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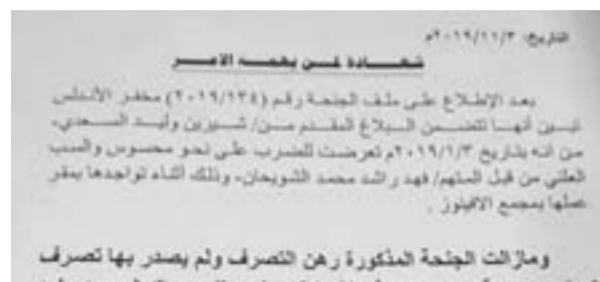
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**4** Saleswoman accuses employer of assault, denying her visa transfer



**9** Toxin-laced bubbles cause pollution hazard on beach



**24** Could life insurance go up in smoke for some vapers?



**28** Qatar beat UAE 4-2 to advance to semifinals



# UN chief opens climate meet, calls for hope over surrender

'We're still in it,' US House leader tells summit



KUWAIT: (Top) HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives at Bayan Palace visiting Duke of Cambridge Prince William yesterday. The meeting touched upon the deep-rooted and historic relations linking Kuwait and the United Kingdom and ways to further enhance ties on all possible levels. Prince William conveyed greetings from Queen Elizabeth II to HH the Amir and the Kuwaiti people. The Amir returned the greetings to Queen Elizabeth, wishing her and the people of the UK progress and welfare. (Above) Prince William tours the southern desert areas yesterday. — Photos by KUNA (See Page 2)

MADRID: Confronted with a climate crisis threatening civilization itself, humanity must choose between hope and surrender, UN chief Antonio Guterres told the opening plenary of a UN climate conference yesterday. "One is the path of surrender, where we have sleepwalked past the point of no return, jeopardizing the health and safety of everyone on this planet," Guterres said. "Do we really want to be remembered as the generation that buried its head in the sand, that fiddled while the planet burned?"

In a separate forum moments earlier, US Congressional leader Nancy Pelosi told the "COP25" conference that the world could still count on the United States despite President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris Agreement. States and cities home to two-thirds of the US population are committed to the targets set by the 2015 agreement, as are all the Democratic candidates for president, according to the US research groups.

"We're here to say to all of you, on behalf of the House of Representatives and the Congress of the United States, we're still in it, we're still in it," Pelosi said to applause at a forum of heads of state from climate-vulnerable nations.

Continued on Page 24



MADRID: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres gives a speech at the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 yesterday. — AFP

## 8 children among 13 Pakistanis killed in Jordan farm fire

AMMAN: Thirteen Pakistanis including eight children died early yesterday when a blaze tore through their corrugated metal home in a rural area of western Jordan, authorities said. Rescue services said "13 people died and three others were injured when fire broke out in a corrugated metal house" on a farm in South Shona, around 50 km west of Amman. The makeshift building was home to two Pakistani families working as agricultural laborers, they said in a statement.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable to Pakistani President Arif Alvi, expressing condolences over the Pakistani nationals who lost their lives in the fire.

Continued on Page 24



SHUNA, Jordan: A charred sewing machine and crib are seen among the remains of a home where several Pakistani farmers were killed in a fire yesterday. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Full stop for apostrophe society

LONDON: Britain's Apostrophe Protection Society is closing down, its founder has announced, saying it had sadly lost the fight against "ignorance and laziness". Former journalist John Richards, 96, started up the society in 2001, aiming to preserve the correct use of what he said was the "much abused punctuation mark". But Richards said that with regret, he was now closing down operations for two reasons. "One is that at 96 I am cutting back on my commitments and the second is that fewer organizations and individuals are now caring about the correct use of the apostrophe in the English language," he wrote on the society's website www.apostrophe.org.uk, which will remain open for reference. It gives a simple guide to readers, with examples of how apostrophes are used to denote missing letters and possession but never plurals. — AFP

#### Oman top diplomat visits Iran

TEHRAN: Iran's top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif voiced support yesterday for reducing tensions in the Gulf as he hosted his counterpart from traditional mediator Oman for talks in Tehran. The visit by Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi, came a week after he held a meeting in Washington with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. It is the second time since late July that bin Alawi has been sent to Iran by the sultanate, a past mediator between foes in the Middle East. The Iranian foreign ministry said Zarif, in talks with bin Alawi, had "emphasized the necessity of reducing tensions in the region". Zarif said Iran was serious about a plan - dubbed the Hormuz Peace Endeavour - that it has put forward to reduce regional tensions. Pompeo said yesterday that Iran was the uniting factor behind protests around the Middle East, saying demonstrators in Iraq, Lebanon and Iran itself opposed the clerical regime. — AFP

## India rape protests swell as girl killed

NEW DELHI: Hundreds of Indian protestors took to the streets yesterday as public anger grew over the brutal gang-rape and murder of a female veterinary doctor, with one MP calling for the perpetrators to be "lynched". The demonstrations in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and elsewhere took place as police found the semi-naked body of a six-year-old girl who appears to have been raped and then strangled with her school belt in Rajasthan.

The spark for the protests was the gang-rape and murder by four men of the 27-year-old vet next to a busy road in the outskirts of Hyderabad in southern India on Wednesday evening. The men deflated a tyre on her moped and lured her to a truck yard with the promise of fixing it. Police say that the men then raped and murdered her before setting the body on fire with



NEW DELHI: Demonstrators shout slogans yesterday to protest against the alleged rape and murder of a 27-year-old veterinary doctor in Hyderabad. —AFP

petrol under an isolated bridge. Sexual violence against women is rife in India, and the latest case recalled the national and international outrage at the gang-rape and murder of a woman by six men on a Delhi bus in 2012.

Continued on Page 24

## Morocco's poor left behind by growth boom

AZROU, Morocco: Mohammed Akki left his home in Morocco's Middle Atlas mountains to seek regular work and a better life in the town of Azrou, but he still lives on the margins in a country enjoying an investment boom. Every morning, Akki walks miles into Azrou, where he may or may not find work as a day labourer. His ramshackle house down a muddy lane has no electricity or running water and his school-age daughter has to study by candlelight.

He is part of a large class of impoverished Moroccans left behind by the rapid development that has transformed much of the northwestern coastline

with multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects. "It is inconceivable. How can we live in a city but we still need candles? We hear slogans but there is no transparency. We never get any help," said Akki, standing in his dark kitchen, where a storm lamp lit a few pans hanging from nails on the wall.

Morocco's rampant inequality is stirring some unease in the country's political class, particularly after protests in the northern Rif mountain region in 2017-18 and the mass demonstrations in neighboring Algeria this year. Signs of public frustration include political chanting by football fans in Casablanca and a popular rap song that decried inequality and castigated Morocco's rulers.

"More than poverty, social disparities create frustrations that may trigger protests. These disparities are often viewed as a result of an illegitimate accumulation of wealth," said Ahmed Lahimi, head of Morocco's official statistics agency.

Continued on Page 24

## Hot weather linked to rise in early childbirth

PARIS: Hot weather can cause a spike in the number of babies being born early, a phenomenon that may harm infant health and is likely to get worse as temperatures climb due to climate change, scientists said yesterday. Researchers in California said an average of 25,000 children were born up to two weeks early during warmer than average periods in the United States between 1969-1988 - equivalent to 150,000 lost gestational days annually.

While it is not certain why mothers appear to go into labor early as the mercury climbs, the authors of the study published in Nature Research Journals said premature births was an issue to be taken seriously. "It is very likely that being born earlier will affect child development and have lasting impacts into adulthood, but more research is needed to confirm this," Alan Barreca, from the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, University of California-Los Angeles.

"Hot weather increases maternal levels of oxytocin, which is a key hormone that regulates labour and delivery. But, the link could be because hot weather causes cardiovascular stress, which might lead to early deliveries," he told AFP. Barreca and a colleague used estimate shifts in daily birth rates from US counties over a 20-year span, a sample including 56 million births.

They found that early birth rates increased by five percent on days where the temperature was above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32.2 Celsius), accounting for around one out of every 200 births. With temperatures currently around 1C hotter than pre-industrial averages and set to increase further, Barreca said he was "very concerned" of the potential impacts of greater weather-linked early birth rates in future. "We predict more than 1 in 100 births will occur earlier than expected in the US by the end of the century," he said. "That number may seem small, but that's much higher than the risks of getting into a car accident."

Continued on Page 24



# Kuwait Amir holds luncheon for visiting Duke of Cambridge



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held at Bayan Palace yesterday a luncheon in honor of the visiting Duke of Cambridge Prince William and the accompanying delegation. — KUNA photos

## Prince William visits nature reserve, cultural center

KUWAIT: Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, paid a visit yesterday to Al-Jahra Nature Reserve. Prince William was hosted by Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Hamoud Al-

Sabah. He also had a tour around the reserve where he was briefed on the wildlife and plants found there. Later yesterday, Prince William paid a visit to the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, as he toured the Center's sections that reflected

Kuwait's civilized status. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs and head of the mission of honor accompanying Prince William, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, was present during both visits. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Prince William tours Al-Jahra Nature Reserve yesterday. — Amiri Diwan and AFP photos



Prince William talks to students during his tour at Al-Jahra Nature Reserve yesterday.



Prince William uses a monocular during his tour at Al-Jahra Nature Reserve.



Prince William takes part in a cleaning operation at Al-Jahra Nature Reserve.



Prince William walks with Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah and director of cultural centers Sahar Al-Aqab during his visit to the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center.



KUWAIT: Dignitaries attend the exhibition. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Allan Villiers' 'Sons of Sinbad' expo opens

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Allan Villiers' 'Sons of Sinbad' exhibition was inaugurated yesterday at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah. The event is held under the auspices of the Australian Embassy in Kuwait, National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Council for Australian-Arab Relations and the Australian National Maritime Museum. The opening was attended by Sheikh Husa Al-Sabah and Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Jonathan Gilbert.

"It took almost two years to complete the collections of photographs and films from various museums - we got some from British, Canadian and Australian maritime museums," Gilbert said. The event is held this year because 2019 marks the 80th anniversary of Allan Villiers' journey to Kuwait and the Gulf. "[Villiers] sailed from the Gulf using a dhow through the east coast of Africa, then back to Kuwait, and stayed here for six months. We collected the photos and films that he took during his stay (in 1938-1939). It has never been shown or heard before - it's the pre-oil history of the Kuwaiti people. We want to present this to the Kuwaiti people," Gilbert said.

The collection can be viewed at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (Amricani Cultural Centre) near the Evangelical Church in Kuwait City. They will be displayed there for two months before being transferred to the parliament next year.

"The realization of this exhibition has been the combination of hard work, determination and collective will by multiple parties to tell the remarkable story of Allan Villiers and Kuwait's rich but

sometimes forgotten maritime history and traditions," Gilbert said. The ambassador also mentioned the presence of Villiers' eldest son at the expo, who is visiting Kuwait for the first time and reliving his father's extraordinary journey and connection to this country.

Allan Villiers was an author, adventurer, photographer and mariner. He was born in Australia and from an early age he was exposed to the docks of Port Melbourne and the square-rigged merchant ships that once sailed between Australia and Europe. He first went to sea at the age of 15 and spent most of his life sailing, writing and documenting its customs, practices and traditions. He wrote "Sons of Sinbad," his tribute to Captain Nejd and the crew of Al-Bayan, but also to the merchant families of Kuwait whose hard work built Kuwait into the country it is today. "Sons of Sinbad" is a Kuwaiti story that happened to be witnessed and told through the eyes of an Australian. In his writing, Villiers' fondness of this country and its people is apparent. He observed that Kuwait is a pleasant place where citizens live in peace, where the merchants take care of the poor and the sheikh is the father of them all," Gilbert said.

He said that while the days of the great sailing dhows are long gone, he still hopes that with this exhibition, Australia can help preserve this memory for the greater benefit of future Kuwaitis and for all. "Australia is a maritime nation whose prosperity and security is deeply connected to the world's ocean trading routes. This is something that both countries share and tonight we celebrate this," he concluded.



One of the pictures displayed at the exhibition.



## Local

# Amir receives Saudi King's invitation to 40th GCC summit

## Sheikh Sabah congratulates King Salman on winning Gulf Basketball Championship

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr Abdullah bin Rashed Al-Zayani, where he handed in an invitation from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to attend the 40th session of the GCC Supreme Council. His Highness the Amir was briefed on King Salman's ongoing preparations for the Gulf Summit, to be held in Riyadh on December 10. Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah also attended the meeting. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable to King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, congratulating him on Saudi team winning the 16th Gulf Men's Basketball Championship held in Kuwait. In the cable, His Highness the Amir hailed the splendid performance of the Saudi team and their high sports spirit, wishing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia more progress and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to King Salman.

Separately, His Highness the Amir Sheikh



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr Abdullah bin Rashed Al-Zayani. — Amiri Diwan photos

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, expressing sorrow over the demise of Prince Metaib Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to the Ruler of the Emirate of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Sharqi, expressing his deepest grief and sor-

row over the loss of Sheikh Shaikha bint Sultan Al-Salami. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable of condolences on Sunday to Tunisian President Kais bin Saied after a bus fall off a cliff killed 24 people and injured 18 others. His Highness the Amir expressed sorrow and hoped for a speedy recovery to those injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,



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

and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables on the incident. Earlier, a bus plunged off a cliff into a ravine in the country's north. The bus had set off from Tunis to the picturesque mountain town of Ain Draham, a popular autumn destination for Tunisians near the Algerian border.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Sunday to Russian President Vladimir Putin expressing sorrow over a bus that plunged off into a frozen river earlier in eastern Siberia, killing 19 people and injuring 21 others. His Highness the Amir

expressed sorrow and hoped for a speedy recovery to those injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables marking the incident. Earlier in the day, a passenger bus plunged off a bridge onto a frozen river in Siberia, killing 19 people on board. A tire on the bus burst as it was crossing the bridge over the Kuenga river in eastern Siberia's Zabaikalsky region. The vehicle, which was travelling from Sretensk to Chita and carried 40 passengers, skidded off the road and onto the ice. — KUNA

## Kuwait sees positive signals on near end of Gulf crisis

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah expressed optimism about a near healing of the Gulf rift and resolving differences among Arabian "Gulf brothers." There are positive prospects on turning the page of differences among Arabian Gulf brothers, Jarallah told reporters Sunday on the sidelines of a function held by the Romanian embassy in Kuwait to mark Romania's national day. He cited as examples of the positive developments: the participation of all Gulf states in the currently Qatar-hosted the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup, agreeing on holding the 40th GCC summit in Riyadh on December 10 and the planned ministerial meeting of the member states on December 9. Kuwait pines high hopes on the upcoming summit to achieve Gulf peoples' aspiration of security, stability and progress, he said.

Meanwhile, Jarallah congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on taking over the presidency of the G20 on Sunday. He voiced confidence in the success of

the Kingdom on effectively leading the G20. Earlier on Sunday, GCC Secretary General Abdullah bin Rashed Al-Zayani stated that the GCC leaders would hold their 40th Summit on December 10, under chairmanship of Saudi King Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud. Zayani expressed his confidence that the 40th Summit would result in constructive decisions so as to boost the Gulf unity, and bolster ties, cooperation and integration amongst member states.

In the meantime, Jarallah commended the rapid reaction of Bahrain to the video recently posted on social media that aimed at undermining the Kuwaiti-Bahraini relations. He stressed keenness of the Bahraini brothers on the historical and distinguished ties with Kuwait, poignant that "we were informed that some measures would be taken against the person who tried to undermine" the bilateral ties. A few days ago, a video circulated on social media showing a Bahraini media person offending Kuwait and Kuwaitis. — KUNA

## Kuwait seeks to boost ties with African nations

**CAIRO:** Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan stressed the importance of boosting Kuwaiti-African ties at all levels, especially political and economic ones. Mashaan said that he would arrive in Ivory Coast today, starting a tour that will also include Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. The visit to each of the three countries comes within the framework of activating the memoran-

dums of political consultations, signed between Kuwait and the countries concerned, in addition to discussing aspects of cooperation and coordination of roles in international forums, he explained. The tour aims at reviewing the leading role played by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in Africa, as well as the investment opportunities available in each country, he added. — KUNA

## Over 60 female students partake in science competition

**KUWAIT:** Sixty-four female students of the three educational levels took part in Sheikh Fadia Al-Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah's scientific competition with 40 projects, head of the competition Sheikh Nabila Salman Al-Sabah said on Sunday. Speaking at a press conference, Sheikh Nabila added that 53 female students and 21 teachers of the secondary education as well as 18 students and 10 teachers of intermediate level participated in the competition's preparatory program. She noted that there were also some other students of the primary education in the program. She pointed out that the competition aims to help and educate those students interested in scientific research on boosting societal action, and implant

the national loyalty in these students through supporting constructive projects and innovations serving the society. The competition enables the winners of both the secondary and intermediate levels who obtain the first places to participate in competitions on the Gulf level. She lauded the outstanding and distinctive role of the competition as it brings together female students and teachers from all Gulf countries to share experiences. Meanwhile, general manager of the competition Aisha Al-Houly said the contest is organized in line with the directives of His Highness the Amir on disseminating science, culture and knowledge in order to cope up with civilized progresses in the world. — KUNA



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## Local

# Kuwait saleswoman accuses employer of assault, denying her visa transfer

## Manpower authority refused transfer despite acknowledging abuse

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Despite frequent inspections by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), labor violations are still taking place. Shirin is a Syrian saleswoman whose labor rights have allegedly been denied and she was even beaten at her workplace. The desperate woman told her story to Kuwait Times, as she doesn't know what to do. Her sponsor is refusing to let her transfer her visa to another sponsor, although according to the labor law, she has this right as she has exceeded the condition of two years of work with her current sponsor.

Shirin worked at the store for around five years and didn't face any problems. "My sales were high. Even when the company faced a hard time and was about to shut down in 2014, I supported them and worked even harder. But a couple of months ago, a new Arab saleslady joined, who started feeling jealous. She was provoking me along with a new salesman to draw me into a conflict, but I was ignoring them," noted Shirin.

"One day, that saleslady offered a customer to do some witchcrafts for her in exchange of KD 500. The customer then approached me and asked me to convince that saleslady to offer her a discount, so I told my colleague to stop offering such services to customers as this will spoil the reputation of all the staff. She then got angry and started insulting me. I replied to her insults, so she went to complain at the police station. Another salesman then fought

with me when I was with a customer and punched me in the face to please the new saleslady," she added.

"After this incident, I had to file a complaint at the police station. I asked them to get the recording from the security cameras installed in the store. Unfortunately, they



### Victim told to continue working or leave Kuwait

have 'wasta' (connections) and made the case drag a long time, as the recordings get deleted after a month," explained Shirin. The authorized owner of the store license then asked her to drop the charges in this case.

"I said if they also drop the charges against me, I will do the same, but he refused. After a few days, the owner demanded me to sign a termination letter stating that I was not following the rules of the store and was filing many false claims. When I refused to sign, he struck me strongly

on my face, so I went to the police station of The Avenues mall and to the clinic there, then went to Sabah Hospital to get a medical report, then went to the police station. The police officer asked me if I wanted to go back to work, but I refused as I didn't feel safe there anymore," she said.

Shirin also filed a complaint at PAM to transfer her visa to another company, but they refused. "The employee there told me that I can either continue working in this store or leave the country, although I have worked there for about five years. He asked me to submit an adjudication, but I explained that the case is still in court. So now I can't work somewhere else without this transfer. The company wants to cause me harm and cancel my visa. The employee of PAM advised me to leave the country and come back on a new visa, but this is very difficult, and most probably I won't be able to come back," she stressed.

Shirin is now an illegal resident as her visa expired in July. "I was born in Kuwait and have lived my whole life here. Even my family is here, so I don't want to leave the country. Also, the situation in my home country Syria is not stable now. The PAM report admitted my financial and labor rights were violated, but didn't allow the visa transfer. I don't know how to pay my rent and other expenses as I'm not receiving a salary since three months. And nobody will employ me if I don't have a transferable visa," she lamented.



**KUWAIT:** A copy of the police station report confirming that the complainant had been subjected to physical assault.

## 498 workers on 99 suspended businesses

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A special committee formed to inspect commercial stores inspected a number of stores in the Capital governorate areas, and discovered hundreds of workers sponsored by businesses which had their licenses suspended. Committee chairman and acting manpower authority director Mubarak Al-Azmi said the committee comprises of elements from the manpower authority, interior and commerce ministries, Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), adding that the committee sends copies of the citations it files to all the above bodies so that each can act according to its responsibilities. Azmi added that the recent campaign found 99 commercial licenses had been suspended from practicing any activities, while they still sponsor 498 workers. "The committee will continue inspecting all malls in various governorates," he concluded.

### Jleeb campaigns

Farwaniya municipality manager Mohammed Sarkhouh denied any

cleaning machinery is out of order, and stressed that the cleaning process is going according to plans and schedules. "Our cleaning teams are always on alert and fully equipped to work on cleaning Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh after official working hours," Sarkhouh added, pointing out that garbage collection trucks and street sweepers work from 4 am till noon. Sarkhouh explained that since the ministerial committee launched its campaigns to clean Jleeb, inspection teams demolished 16 cafes built on public property, 280 parking shades, 380 commercial shades, 25 shacks, 660 metal and chain barriers, 32 metal stairs and 50 blocks in corridors between buildings, disconnected electricity to 46 houses, removed 15,755 tons of waste, filed 96 cleaning and peddler citations, confiscated 70 tons of food items and removed five truckloads of used tires.

### Waste separation

Municipal Council Member Abdul Salam Al-Randi yesterday filed a number of inquiries asking the Municipality's executive body about separating waste in garbage collection trucks. Randi inquired whether garbage was separated in collection trucks or somewhere else, whether those trucks have special parking locations or are parked in residential areas, whether cleaners do part-time jobs after official working hours and asked about penalties imposed on cleaning companies in case any of the abovementioned violations are detected.

## Indian women trafficked to Kuwait get help from neighbor

**KUWAIT:** Two Indian women were allegedly trafficked to Kuwait by a compatriot in India, local Indian newspapers reported yesterday. The two women, a 24 year old woman and her 45 year old mother, were promised well-paying office jobs by a recruitment agent in Tamil Nadu. But upon arrival in Kuwait, they both had their passports confiscated and were sent to work as domestic helpers. The mother-daughter duo worked in

different houses and the mother was sent to work in a home in Saudi Arabia, reported The Hindu yesterday. The women eventually managed, after several months of captivity, to place an international call back home to a neighbor to tell them what had happened.

"They were kept prisoners at their last employer's house, but after several months, they got the opportunity to make an international call and contacted their neighbor on November 26. They told him about the trafficker and shared his contact details," The Hindu quoted local police as saying.

The neighbor, a 30 year old taxi driver, then lured the trafficker to a meeting and eventually took him by force to the police station in India where a complaint was filed and the alleged trafficker was arrested. The fate of the two women in Kuwait or their current whereabouts remains unknown.

