — AFP