## Plant project referred to prosecution over corruption charges

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Responding to State Audit Bureau remarks and in an effort to boost fighting corruption, transparency and fighting violators, the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) referred the Egaila drainage plant project to the public prosecution. In this regard, informed sources said MPW made direct accusations against 12 of its officials, including engineers and heads of departments responsible for the project. The sources added that the Audit Bureau had recommended holding the team in charge of the project accountable last year but referral to the public prosecution was delayed because the minister ordered forming a special investigation committee to scrutinize the accusations.

"The project cost state treasury an extra KD 39 million, in addition to KD 28 million in operation and maintenance-related problems," the sources explained, noting that the

abovementioned violations had been committed in the period of 2006 to 2009, during which the total area the project covered was reduced from 360,000 sq m to only 180,000 sq m. In addition, the sources said the public prosecution might summon more former MPW officials for testimony and that more suspects may be found to be involved.

### Sentence upheld

The court of cassation yesterday upheld a verdict to imprison former National Islamic Alliance secretary general Hussein Al-Maatouq (in absentia) to five years in jail over charges of covering up suspects accused of espionage with Iran. Maatouq had fled to Iran after other suspects had been arrested in the Abdaly case and is still there. Meanwhile, the court of appeal annulled a previous verdict sentencing two suspects to seven years in prison and acquitted them of charges of forging Kuwaiti citizenship.

### Salaries received

The Ministry of Education's services department manager Fahd Al-Hayyan stressed that all hospitality company employees who protested outside the ministry Sunday have received their overdue salaries from the company and underlined that ministry will never tolerate such practices by contracted companies.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House's booth at the fair.

## KFH participates in PAAET job fair

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's (PAAET) job fair in efforts to attract and qualify distinguished national talents. A specialized team from the Human Resources department at KFH provided information about employment and the relevant conditions and terms, importance of human resources role in corporates. Also, KFH explored the need to determine the career path and the employer, as well the local job market requirements.

In line with the relevant parties, KFH pays attention to strengthen its role and efforts to attract and develop the local skills as per the international standards. Thanks to the growth opportunity and its large market share, KFH continues employing and developing the Kuwaiti youth to achieve the desired success in all areas. During 2019, KFH

participated as a platinum sponsor in the exhibition "Because You Deserve 2" which was hosted by the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program, with the aim of providing jobs for Kuwaiti youth in the private sector, specifically in banks and financial institutions. Also, the Bank participated in the 24th Kuwait University Job Fair, which was organized by the College of Business Administration. KFH Participated in the career fair at AUK. The bank took part in a job fair held in the US for Kuwaiti students on the sidelines of the annual conference of the National Union of the Kuwaiti Students NUKS-USA branch.

KFH has also participated in various job exhibitions organized in Kuwait, either by official bodies or by public or private universities. Additionally, KFH is the only bank to launch the "Forsah" program for young outstanding Kuwaiti graduates to develop their skills and equip them with the highest standards to enter the job market. KFH confirms its leadership in attracting and qualifying national youth cadres and reflects its localization efforts and the comprehensive strategy it follows to develop and provide talents with training.

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Local

# Zain recognizes top performing Kuwaiti students in United States

## Company held Zain Football Tournament during NUKS USA conference

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, recognized the top ten Kuwaiti students in the United States as part of its Platinum Sponsorship of the 36th annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA) in San Diego.

Zain is proud to be the Platinum Sponsor of the conference, continuing its role as a main supporter of the event for 16 years. The conference is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaiti students abroad, and Zain's support comes in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the youth and education sectors, as well as its belief in connecting with the country's youth abroad.

Zain recognized the top ten Kuwaiti students in the United States with the aim of shedding light on their outstanding academic performance, which positively reflected Kuwait abroad. The company also organized the Zain Football Tournament for students participating in the conference. The tournament witnessed exciting competition from the participants, and Zain awarded the winning teams.

As it does every year, Zain contributed to the event by organizing a number of unique activities and programs. The company sponsored a special sports seminar that featured many distinguished Kuwaiti athletes, and hosted a special workshop that discussed accelerating tech startups and featured many successful entrepreneurs. Zain also took part in a special exhibition for sponsors, where it offered its exclusive promotions to students, presented its available career opportunities, as well as showcased its leading experience in the telecom sector. In addition, the company has prepared a number of surprises for students who will be visiting the event.

Zain recently announced one of the biggest surprises it prepared for students studying abroad, especially in the United States: an all-new offer that allows students who own postpaid lines to keep their numbers while studying abroad for KD 3 monthly only, with 1 GB of free local Internet that can be used when coming back home during holidays. Zain specially designed this offer to meet the needs and aspirations of students abroad, who usually lose their local numbers because of inactivity while studying abroad. The company was keen on presenting this offer to allow them to easily keep their numbers.



Zain recognizes one of the top students.



Zain recognizes Zain Football Tournament's champions.



NUKS USA recognizes Waleed Al-Khashti for Zain's sponsorship of the conference.



From Zain's Football Tournament.

The NUKS USA conference featured many unique activities, including a workshop entitled 'Phonorizma' for creating a charismatic brand through social media and smartphones, a self-development workshop for female students, and an economic seminar. The event also hosted the stars of Kuwait Pulse 88.8 FM, and a concert by popular Kuwaiti band Miami. All these activities and more featured many public/media figures, politicians, social activists, athletes, and more.

Zain's presence in the event conveys its enthusiasm to interact with the future generations of Kuwaiti youth, especially those who pursue their education abroad, as the NUKS USA conference is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaitis outside of Kuwait, and welcomes students from all around the US. The distinctive event appeals to students on both an intellectual and social levels and it serves as an open forum for them to exchange opinions and views regarding important domestic issues with the presence of distinguished national figures from the Kuwaiti society.

Zain sees its annual participation in the conference as part of its responsibility as a leading national company to help provide bright and enthusiastic young Kuwaitis with a great social experience, as well as listen to their ideas and experiences while pursuing their education abroad.

The National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA) serves nearly 10,000 Kuwaiti students studying in the United States. The Union aims, through its events

and programs, to connect Kuwaiti students with each other on one level, and with their nation and the latest updates of the Kuwaiti community on another. NUKS USA was publicized in the USA and was granted the recognition of the United States government. The achievement is considered a proud milestone for Kuwait's youth, and is a direct result of the great relations between the State of Kuwait and United States. Such a recognition is a clear reflection of the strategic relations between the two nations.

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Evacuations, airport closure as typhoon nears Philippines

France honors 13 troops killed in Mali helicopter disaster



BASRA: An Iraqi woman raises her fist as she takes part in an anti-government march in the center of this southern city yesterday. —AFP

# Iraq parties in talks over new PM

## Qassem Soleimani in town amid unrelenting protests

BAGHDAD: Iraq's rival parties were negotiating the contours of a new government yesterday, after the previous cabinet was brought down by a two-month protest movement insisting on even more deep-rooted change. After just over a year in power, premier Adel Abdel Mahdi formally resigned Sunday after a dramatic intervention by top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani. That followed a wave of violence that pushed the protest toll to over 420 dead - the vast majority demonstrators.

Parliament on Sunday formally tasked President Barham Saleh with naming a new candidate, as prescribed by the constitution. But Iraq's competing factions typically engage in drawn-out discussions and horse-trading before any official decisions are made. Talks over a new premier began even before Abdel Mahdi's formal resignation, a senior political source and a government official told AFP. "The meetings are ongoing

now," the political source added.

Such discussions produced Abdel Mahdi as a candidate in 2018, but agreeing on a single name is expected to be more difficult this time around. "They understand it has to be a figure who is widely accepted by the diverse centers of power, not objected to by the marjajyah (Shiite religious establishment), and not hated by the street," said Harith Hasan, a fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center.

The candidate would also have to be acceptable to Iraq's two main allies, arch-rivals Washington and Tehran. "The Iranians invested a lot in the political equation in last few years and won't be willing to give up easily," said Hasan. Tehran's pointman on Iraq Qassem Soleimani, who heads the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' foreign operations arm, was in Iraq for talks on the political crisis, government sources told AFP.

### 'Two sides of the same coin'

Protesters hit the streets in October in Iraq's capital and Shiite-majority south to denounce the ruling system as corrupt, inept and under the sway of foreign powers. Iraq is the 12th most corrupt country in the world, according to Transparency International. Despite the oil wealth of OPEC's second-biggest crude producer, one in five people lives below the poverty line and youth unemployment stands at one quarter, the World Bank says.

Demonstrators say those systemic problems require more deep-rooted solutions than Abdel Mahdi's resignation. "We demand the entire government be changed from its roots up," said Mohammad Al-Mashhadani, doctor protesting in Baghdad's iconic Tahrir (Liberation) Square yesterday. Nearby, young law student Abdelmajid Al-Jumaili said that meant that the parliament and even the president would have to go. "If

they get rid of Abdel Mahdi and bring someone else from the political class, then nothing changed. They'd just be two sides of the same coin," said Jumaili.

But the protesters' demand for an entirely new face has complicated the search for a new premier. Two political heavyweights said they had opted out of talks on a new PM: Former premier Haider Al-Abadi and the unpredictable cleric Moqtada Sadr, who had backed the previous government until protests erupted. "They're aware the bar is too high and it's too difficult for them to please the street," said Hasan.

At the same time, a totally new player is unlikely to be trusted by the established political class. "The discussions now are over someone from the second or third tier of politicians," the government source told AFP. "It's not possible to have someone new. It has to be someone who understands the political machine to push things along." —AFP

## Ukraine president denies quid pro quo with Trump



UNITED NATIONS: This file photo taken on Sept 25, 2019 shows US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. —AFP

BERLIN: Ukraine's president yesterday renewed his denial of a quid pro quo with Donald Trump over military aid, despite a growing case against the US president in impeachment proceedings in Washington. "I did not speak with US President Trump in those terms: you give me this, I give you that," Volodymyr Zelensky said in an interview with European publications including Germany's Der Spiegel magazine.

In remarks published in German, Zelensky said he "did not understand at all" the accusations heard at the hearings and did not "want to give an impression that we are beggars" in Ukraine. The scandal centers around a phone conversation on July 25 in which the Republican leader is suspected of putting pressure on Ukraine to launch investigations against former Democratic vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who worked for a Ukrainian gas company.

The key issue is whether Trump set up a "quid pro quo" - Latin for seeking one action in exchange for another - with Zelensky by holding back promised US military aid for Ukraine until the Bidens were investigated. In the interview published yesterday, Zelensky also played down expectations ahead of a summit on December 9 in Paris in which he is set to meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin for the first time. He said that an end to the conflict with Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine could not be discussed until three preliminary steps had been taken. He said there should first be a prisoner exchange within a "reasonable time period", followed by a genuine ceasefire and the retreat of all armed forces to allow local elections to be held in the region. "If these three issues are resolved, then we can see if everyone wants to put an end to the conflict." The conflict in Ukraine, which broke out in 2014 after pro-Western politicians took power in Kiev and Russia annexed Crimea, has killed more than 13,000 people. —AFP

## Morales victim of 'coup,' says AMLO during celebration

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Sunday that former Bolivian leader Evo Morales was the "victim of a coup d'etat". The leftist president, nicknamed AMLO, celebrated his first year in office with a speech to throngs of supporters in Mexico City. While detailing budget and tax policies, and the ongoing fight against corruption, Lopez Obrador touched on Mexico's foreign policy by recalling his government's decision to accept Morales as an asylum seeker.

"Evo was the victim of a coup d'etat! And from Mexico, we tell the world, 'Yes to democracy, no to militarism!'" AMLO said during the rally in the central Plaza del Zocalo. The square was packed with people, and musical groups performed alongside AMLO's speech. It also marked the first time that Lopez Obrador, who has been in office for a year, spoke directly about the circumstances that led to Morales's departure from Bolivia.

Morales resigned on Nov 10 amid swelling protests over what political opponents said was his rigging of October 20 elections. He fled to Mexico the following day after losing the support of the military and police, claiming to be the victim of a coup. While echoing Morales's claim Sunday, AMLO called the exiled leader "our brother, who represents with dignity the majority of indigenous people of Bolivia."

Morales has yet to meet publicly with Lopez Obrador.



MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador waves as he raises his wife Beatriz Gutierrez Muller's hand during a rally marking his first year in office at Zocalo Square on Sunday. —AFP

He was welcomed on arrival to Mexico by Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard. Lopez Obrador's one-year anniversary was marred by a shootout Saturday afternoon near the US border between suspected drug traffickers and police, leaving 20 dead. Police reported earlier that 21 people had been killed but subsequently corrected the number.

Shooting continued into early Sunday, and authorities said that four of those killed were police, 14 were suspected criminals and another three bodies were unidentified. The shootout comes after Lopez Obrador warned he would not allow the US to conduct cross-border armed operations against drug cartels in the country. —AFP



## International

# Turkey not 'blackmailing' NATO over Baltics defense plan rejection

## Greece to ask for NATO support over Turkish-Libyan military agreement

**ANKARA:** Turkey is not blackmailing NATO with its rejection of a defense plan for the Baltics and Poland, and has full veto rights within the alliance, a Turkish security source said yesterday ahead of a NATO alliance summit in London. Reuters reported last week that Turkey was refusing to back a NATO defence plan for the Baltics and Poland until it received more support for its battle with the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which it views as a terrorist organization.

Ankara has said the impasse was caused by the United States withdrawing support from a separate defense plan for Turkey, covering any possible attack from the south where it borders Syria, and that it wanted the issue resolved. "NATO is an institution where Turkey has full veto rights, politically and militarily, and there are procedures here," the source said. "There is no such thing as Turkey blackmailing - a statement like that is unacceptable."

A diplomatic source told Reuters last week that Turkey was "taking eastern Europeans hostage" by blocking approval of the military planning, and a second source call Ankara's behavior "disruptive". NATO

envoys need formal approval by all 29 members for the plan to improve the defense of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia against any threat from neighboring Russia. A Turkish diplomatic source later said Turkey was "open to offers", and that NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg was trying to find common ground between the allies.

However, relations between Turkey and its NATO allies have been strained over a host of issues ranging from Ankara's decision to procure Russian air defense systems to Syria policy. Several NATO members condemned Turkey's decision last month to launch an offensive into northeastern Syria against the YPG. Turkey, which has NATO's second largest military, wants the alliance to formally classify the YPG, the main component of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), as terrorists. It has been infuriated over the support NATO allies have given the YPG, a Western partner in fighting Islamic State militants.

Last week, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu accused French President Emmanuel Macron of sponsoring terrorism in his support for the

YPG, after Macron said Turkey should not expect solidarity from NATO after its Syria incursion. Macron has also criticized NATO ahead of the summit, saying the alliance was experiencing a "brain death". Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan lambasted his remarks on Friday, telling the French leader to "check whether you are brain dead."

Meanwhile, Greece will seek support from NATO at the summit in London this week following a military deal signed by Turkey and Libya's UN-recognized government, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said on Sunday. Erdogan met with the head of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj, on Wednesday to sign agreements on security and military cooperation, as well as maritime jurisdictions.

The agreements have also raised hackles in Egypt and Cyprus, according to the UN's Libya envoy Ghassan Salame. "An alliance cannot remain indifferent when one of its members openly violates international law and aims (to harm) another member," Mitsotakis said in a speech to his New Democracy party on

Sunday. Greece last week expressed its dissatisfaction with the accord and summoned the ambassadors of Turkey and Libya in Greece to ask for information on its content.

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias on Sunday met his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Choukry in Cairo to discuss the matter. The deal comes despite calls from the Arab League - which includes Libya - to end cooperation with Turkey in protest of its military offensive against Kurdish forces in Syria last month. Libya has been mired in chaos since a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE back Khalifa Haftar, a military strongman in eastern Libya who launched an offensive in April in a bid to seize Tripoli from fighters loyal to the GNA. Turkey and Qatar openly support his rival Sarraj. Located in the south-eastern Mediterranean, Greece - a NATO member like Turkey - maintains a delicate relationship with its neighbor, which has become a gateway to Europe with thousands of asylum-seekers flocking to the Greek islands. —Agencies

## Gabon anti-graft drive reshuffles political pack

**LIBREVILLE, Gabon:** The oil-rich central African state of Gabon has carried out a string of top-level arrests and reassignments as it ramps up a drive against corruption. Nearly two dozen people, some of them in the inner circle of power, have been ousted from office, arrested or given other duties. A leading figure is President Ali Bongo Ondimba's chief of staff, Brice Laccruche Alihanga, who has been dismissed from his job, although he retains the rank of minister.

Others are the former director of the National Fund for Health Insurance (CNAMGS), Renaud Allogho Akoue and the head of presidential communications, Ike Nguouoni, who was regarded as Laccruche's right-hand man. Both have been arrested. Key changes have also been made in the intelligence and security forces, under decisions carried out by the president's office. Laccruche adopted a low profile as government minister, though his influence steadily grew after Bongo suffered a stroke in October 2018.

The pro-government daily L'Union reported on Wednesday that more than 85 billion CFA francs (\$142 million), had disappeared from the funds of the Gabon Oil Company (GOC) over the

past two years. GOC is a state firm run by Patrichi Tanasa, who is close to Laccruche. Tanasa has been in custody since late November. An investigation by L'Union also targeted the Dupont Consulting Company, whose executives included Laccruche's brother Gregory Laccruche, a businessman and mayor of Akanda, a coastal town northwest of Libreville. Gregory Laccruche was detained on Wednesday, a source close to the presidency told AFP.

### 'Vendetta'

The public prosecutor said that suspects have been charged with embezzlement and money laundering. "This is a political vendetta," declared Boris Rosenthal, aide to detained presidential spokesman Nguouoni. Bongo's office said the inquiry has no political link. "Whatever your position, if there are suspicions against you, you do not have impunity. Now it's up to the judiciary to do its work and to decide," said Jessye Ella Ekogha, who has replaced Nguouoni.

Current investigations are a follow-up to Operation Mamba, an anti-corruption campaign launched by Bongo in 2017, Ekogha said. Bongo himself chaired an extraordinary council of the judiciary last Friday, a first in his 10 years in office, which began with an election in 2009 after the death of his father, Omar Bongo, ruler of Gabon for 41 years. After the council session, Libreville's chief prosecutor Olivier N'Zahou lost his position in the capital to be appointed



**LIBREVILLE:** In this file photo taken on Aug 17, 2019, Gabon's President Ali Bongo and his wife Sylvia Bongo are flanked by then Bongo's cabinet director Brice Laccruche Alihanga (second right) during the country's independence day celebration. —AFP

general attorney of Franceville, at the far end of the country.

"Mr N'Zahou is hiding because he is being followed and has the impression that someone wants to do away with him," said lawyer Anges Kevin Nzigou, who represents about a dozen suspects. "The common point in all these arrests is Laccruche Alihanga. You perfectly know this yourselves. The starting point for all these arrests is Laccruche Alihanga's dismissal," he said. Earlier this year, Bongo appointed Lee White, a British-born green activist who has

lived in Gabon for three decades and become a citizen, as new minister of water and forests.

His predecessor, Guy Bertrand Mapangou, was fired over a scandal involving illegal logging of kevangano, a precious and protected wood, by a Chinese firm. Running in parallel with this political upheaval is continuing speculation about Bongo's health. Part of the Gabonese opposition continues to call for an expert assessment on his condition to see if he is fit to run the country. —AFP

## New broom at UN nuclear watchdog as Iran tensions rise

**VIENNA:** Veteran Argentine diplomat Rafael Grossi was sworn in yesterday as the new director general of the UN's nuclear watchdog the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He told reporters that Iran's nuclear program - at the root of a growing international crisis - was a "priority" for the agency and that he planned to travel to Iran in "the relatively near future".

### Who is Rafael Grossi?

Grossi had been serving as Argentina's ambassador to the IAEA and is the agency's first leader from Latin America. He previously held high-level posts at the agency between 2010 and 2013 bringing him into contact with Iranian officials at a time when international negotiations over Iran's nuclear activities were intensifying. According to the former French ambassador to Iran Francois Nicoulaud, Grossi will be able to draw on "solid experience in proliferation matters".

"He is someone of a very high calibre who comes from an important country in the nuclear field," says Nicoulaud. A current Vienna-based diplomat said on condition of anonymity that Grossi was expected to bring "a lot of energy and innovation" to the post, with a particular focus

on pushing gender parity within the agency and promoting the role of nuclear energy in fighting climate change.

Grossi will be taking over from Yukiya Amano, who died in July at the age of 72 having been in post since 2009. While the US is thought to have lobbied in his favor, diplomats say Grossi has stressed his belief in the importance of the agency's impartiality.

### Iran crisis looms

Grossi begins his tenure amid a growing crisis over Iran's nuclear program. The IAEA is charged with monitoring the implementation of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which seems in danger of imminent collapse. Without mentioning Iran specifically, Grossi told reporters yesterday that his approach to inspections would be "firm and fair". "An inspector is not a friend," he said.

Earlier in his first speech to member states, he said that only the IAEA "can provide this credible assurance that nobody is diverting nuclear material to make nuclear weapons". Since May, Iran has taken a series of measures breaking limits on its nuclear activities laid down in the 2015 deal, with another one likely in early January. Iran insists it has the right to do this in retaliation for the US withdrawal from the deal in 2018 and reimposition of crippling sanctions.

Ali Vaez from the International Crisis Group says the deal could collapse in a matter of weeks. "The Iranians are simply running out of measures that are easy to reverse and non-controversial," he says. Vaez added that a fresh Iranian move to breach the deal could finally push the European signatories to trigger the "dispute resolution mechanism"

market, said it was the most frightening bombardment he had witnessed in years.

"We ran inside the shops and threw ourselves on the ground," the father of five told AFP. "They bombarded half the market. Our neighbors were killed," as were two women in a car who had come to do some shopping, he said. The Observatory said two others died in Russian and regime bombardment in other parts of the province. Regime forces and armed groups were locked in heavy clashes on the southeastern edge of the region, with almost 100 fighters killed in two days, the Britain-based monitor said. The battles on the edge of Idlib since Saturday are the most deadly since a Russia-brokered ceasefire went into effect in late August, it said.

### Fighting rages

"Fighting raged at dawn Monday on several axes in the southeastern Idlib countryside," the monitoring group said. Fifty-four regime fighters had been killed, while 47 of their opponents including 33 jihadists had also lost their lives since Saturday, the Observatory said. The Syrian government does not usually divulge casualty figures. The Idlib region is one of the last hold-



**VIENNA:** Newly-sworn Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi speaks during a press conference on the sidelines of the Second Special Session of the General Conference of the IAEA at the agency's headquarters yesterday. —AFP

foreseen in the 2015 accord - which in turn could lead to the automatic resumption of UN sanctions on Iran.

The return of those sanctions would mark the "death blow" of the agreement, according to Kelsey Davenport of the Arms Control Association. In such a scenario, says Vaez, "we will have a major non-proliferation crisis on our hands in the sense that the Russians and the Chinese have already declared they would not recognise the return of (sanctions)". Some expect that in this scenario Iran would leave the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). —AFP



**MAARET AL-NUMAN, Syria:** A member of the Syrian Civil Defense (White Helmets) and civilians recover a victim following a regime air strike yesterday in a market in this town in the province of Idlib. —AFP

outs of opposition groups to the forces backing Assad. The president has long maintained that his government will eventually reimpose its control over the northwestern region on the border with Turkey. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Morocco bus crash kills 17

**RABAT:** A bus crash in northern Morocco killed 17 people as the vehicle overturned, the health ministry said yesterday, in the second such accident in North Africa the same day. The bus crashed on Sunday near Taza, a town between the Rif and Atlas mountains, local authorities said, with the cause of the accident unclear. The ministry told AFP the death toll had risen to 17, while 36 others were injured. An investigation was opened into the accident at Taza, 120 km east of Fez, authorities said. Public television 2M tweeted a photograph of the bus's interior reduced to a mass of metal. Elsewhere in North Africa, a bus crash in Tunisia also Sunday killed at least 26 people as the vehicle plunged into a ravine in the mountainous northwest. —AFP

#### Botswana executes murderer

**GABORONE:** Botswana yesterday hanged a 44-year-old man for murdering his boss, prisons services announced, despite mounting criticism from rights groups and the European Union. Mooketsi Kgosisodiba was hanged at Gaborone Central Prison "in the early morning hours", the prison said, in the first execution since President Mokgweetsi Masisi was elected to office in October. In 2017, Kgosisodiba received a death sentence for the 2012 murder of his employer and his appeal was dismissed last year. Two other people were hanged last year in the face of global condemnation, Amnesty International describing Botswana as the "only country in Southern Africa that consistently executes people". —AFP

#### 14 killed in Burkina church attack

**OUGADOUGOU:** Fourteen people were killed in an attack Sunday on a church in eastern Burkina Faso where places of worship have suffered a string of assaults this year, the regional government said. "Unidentified armed men" carried out the attack during a Sunday service at a Protestant church in the town of Hantoukoura near the border with Niger, the government statement said. "This attack unfortunately left 14 dead and many wounded," it said. Soldiers in the region were hunting down the assailants, who fled on scooters, a security source said earlier. The poor West African country has suffered a series of attacks on Christian targets since February, leaving 21 dead before Sunday's attack. Burkina Faso's population is around two-thirds Muslim and one-third Christian. —AFP

#### Ex-Chad PM arrested

**N'DJAMENA:** A Chadian minister, who served as the country's premier from 2013-16 was arrested on Sunday over fraud allegations, a police spokesman told AFP. Kalzeube Pahimi Deubet was detained following a complaint from the state inspectorate general for fraud, the spokesman said. Currently secretary-general of the presidency, his post involves coordinating government action. As well as the premiership, he has also held a number of ministerial positions. Chad President Idriss Deby Itno, who has governed the poor, oil-rich state since 1990, last year vowed to crack down on entrenched graft. The landlocked country has a history of political violence and corruption. It was ranked 165th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index. —AFP

#### France cancels boat offer to Libya

**PARIS:** Rights groups hailed yesterday a French decision to drop plans to offer six boats to Libya's coast guard. French officials confirmed they had cancelled the delivery after eight NGOs filed a lawsuit against the move, criticizing Libya's treatment of migrants. Lola Schulmann of Amnesty France - one of the NGOs involved in the case - told AFP she hoped the decision would mark "a turning point in relations between France and Libya in terms of migration policy". "This transfer was initially planned to help Libya, but the ministry has decided not to deliver the vessels to this state," the army ministry wrote on Nov 26 to the administrative appeals court in Paris. The rights groups, which also included Doctors Without Borders, praised the cancellation of an offer they said would have made France "complicit in the crimes committed against migrants and refugees in Libya". —AFP

## Air strikes kill 15 civilians in northwest Syria

**MAARET AL-NUMAN, Syria:** Air strikes killed 15 civilians yesterday in Syria's last major opposition bastion where deadly clashes between regime forces and armed groups have escalated in recent days, a monitoring group said. The Idlib region - home to around three million people including many displaced by Syria's eight-year civil war - is largely under the control of a group dominated by a former Al-Qaeda affiliate.

Air raids by President Bashar Al-Assad's regime killed 13 civilians in a market in the Idlib town of Maaret Al-Numan, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. An AFP correspondent saw rescue workers carry a wounded man away on a stretcher while a body lay motionless amid spill oranges and bags of onions. Maher Mohammed, 35, a vendor in the



## International

# France honors 13 troops killed in helicopter disaster in Mali

## Macron bestows the Legion d'Honneur on the fallen soldiers

**PARIS:** Hundreds of people gathered in Paris on Monday to honor 13 soldiers killed while battling jihadist insurgents in Mali, ahead of a national ceremony to mourn a disaster that has prompted soul-searching over the costs of the six-year campaign in West Africa. Sporadic applause punctuated somber silence as a motorcade bearing the coffins crossed the Alexandre III bridge toward the Invalides military hospital and museum.

The soldiers died when two helicopters collided last Monday while pursuing jihadists in northern Mali where militant violence has soared in recent months. It was the biggest single-day loss for the French military in nearly four decades and raised fresh questions about the effectiveness of France's 4,500-member Barkhane operation in Mali and four other countries in the Sahel.

Margot Louvet, 23, came from Gap in southeast France for the procession, wearing a T-shirt with the official portrait of one of the soldiers killed, her friend Antoine Serre, 22. "He was a pearl, the kindest and most generous," she told AFP. "Being here is a way to mourn him, and realize that he won't be coming back."

President Emmanuel Macron led the commemoration in the afternoon, and bestowed the Legion d'Honneur on the fallen soldiers. Some 2,500 people were expected to attend, and the ceremony was broadcast on a giant screen set up outside the Invalides. "It's an honor to be here," Emmanuelle Pujol, 54, said on the Alexandre III bridge. "It's important that people be here to support their comrades and the families."

### 'All options on the table'

The French forces in Mali are tasked with training local security forces to take on the jihadists, but so far these remain woefully unprepared despite years of pledges of more international funding and equipment. Forty-one French soldiers have now died in the Sahel over the past six years. The intervention began in 2013, when insurgents

swept into Mali's north and rapidly advanced before being pushed back.

But despite France's presence the jihadists have regrouped to carry out deadly attacks and violence has spread to neighboring countries. Macron said the government would begin a thorough review of Barkhane in the wake of the helicopter accident, vowing that "all options are on the table". He also reiterated his call for EU allies to step up their participation in the West Africa operation after years of failing to secure significant support.

Only Britain has contributed helicopters and security personnel, while the US provides intelligence on jihadist movements across an area the size of Western Europe. So far, only the far-left France Unbowed party has openly called for the Barkhane troops to be brought home. An Ifop poll for the Lettre de l'Expansion newsletter, published yesterday, showed that 58 percent of respondents approve the Sahel operation, a level hardly changed from a previous poll in March 2013.

### Cartoon controversy

Controversy flared over the weekend after the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo published a series of cartoons online associating the 13 soldiers' deaths with the army's recent recruitment campaign. In one drawing, Macron stands before a coffin in front of the slogan: "I joined the ranks to stand out from the crowd." The French army's chief of staff, General Thierry Burkhard, expressed his "indignation" at the cartoons, saying in an open letter they sullied the period of mourning for the bereaved families.

The magazine's editor Laurent "Riss" Sourisseau defended on Sunday the magazine's "satirical spirit", while acknowledging the importance of the work of the French army and the soldiers' sacrifice. "We know that their mission is difficult and that they are dealing with merciless enemies," he wrote in a response to Burkhard, seen by AFP. Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita will also



**PARIS:** French President Emmanuel Macron reviews the guards of honor during a tribute ceremony yesterday at the Invalides monument for the 13 French soldiers killed in Mali. — AFP

attend the ceremony, as he tries to defuse growing hostility at home to French and other foreign forces helping to fight Islamic militants. Two Malian gendarmes were shot dead Sunday in the eastern town of Menaka, a local official said. Keita on Saturday urged Malians not to "bite the

hands of those who give us theirs today". Since January, more than 1,500 civilians have been killed in jihadist violence in Mali and Burkina Faso, and more than one million people have been internally displaced across the five countries, the UN said this month. — AFP

## 9 trampled to death after police enter Sao Paulo favela

**SAO PAULO:** At least nine people were trampled to death and two others were injured early Sunday in the chaotic aftermath of a police raid in a poor Sao Paulo neighborhood, authorities there said. Residents blamed the police for causing the panicked stampede, local media reported. The dead included a woman, seven men and a 14-year-old boy, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson Massera, a police spokesman, told reporters.

He said a unit of 38 military police had carried out an

operation in the southern favela of Paraisopolis when two men on a motorcycle fired at the troops before fleeing in the direction of a nearby street party, where they continued firing, sparking the stampede. He said some 5,000 people had gathered for a "funk dance", a weekend street party popular in poorer districts of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

### Neighbors demand justice

But the mother of a 17-year-old girl injured in the incident told the website G1 that the police were to blame. She said police sparked the stampede after they closed a street, lobbed pepper-gas canisters and fired rubber bullets. "It was a policeman who attacked my daughter with a glass bottle," said the woman, who did not give her name. She went on: "When I saw her, I didn't recognize her. Her face was deformed, and she lost a lot of blood."

Globo television broadcast a video showing a person

being kicked by a policeman, and said it had been filmed by a favela resident. The Paraisopolis neighborhood association denounced the police action. "Early this morning, young people were cornered in alleyways and killed," it said in a statement on social media. "We demand justice."

Paraisopolis is one of Sao Paulo's largest favelas, with 50,000 inhabitants. Many of them live in ramshackle houses along unpaved streets lacking basic services. Locals defend the funk dances as an important outlet for the young. But police spokesman Emiliano da Silva Neto said the parties provide cover for crime and illicit drug use, adding, "It's out of control."

Massera said that as police chased the two shooters into the street where the party was underway, they were met with a hail of stones and responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades. Da Silva Neto said all those who died had been trampled, and none had been shot. The military police have launched an investigation. — AFP



**PERTUIS, France:** A firefighter carries dead lambs from a shed on a farm in southern France yesterday following fresh torrential rains. — AFP

## 3 French rescuers die in copter crash in flood-hit south

**MARSEILLE:** Three French emergency workers were killed when their helicopter crashed while on a mission to rescue victims of severe flooding in the south of France as a new spate of bad weather claimed two more lives, officials said yesterday. Eleven people have now been killed in the last 10 days in southeastern France, which has been battered by two successive Mediterranean storms marked by torrential rain, heavy flooding and high winds.

Their EC145 helicopter lost radio and radar contact while on a rescue and reconnaissance flight in the Var region Sunday night. The three - a pilot, a technician and a rescue specialist from the fire brigade - were found dead at 1:30 am (00:30 GMT) near the town of Rove, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said in a statement. Investigators are trying to determine the circumstances of the crash. Fog might have caused bad visibility at the time.

President Emmanuel Macron said in a message on Twitter that the whole country supported the rescuers' families and colleagues. The crash came as Macron honored 13 French soldiers who died when their helicopters collided in Mali last week

in an operation against jihadists. "While France is preparing today to pay tribute to 13 of its soldiers who died serving it (in Mali), our country is losing three everyday heroes who gave their lives to protect the French," Castaner said.

Two other people were killed on Sunday by the floods in the French Riviera region, which has been hit by torrential rains a week after extreme weather left six dead. In the Var region, a shepherd was swept away as he was trying to cross a river in his jeep while tending to his flock. His body was found in his vehicle late Sunday night about 300 m downstream from where he was last seen, the prefecture said early yesterday.

Elsewhere in the region, a stable owner was found dead two hours after he was also washed away while out watching over his animals, it said. The Var and the neighboring Alpes-Maritimes region were on red alert for floods, which disrupted train services and cut the A8 motorway for four hours Sunday evening. Many cultural and sporting events were also called off due to the bad weather, including Paris Saint-Germain's Ligue 1 match at Monaco. — AFP

## Billionaire Czech PM under pressure over EU audit

**PRAGUE:** Pressure mounted on billionaire Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis yesterday to disclose an EU audit thought to prove his conflict of interest as a politician and entrepreneur. Czech opposition parties and a transparency watchdog cried foul after Babis failed to address the contents of the report that the European Commission sent to Prague on Friday, but did not make public.

A preliminary audit leaked this spring showed Babis has a conflict of interest as prime minister and the owner of the sprawling Agrofert food, chemicals and media holding. "Judging by the secrecy and endless cautiousness, the Commission... will confirm the conflict of interest," David Ondracka, head of the Transparency International (TI) anti-corruption watchdog, said yesterday.

"We cannot have a subsidy fraudster staying on as prime minister," he added, referring to allegations that Babis abused EU subsidies in connection with his Agrofert business interests. Babis has denied he has a conflict of interest, saying he complied with the law when he had transferred Agrofert to a trust fund.

But a Slovak business registry has shown that Babis, the fourth wealthiest

Czech according to Forbes magazine, is still raking in profits from Agrofert's units in Slovakia. TI and the opposition anti-establishment Pirate Party asked the European Commission last year whether Agrofert was entitled to receive billions in EU agricultural subsidies if Babis still controls it.

They used information from beneficial ownership registers introduced across the EU last year as part of the bloc's drive against money laundering. As the Czech register is not fully public, they used the Slovak one which showed 37 Agrofert units with Babis listed as the beneficial owner, and 28 listing his wife Monika, who also sits on the board of both trust funds in charge of Agrofert.

Agrofert received EU subsidies worth 1.8 billion koruna (\$78 million) in 2018 and 2.1 billion koruna in 2017, according to Czech media. The Pirate Party yesterday urged parliamentary opposition parties and the governing coalition's leftwing Social Democrats to force Babis to make the EU audit public. "The professional audits... confirm that Prime Minister Babis has been lying for three years now," Pirate chairman Ivan Bartos said on Facebook, calling on Babis to resign.

Czechs staged two mass protests this year, demanding Babis step down. The demonstrations, in June and November, each drew a quarter-million people, making them the largest since Czechs shed communism in 1989. Babis leads a minority coalition government comprised of his centrist populist ANO (YES) movement and the Social Democrats that relies on the tacit support of Communist Party lawmakers to survive in parliament. — AFP

## Bullock, Sestak exit 2020 US presidential race

**WASHINGTON:** Montana Governor Steve Bullock announced yesterday he is dropping his run for the White House, crowded out of a large field of Democratic presidential hopefuls. Bullock, 53, entered the race late and was never able to make up the lost ground as a moderate whose strongest selling point was his 2016 reelection as governor in a red state won by Donald Trump. "Today, I'm suspending my campaign for President," he said on Twitter. "Thank you for your belief, your trust, and your support."

His departure still leaves 16 Democrats running for their party's nomination with the addition of billionaire Michael Bloomberg on Nov

24. A dozen others have dropped out of the race so far, most recently Joe Sestak, a former congressman from Pennsylvania who ended his long-shot bid on Sunday. Former vice president Joe Biden still leads the pack in national polling, followed by Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg.

Bullock was polling at 0.4 percent nationally when he withdrew, according to a RealClearPolitics.com average, and had failed to make the cut for future Democratic national debates. "While there were many obstacles we could not have anticipated when entering this race, it has become clear that in this moment, I won't be able to break through to the top tier of this still-crowded field of candidates," he said in a statement.

"A moral compass for our great ship of state is the beacon most needed today. And it is for the Captain of State who offers it that all Americans will provide the fair winds and following seas to advance us," Sestak, a retired Navy officer, said on Twitter. "That is necessary for us both at home and abroad, to convene the

### News in brief

#### Boy, 3, shot dead in Kiev

**KIEV:** Police yesterday said they had detained suspects after a three-year-old boy was shot dead in a car in Kiev in an attack targeting his father, a businessman and regional lawmaker. The attacker aimed at the car driver, but the bullet hit the boy who was also inside. Kiev police said after the shooting in the city center on Sunday evening. "The child died from a gunshot wound in the ambulance on the way to the hospital," police said. His father was not injured. Ukrainian media identified the target as Vyacheslav Sobolyev, a restaurant owner and Kiev regional lawmaker who represents the party of ex-president Petro Poroshenko. The shooting took place outside an Italian restaurant he owns, media reported. Investigators were questioning the suspects. — AFP

#### Mauritius installs new president

**PORT LOUIS:** Lawmakers in Mauritius yesterday picked former arts and culture minister Pritivirajsing Roopun as president of the island nation, a largely ceremonial post. His predecessor Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigned in March 2018 after being embroiled in a scandal over her use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items. She denied wrongdoing. In Mauritius, the prime minister is head of the government and holds most political power while the president is head of state but has no executive role and is considered the guardian of the constitution. Roopun, 61, is a lawyer who was first elected to the National Assembly in 2000 and has been minister of regional administration, social integration, and arts and culture. Since attaining independence from Britain in 1968, Mauritius has become one of the most stable democracies in Africa. — AFP

#### 10 hurt in New Orleans shooting

**WASHINGTON:** Ten people were wounded in a shooting early Sunday in New Orleans' French Quarter, a popular tourist hub, US police said, adding that two of the victims were in critical condition. The shooting took place at 3:21 am (09H21 GMT) on a crowded commercial street near many hotels in a historic district that attracts visitors from around the world. There have been no arrests, and the motive behind the shooting remained unclear, but police said they had questioned one individual near the crime scene and were continuing their investigation. The police said they responded quickly to the incident as extra patrols were on duty for an annual Thanksgiving weekend football game. The rivalry between Louisiana universities Grambling State and Southern University annually brings tens of thousands of visitors to the city. — AFP



**CLEAR LAKE, Iowa:** In this file photo taken on Aug 9, 2019 Democratic presidential hopeful Montana Governor Steve Bullock speaks at the Wing Ding Dinner. — AFP

world to advance our policies and commitment to democratic values for our collective good," he continued. A former US congressman representing Pennsylvania, Sestak's campaign had not won great support. — Agencies



## International

# Conservative Muslims rally in Indonesia amid tight security

## President rejects end to direct votes, relaxing term limit

**JAKARTA:** Thousands of Indonesian Muslims from conservative groups held a peaceful rally in central Jakarta yesterday, with a spokesman for one of the organizers calling for unity after a spike in religious tension followed elections last April. Among the protest organizers was the Alumni 212 movement, which was behind big rallies held from 2016 to demand action against Jakarta's former governor, a Christian eventually jailed for blasphemy in a case that drew international condemnation.

The crowd, many wearing white and carrying Islamic flags, began gathering for prayers at Jakarta's National Monument from about 3 am, as more than 6,000 security forces, including police and military, stood on guard. "The main message of this reunion is that Indonesia needs unity that can forget differences and friction that happened some time ago," said Haikal Hassan, a spokesman for Alumni 212, which takes its name from an earlier Dec 2 protest.

However, authorities were unfairly targeting some clerics, he said by telephone. "We want Indonesia to progress with justice. And we feel that there's injustice," Hassan added. The bloc of conservative Muslims also overwhelmingly

backed an opposition challenge to President Joko Widodo in April's vote, fuelling concerns over a deepening religious divide in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country.

Habib Rizieq, the leader of the hardline Islamic Defenders' Front (FPI), urged vigilance against future blasphemy cases in a speech by live video link from Saudi Arabia, where he has lived since 2017, after being named a suspect in several legal cases. More than 12,000 people participated in the rally, said Jakarta police spokesman Yusri Yunus, although organizers put the figure much higher. Security analyst Stanislaus Riyanta said a decision by former opposition leader Prabowo Subianto, whom Widodo defeated in April's poll, to join the cabinet as defense minister appeared to have undermined the 212 movement.

"The 212 reunion this time is weaker than the previous ones because it has lost some political momentum," added the Jakarta-based Riyanta. Prabowo, a former general, who had addressed a similar rally a year ago, did not attend this time. The movement's spokesman, Hassan, did not say how it would line up in future politically. "We can't give directions yet, because we don't know where our pol-

itics is going," he said. Meanwhile, Indonesian President Joko Widodo rejected yesterday proposals by some politicians and a Muslim group to amend the constitution to end direct elections for the presidency and relax term limits in the world's third-biggest democracy. Widodo, who won a second five-year term in April, his last under current rules, said in a Twitter message his "position was clear in disagreeing with a three-term presidency". Separately, he told reporters that discussions on the amendment had referred to plans for an eight-year, one-term presidency or three terms of up to 15 years in total. "It's better not to amend," he said.

Indonesian activists have warned the proposals would mark a setback for democracy, restored after the 1998 overthrow of dictator Suharto, who had ruled for more than 30 years. Some politicians, including from Widodo's own party, the Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle (PDI-P), and coalition partners, have called for the reinstatement of a Suharto-era set of national development goals known as the Broad Guidelines of State Policy.

Under the Broad Guidelines, a People's Consultative Assembly, or MPR - then stacked with army officials and

Suharto supporters - picked the president. "I'm a product of the post-reform constitution," Widodo also said in his tweet. The former furniture salesman and small town mayor is the first Indonesian president from outside the country's political and military elite. Since the return to democracy, the constitution has been amended four times, to separate legislative and executive powers, decentralize the government, directly elect presidents and limit leaders to two terms.

Hendrawan Supratikno, a PDI-P lawmaker, said his party rejects the idea of ending direct election of the president, but is in favour of reinstating the Broad Guidelines. Last week, Indonesia's largest mass Muslim organization Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) suggested the idea of having the MPR elect the president, according to its website. Titi Anggraini, executive director of the Association for Elections and Democracy, welcomed Widodo's rejection, saying the proposals had not been explained properly to the public. "The president should make sure that these coalition parties are in line with his stance," Anggraini said. "This could be a solidarity test on Widodo's political attitude." — Reuters

## Evacuations, airport closure as typhoon nears Philippines

**MANILA:** Typhoon Kammuri barrelled towards the Philippines yesterday, pushing tens of thousands of people into evacuation centres and prompting authorities to order a temporary closure of Manila's international airport as a safety precaution. Kammuri was expected to make landfall late yesterday or early today and then pass to the south of the capital, which is home to some 13 million people and is hosting thousands of athletes for the regional Southeast Asian Games.

Airport officials said they made the call based on the potency of the storm, which was forecast to come ashore with intense rains and sustained winds of up to 165 km per hour as well as gusts of up to 230 km per hour, forecasters said. "Based on our estimate, it will be closed from 11 am (0300 GMT) to 11 pm tomorrow, December 3," said Ed Monreal, general manager of Manila's airport authority. Nearly 70,000 people had already fled their homes in the Bicol region, disaster officials said, which is where the typhoon is expected to strike first.

However, some residents opted to stay put even as the storm's power began to hit. "The wind is howling. Roofs are being torn off and I saw one roof flying," local Gladys Castillo Vidal told AFP. "We decided to stay because our house is a two-storey made of concrete... Hopefully it can withstand the storm." The weather bureau also warned of rain-induced landslides and possible storm surges of up to three metres which could hit coastal areas in the nation's east.

The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year, killing hundreds and putting people in disaster-prone areas in a state of constant poverty. The country's deadliest cyclone on record was Super Typhoon Haiyan, which left more than 7,300 people dead or missing in 2013.



**BORONGAN, Philippines:** Residents help carry a wooden fishing boat into a secured area along the coast in Eastern Samar province, central Philippines, yesterday as they prepare for Typhoon Kammuri. — AFP

### Games plagued by build-up woes

Kammuri already snarled some plans for the SEA Games, which opened Saturday for thousands of athletes from the region and is set to run through to December 11 in and around Manila. Windsurfing was halted as a precaution and triathlon events were held earlier than scheduled. Ramon Suzara, the chief operating officer of the organising committee, said contingency plans were in place for bad weather, but the duration of the Games would not be extended. "Everything is set," Suzara told reporters. "For contingency, all venues, all competition managers, technical delegates are ready." The storm is the latest trouble for the Games, which saw a series of transport hiccups and a rush of last-minute construction ahead of the opening. This year's Games in Clark, Manila and Subic are already partic-

ularly complex, with a record 56 sports across dozens of venues that are in some cases hours apart by car. Around 8,750 athletes and team officials are expected at this year's 30th edition - the biggest ever - along with another 12,000 volunteers. Organizers hope more than 500 million viewers will tune in on TV by the end of the competition on Dec 11.

The Philippines have made a strong start to the Games, rising to the top of the medal table with over 50 in total, ahead of Vietnam in second place and Thailand in third. The host nation added to their haul of gold medals on Monday with wins in downhill mountain biking and stick-wielding martial art arnis, while claiming a silver in the rescheduled men's duathlon event in Subic. A glitzy dance-sport competition in Clark on Sunday saw the Philippines pick up 10 golds. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Wall collapse kills 17 in India

**NEW DELHI:** At least 17 people from four families in India were buried alive as they were sleeping yesterday when heavy rains caused a large wall to collapse on their homes, police said. The dead included two children in the village in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, which was being pounded by torrential rain, a police official told AFP. The six-metre high wall crumbled at around 5:30 am some 50 km north of Coimbatore, the Times of India daily reported. Building collapses are tragically common in India during wet periods with rickety and poorly maintained structures buckling under the weight of continuous rain. In July a collapsing wall killed 30 people in Mumbai. — AFP



**METTUPALAYAM, India:** Rescue workers clear debris from a collapsed home yesterday. — AFP

#### Two die in collapse at pagoda

**PHNOM PENH:** Three workers died and more than a dozen others were seriously injured after an under-construction dining hall at a Cambodian temple collapsed, police said yesterday, in the latest fatal accident to strike the kingdom's poorly regulated building sector. The structure fell in on itself as workers laid concrete on the first floor of the building inside a pagoda compound in Siem Reap province, police said. Local media showed an excavator trying to clear the site as rescuers carried away metal debris. "Three workers died," said a statement issued by Siem Reap provincial hall. More than a dozen others, including two monks, "were pulled out from the debris alive," the statement said, adding that there were doubts anyone else was trapped under the debris but that the search would continue. Local media reported more than 20 workers were working at the site when the structure went down. — AFP

## Australia slams treatment of jailed writer

**SYDNEY:** Australia's foreign minister yesterday said the treatment of a writer detained in China was "unacceptable", as his lawyer reported he was being shackled and subjected to daily interrogation. Yang Hengjun, an Australian citizen, has been detained in China since January and was recently charged with spying, which could bring a lengthy prison sentence. In an unusually frank statement, Marise Payne said she was "very concerned by reports from a recent consular visit" that claimed Yang had been isolated from the outside world and interrogated while restrained.

"This is unacceptable," she said, adding that repeated requests had been made for Yang to get "basic standards of justice, procedural fairness and humane treatment". The consular visit revealed Yang was undergoing repetitive daily interrogations and being "shackled by the hands and feet", his lawyer Sarah Condon told AFP. Letters were also being withheld "to cut off the conduit of information from Dr Yang to the outside world, and from the outside world to Dr Yang", she said. Condon said Yang had been in good health before his detention but had since been told that he was suffering from high blood pressure and "serious" kidney problems. "He is being provided a number of unknown and unspecified substances, up to nine tablets daily," she added. But China's foreign ministry denied the allegations of torture yesterday, describing Yang's health condition as "good". "There is no problem of so-called torture or cruelty," said Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying at a regular press briefing.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has denied that Yang - one of a string of foreign nationals recently arrested in China - was a spy. The arrests have been described by rights groups as politically motivated. "It seems like he's being treated particularly harshly in order to effectively try and break him and push him to confess," said Human Rights Watch's Australia director Elaine Pearson. China's near-silence about Yang's fate has been a point of friction in relations with Australia. He had initially been held in "residential surveillance at a designated location" before being moved to criminal detention in August. Yang reportedly once worked in China's foreign affairs ministry in Hainan province - although this has been denied by Beijing. He is believed to have left mainland China for Hong Kong in 1992 and then travelled to the United States five years later, where he worked for the Atlantic Council think tank. — AFP



**CHENNAI:** (Left) A fisherman retrieves fish from his net as foamy discharge, caused by pollutants, mixes with surf on a beach yesterday. (Right) A youth plays in the foamy discharge. — AFP

## Toxin-laced bubbles cause pollution hazard on Indian beach

**CHENNAI:** A menacing white foam covered one of India's most famous beaches in Chennai for the fourth straight day yesterday creating a new pollution hazard for the country. Children have been playing and taking selfies in the clouds of white suds on Marina Beach, even though they give off an acrid smell and fishermen have been told not to go into the sea nearby. Doctors have warned that skin problems could be caused by the foam, which forms every monsoon season but has been particularly bad this year.

Word has not got through to the hundreds of families who throng India's longest urban beach, letting children happily skip in the toxin-filled froth. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board said it is analysing samples from the foam which has spread several kilometres along the beach. "It is definitely not good for people to go into the foam but they just do not understand the risks," said Pravakar Mishra, a scientist at the National Centre for Coastal Research in Chennai who has seen the clouds of foam grow in recent years. Authorities were also on alert



for a repeat of a 2017 incident when thousands of fish were killed by pollution that hit beaches around the same time. Fisherman Jeyaseelan, 30, said customers do not want to buy even the small amount of fish he has been able to catch in recent days. "Everyone thinks it is contaminated," he said. "My wage has been cut to next to nothing."

Marina Beach has been a centrepiece of Chennai life for more than a century. At weekends, tens of thousands fill the once-pristine sands where the pollution is another sign of India's struggle to keep up with its growing economy. Experts blame heavy rain in recent days that has carried untreated sewage and phosphate down to the sea. According to Mishra, much of the foam comes from washing detergent residue that mixes with other waste.

Only 40 percent of sewage in Chennai and other big cities gets proper treatment, the researcher added. "The rest flows into the sea and this is what happens." Mishra is setting up a buoy to monitor pollution levels in the sea just as Delhi now has a network of monitoring stations for its notoriously dirty air. "Pollution is now a bigger threat to India's beaches than the rising seas," said Mishra, highlighting the sewage, micro plastic that is killing fish and the bags and cups that cover the sand. Mishra said volunteers had collected nearly a ton of plastic and other waste in just two hours at a Chennai beach during a recent cleanup. — AFP

## 11 North Korean defectors seek to block deportation

**SEOUL:** Eleven North Koreans seeking to defect to South Korea have been detained in Vietnam since Nov 23 and are seeking help to avoid being repatriated, a South Korean activist group said yesterday. The eight women and three men were detained by border guards in northern Vietnam two days after crossing from China, and are being held in the city of Lang Son, the Seoul-based Justice for North Korea said in a statement.

Peter Jung, the head of the group, which supports North Korean asylum-seekers, said the would-be defectors had requested help from the South Korean Embassy in Hanoi, but he had not heard from them since Friday. Jung said the Seoul embassy's subsequent silence had spurred him to publicize the situation, fearing that without an international response the defectors could be forcibly repatriated.

He said that on Thursday Vietnamese authorities called off an effort to deport the defectors after several of them protested passionately and appeared to faint. Vietnam's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The South Korean foreign ministry said it was aware of the case and had been in touch with the Vietnamese government to try to prevent the defectors from being sent back to North Korea.

"Our government has been making necessary efforts to ensure the North Korean defectors living abroad are sent to a desired place without being forcibly repatriated," the ministry said in a statement. South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been trying to make diplomatic progress with North Korea, and his government has been criticized by groups like Jung's for not doing enough to help defectors in recent months.

Last month South Korea expelled two North Korean fishermen suspected of killing 16 colleagues before crossing the border into the South, after detaining them for questioning. — Reuters



## Analysis

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## US CEOs' jet perks add millions to corporate tax bills

As US corporate jet use approaches pre-financial crisis levels and chief executives take an increasing number of personal trips on the company tab, many investors are being kept in the dark about the true cost of the perk. For the S&P 500 companies that pay for their CEOs to use corporate jets for private trips, the estimated median value of that flying climbed 11 percent last year to \$107,286 from \$96,532 in 2017, according to the latest available figures from compensation research firm Equilar Inc. That is up 27 percent from \$84,636 in 2007, the year before the financial crisis.

This is taxable income for executives. The estimates are often based on what a first-class seat would have cost on a commercial flight rather than on the true, much higher cost of using a corporate jet. But not only are companies left to pay the full cost of those flights, which can be for anything from family vacations to trips to major sports events or a commute from a distant family home, but they can also find that their tax bills can be significantly higher because of lost deductions.

That is because the US Internal Revenue Service has limited a company's deductions on personal aircraft use to the estimated valuation of the executives' flights. As a result, companies forfeit a long list of tax deductions for the time the jets are used for personal trips, including pilots' salaries, maintenance costs, insurance, aircraft depreciation and finance charges. Companies usually can deduct the full cost of these expenses when planes are used for business flights.

Exacerbating the issue, US President Donald Trump's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act eliminated deductions on two kinds of flights, said Ruth Wimer, a tax expert and partner at law firm Winston & Strawn LLP in Washington. They are for trips taken purely for business entertainment - such as a CEO taking clients to a golf tournament - and an executive's use of a corporate jet to commute to work from his home, she said.

However, given that the US Securities and Exchange Commission does not require disclosure of such lost deductions, investors are none the wiser. US business jet operations are on track to top 4.5 million arrivals and departures in 2019, the highest since 2007, according to US Federal Aviation Administration data, though only a small percentage are by major company executives.

Popular perceptions of US corporate jet use hit a nadir in 2008 as the financial crisis was worsening. That was when members of Congress blasted the CEOs of the three big US automakers for flying to Washington on corporate jets to ask for financial help. The fallout was so bad that in the terms of its bailout General Motors Co was initially barred from corporate jet use.

"But since then, the whole economy has turned around. The stock market is setting records and jet use has rebounded along with it," said Nick Copley, president of SherpaReport.com, which analyzes private aviation trends. GM is back to operating its own corporate aircraft, according to its disclosures.

### 'Hidden element of executive pay'

The true cost of corporate jets are a mystery for investors in many companies, though. A Reuters analysis of proxy filings by companies in the S&P 500 found that only a handful detailed the value of lost deductions in their public filings. Among the few to disclose was payments system and credit card company Visa Inc. Its lost deductions from the personal use of company jets by executives and their guests have more than quadrupled between 2016 and 2018, and totaled \$4.8 million in its fiscal year to September 2018, according to the company's last proxy statement.

Another exception is cable and broadcast TV group Comcast Corp, which reported \$8.8 million in disallowed deductions in 2018 on flights taken by its executives and guests. This is a hidden element of executive pay, said Dieter Waizenegger, executive director of C&W Investment Group, which represents union-sponsored pension funds with nearly 5 million members. "Having a better sense of how expensive the C-suite is for the company is a very relevant number," Waizenegger said. "If they aren't disclosed, investors won't know about these lost deductions."

While the costs for Visa and Comcast, both with annual net earnings of more than \$10 billion, may be a drop in the bucket, lost deductions for smaller companies can have a much bigger impact. Earlier this year, San Francisco-based hedge fund Voce Capital Management LLC targeted disallowed tax deductions in its campaign to gain board seats at insurer Argo Group International Holdings Ltd.

The hedge fund argued the Bermuda-based insurance company, which had net income of \$63.6 million in 2018, was hurting investors by racking up disallowed tax deductions from corporate jets "crisscrossing the globe at a dizzying pace." Argo declined to comment for this story. — Reuters

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



An Iraqi man drives through burning tyres in the Shiite shrine city of Karbala, south of the capital Baghdad, on Nov 26, 2019. — AFP

# Iraq protests shake up govt, but not oil

Iraq has been rocked by two months of anti-government protests that brought down premier Adel Abdel Mahdi on Sunday, but its lucrative oil industry has been curiously insulated from the turmoil. AFP looks at how the energy industry of OPEC's second-largest producer has weathered the latest unrest and what could affect global markets in the months to come.

### Have protests hurt Iraq's oil?

In a word, barely. "All our stations, branches, reserves and transport lines, they're all working," oil minister Thamer Al-Ghadban told reporters on Sunday, hours before parliament agreed on the cabinet's full resignation. Since October, sit-ins demanding regime change have intermittently blocked roads in southern Iraq, including near the oil fields of Nasiriyah, Garraf and Subba. They have also shut access to the Khor al-Zubair port, keeping employees from getting to work in the mornings.

But both the fields and ports had overnight workers who extended their shifts so there was little effect on processing, employees and port officials told AFP. The closures did halt the 30,000 barrels per day of heavy crude trucked in from the northern Qayyarah field and exported from Khor al-Zubair, field and port workers said. But the rare barrels transported by road make up a negligible share of the roughly 3.6 million barrels that Iraq ships out daily. There was little change to those exports, according to oil ministry figures, which logged 3.4 million bpd exported in October and 3.5 million in November. "It's dicey but it's still pretty much under control," says Ruba Husari of the Iraq Oil Forum.

### Why hasn't there been a greater hit?

The three main components of Iraq's oil industry are huge producing fields, major refineries and the offshore export hubs offshore in Iraqi waters. "The degree of vulnerability of those (components) to outside interruption is low," Husari tells AFP. It's partly by design: The oil fields are self-sustaining islands of production and the vast majority of crude is then transported to export hubs by pipeline, not truck. "So it cannot be impacted directly by protests taking place on land," says Noam Raydan, an analyst at ClipperData, which monitors oil tankers.

Refineries, too, are mostly in northern and western areas unaffected by protests. It's also due to the response by the oil ministry, which prepared reserves of fuel products for domestic consumption, and security forces which regularly broke up sit-ins outside fields and ports. And while teachers, doctors and engineers employed by the state went on strike at various points over the past two months, oil workers did not join in. "The staff in the oil sector are the best paid among all ministries in Iraq," says Husari. They have little incentive to put their jobs on the line, particularly as competition for those positions or others at state-owned oil companies is fierce.

### What are the risks now?

The closures outside Khor al-Zubair have only lasted two or three days at a time, but they could become "problematic" if extended, says Husari. Iraq has few storage facilities and a build-up of unexported heavy crude or

excess fuel oil that cannot reach the port would force a halt in processing. Since Khor al-Zubair is also used to import gasoline, a refined product Iraq does not produce, long-term disruptions there could lead to shortages at petrol stations or price changes.

Another escalation would be a sit-in inside a key oil field such as Rumaila or West Qurna, or prolonged street closures outside of them. "If they do that at one major field to the point of forcing a shut-down, then it would hurt tremendously. But that's a long shot," says Husari, adding that there had been no precedent in Iraq's recent history of protesters targeting major oil infrastructure.

### What happens next?

Iraq relies on its oil exports to fund more than 90 percent of its state budget, so a halt would cut off the government's financial resources. It would also likely trigger a major downturn in the national economy, which has remained relatively stable. A serious disruption to exports would also affect the global oil market, to which Iraq is a major contributor. "A big drop - if sustained - would have a significant impact on prices," says Raydan.

Iraq had already pledged to drop its crude output to fall in line with an OPEC-wide trim of 1.2 million bpd designed to revive prices. OPEC is set to meet on Dec 5-6 in Vienna to consider a possible further cut. Ghadban told reporters. "The prevailing wisdom today is on continuing the 1.2 million bpd cut for the coming year - a decision to which Iraq is committed - with an additional cut, perhaps 400,000 bpd," he said. — AFP

## Statement on Xinjiang

By Li Minggang  
Ambassador of China to Kuwait



Recently, some foreign media outlets or organizations have been hyping up the so-called "leaked documents" from Xinjiang and hence the work of vocational education and training in Xinjiang with malicious intent to smear Xinjiang's achievements in combatting terrorism and de-radicalization. Their vilification, in disregard of facts, of the great efforts by people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang to safeguard social

stability and long-term peace is appalling and unacceptable to the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

The vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang were set up in accordance with law, which are no by means "concentration camps" and there has never been such a thing as "concentration camp" here. All legal rights of the trainees at the centers have been fully protected, and there is no restriction or deprivation with regard to their freedom. Without a single case of violent terrorist attacks for nearly three years, Xinjiang is witnessing rapid economic growth, social stability, ethnic unity and religious harmony.

Since the end of 2018, over a thousand people from more than 90 countries and regions have visited vocational education and training centers, and Chinese and foreign media have reported the real conditions in the centers. Many people of vision expressed the view that Xinjiang's practice of setting up vocational education and training centers is in complete alignment with the UN policies on preemptively combatting terrorism and protecting primary human rights, which is commendable and worth learning by others.

## Afghan women brave rockets for rights

In the decade since launching a radio station in northern Afghanistan, Sediqa Sherzai has braved mines and rocket attacks as the Taliban seeks to silence her. But she has kept going. Fawzia Koofi, the country's first female deputy of the lower house of parliament, has survived assassination and kidnap attempts. Last year, she was banned from running for re-election - so she set up her own party.

Women have made huge strides in the conservative country since a ban during Taliban rule of 1996 to 2001 from school, work, politics and going outside without a male relative. While growing numbers of women now complete education and work in previously male bastions, they continue to face harassment and hurdles, human rights activists say. "Women are half the population, and should have the same rights and opportunities as men in this country," said Sheila Qayumi, a program coordinator at Equality for Peace and Democracy, which advocates for more women in politics.

"But women are still denied education, forced to marry young, kept from working, and treated no better than animals in the provinces," she said. Four decades of war, from occupation to internal fighting, have destroyed the economy, rendering it among the poorest in the world, with few jobs for a mostly young population. Women occupy a particularly precarious place, as they face cultural barriers and hostility - not just from conservative family members, but also hardline Islamist groups - for pursuing financial independence and greater equality, Qayumi said.

### Open minds

Nearly half of Afghan women would rather leave their war-torn country permanently if they could, citing poverty

and limited opportunities, according to a Gallup poll in September. On her radio broadcasts in Kunduz, Sherzai discusses issues from education to independence, domestic violence, inheritance rights and women's right to vote - and stand for elections. Most women are not aware of their rights, or are too scared to exercise them, said Sherzai, whose staff are mostly women.

"My goal is to educate women on their rights, and open their minds," she said, speaking through a translator. "I want to convince families to let their daughters study, to not marry them off young, and to respect their choices." Funding for the station is uncertain, and her family fears for her safety, but she has never thought about quitting, she said, even when she had to broadcast from home after the station was attacked and her equipment stolen.

"My dream is that Afghan women can be safe and free to do what they wish to do, without men stopping them," Sherzai said in an interview on a visit to the capital. She asked that her picture not be taken for safety reasons. Across the country, efforts are underway to make public spaces safer and more open to women. While Afghan women lag on many measures, a quota that reserves 68 of 250 seats in the lower house of parliament gives them a higher representation than the global average of 24 percent.

The quota makes it easier for women to enter politics, but they lack money and run greater security risks, said Koofi. "Being a female politician is hard everywhere - we are scrutinized for our looks and our clothing, and we are not taken seriously," she said in an interview in her office. "In Afghanistan, men don't accept women in the public sphere, and our views are not respected even in parliament."

### Mayors, deminers

An international aid effort that arrived with foreign forces in 2001 prioritized girls' education and women's empowerment. From a female de-mining team in Bamian

province to street singers in Kabul, women have since won more independence. But there are fears that a final withdrawal of US troops, the winding down of international engagement and the re-emergence of the Taliban may reverse gains.

Turnout of women voters in September's presidential election was low amid security threats and concerns over facial recognition technology. In the provinces, the challenges are still greater. Zarifa Ghafari, 26, mayor of Maidan Shahr in restive Wardak province, has said she expects to be assassinated. She was recently named on BBC's list of 100 women of 2019.

Khadija Ahmadi is the only other female mayor in the country, in the city of Nili in the remote Daykundi province. It has taken her a while to assert authority locally and to get federal authorities in Kabul to allocate resources. "The men would not listen to me at first. Many have come around after they realised I am persistent and can get the work done," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Yet women are constantly thwarted. Last year, Koofi was one of several members of parliament disqualified from contesting the elections for allegedly running private armed militias and possessing illegal weapons - charges she denied and challenged. Koofi recently set up a political party, Movement of Change for Afghanistan, becoming the first Afghan woman to do so.

The 44-year-old also took part in so-called intra-Afghan talks aimed at bringing together Taliban representatives and other Afghans to find a way to end the war. Women were also included for the first time in the Taliban delegation at the peace talks, as the militant group projects a more moderate image. "Women have been the worst victims of the war, so we must have a say in the future of this country," Koofi said. "It's not enough to just fill a quota; we have to bring women to the forefront of politics, to leadership positions, and be a part of national decision making," she said. — Reuters



# Business

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019

**12** Stocks rebound on Chinese data boost, cautious trade optimism

**13** Putin, Xi launch 'historic' Russia-China gas pipeline

**14** Middle East teams compete in Huawei ICT competition



RIYADH: Women in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh check on their mobile phones an announcement on Saudi Aramco's public offering on an investment services website. —AFP

## Saudi wants OPEC+ to deepen oil cuts

### Oil prices under pressure from booming US supply

DUBAI: OPEC and its allies plan to deepen oil cuts and have the deal in place so it runs at least until June 2020 as Saudi Arabia wants to deliver a positive surprise to the market before the listing of Saudi Aramco, two sources familiar with the talks said. The deal being discussed by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers, known as OPEC+, would be to add at least 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) to existing cuts of 1.2 million bpd or 1.2% of global supply. The current deal runs to March. "They (the Saudis) want to surprise the market," one of the sources said.

Another two sources said the latest OPEC analysis, drawn up by OPEC's Economic Commission Board (ECB), showed a large oversupply and build up in inventories in the first half of 2020, if no additional cuts were made. Russia, a key non-OPEC ally, has so far opposed deeper cuts or a longer extension. But Moscow has often taken a tough stance

before every meeting before approving the policy. Sources said Saudi Arabia was working on convincing Russia. Riyadh needs high oil prices to balance its budget and support the pricing for the Aramco initial public offering (IPO), which could be the world's biggest.

Russia, the world's second biggest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia, also benefits from a higher oil price and has been working with OPEC on cuts to prevent an oil glut building as a result of booming production from the United States, which has climbed to become the world's crude producer. Benchmark Brent oil prices rose by more than 2% to nearly \$62

per barrel yesterday on the news about the possibility of deeper cuts.



**OPEC, allies may add 0.4 million bpd to existing cuts**

grouping holds talks on Dec 6. Saudi officials, including Prince Abdulaziz, have insisted on stricter compliance with the current cuts, especially as countries such as

#### Deep Saudi cut

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman heads to Vienna this week for his first OPEC meeting as Saudi Arabia's energy minister. The veteran oil official, known as a tough negotiator, wants to ensure oil prices stay high enough for Aramco's IPO, sources said. The IPO will be priced on Dec 5, the same day OPEC meets in Vienna. The OPEC+

Iraq and Nigeria have produced well above their quotas while Riyadh has cut more than demanded. The Saudis are also lobbying other producers to deepen cuts and have been signaling that they are ready to continue taking the biggest burden and to cut well in excess of their target.

Saudi Arabia has been cutting more than the amount agreed for most of this year. Its actual cut in November was 783,000 bpd, according to a Reuters survey, a level that was about 400,000 bpd more than its pledged cut of 322,000 bpd. Saudi and Russian oil production costs are much cheaper than those in the United States so any OPEC cut. A price rise can hurt OPEC and its allies because it further bolsters US production and allowing US shale oil producers to grab a bigger market share. "If WTI goes up to \$60 per barrel, there will be more shale," one of the sources familiar with OPEC talks said, warning against much steeper output cuts. —Reuters

## Lufthansa 'not open' to Qatar investment

FRANKFURT: Lufthansa responded coldly yesterday to a report that rival Qatar Airways was interested in taking a stake in or collaborating with the German airline. The Gulf carrier, which holds minority stakes in airlines including IAG, Cathay Pacific, and China Southern Airlines, has been seeking to boost collaborations. Its chief executive Akbar al-Baker was quoted by German news agency dpa on Sunday as saying he was interested in investing in Lufthansa to seize business opportunities in Europe's biggest economy. "We did not have Lufthansa privatized in Germany to have it nationalized in Qatar," a Lufthansa spokesman said. Initially, Qatar Airways would also look into a partnership with Lufthansa to ramp up air transport services and tourism in Germany. Al-Baker told dpa in Doha on the sidelines of a visit of the premier of regional state Lower Saxony to Qatar. State-owned Qatar Airways declined to comment.

Lufthansa needs to limit ownership by shareholders from non-European Union member states to 49% to preserve its aviation licenses. Its CEO Carsten Spohr has repeatedly criticized Gulf rivals such as Qatar, Emirates and Etihad Airways of receiving what he describes as unfair state subsidies. Shares in Lufthansa were up 1.9% at 0911 GMT yesterday. Dpa also quoted the Qatar Airways CEO as saying the carrier's membership of the Oneworld airline alliance would not stand in the way of a pact with Lufthansa, which is part of rival Star Alliance. —Reuters

## 'Cyber Monday' on track for record US online sales

NEW YORK: US online sales are set to hit a new record on this week's "Cyber Monday," Adobe Analytics said, as e-commerce outlets gear up to lure shoppers in the opening days of the holiday season. Internet purchases are expected to reach \$9.4 billion, a jump of nearly 19 percent over last year's record-setting \$7.9 billion take, according to a Sunday estimate from the company, which measures transactions from 80 of the 100 largest US online retailers.

US merchants have long viewed the days after the Thursday Thanksgiving holiday as a prime time to part shoppers from their money, particularly during the "Black Friday" sales following the holiday. This year's expected

record-setting shopping comes as Price Waterhouse Cooper found for the first time that a majority of people surveyed said they would rather shop online than in a brick-and-mortar store. Shoppers spent \$7.4 billion online on Friday, according to Adobe. Some 40 percent of these purchases were made using smartphones.

On Thanksgiving Day, US consumers spent \$4.2 billion online. Online sales on "Small Business Saturday" amounted to \$3.6 billion, up 18 percent over last year. This increase was "fueled by strong gains from both large and small retailers alike," said Vivek Pandya, lead analyst at Adobe. "The weekend between Black Friday and Cyber Monday is emerging as a truly lucrative period for online commerce," he added. The hottest toys included LOL Surprise dolls and items linked to Disney blockbuster movie "Frozen 2." In the video game category, the top sellers were FIFA 20, Madden 20 and Nintendo Switch.

The most popular electronics were Apple laptops, AirPods and Samsung TVs. Adobe expects shoppers to



CALIFORNIA: An ad is seen on the Best Buy website for a Cyber Monday sale which is displayed on laptop computers in San Anselmo, California. —AFP

spend a total of \$143.8 billion during the entire holiday season. According to a study released on Sunday by the International Council of Shopping Centers, an estimated 160 million

people flocked to stores over the Thanksgiving weekend and spent on average just over \$500 each. That's up from 151 million shoppers last year. —AFP



Business

# Stocks rebound on Chinese data boost, cautious trade optimism

## German bund yields rise after surprise SPD election

LONDON: Stock markets rebounded yesterday as decent manufacturing data in China and renewed optimism over a trade deal eroded some of the jitters which emerged among investors last week. The recovery in Europe followed gains in Asia, where share prices again approached record highs as investors stuck with bets that a trade deal between the United States and China is imminent, something which has fueled the rally in asset prices in recent weeks.

Last week's decision by US President Donald Trump to sign legislation backing protesters in Hong Kong initially rattled markets, with worries it will unravel progress made in talks between Beijing and Washington. But investors are nonetheless sticking with the broad view that a further escalation in the trade war can be avoided.

The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, edged up 0.1 percent and was close to last week's highs. In Europe, the Euro STOXX 600 rose 0.26 percent while the German DAX was 0.23 percent higher.

French and British shares were also climbing. Chinese data did much to help the mood after the Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) index rose to 51.8 in November from 51.7 in the previous month, marking the fastest expansion since December 2016.

"What we had in China on the weekend with the two PMIs being above expectation is clearly a good sign in terms of making the global stabilization scenario more credible," said Francois Savary, chief investment officer at Swiss wealth manager Prime Partners. Savary noted

that European manufacturing data had also posted an improvement, while euro zone inflation was higher than expected. "Not only do we have signs of economic stabilization, we also have a decreased risk of deflation. I am not sure if that means markets should be hitting record highs, a lot of positive news has been priced in," he added.

In Germany, the surprise election of new leftist leaders to the Social Democrats (SPD) threatened the ruling coalition, sparking a jump in German bond yields as markets bet it would ease the path towards fiscal expansion. The 10-year German bond yield was last up 5 basis points at -0.302 percent, a two-week high. That

helped spur a selloff across euro zone government bond markets. US Treasury yields were also notably higher, with the 10-year bond yield up by more than 7 basis points at a two-week high.

The buoyant mood among investors was also evident in the US dollar, which has tended to perform well on hopes for a trade deal. It rallied to a six-month high of

109.73 yen, its strongest against the safe-haven currency since May. Currency markets were largely quiet elsewhere, with the euro little changed at \$1.1016. Investors have long thought that the United States will avoid imposing an additional 15 percent tariff on about \$156 billion of Chinese products on Dec. 15 after signing a deal with China.

But the two countries have been so far unable to bridge the gap over existing tariffs on Chinese goods, with Beijing demanding the scrapping of them as a part of any trade deal. "It looks a bit difficult for two coun-



PUNJAB: A man transports sacks of empty plastic bottles on a horse-drawn cart in Amritsar yesterday. —AFP

tries' leaders to shake hands and sign a deal this month. What is more likely is to essentially kick the can, with China buying more US farm products while the US postpones its next tariffs," said Hiroyuki Ueno, senior strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Asset Management.

"Markets will consider such an arrangement as a de facto deal whether they officially sign it or not," he

said. Oil prices recovered slightly after a big slump on Friday on record high US crude production. Expectations that OPEC and its allies are set to extend existing oil output cuts when they meet this week helped drive the rebound. Brent crude futures rose 1.21 percent to \$61.22 a barrel while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained 0.85 percent to \$56.02 per barrel. —Reuters



### Crude prices climb before possible OPEC cuts

## Gulf Bank announces winners of Al Danah Weekly Draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 1st December 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 24 - 28 November 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week. The winners this week are: Badreya Amir Ahmad Ali; Hussain Bilal Moemen Mohammad; Hanan Mansour Ali Jamal; Waleed Khalifa Ahmad Aljassim and Hanan Hameed Kareem Alhawi.

Gulf Bank's final Al Danah draw for KD1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event. Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app. Furthermore, loyal Al Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year, which are added to the customer's chances the following year.

Therefore, the total chances earned by Al Danah customers in 2018, have been added to their 2019 chances, and the same process will take place in 2020, and so on. Terms and conditions apply. Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al Danah draws.

If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

Customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 58 branches, transfer online, place queries through the official Gulf Bank WhatsApp service on 65805805 or call the customer contact center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can visit the website to find out more about Al Danah and its winners.

## New Nissan boss vows to rebuild trust after Ghosn

YOKOHAMA: Nissan's new boss pledged yesterday to regain customer trust and harness the firm's three-way alliance with Renault and Mitsubishi, as the crisis-hit firm seeks to turn the page from the arrest of former chief Carlos Ghosn. In his first comments since taking the reins at the auto giant, Makoto Uchida acknowledged the firm had made mistakes in its internal corporate culture and faced a "difficult" financial environment. "There are three words that guide me - respect, transparency and trust," said Uchida, new boss of a company battered first by a falsified data scandal and then the alleged financial misconduct of Ghosn, who denies all charges.

"I want our employees to feel proud that they work for Nissan. If we can do this, we will regain the trust of our customers," said the 53-year-old. But the new CEO has a mountain to climb to restore Nissan to health in an industry in turmoil and undergoing once-in-a-generation restructuring. Only last month, the firm was forced to slash its full-year forecast for both sales and profits, admitting it had been hit by weak demand in Japan, the US and Europe.

This came as Nissan reported its worst first-half results since the global financial crisis a decade ago. "Please allow me to express my sincere regrets. I cannot overstate how seriously we are taking this situation," said Uchida. "The recent issues around final inspections in Japan and execu-

## British town Walsall pays dearly for UK retail crisis

WALSALL: With its deserted streets and closed shops, the centre of Walsall bears witness to Britain's retail crisis that political parties campaigning for election have vowed to fix. It's difficult not to be struck by the multitude of "to let" signs on unoccupied shop fronts in the town in central England, near Britain's second-largest city Birmingham. One of the few to resist the slew of closures is Poundland, a UK-wide chain selling items mostly for £1 or less. "All the big stores have



YOKOHAMA: Nissan Motor's new president and CEO Makoto Uchida attends a press conference at the company's headquarters in Yokohama yesterday. —AFP

gone and have been replaced by rubbish stores to be honest," said passer-by Susan Humphreys on a freezing day in November.

"I do go online a lot more now," the 70-year-old told AFP. The retail crisis hitting Walsall and its 270,000 inhabitants is mirrored across the UK. No sector has been spared as independent shops and department stores struggle to survive faced with fierce online competition, notably from Amazon. Shops are also suffering from higher business taxes and wider political uncertainties caused by Britain's stalled departure from the EU that the December 12 vote could resolve.

"Areas like Walsall which have suffered from decades of industrial decline, the impact of the change in retail has had a

measure that means the loss of 12,500 jobs. He declined to offer an update on this program but insisted that "fixed costs" needed to be reined in.

Turning to the uneasy alliance between Nissan, Renault and Mitsubishi Motors, Uchida simply said that the automakers "must focus on improving revenue and profits of one another" while stressing the "independence" of the Japanese firm. Renault holds 43 percent of Nissan, which has in turn has a 15 percent stake in Renault and a 34 percent controlling stake in Mitsubishi Motors. Uchida said he had had no discussions about changing this structure, which came under pressure as the "junior partner" in the tie-up, Nissan, outgrew Renault. —AFP

### EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>	
US Dollar Transfer	304.600
Euro	337.650
Sterling Pound	395.680
Canadian dollar	231.760
Turkish lira	54.200
Swiss Franc	307.370
US Dollar Buying	297.150
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>	
Japanese Yen	2.779
Indian Rupees	4.250
Pakistani Rupees	1.969
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.678
Nepali Rupees	2.650
Singapore Dollar	223.970
Hongkong Dollar	38.909
Bangladesh Taka	3.553
Philippine Peso	5.999
Thai Baht	10.098
Malaysian ringgit	77.903
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>	
Saudi Riyal	81.281
Qatari Riyal	83.716
Omani Riyal	791.683
Bahraini Dinar	809.350
UAE Dirham	82.986
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.350

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.938
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.223
Tunisian Dinar	111.170
Jordanian Dinar	430.070
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.199
<b>Rate for Transfer</b>	
US Dollar	304.240
Canadian Dollar	229.625
Sterling Pound	394.405
Euro	336.500
Swiss Frank	306.805
Bahrain Dinar	809.085
UAE Dirhams	83.235
Qatari Riyals	84.475
Saudi Riyals	82.025
Jordanian Dinar	430.395
Egyptian Pound	18.916
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.682
Indian Rupees	4.241
Pakistani Rupees	1.959
Bangladesh Taka	3.537
Philippines Peso	5.995
Cyprus pound	18.100
Japanese Yen	3.775
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.656
Malaysian Ringgit	73.690

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
British Pound	0.386078	0.399978	
Czech Korune	0.005103	0.014403	
Danish Krone	0.040815	0.045815	
Euro	0.327867	0.341567	
Georgian Lari	0.102048	0.102048	
Hungarian 0.000911	0.001101		
Norwegian Krone	0.028986	0.034186	
Romanian Leu	0.053204	0.070054	
Russian ruble	0.004726	0.004726	
Slovakia	0.009109	0.019109	
Swedish Krona	0.027757	0.032757	
Swiss Franc	0.297946	0.308946	
<b>Europe</b>			
Australian Dollar	0.197953	0.209953	
New Zealand Dollar	0.189955	0.199455	
<b>Australasia</b>			
Canada Dollar	0.223660	0.232660	
US Dollars	0.300500	0.305800	
US Dollars Mint	0.301000	0.305800	
<b>America</b>			
Bangladesh Taka	0.002994	0.003795	

Chinese Yuan	0.041914	0.045414
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036816	0.039566
Indian Rupee	0.003617	0.004389
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002692	0.002872
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069229	0.075229
Nepalese Rupee	0.002627	0.002967
Pakistan Rupee	0.001296	0.002066
Philippine Peso	0.005962	0.006262
Singapore Dollar	0.217084	0.227084
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001320	0.001900
Taiwan	0.009857	0.010037
Thai Baht	0.009743	0.010293
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.801807	0.809865
Egyptian Pound	0.018953	0.021694
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000211	0.000271
Jordanian Dinar	0.423633	0.432633
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021213	0.045213
Omani Riyal	0.786039	0.793938
Qatar Riyal	0.083010	0.083844
Saudi Riyal	0.080140	0.081440
Syrian Pound	0.001291	0.001511
Tunisian Dinar	0.102671	0.110671
Turkish Lira	0.046222	0.056067
UAE Dirhams	0.082298	0.083126
Yemeni Riyal	0.000990	0.001070



Business

# Russian and Chinese leaders launch 'historic' Russia-China gas pipeline

## Pipeline is major boost to ties between Moscow and Beijing

**SOCHI:** Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping yesterday oversaw the launch of a landmark pipeline that will transport natural gas from Siberia to northeast China, an economic and political boost to ties between Moscow and Beijing. The start of gas flows via the Power of Siberia pipeline reflects Moscow's attempts to pivot to the East to try to mitigate pain from Western financial sanctions imposed over its 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea.

The move cements China's spot as Russia's top export market and gives Russia a potentially enormous new market outside Europe. It also comes as Moscow is hoping to launch two other major energy projects—the Nord Stream 2 undersea Baltic gas pipeline to Germany and the TurkStream pipeline to Turkey and southern Europe. The 3,000-km-long Power of Siberia pipeline will transport gas from the Chayandinskoye and Kovytko fields in eastern Siberia, a project expected to last for three decades and to generate \$400 billion for Russian state coffers.

"This is a genuinely historical event not only for the global energy market but above all for us, for Russia and China," said Putin, who watched the launch via video link

from the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi. "This step takes Russo-Chinese strategic cooperation in energy to a qualitative new level and brings us closer to (fulfilling) the task, set together with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, of taking



**Russia is trying to forge close ties with East**

bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2024." The new pipeline emerges in Heilongjiang, which borders Russia, and goes onto Jilin and Liaoning, China's top grain hub.

Xi told Putin via a video link yesterday that the newly

launched gas pipeline is "a landmark project of bilateral energy cooperation" and an "example of deep integration and mutually beneficial cooperation". Flows via the pipeline are expected to gradually rise to 38 billion cubic metres (bcm) per year in 2025, possibly making China Russia's second-largest gas customer after Germany, which bought 58.50 bcm of gas from Russia last year.

Moscow began supplying natural gas to western and central Europe in the 1950s and Europe has long been Russia's major consumer of gas, supplied by Kremlin-controlled energy giant Gazprom, with total annual supplies of around 200 bcm. The price China is paying for Russian gas in the new pipeline remains a closely kept secret with various industry sources saying it is tied to the price of an oil products basket. Neither Putin, nor Xi commented yesterday on the gas price Beijing is set to pay under the contract.

**Increased competition**

Russian pipeline gas will compete against other pipeline gas supplies to China, including from Turkmenistan, as well as against shipments of sea-borne

liquefied natural gas (LNG). "China's gas demand growth is expected to slow down from previous years yet remains strong, with an estimated 10% year-on-year growth for the first nine months of 2019," Jean-Baptiste Dubreuil, from the International Energy Agency's natural gas market analysis team said.

"Our medium term forecast 'Gas 2019' assumes average 8% growth until 2024 (compared with a world average of 1.6% pa)." Russia has been in talks with China about raising gas sales via other routes too, such as from the Russian Far East and via Mongolia or Kazakhstan, but has not yet clinched any deals.

Russia has dramatically increased deliveries of oil to China in the past decade, challenging Saudi Arabia as China's top oil supplier in certain months. To achieve that, Russia launched a major oil pipeline to China, which today ships 600,000 barrels per day (bpd), and opened a new port at Kozmino on the Pacific. Russia also ships 200,000 bpd to China via a pipeline crossing Kazakhstan. Russian coal sales to the east in 2018 exceeded 100 million tons, accounting for more than half of Russia's total coal exports. — Reuters

## NBK proceeds with Collective Executive Development Program

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized the 3rd module of the Collective Executive Development Program, titled "Design Thinking for Executives" as an intensive and full-fledged workshop. The overall objective of this two days' workshop is to on-board NBK executives on a new approach to product and service experience design. The workshop aims to change the way teams approach product and service design by ramping up on Human Centered Design methodology.

The workshop, conducted in coordination with "Frog Design", addressed a number of significantly important perspectives including: How to change the way you gather insights on your customers; discover new ways of uncovering product/service opportunities; learn to prototype your product / service to test your assumptions and embrace new processes for a human-centered approach to innovation. Also, it comprised two main objectives: Exploring a new potential in products/services; and understanding how to map your service/product experience using the Customer Journey Map to define gap and uncover innovation opportunities. The program also tackled shaping new value propositions to their product/ser-



vices and prototyping them in order to evaluate their impact with respect to the initial assumptions.

Partnering with the most prestigious global educational and consulting entities, NBK continuously strives to sup-

port and empower its employees and executive management by providing professional training, workshops, and development programs, in line with the Bank's digital transformation journey.

## NBK Capital: \$280 bn total assets of publicly listed Kuwaiti banks

**KUWAIT:** Banks are an integral part of a country's financial system and macroeconomic structure. They perform critical functions including intermediation and credit creation. In the GCC, banks are the most important financial intermediaries as the majority of borrowers' liabilities are in the form of bank loans. GCC Governments and Government-related agencies also borrow from local banks to support their spending programs.

GCC banks are mostly conventional in nature, generating a large portion of their revenue from the traditional deposit taking and lending activities. Income generated from such activities is called "Net Financing Income." Net Financing Income contributes around 75% of total revenues of large GCC banks. The remaining 25% is com-

prised of fee income, foreign exchange income and other income, which may include dividends, investment gains, and property-related income.

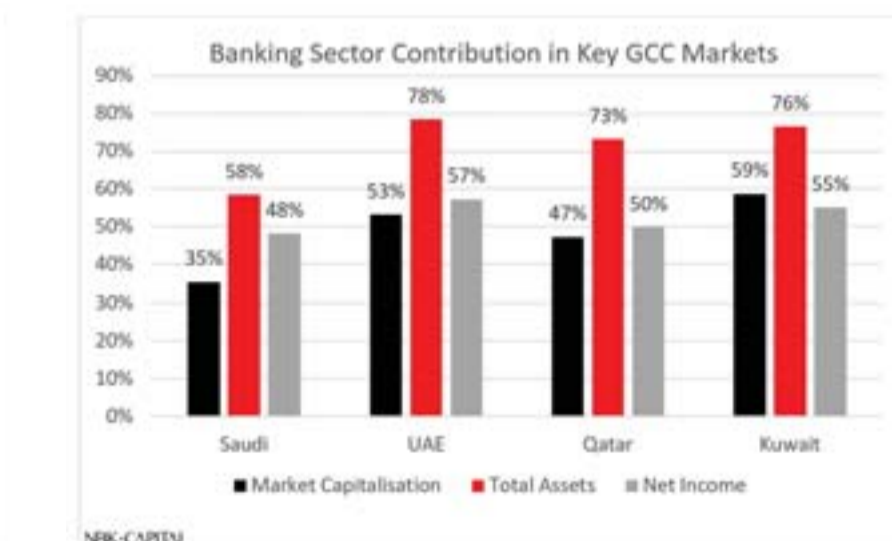
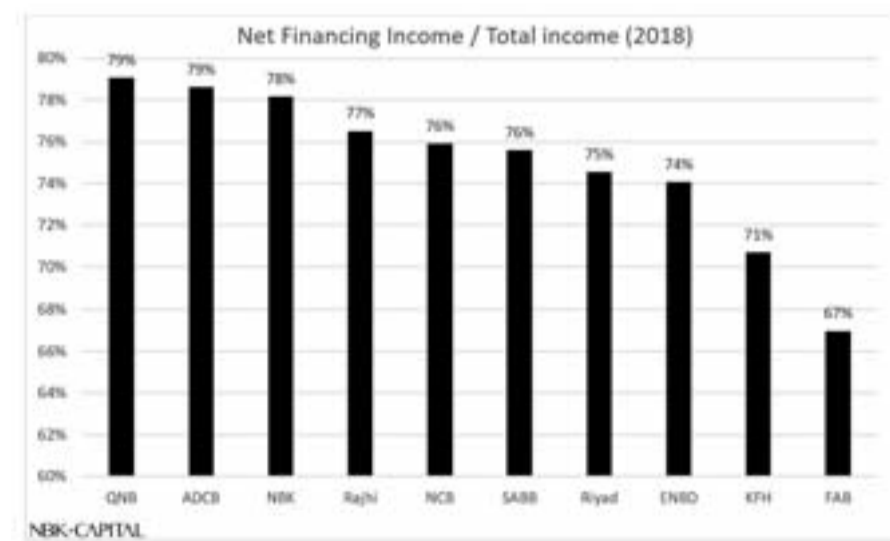
Many of the large GCC banks do offer additional services including asset management, brokerage, and investment banking. However, their contribution to total revenue tends to be relatively small. From a regional stock markets perspective, the importance of banks cannot be understated. The banking sector is a large contributor to total market capitalization. For example, banks contribute nearly 60% of the country's market value in Kuwait. The Total Assets of publicly listed Kuwaiti banks as of September 2019 stood at nearly \$280 billion, which was around 75% of total assets of all companies listed on Boursa Kuwait.

The sector's contribution to total earnings and asset base is also substantial. For example, the contribution of banking sector earnings to total publicly listed corporates earnings is around 50% in key GCC markets, which include Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait. Similarly, the sector contributes about 70% of total assets in those markets. The weight of banks in key regional equity indices also tends to be significant. The

banking sector contributes about 50% of MSCI indices in Saudi Arabia and UAE and almost 65% in Qatar. In the GCC, loans extended to corporates represent the largest portion of the aggregate loan book. Within the corporate space, the share of loans given to the services sector is usually higher than that of the manufacturing sector. The services sector includes trade, real estate, and contracting. On the consumer lending side, the share of personal loans, auto loans and credit cards tends to be high while the share of mortgages has been generally low. In Saudi, for example, consumer loans contributed about 35% of the total loan book out of which about 10% were mortgage loans during 2018.

**Conclusion**

In summary, GCC banks are not only a key part of the regional financial system but are also an important component of the stock market; they are the main financial intermediaries in the region given the reliance on bank borrowings. Therefore, revenue contribution from credit creation activity tends to be high. Additionally, their contribution to total market capitalization, total assets and aggregate net income of the region is material.



## Russia's three gas pipelines to China and the West

**MOSCOW:** Russia, the world's top gas exporter, is planning to launch three major natural gas pipelines in the near future. Power of Siberia - Billed by Russian President Vladimir Putin as "the world's biggest construction project," the giant pipeline will send Siberian gas to China. The 3,000-kilometre pipeline runs from remote regions of eastern Siberia to the city of Blagoveshchensk on the Chinese border.

Gazprom is to supply the world's fastest-growing market with 38 billion cubic meters of gas annually when the pipeline becomes fully operational in 2025. The 30-year, \$400 billion deal was signed in 2014 after a decade of tortuous talks. It was the Russian gas giant's biggest contract. The pipeline was built in extreme environmental conditions and runs through swampy, mountainous and permafrost areas.

**Nord Stream 2**

Despite years of tensions Europe currently remains Russia's primary customer. The pipeline runs under the Baltic Sea and is set to double shipments of Russian natural gas to Germany, the EU's biggest economy. It has an annual capacity is 55 billion cubic meters (bcm). Half of the 9.5-billion-euro (\$10.6-billion) project is financed by Gazprom, with the rest covered by its European partners: Germany's Wintershall and Uniper, Anglo-Dutch Shell, France's Engie and Austria's OMV. The project has been denounced by the United States and countries in eastern and central Europe, particularly Ukraine.

They fear it will increase Europe's reliance on Russian energy supplies which Moscow could then use to exert political pressure. US President Donald Trump has threatened to hit Nord Stream 2 and those tied to it with sanctions. Russia had hoped to unveil the pipeline in late 2019 but the launch has been delayed due to difficulties in obtaining the permits from Denmark. In October, Copenhagen gave Russia a permit to build a section of the pipeline on the Danish continental shelf in the Baltic Sea. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak told reporters last month that he expected the pipeline to become operational in mid-2020.

**TurkStream**

Turkey is one of Russia's key customers. Russia supplies gas to Turkey via the Blue Stream and Trans-Balkan gas pipelines. Running under the Black Sea, the new TurkStream pipeline consists of two lines—the first is intended for Turkish consumers, while the second will send gas to southern and southeastern Europe. Each has an annual capacity of 15.75 billion cubic meters. Putin and Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan hope to unveil the pipeline in January.

Like Nord Stream 2, it will bypass Ukraine. In comparison to the Power of Siberia and the Baltic energy link, the construction of the TurkStream pipeline benefited from a better climate. The project symbolizes close ties between NATO member Turkey and Russia which overcame a major rupture in 2015 following the downing of a Russian fighter jet. In 2016, after a meeting between Putin and Erdogan in Saint Petersburg earlier that year, Russia and Turkey signed an agreement to build the TurkStream pipeline. Construction began in 2017. — AFP

## Ooredoo launches Cisco SD-WAN powered by Meraki

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, the first to launch innovated digital services in Kuwait announced the launch of Cisco SD-WAN powered by Meraki. This new offer will expand Ooredoo Kuwait's Cisco Meraki solutions, providing Ooredoo's customers with a smooth transition from their current wide area network (WAN) and security infrastructure to a more agile and simplified model for managing their WAN.

The new SD-WAN service will enable medium and large enterprise customers who value simplicity to accelerate their digital transformation, adopt an agile cloud strategy, and respond faster to their market and customer dynamics. The solution also allows customers to centrally monitor and manage their network infrastructure, applications and security from a single pane of glass through a



web-based dashboard. With the new capabilities of Cisco SD-WAN powered by Meraki, customers can manage multiple locations, and optimize their critical business applications while reducing their operational costs. "Cisco SD-WAN powered by Meraki delivers the scalability, manageability and security expected by the Kuwaiti SD-WAN customers," said Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Chief Business Officer at Ooredoo Kuwait. "We are excited to offer SD-WAN to the Kuwaiti market as it complements Ooredoo's strategy to drive the digital transformation of



our customers and help them connect their business vision to their underlying technologies," said Al-Babtain.

"As customers look to automate application and network connectivity across any cloud, it's critical they have services that increase IT agility, security, and enhance application performance," said Ali Amer, Managing Director, Global Service Provider Sales, Cisco Middle East

and Africa. "This new Ooredoo Kuwait SD-WAN service utilizes the Cisco SD-WAN powered by Meraki technology to meet these requirements and allow customers to manage their WAN with confidence and ease." For more information, please contact I31, our team will answer all inquiries around the clock 7 days a week. Or visit our website [www.ooredoo.com.kw/business](http://www.ooredoo.com.kw/business) for updates and more.



## Business

# Turkish economy returns to growth, government eyes acceleration in 2020

## Agriculture expands 3.8%, construction shrinks 7.8%

ISTANBUL: Turkey's economy grew 0.9% year-on-year in the third quarter, breaking three consecutive quarters of contraction as it shook off a recession which followed last year's currency crisis. Turkey has a track record of 5% growth, but a 30% slide in the lira last year pushed up inflation and interest rates, while domestic demand tumbled. The central bank has since slashed rates to revive activity.

Monday's data was in line with a Reuters poll which forecast 1% year-on-year expansion in the third quarter. The poll also predicted that the economy will grow 0.5% in 2019 as a whole. The government has forecast 5% growth next year, and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak wrote on Twitter that leading indicators for the fourth quarter showed growth momentum was continuing to increase.

But economists say achieving the government's target could prove difficult. "The key issue for me is that there is still not that much confidence among households and corporates," said Piotr Matys, emerging markets forex strategist at Rabobank. He said authori-

ties needed to make significant progress on economic reforms to restore confidence amongst investors and locals, with efforts so far having focused mainly on short-term solutions.

The third quarter growth was driven by the agricultural sector which expanded 3.8%, while industry grew 1.6% and services grew 0.6%. However, the construction sector, which underpinned years of strong economic growth in Turkey, shrank 7.8%, the Turkish Statistical Institute data (TUIK) said. The lira was at 5.7550 against the dollar after the data, weakening from 5.74 beforehand. Compared to the second quarter, gross domestic product expanded by a seasonally and calendar-adjusted 0.4%, its third positive quarter-on-quarter reading in a row, TUIK data showed.

QNB Finansbank said in a note that private consumption was the major driver of growth quarter-on-quarter, but its contribution had weakened. TUIK said exports increased 5.1% year-on-year in the quarter, while imports grew 7.6%. As the economy has recovered, inflation tumbled to single digits in October due to base effects, and loan growth picked up thanks to central bank rate cuts. In the second quarter, the economy shrank a revised 1.6% year-on-year.



### Central bank slashed interest rates 10 points

#### Mixed economic data

In late October, the central bank slashed its policy rate more than expected to 14%, continuing an aggressive bout of cuts from 24% since July to help revive the recession-hit economy. The central bank governor subsequently said the bank had used a sig-

nificant part of its leeway for loosening monetary policy. Last week, he said the bank will use required reserves to support real sector access to loans and loan growth.

The government's own sharply lowered forecast for the year envisages growth at 0.5% in 2019, and 5% in 2020. QNB Finansbank said it revised its 2019 growth forecast to 0.6% from 0.8% after the data, and saw year-on-year growth for Q4 as likely to be above 4%. A business survey yesterday showed Turkish manufacturing activity contracted in November as new orders slowed although output picked up.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing rose to 49.5 from 49.0 in October, said the Istanbul Chamber of Industry and IHS Markit. "The economic confidence index and its components suggest a broad-based recovery in economic activity in Q4," the QNB Finansbank note said. Trade data yesterday showed exports were flat in November, with imports jumping 9.2%, resulting in a tripling of the trade deficit to \$2.15 billion. —Reuters

## EU fails to block US tariffs in new WTO aircraft ruling

PARIS: The World Trade Organization has found that the European Union has failed to withdraw all subsidies to planemaker Airbus amid US tariffs on European goods, three people familiar with the matter said. A new compliance report to be published today found that the Airbus A350 jetliner continues to be subsidized as a result of earlier government loans, they said.

However, the WTO could scale back the amount of harm deemed to have been caused to US rival Boeing, which influenced a decision to allow \$7.5 billion of US tariffs against the EU earlier this year, two of the people said. Neither the WTO nor the parties in the 15-year-old trade case, which involves mutual claims of billions of dollars of subsidies to both planemakers, had any immediate comment. The United States imposed tariffs on European goods including most Airbus planes and products from cheese to handbags and whisky in October.

The \$7.5-billion tariff ceiling approved by the WTO was based on the amount of economic damage believed to have been caused to Boeing as a result of European support to Airbus, mainly in the form of government loans for the A380 and A350. The WTO overruled EU attempts to halt the tariffs while Brussels brought forward new arguments to show that it had complied with earlier rulings, in a somewhat rare second compliance procedure.

Monday's report will deliver the WTO's verdict on those new arguments, which rely partly on the fact the A380 - once the European planemaker's flagship - is facing the axe because of poor sales, meaning any damage to Boeing was temporary. Two of the people familiar with the case said the WTO had accepted part of these arguments, implicitly agreeing to reduce the ceiling for US retaliation by as much as \$2 billion. However, it remained unclear how quickly a partial European victory on that front could translate into lower tariffs, due to legal technicalities.

By appealing the new compliance finding, the United States could effectively send the case into a void as the WTO Appellate Body, which hears appeals, is about to cease functioning due to US blocking of new appointments, experts said. Instead, the EU is expected to focus on the prospect of counter-tariffs in a parallel case over Boeing subsidies likely to come to a head next spring, while calling for a broader negotiated settlement on aircraft support worldwide. —Reuters

## Middle East teams compete in Huawei ICT competition

KUWAIT: Thirteen teams comprising a total of 39 students from across the Middle East, including three students from Kuwait, have competed in the final of the Huawei Middle East ICT Competition 2019-2020, held at Huawei's global headquarters in Shenzhen, China. Amongst the awards, a team from Kuwait was recognized with an 'Outstanding Performance' recognition, with the Australian College of Kuwait also receiving an 'Excellent Academy' recognition.

Over the course of 2019, the competition attracted more than 21,000 student registrations from 437 colleges and universities in Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. This year's final had a total of 13 teams and 20 ministries participate from countries across the Middle East.

The information and communications technology (ICT) sector is having an increasing impact on societies and businesses alike. Countries across the region recognize this, and have implemented plans - such as the 'New Kuwait' National Development Plan - to best take advantage of new technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), and cloud, which can support the realization of digital transformation, national plans and visions. In order to do this, however, there is a need to address the talent gap that currently exists within the ICT sector.

Huawei is keen to support the development of the ICT ecosystem in Kuwait. One of the ways in which it does so is the Huawei ME ICT Competition, which nurtures local ICT talent, working with government authorities, colleges and universities in the Middle East to identify, support, and grow the future leaders of ICT. The Competition promotes innovation and creativity while increasing national ICT competitiveness and encouraging local communities to contribute towards achieving digital transformation and economic growth.

Participating students have the opportunity to enhance their ICT knowledge, practical and application skills as well as raising their innovation awareness, thereby enhancing their employability within the sector - especially with national winners receiving an immersion experience within an ICT company's headquarters in Shenzhen, China, in addition to employment opportunities and other prizes. Through the Competition, Huawei facilitates connections between international talent, providing equal opportunities for quality education with the aim of enabling more people to benefit from the digital economy.

Charles Yang, President of HUAWEI Middle East, said: "We congratulate our winners, and all of the teams who made it to the Huawei Middle East ICT Competition 2019 Final. This year's field of competition was especially strong. Each team participating



in the final round represents some of the brightest talent from their country, as well as from the region. Seeing so many gifted young people gives us great confidence in the future of ICT in the Middle East."

He added: "The Huawei ICT Competition aims to develop ICT skills and knowledge amongst the region's youth population, giving them the understanding to contribute to their country's digitalization efforts. Working with partners in the public sector, we are committed to developing the ICT ecosystem of Kuwait, and the competition is designed to be in alignment with government targets towards building a knowledge-based, sustainable digital economy, which can be further driven by the digital leaders we aim to create."

The final round of the Huawei ME ICT Competition included the ICT Talent Education summit roundtable with ambassadors and chancellors from the participants' countries. During the panel, participants discussed several pertinent topics, including the rapid development of technologies such as 5G, AI, and cloud, and how they are leading the way towards business growth and societal development, and the shortage of ICT talent in the Middle East who are ready to adjust to the new intelligent digital era and be accountable for supporting their country's national ambitions.

The participants called on governments to increase investment in ICT talent enhancement to address this shortage, and on universities to adapt their curriculums to meet the requirements of future ICT talent cultivation. They also called upon ICT industry companies, such as Huawei, to make their own contributions to developing more ICT talent, such as through CSR programs and activities.

The winning teams received special certificates and trophies at the finale, as well as the opportunity to conduct field experiments at Huawei's specialized labs and research centers at its global headquarters, collaborating with some of the brightest minds of the industry. Winners received their prizes during a



ceremony attended by several VIPs, including Steven Yi, Member of the Supervisory Board and President of MEA region at Huawei, HE Sameeh Hayat, Kuwait Embassy in China, Lianpu Ding, Director of the Center for Exchange of China-Foreign People-to-people of the Ministry of Education of China, and Dr. Li Jihong, Deputy Director of UNESCO Centre for Innovation in Higher Education.

The winning teams were selected based on a three-month qualifying period, during which each competed against their national counterparts to earn their place in the regional finals. Qualifying rounds included working in real ICT laboratories, getting up-to-date with key technologies such as cloud computing, AI, Big Data and 5G. In the final round, teams competed in day-long competitions, which included technology workshops with global ICT experts and discussions with senior delegates from Huawei.

## Burgan Bank announces the winner of Al-Thuraya salary account

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank has announced Yousef Abdulla Al Zawaid as the lucky winner of the draw prize of Al-Thuraya Salary Accounts monthly draw. The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win KD 10,000 every month. Each account holder has one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti Dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year. Customers wishing to open the Al-Thuraya account can do so by simply visiting the nearest Burgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details, or simply call the bank's call center. For further information, customers can also visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.

## ALSAYER wins prestigious GSAS Platinum rating Sustainability Award

KUWAIT: ALSAYER Holding was bestowed with the prestigious 2019 GSAS Platinum rating Sustainability Award as the First retail in Kuwait, from Gulf Organization for Research and Development (GORD), for the new state of the art Sales Showroom for Lexus and Toyota vehicles at Aswaq Al Qurain. According to Mubarak Al-Sayer, CEO - "ALSAYER Holding is continuously achieving all the defined milestones for best sustainability practices along with the rewards and recognitions from the global third parties like GORD and Arabia CSR Network. We believe that the private sector has been invaluable at every stage of New Kuwait Vision 2035. By addressing, implementing and mapping our sustainability strategic directions and goals with both New Kuwait



Development Plan and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals."

The design of this building has been aligned with the Group's strategic focus on sustainable business solutions. This includes Solar system for power generation, large glass facades for natural day light, latest LED light fittings, auto water mixers,

automatic car washing in order to optimize the energy and water consumption.

The "Sustainability Award" conferred by HE Minister of Municipality and Environment of Qatar during the summit's opening ceremony at Doha was attended by ALSAYER representatives including Bader Faisal Al-Sayer Deputy Manager



Marketing and Nehad Al-Haj Ali, Deputy Group Manager, Corporate Excellence. This is ALSAYER's Second location which has received the Platinum rating after ALSAYER Headquarter at Kuwait Free Trade Zone on 2018 out of management commitment to spread Sustainability in all our business operations.



What's On



Sheikh Mubarak presenting a memento.



Attendees at the ceremony. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

# Kuwait contributes actively in supporting Ahl Masr hospital

Kuwait hosting this celebration is an honor for the country of humanity: Sheikh Mubarak

By Faten Omar

Ahl Masr Foundation organized a celebration under the patronage of Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah with the participation of a number of diplomats, actors and the media. During his opening speech, Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq Al-Qouni said Kuwait has contributed actively in supporting Ahl Masr hospital for free treatment of burns.

He said establishing the hospital is a pioneering idea that addresses one of the most serious problems facing society, which requires everyone to unite by working to involve the victims in the community again. The ambassador praised the ambition of the hospital owners in their quest to establish the largest hospital in Africa and the Middle East, as well as their interest in the development of scientific research in the field along with psychosocial aspects, which is an important step in treatment.

Qouni pointed out that the hospital's keenness to introduce its activities in Kuwait is not surprising, given the strength of brotherly

relations between Kuwait and Egypt, in addition to Kuwait being a country of humanity under the leadership of "Humanitarian Leader" HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Mubarak said Kuwait's hosting of this celebration is an honor for the country of humanity. "Egypt lives in the heart of every Kuwaiti - our eyes open as Kuwaitis to love Egypt. I am honored that I was born in Egypt and raised by parents who received their university education in Cairo, like many Kuwaitis," he said.

He stressed Ahl Masr Foundation is the first institution in Egypt and the Middle East that works in the field of awareness of the dangers of fire and treats victims free of charge. It rehabilitates them to integrate into society again, to address one of the most dangerous phenomena because of its social, economic and psychological effects.

Dr Heba El-Sewedy, Founder and Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of Ahl Masr Foundation, said the foundation chose Kuwait to host this celebration based on the Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations rooted since



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah



Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq Al-Qouni



Dr. Heba El-Sewedy

ancient time, which is considered a role model in international relations, especially in light of the great intellectual convergence between the two peoples, which is an important part in building close fraternal relations between them.

She added that the foundation was established in 2013 to be the first non-profit foundation in Egypt, Middle East and Africa concerned with the issues of prevention and treatment of burns, pointing out that the goal

of the foundation is to save the lives of victims and give them a new opportunity in life.

Sewedy said Ahl Masr hospital has a capacity of 200 beds, noting that around 250,000 people are burned annually in accidents in Egypt, of whom around 90,000 die in the first six hours and 150,000 two weeks after the incident. She added that the cause of death is not due to the effects of fire, but because of infection that leads to poisoning in the blood.

She stressed that the hospital will be provided with the latest medical equipment according to the latest international technologies to provide treatment and operations for victims of burn accidents, which includes analyses and blood transfusions, all kinds of radiology, surgeries and restorations, skin treatment and laser sessions, prosthetic organs and pharmaceutical services, in addition to social rehabilitation sessions.

## CBK visits labour camps to distribute winter items

The team of Corporate Communications Division at Commercial Bank of Kuwait arranged visits to cleaning and construction workers to distribute winter items to them within the humanitarian activities related to the "make it easy for them" campaign, which the bank launched eight

years ago, and won the prize of the pioneering social project of the GCC countries in 2016.

Deputy General Manager of the Division Amani Al-Waraa said "Al-Tijari" organized the visits in order to distribute the items to the laborers at the sites of their work.



## Britain in Kuwait Exhibition 2019

The Sunshine Kindergarten (TSK) participated in the spectacular opening of the 10th Britain in Kuwait under the gracious patronage of HH Sheikh Nasser Mohamed Al Sabah. Madam Vera Al-Muttawa MBE, Miss Heather (Principal), Miss Lis (Assistant Principal) were in attendance with some of their wonderful students in the infamous bright yellow uniform.

The TSK booth recreated a classroom scene and included a short film of the day in the life of its students. It was an opportunity to showcase some of the wonderful work that takes place at the nursery.

The creative art work on display promoted

the wonderful relationship between Kuwait and Britain and was completed by the young TSK children.

TSK Principal Heather Holsgrove was immensely proud of the hard work and effort that the children and their teachers had put into making the exhibition such a success. At the event, she told her guests that the children are encouraged to be independent and are developing their strong English language through a 'language rich' learning environment. She added, "It is an honour to participate in an event that supports the longstanding relationship between Kuwait and Britain. Kuwait has been my home for over 10 years and I am proud of the endless opportunities Kuwait has given me, my family, colleagues and students. At TSK, we celebrate living in Kuwait as often as we can through school events as it is so important that we are proud of our roots as well as where we live. Kuwait will always have a special place in our hearts."

The Chairman of the exhibition Ahmad Ismail Behbehani and Her Majesty's Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Michael Davenport presented a certificate of appreciation to TSK in recognition of participation.

As part of celebrating the longstanding relationship, we welcome The Duke of Cambridge Prince William, The grandson of the UK's Queen Elizabeth II to Kuwait this week. We all hope that Prince William enjoys his stay and you never know, he may have time to pop in to see us at The Sunshine Kindergarten.

TSK follows The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS), a dynamic curriculum for young children which allows them to develop their strengths and skills as they learn through play-based activities, active learning and creative arts sessions. It is the dedication of the teaching team and the support and enthusiasm of the parents and their children that ensures that The Sunshine Kindergarten maintain their position as Kuwait's Premier Early Years Centre.

## LAPA holds musical concert

The Modern Heritage Music festival organized by LOYAC's Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA) in collaboration with Al-Shaheed Park and at its amphitheatre recently organized its fourth event this season with a concert for the

Bahraini singer, Khaled Fuad.

Fuad's concert attracted a large audience despite the heavy rains. The audience enjoyed a number of Fuad's songs to which they loudly reacted with singing and applauding.



## Gloria In Excelsis Deo

As December approaches, Men's Voice and Choral society, Kuwait are all set to sound the trumpet to mark the Christmas season with their peerless musical evening. They have geared up to light the fire of excitement to present their 19th Annual Music Concert with the theme "Gloria In Excelsis Deo" on Friday the 6th December 2019 at Indian Central School Auditorium, Jleeb Al Shuyoukh at 6.30 pm.

Also featuring their 30-member Junior choir is composed of young and budding voices who are sure to carry on the legacy of the Senior choir into the future. This unique group of talented vocalists and musicians will perform a variety of musical beats that the season brings. The choral group is trained under the choir master Ajith Babu.

It's been 19 years since Men's Voice and Choral Society - Kuwait started the trend of ringing in the bells of the Christmas season with their music in the land of black gold. The group that began in 2001 with a few music lovers has now become one of the leading choirs of Kuwait. For the past 19 years they have stamped their excellence in performing and presenting Carols in unique ways. This year they will mark the beginning of their 20th year-long celebration. All are cordially invited! For further details visit [www.facebook.com/mensvoicekuwait](http://www.facebook.com/mensvoicekuwait).



Health & Science

# Government shutdown in Samoa amid 'cruel' measles outbreak

## 3,728 measles cases recorded since mid-October

WELLINGTON: Samoa ordered a government shutdown to help combat a devastating measles outbreak Monday, as five more children succumbed to the virus, lifting the death toll in the tiny Pacific nation to 53. The government said almost 200 new measles cases had been recorded since Sunday, with the rate of infection showing no sign of slowing despite a compulsory mass vaccination program.

The scheme has so far focused on children but Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi said it was time to immunize everyone in the 200,000 population aged under 60. To achieve the goal, he said government services and departments would close on Thursday and Friday this week in order to allow all public servants to assist with the mass vaccination campaign throughout the country.

He said only electricity and water utility workers would be exempt and called on the nation to stand together to contain the outbreak. "In this time of crisis, and the cruel reality of the measles epidemic, let us reflect on how we can avoid recurrence in the future," Malielegaoi said in a national address. Since the crisis began in mid-October, there have been 3,728 measles cases, accounting for almost two percent of the

population. Infants are the most vulnerable and form the bulk of infections, with 48 of the fatalities aged four or less.

A state of emergency was declared in mid-November, with schools closed and children banned from public gatherings, such as church services, to minimize the risk of contagion. The outbreak has been exacerbated by Samoa's low immunization rates, which the World Health Organization blames on overseas-based anti-vaccine campaigners. Malielegaoi was unequivocal in his message, telling his people "vaccination is the only cure... no traditional healers or kangen (alkaline) water preparations can cure measles."

"Let us work together to encourage and convince those that do not believe that vaccinations are the only answer to the epidemic," he said. "Let us not be distracted by the promise of alternative cures." Officials say the anti-vaccination message has resonated in Samoa because of a case last year when two babies died after receiving measles immunization shots. It resulted in the temporary suspension of the country's immunization program and dented parents' trust in the vaccine, even though it later turned out the deaths were caused when other medicines were incorrectly administered. — AFP

## Indonesian fires burnt 1.6 million hectares of land

JAKARTA: Fires in Indonesia that spread a smoky haze over Southeast Asia this year burned at least 1.6 million hectares of mostly degraded land and carbon-rich peatlands, data from a respected research group showed yesterday. Southeast Asia has suffered for years from smoke caused by fires in Indonesia, raising health and environmental concerns, but this year's were the worst since 2015 when 2.6 million hectares were burned. Slash-and-burn clearing by some palm oil growers is often blamed for the fires, which can then spread rapidly, especially during dry weather. The Indonesian fires have been blamed for increasing greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation that can endanger wildlife such as orangutans. Jakarta-based Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) said its analysis of satellite imagery from the first ten months of the year showed much of the fires was in lands cleared years ago.

"We found that 76 percent of burning occurred on idle lands. Those lands were forests a few years ago, but cycles of repeated burns have converted them to unproductive degraded scrublands," CIFOR scientists led by David Gaveau said in a statement. About 3 percent of the fires occurred on oil palm plantations. Peatlands accounted for 41 percent of the total land burned, or 670,000 hectares, in Indonesia this year, the CIFOR data showed. The scientists estimated around



JAKARTA: Indonesian activists participate in a rally calling for action against climate change, in Jakarta on November 29, 2019. — AFP

60,000 hectares of rainforests were burnt this year as of October. The Jambi and West Kalimantan provinces, which are important habitats for tigers and orangutans, saw some of the highest number of fires, they said. Their 1.6 million hectare estimate of burnt land is based on an analysis across seven provinces. Indonesia's environment and forestry ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the CIFOR data. But an official had said earlier this year that 857,756 hectares of land burnt as of end-September. — Reuters

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Stars

CROSSWORD 2375



ACROSS

1. A fraudulent business scheme.
5. (Bible) The archangel who was the messenger of God.
12. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
15. (Greek mythology) Daughter of Zeus and Demeter.
16. The outermost region of the sun's atmosphere.
17. A numbered compartment in a post office where mail is put to be called for.
18. (of eggs) No longer edible.
19. Give qualities or abilities to.
20. Use of a single unit or thing.
21. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
22. Absolve or pardon.
25. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
26. A bowl-shaped vessel.
28. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
30. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
32. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
34. A public promotion of some product or service.
36. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
39. A master's degree in business.
42. A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles.
43. Remove from office.
45. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
49. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
50. An acute viral disease of the nervous system of warm-blooded animals (usually transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal).
52. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
53. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
55. Feeling or showing extreme anger.
58. A state in midwestern United States.
60. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
62. The capital of Western Samoa.
68. Open to or abounding in fresh air.
71. (anatomy) A structure that resembles a shell in shape.
72. An Italian title of address equivalent to Mrs. when used before a name.
74. A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
75. Large long-jawed oceanic sport fishes.
78. Marked by lack of intellectual depth.
79. English essayist (1775-1834).
80. A member of a widespread group of Amerindians living in northeastern North America.
81. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.

DOWN

1. A narcotic that is considered a hard drug.
2. The closing section of a musical composition.
3. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.

4. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
5. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
6. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
7. The Jewish rite of circumcision performed on a male child on the eighth day of his life.
8. French impressionist painter (1841-1919).
9. A nonmetallic element belonging to the halogens.
10. The twelfth month of the civil year.
11. Towards the side away from the wind.
12. The great hall in ancient Persian palaces.
13. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
14. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
23. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
24. (Sumerian) Consort of Dumuzi (Tammuz).
27. (British) Informal term for information.
29. Inhabitant of the island of Cebu.
31. (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
33. An oil port in southern Iraq.
35. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
37. Port city in the United Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf.
38. Jordan's port.
40. A Scottish word.
41. Turn basic and less acidic, of solutions and substances.
44. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
46. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
47. A knapsack (usually for a soldier).
48. One million periods per second.
51. The 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
54. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
56. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
57. Any plant of the genus Eryngium.
59. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
61. Comical in an odd or whimsical manner.
63. An excavation that is (usually) filled with water.
64. The basic unit of money in Peru.
65. God of love and erotic desire.
66. A city in northern India.
67. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
69. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
70. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
73. A liquid used for printing or writing or drawing.
76. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
77. A radioactive transuranic element synthesized from californium.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a time that choices you make concerning your living situation could leave you in a bind. Think long and hard before you act and look for alternate solutions to any problems you are dealing with. You may feel isolated and as if you are not getting the support you need now. A desire for a social life may come over you. Be sure to choose your company wisely. Remember when it comes to friends, quantity is never better than quality. Good times could go south quickly this evening if you make the wrong selection of company. Try to clear your mind and make an attempt to connect with one of your longtime true friends this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There are times when you look in the mirror and you really like what you see. Today is the day for that. You may not only like what you see but you truly like who you are. Your better qualities are shining through today. You may find you have a special bond today with an older person in your life. You are able to enjoy spending some time with this person and even see them as a mentor. This is a great time for socializing with friends and sharing experiences. This could be a very enlightening time for you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A feeling of peace and stability should come over you today. You have made wise decisions and feel really good about yourself and the position in life you find yourself to be in. You wish to be free of a feeling of want that haunts you. Acquiring material possessions should satisfy this craving. A shopping trip may be in order. Retail therapy can never hurt. You will enjoy spending your time with a group of friends this evening. Smiles and laughter are to come.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your energy level is through the roof today. There is also a lot of energy and behind your words and thoughts. Your mind is sharp, but your tongue may be sharper. Conflict could arise from the what you say, and how you say it to others. Frustration may set in when you find an obstacle in your path today. Use this high energy to leap right over it on to the next project. Use this energy in a positive manner and you will find this to be an extremely productive day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It may seem as if the stars are shining down on you. Everything seems to work in your favor. People are starting to take notice of all which makes you unique and different. Some may find you quite eccentric. You may find someone close to you seems to really understand the way you choose to express yourself. This support is much appreciated and gives quite a boost to your self esteem.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have set your focus on providing a strong foundation for your family life. You crave security and the one that will be by your side for a lifetime. You find yourself in a serious mood where deep conversation and planning will help to insure the stability you crave. You are serious about your future and who you want to spend it with. The seeds you plant today will develop the roots of the reward you seek. You are focused and determined to lead a healthy, happy life. You make your health a priority now, a gym membership, meal planning, or making plans to exercise as team, is where your focus is. This is great start to making your plans a reality. You know exactly what you want, and you will make it happen.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You long to be the center of attention. This is a driving force that keeps your ambition and dreams strong. This could be a very romantic time in your life. Someone close to you may tend to express great admiration and strong feelings for you. You may feel as if you are being put on a pedestal and this will satisfy all that you have been longing for. You may find this feeling puts you in a dreamy state. A time that is difficult to focus. You may be feeling as you are floating on air. You have long craved this type of attention and once you experience it others may find it difficult to bring you back down to Earth. Libra, you are on top of the world.



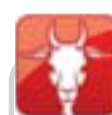
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find it difficult to communicate with your superiors or someone in authority. Not everyone has the same views and thoughts concerning issues that present themselves to you today. You can be right or you can be happy. Choose happiness today and let someone have their way. Your energy is best spent concentrating on your family. This would be a great evening to spend some time with your siblings or neighbors. A good laugh and the support only you can receive from them is what you need.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

To whom are you listening? If all the people around you are saying what you want to hear, you may want to change venues. New acquaintances may give you the insight you need. You don't grow if you only listen to those who agree with you. You want to be challenged. That can only happen if you listen to people whose ideas and opinions are different from yours. You may have to seek them out.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are experiencing a great time of peace in your world. You are stable and your emotions are at an all time high. You may find much comfort in music. Popping those headphones in your ears seems to make you more productive, rather than distracted. You may find this is a time of great material gain in your life. You have worked hard and believe you deserve the best this world has to offer. It is a great time for you to spoil yourself. Enjoy some of the luxuries life has to offer.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You seem drawn to all that is romantic. Social relationships seem to fall into place and become routine for you. You find yourself at the same little hangout, with the same friends, night after night and you begin to feel comfort in this routine. Music will play a comforting role in your life now and this may be why you enjoy the time spent winding down in the evenings. You may find yourself feelings as if you want to satisfy a need for acquiring material possessions. You work hard, and you are beginning to want to spoil yourself with the finer things in life. Don't be surprised if you find yourself at the dealership wanting to upgrade your ride.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself focusing on that which intrigues you. Seems you find broadening your horizons as a priority. You are seeking answers. You have a yearning to broaden the horizons and want to gain as much knowledge as possible. Pisces, you want to be in touch with the universe on a grander scale. You are full of curiosity. Travel and furthering your education may be two avenues that would assist you in accomplishing these goals.

Wordsearch Puzzle

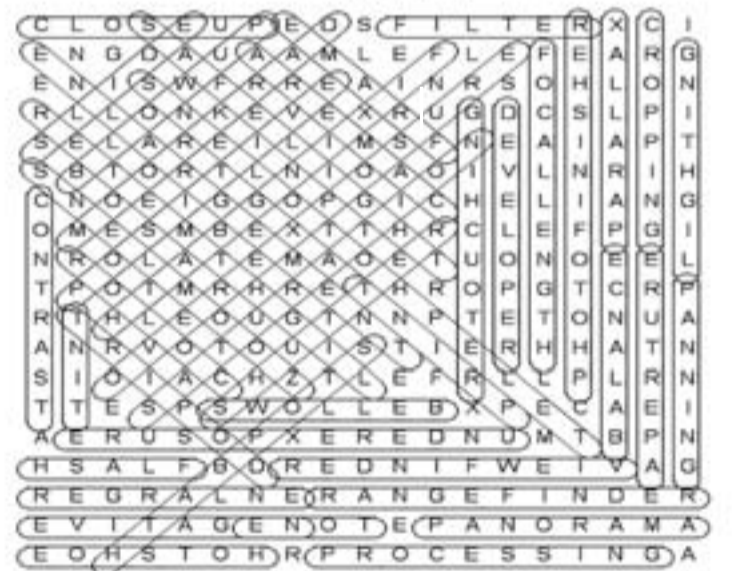
Physics 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 30 letters spell an Albert Einstein quotation.



- |              |                |            |               |
|--------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| ACCELERATION | ELECTRON       | LAWS       | QUARK         |
| ACOUSTICS    | ENERGY         | LENGTH     | REFRACTION    |
| AMPLITUDE    | ENTROPY        | LEVER      | SOUND         |
| ATOM         | EXPERIMENT     | MASS       | STRING THEORY |
| BLACK HOLE   | FARADAY        | MECHANICS  | TESLA         |
| BUOYANCY     | FREEZING POINT | MOMENTUM   | THERMOMETER   |
| CENTRIPETAL  | FULCRUM        | NEWTON     | TRAJECTORY    |
| COLD FUSION  | GRAVITY        | PASCAL     | VECTOR        |
| CONVECTION   | HAWKING        | OPTICS     | VISCOSITY     |
| DENSITY      | IMPEDANCE      | PENDULUM   | WAVE          |
| DISPLACEMENT | ISOTOPE        | POWER      | WEDGE         |
| DOPPLER      | KELVIN         | PRINCIPLES | WORK          |
| EINSTEIN     |                |            |               |

Photography



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|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| APERTURE  | ENLARGEMENT  | OVEREXPOSURE  | SATURATION     |
| BALANCE   | ENLARGER     | PANNING       | SHUTTER        |
| BELLOWS   | FILTER       | PANORAMA      | SLIDE          |
| BLOWUP    | FLASH        | PARALLAX      | STOP BATH      |
| CAMERA    | FLASH        | PHOTOFINISHER | TELEPHOTO LENS |
| CLOSE UP  | FOCAL LENGTH | POSITIVE      | TINT           |
| COLOR     | FRAME        | PRINT         | TOPE           |
| CONTRAST  | HOT SHOE     | PROCESSING    | TRIPOD         |
| CROPPING  | LIGHT METER  | RANGEFINDER   | UNDEREXPOSURE  |
| DARKROOM  | LIGHTING     | RETOUCHING    | VIEWFINDER     |
| DEVELOPER | NEGATIVE     | SAFELIGHT     | ZOOM LENS      |

The hidden sentence is: SINGLE LENS REFLEX CAMERA

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



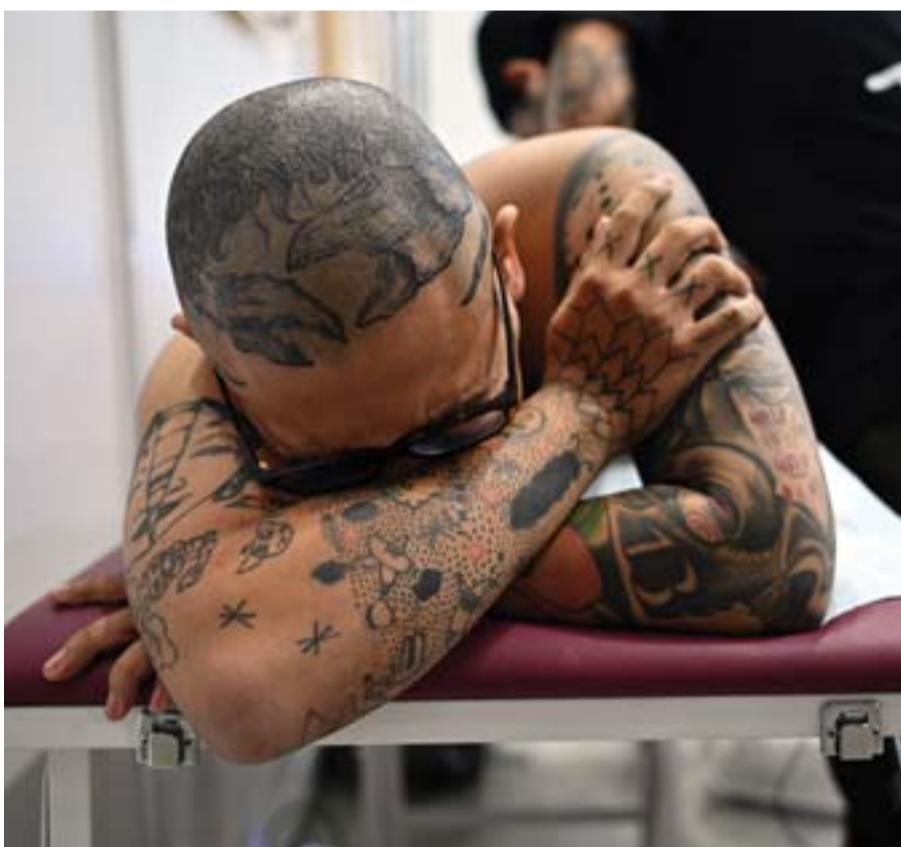


# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019



Three men display their tattoos while tattoo artist works on clients during the International Malaysia Tattoo Expo in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP Photos



A client lies on a bed while a tattoo artist works during the International Malaysia Tattoo Expo in Kuala Lumpur.

## Malaysia slams tattoo expo, fumes over half-naked pics

Malaysian officials yesterday slammed a tattoo exhibition held in the country as "porn" unsuitable for a Muslim-majority country, after images of half-naked men and women went viral. The "Tattoo Malaysia Expo" in the capital Kuala Lumpur attracted people from all over the world, and photos circulating online showed many heavily-inked participants wearing few clothes in order to display their designs.

The tourism minister had initially supported the three-day show which ended Sunday but after seeing the pictures said it did not reflect the Southeast Asian nation's "polite and decent" culture. "It is impossible for the ministry to approve of any program that contains porn such as this," Tourism Minister Mohammadin Ketapi said in a statement. "This is not Malaysian cul-

ture, the majority of the population are Muslims." He ordered a probe and warned the government could take legal action against the organizers.

Authorities added they had not given approval for "half-naked parades" and international tattoo shows previously held on the Malaysian part of Borneo Island did not include any nudity. Some 60 percent of the country's 32 million people are Muslim, but critics say that a traditionally tolerant brand of Islam has been eroded by creeping religious conservatism. Government officials tend to be conservative, and rights groups say minority groups - ranging from Muslim Shiites to gays - face growing pressure from authorities.— AFP



A tattoo artist works during the International Malaysia Tattoo Expo in Kuala Lumpur.



A tattoo artist works on a client during the International Malaysia Tattoo Expo.



Traditional tattoo artist works on a client during the International Malaysia Tattoo Expo in Kuala Lumpur.





## Gabrielle Union unimpressed by NBC's response

**T**he TV network and the two production companies behind the show, Fremantle and Syco, issued a statement on Sunday in which they claimed they were "working with" the actress to understand "concerns" following reports of a toxic environment on set, including the 47-year-old star's concerns over racially insensitive acts and personal remarks about her appearance, following her dismissal after just one season on the show as a judge. However, in response, Gabrielle retweeted a post from writer Joelle Monique which read: "A solid apology comes in three parts. (1) Sincerely admit wrong doing directly to the offended

party. (2) Be twice as loud correcting your mistake as you were making the mistake. (3) Lay out steps to correct your behavior in the future. "Anything less is covering your own a\*\*." Alongside her retweet, Gabrielle wrote: "This! This! AND THIIIISSSSSS!!!!!!(sic)". NBC had insisted they are "working with" the former talent show judge to understand her "concerns" about the show. They said in a statement: "We remain committed to ensuring a respectful workplace for all employees and take very seriously any questions about workplace culture."

## Charlie Sheen to sell the baseball he threw in 'Major League'



**T**he 54-year-old actor has enlisted the services of auction house Lelands - which sells off famous sports memorabilia - to offload some of his property, and as well as the ball, he's also getting rid of the Cleveland Indians cap he donned in the 1989 movie. The ball - which is signed by Charlie - has attracted 10 bids so far, with the winner currently set to pay \$2,357 when the sale closed on Friday while 17 bids on the cap have bumped its price up to \$4,594. The actor said of the lots: "It is my hope that whoever buys the cap and ball will get as much enjoyment from them as I did all these years." The 'Young Guns' star is selling a number of other items, including a watch he wore in 'Platoon', a locker tag that previously belonged to legendary sportsman Babe Ruth, Don Larsen's perfect game baseball, which is signed by the player himself, and a copy of 'The Old Man and the Sea', which is signed by its author, Ernest Hemingway.

## Khloe Kardashian admitted she felt 'conflicted'

**O**n Sunday's episode of 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians', the reality star celebrated her 35th birthday on June 27, and her ex-boyfriend - with whom she has 19-month-old daughter True - tried to win her back by giving her a diamond ring, which he told her was a "promise ring" and a necklace. However, the blonde beauty insisted she is not interested in getting back together with basketball player Tristan, who she split from earlier this year, amid

claims he had shared a kiss with family friend Jordyn Woods. Khloe said: "Lately Tristan has been telling me he's sorry and that he loves and appreciates me. "But right now, the most I can handle is co-parenting." "I really believe that Tristan wants more than that but that's not what I'm about." The 'Revenge Body' star discovered the necklace whilst on business in Connecticut, and admitted she didn't know whether she should keep it.



## Emilia Clarke kept her brain aneurysms secret



**T**he 'Game of Thrones' actress has endured two health scares in 2011 and 2013 but only went public about her ordeal earlier this year and admitted she was terrified about making herself "vulnerable" by talking about her experiences. She said: "The worries... That people will think your soul, your movement, your voice, who you were. "It was nerve-racking to share it, to be honest. It always is, when you make yourself vulnerable. [I waited to talk about it because] I didn't want people to think of

me as... sick." The 33-year-old star admitted her medical history has made her more cautious about her health now and she finds it hard not to "think the worst" whenever she's feeling off color. She told the Observer magazine: "[There are still days on set when I take someone aside and say] 'I think I'm having a brain hemorrhage. I'm not, I promise, but maybe just put me in a cold tent and we'll sit down for a second, and I apologize in advance if I freak you out.'

## Amber Heard's father 'threatened to shoot' Johnny Depp

**T**he 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star is suing his ex-wife for \$50 million over a piece she wrote for the Washington Post about being a victim of domestic violence, arguing it was strongly inferred he was the perpetrator, even though he wasn't named in the article, while she has been trying to get the suit dismissed, and included in his evidence submissions is a declaration from a man who worked on both of their cars, who told how the 'Aquaman' star became abusive towards him and alleged her dad made "death

threats" towards the 56-year-old actor in a phone call. David Killackey, who owns Performance Allison Transmissions and worked on classic cars owned by both Amber and Johnny said in a declaration obtained by The Blast: "The reply I received what can only be described as an extremely hostile response from Amber. "I did my best to convey to her that I did not wish to get in the middle of the dispute between her and Mr Depp. She did not receive this information very well."



## Priyanka Chopra thanks her husband for 'finding her'

**T**he 'Baywatch' actress and the 27-year-old pop star celebrated the special day on Sunday by sharing pictures from their lavish Indian ceremony on Instagram. Alongside a series of adorable snaps taken from their wedding in Jodhpur, Priyanka gushed: "My promise. Then..today.. forever. You bring me joy, grace, balance, excitement, passion.. all in the same moment...thank you for finding me..Happy First wedding anniversary Husband.. @nickjonas. "And Thank you to everyone for the love and good wishes. We feel blessed. (sic)" The Jonas Brothers singer also posted a picture of the couple taking their vows on his profile, and wrote: "One year ago today we said forever... well forever isn't nearly long enough. I love you with all of my heart @priyankachopra happy anniversary." Last week, Priyanka surprised her husband with a pet dog as an early anniversary gift. The 'Sky Is Pink' star gave the 'Sucker' hitmaker the shock of his life when she returned home with their new puppy, a German Shepherd, who they decided to call Gino Jonas.

## Sarah Hyland pays emotional tribute to her cousin

**T**he 'Modern Family' actress hit out at the "senseless and reckless" drunk driver who caused the crash that killed 14-year-old Trevor Canady as he drove to a choir event in Nebraska with his father, Bryan Canaday, last December. Sarah wrote on her Instagram Story on Sunday: "Thinking about my family today. Exactly one year ago my little cousin was killed by a drunk driver. "A senseless and reckless act took away a beautiful soul. You'll forever be in our hearts and in the sunsets. Love you Trevor." Jeffrey Eggeling was jailed for the maximum of 43-53 years in prison in September over the crash. He had driven through a red light at 69mph in a 45mph and was under the influence of alcohol when he hit Bryan and Trevor's car. The 37 year old - who had two prior DUI charges - had pleaded no contest to motor vehicle homicide, driving under the influence and causing serious bodily injury.



## Shelley Morrison dies at the age of 83

**T**he veteran actress - who was best known for her role as the maid, Rosario, in 'Will & Grace's original run - passed away at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles on Sunday after suffering heart failure following a brief illness, her publicist has confirmed. A number of Shelley's former 'Will & Grace' co-stars have paid tribute to her following the sad news. Debra Messing posted on Twitter: "Oh, Shelley... what a loss. Our dear Rosario has passed on. Shelley had a career that spanned decades, but she will always be our dear Rosie. All my love to

Walter and the entire family. #shelleymorrison (sic)" Eric McCormack remembered the actress as a "beautiful soul and wonderful actor" as he sent a message of condolence to her family. He wrote: "Shelley was a beautiful soul & a wonderful actor. Her work as Rosario, season after season, was as nuanced and real as it was hysterical. She will be missed by everyone at #WillandGrace, she's a huge part of it. Sending so much love to Walter and Shelley's whole family. #Rosario (sic)"





Lifestyle | Gossip

## Karlie Kloss always keeps 'a good moisturizer'

The 27-year-old model thinks it is important to take care of her skin wherever she goes and will always carry moisturizer and cleanser with her. Speaking to Travel and Leisure, she said: "I really care about making sure I'm taking care of my skin, so a good cleanser and a good moisturizer and hand sanitizer are in my bag at all times. I love Estee Lauder skincare, there's an ANR syrup that I use for everything." Karlie had previously opened up about another beauty hack she has - she

always carries a teaspoon with her to get a really "tight curl" on her lashes. She said: "This teaspoon is very functional: it's in my bag at all times for whatever the needs are. One tip and use of a teaspoon that I learned backstage from Pat McGrath at a fashion show way back when was to use a teaspoon to really get a very tight curl on the lash ... you can really get right onto the lid and pinch it. This is my eyelash trick."



## Dua Lipa wiped her Instagram account to 'start fresh'

The 24-year-old singer will "never forget" the memories she documented on her social media page but wanted to usher in a new era for her music by getting rid of all her posts last month. She explained: "It was more, I'm starting a new album. I want to just start fresh. Those memories are always going to be there. I lived through them and I'll never forget them. I have those pictures for the rest of my life and I get to keep them. But it's to kind of take away the preciousness that I feel so much with social media, and that was kind the reason why I did it." And the 'Don't Start Now' hitmaker wanted to "prove" to herself that she

should just use social media "for fun" in whichever ways she chooses. She told Nova 96.9's Fitzy & Wippa: "I think, for me, it was just to prove to myself that social media isn't really real in that aspect that you can do whatever you want, that you can post how you want, and you can choose how you use social media...it was more for fun." The 'New Rules' hitmaker is moving on from the sound of her first album, and recently teased the new music is a change of direction, but doesn't think that's a "risky" move to have made.



## Kim Kardashian West paid \$1.35 million for Uber Eats advert

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star stars opposite Magda Szubanski - who is in character as Sharon Strzelecki from 'Kath & Kim' - in the commercial, which sees her wear a netball outfit and appear confused by her co-star's pronunciation of 'noice' and the day of filming netted her a hefty pay day. According to NW magazine, Kim agreed a deal which is worth \$2 million in Australia to appear in the commercial, the equivalent of \$1.35 million. Magda, 58, recently admitted Kim was confused about the content of the advert as she had no idea what netball was. She said: "At first, she thought it was some kind of joke about the Met Ball. And it's the most anti-fashion ad that you can imagine!" But she later clarified she hadn't been present when the 39-year-old beauty shot her scenes, joking Sharon's "busy schedule" had stopped them from filming together. She said: "They were in the same room, but not at the same time."



## Ricky Gervais gets Performance of the Year award



The 58-year-old actor and comedian was honored at the Kings Place, London for his role as Tony in Netflix series, 'After Life'. Ricky said: "I can't believe I was chosen from all the amazing performances in both drama and comedy from all over the world this year. Truly flattered. This might be my favorite honor of my career." The award show was hosted by Sir Lenny Henry, who used his welcome speech to discuss the importance of diversity. He said: "I believe society is built on story telling - the stories we tell about ourselves and to each other. We understand our neighbors, our past, our present, and where we are going by the stories we tell. Imagine a world where people from Spain were not allowed to tell their stories and instead the British decided what we should know about Spain and directed, wrote and produced ninety percent of their television."

## Emma Bunton hasn't reached the 'stage' to marry Jade Jones yet

The couple - who have sons Beau, 12, and Tate, eight, together - have been together for more than 20 years and been engaged for more than eight years but are still in no rush to tie the knot. She said: "We haven't got to that stage. It is the world's longest engagement but if Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell can do it? they've never married." And the Spice Girls singer insisted she is very happy with the "connection" she has with the former Damage star. She told The Sun newspaper: "Do you know what, I really do believe each to their own. For me, I am a one-man girl and as you can see I've been with Jade for so long and I love that kind of connection, that intimacy with one person, that falling in love. "I love that. That's me all over. But I honestly think everybody is wired differently and why shouldn't anyone feel and do and love whoever they want?" But the 43-year-old singer still wants to marry "one day".



## Jason Momoa 'always' wanted to be a father

The 'Aquaman' star - who has 12-year-old daughter Lola and son Nakoa-Wolf, 10, with wife Lisa Bonet - was raised by his mother after his parents split when he was a baby and not only did he "envy" his relatives who had their dads around, it also forged a strong paternal instinct in himself.

He said: "I always thought being a dad was cool! But I mean I always wanted to be a dad - that was my thing... But I look up to my uncles. They were idols to me. "My cousins are so lucky - I was a little envious of not having a dad around so I always wanted to be one myself." The 40-year-old star is trying to "figure out" how to be the best father possible and he's always willing to learn from other people. Speaking to Australia's GQ magazine in an interview to mark being named the publication's Man of the Year, he said: "I mean I just turned 40, so f\*\*k, I'm trying to figure s\*\*t out too."

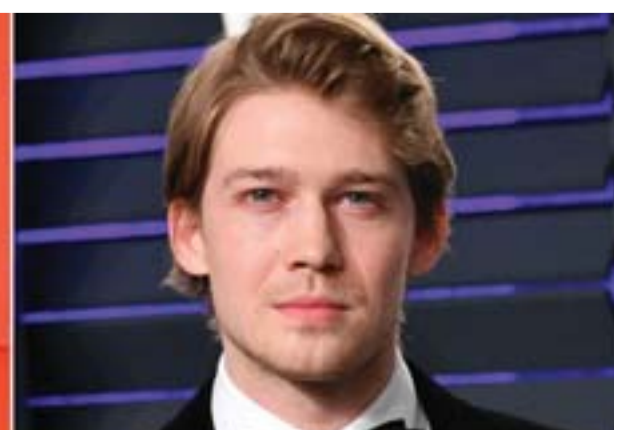
## Chanel Iman is expecting a girl

The 29-year-old model and her husband Sterling Shepard revealed in August they were expecting a sibling for 15-month-old daughter Cali Clay and after celebrating her baby shower over the weekend, the stunning star has told her fans the sex of her upcoming new arrival. Chanel shared a professional photo of herself with her husband and daughter at the Winter Wonderland-themed event and wrote: "Blessed with another baby girl on the way." Chanel donned a white lace maxi dress at the shower, which featured white, gold and pink balloons, a hot chocolate station, sweets and a three-tier naked cake. Her guests all wore pale pink pyjamas from Le Rose, and as well as being gifted those, they also received matching purses as party favors. Chanel - who married her 26-year-old sportsman husband five months before Cali was born - also used Instagram to announce her pregnancy.

## Taylor Swift, Joe Alwyn celebrated Thanksgiving

The 'Lover' hitmaker and her actor boyfriend marked the US holiday in his native country. A source said: "She arrived on Thursday from New York and spent the weekend there." Before she headed over to the UK, Taylor marked the holiday with her annual Friendsgiving party - inviting the

likes of Gigi Hadid, Martha Hunt and Antoni Porowski. An insider added to E! News of the bash: "It's an annual tradition for Taylor to get together with close friends and do this. Many have been at her gathering in years past. This year was intimate and casual, but they all had a great time." Taylor and Joe keep their relationship largely out of the spotlight and Taylor previously revealed she prefers it that way as she doesn't want her romance "up for discussion". She said: "I've learned that if I do, people think it's up for discussion, and our relationship isn't up for discussion. If you and I were having a glass of wine right now, we'd be talking about it - but it's just that it goes out into the world."





## Lifestyle | Features

## Burglars hit East German secret police museum

Burglars broke into Berlin's Stasi Museum, which showcases items of East Germany's hated secret police, making off with collectible medals and gold jewelry, authorities said yesterday, days after a spectacular diamond heist in Dresden. The robbers broke in through a window on the first floor, "smashed several showcases, and stole medals and jewelry", said police in a statement. They made off with their spoils undetected. The time of the raid was unclear but a museum employee found showcases smashed in the exhibition rooms on Sunday morning.

Museum director Joerg Drieselmann told the Tagesspiegel daily that among the medals taken were a gold Patriotic Order of Merit, an Order of Karl Marx — the highest honor awarded in the former communist East Germany and an Order of Lenin. Stolen jewelry included rings and a watch, he said. The items were confiscated by the Stasi from private individuals. After the collapse of the communist regime, many items were

returned to their owners. But some which remained unclaimed were on loan to the Stasi Museum as part of its exhibition.

"These are not huge treasures. But we are a history museum and don't expect people to break in," the museum chief was quoted as saying. The latest robbery came hot on the heels of a brazen heist at the Green Vault museum in Dresden's Royal Palace on November 25. Having sparked a partial power cut before breaking in through a window, the thieves stole priceless 18th-century diamond jewelry — including a famous 49-carat Dresden white — from the collection of the Saxon ruler August the Strong.

Police are still hunting four suspects, and have offered half a million euros (\$550,000) as a reward for information leading to an arrest or recovery of the stolen goods. Investigators are also in contact with colleagues in Berlin to explore possible connections to a similar heist in the capital two years ago. In 2017, a 100-kilogramme (220-pound), 24-karat giant gold coin

was stolen from Berlin's Bode Museum.

Four men with links to a notorious Berlin gang were later arrested and put on trial. The coin has never been recovered, and fears are growing that the Dresden treasures will also remain lost forever. Shaken by the loss, Germany's culture minister Monika Gruetters this week called for a national conference on museum security. "We need to look at how museums can protect their objects from such brutal activities while still being accessible to the public in the normal way," she said. — AFP

Photo shows the entrance of the documentation centre of the former East Germany's Ministry for State Security, better known by its acronym STASI, in Berlin. Burglars broke into Berlin's Stasi Museum, which showcases items of East Germany's hated secret police, making off with collectible medals and gold jewelry. — AFP



## A year in showbiz: Court drama, box office records and young billionaire

From the world's youngest self-made billionaire to celebrities in court, the world of entertainment produced a wide array of headlines this year. Below are some of the biggest showbiz stories of 2019.

- The year began with rap making history at the Grammys as Childish Gambino's "This is America" became the first hip hop track to win the ceremony's top record and song of the year accolade. At the Oscars, "Green Book" took best film while Briton Olivia Colman beat presumed favorite Glenn Close for the best actress honor.

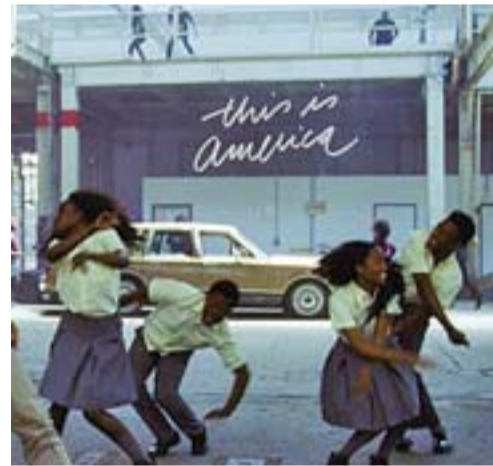
- The case surrounding "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, who is gay and black, lit up social media after he told Chicago police two men had attacked him by throwing a noose around his neck, pouring bleach on him and shouting abuse. Smollett was later charged with making up the attack and taken off the "Empire" TV show, although prosecutors dropped the criminal case against him.

- Criminal cases during the #MeToo era saw Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's trial, in which he is accused of rape and predatory sexual assault, set for January 2020. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr pleaded not guilty to charges of groping three women.

- Singer R Kelly was arrested and charged with recruiting underage girls and women to have sex with him. He has denied abuse accusations for decades.

- Prosecutors dropped a sex assault case against Oscar winner Kevin Spacey after the alleged victim refused to testify.

- Documentary "Leaving Neverland", in which two men said they had been abused as children by Michael Jackson, renewed scrutiny of the late singer's legacy. Jackson's estate called it a "refresh of dated and discredited allegations".



- The US college admissions cheating scandal saw actress Felicity Huffman briefly go to prison. Rapper ASAP Rocky got a suspended sentence following a brawl in Sweden.

- The Rolling Stones temporarily postponed their North American tour after singer Mick Jagger underwent heart surgery. The Spice Girls reunited for a tour, though without fifth member Victoria Beckham.

- Reality star Kim Kardashian revealed she is studying to become a lawyer and her half-sister Kylie Jenner became the youngest self-made billionaire thanks to her makeup business.

- Dwayne Johnson was named the world's highest-paid actor in an annual Forbes list while married couple Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra took People magazine's best dressed accolade. People named singer John Legend "sexiest man alive".

- The ending of medieval drama "Game of Thrones" divided fans, some petitioning for a re-write.

- Superhero film "Avengers: Endgame" broke "Avatar"'s 10-year record as the biggest box-office movie of all time. Comic book standalone "Joker" became the first R-rated Hollywood production to take more than \$1 billion in ticket sales worldwide.

- Actress Sophie Turner and singer Joe Jonas tied the knot and Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence married art gallery director Cooke Maroney. Chart topper Justin Bieber and model Hailey Baldwin married a second time while singer Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom got engaged. Actor Liam Hemsworth and singer Miley Cyrus separated after seven months of marriage.

- Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan welcomed son Archie while Kardashian and her rapper husband Kanye West announced the arrival, via surrogate, of their fourth child, Psalm.

- The world said goodbye to several big names including fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld, actors Doris Day, Peter Fonda, Albert Finney, Carol Channing and Luke Perry, composer Andre Previn, Prodigy frontman Keith Flint and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison. — Reuters

## Frozen 2 holds top spot at box office

Disney blockbuster "Frozen 2" held top spot at the North American box office over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, taking in an estimated \$85.2 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations said Sunday. The animation adventure movie follows beloved characters from 2013 hit "Frozen" as they travel to an ancient, autumn-bound forest in search of the origin of the magical ice powers of Queen Elsa (voiced by Idina Menzel). "Frozen 2," which came out just in time for the winter holidays, secured \$123.7 million over the five-day holiday period from Wednesday to Sunday. It was a Thanksgiving record, beating "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" in 2013, according to Variety.

"Frozen 2" had pulled in a three-day total of \$130.2 million the previous weekend when it was a new release — the third-best start for an animated film behind fellow Disney titles "Incredibles 2" (2018) and "Finding Dory" (2016). "Knives Out," a murder mystery from Lionsgate starring Daniel Craig, Jamie Lee Curtis and Chris

Evans, made a surprise \$27 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period, and has been immediately hailed as a triumph for its original content at multiplexes.

"Ford v. Ferrari" slipped to third place with \$13.2 million. The Fox film is based on the true story of how a team at Ford built a car to challenge Ferrari's longtime dominance of France's classic 24-hour Le Mans race. Sony release "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," a drama about a journalist's relationship with beloved television star Fred Rogers (played by Tom Hanks), took fourth place with \$11.8 million.

New Universal release "Queen and Slim," a romantic drama starring Daniel Kaluuya and Jodie Turner-Smith, also performed above expectations to earn fifth spot with \$11.7 million. Rounding out the top 10 were: 21 Bridges (\$5.8 million); Playing with Fire (\$4.2 million); Midway (\$3.9 million); Joker (\$2 million) and Last Christmas (\$1.9 million). — AFP



## Belgian carnival drops UNESCO status over 'anti-Semitic' float

The Belgian city of Aalst near the capital Brussels has pulled its annual carnival from the UNESCO world heritage list, after an uproar from Jewish groups and the EU, the mayor said on Sunday. The row erupted in March after Mayor Christoph D'Haese defended a deliberately anti-Semitic carnival float depicting puppets of hook-nosed Orthodox Jews with rats sitting on money bags.

The carnival attracts tens of thousands of people over the three days leading to the Catholic holiday of Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. It takes pride in its no-holds barred sense of humor and provocation. D'Haese on Sunday said he made the decision as he expected UNESCO to strip his city of the designation later this month after both sides failed to find a compromise. "The citizens of Aalst have suffered grotesque accusations," the mayor said in a press release sent to TV Oost Nieuws, according to Belga news agency.

"We are neither anti-Semitic nor racist. All those who support this are acting in bad faith. Aalst will always remain the capital of mockery and satire," he said. Since 2010, the carnival has been inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Heritage list, but the Paris-based UN agency said organizers had gone too far. The head of the Brussels-based European Jewish Association said Aalst officials were "jumping before they were pushed", according to a statement.

"Despite the widespread criticism, despite the clear grotesque anti-Semitic imagery, despite the opportunity to at least acknowledge the wrong and hurt caused, the Mayor of Aalst has consistently remained defiant and mocking," said EJA president Rabbi Menachem Margolin. UNESCO said in March it would be "vigilant and uncompromising regarding such occurrences" and expectations were high that the carnival was to be pulled from the list at a meeting on December 12. — AFP

## 'One Team' and '#KuToo' buzzwords for 2019 in Japan



Japan rugby team's slogan "One Team", the "#KuToo" campaign against a de-facto requirement to wear heels at work, and the new imperial era name "Reiwa" were chosen yesterday as the most memorable 2019 buzzwords. "One Team" was declared the top buzzword of the year live on national TV, after the Brave Blossoms captured Japan's imagination by reaching the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals for the first time.

With stunning wins over Six Nations sides Scotland and Ireland and a gutsy last-eight loss to eventual winners South Africa, the Japanese team won the heart of a nation hooked on baseball and sumo — with supporters packing out fanzones and tuned in in their millions. The word #KuToo, a

play on words from the Japanese word "kutsu" — meaning shoes — and "kutsuu" — meaning "pain" — also made the top 10.

Campaigners say wearing high heels is seen as near-obligatory when job hunting or working at many Japanese companies. They submitted a petition in June to the government to protest against the requirement. The list also included "Reiwa," — meaning beautiful harmony in Japanese — the name of the era that defines the new emperor's reign. Although the Gregorian calendar is widely used in the world's third-largest economy, Japan is the only country still using Chinese-style imperial calendars for private and public documents as well as computer records.

The announcement of a new era name is a massive event in Japan, marked with special newspaper editions, calligraphy shows and public festivities. Another topical buzzword was "keikaku unkyu" (planned cancellation) in relation to the advance suspension of Tokyo trains as Typhoon Hagibis approached in October. A craze for tapioca drinks resulted in another buzzword "tapiru", which combines the two words tapioca and "suru" (do). Japan chooses the buzzwords as well as the kanji, or Chinese character, of the year annually at the year's close. — AFP





# Classifieds

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

**Kuwait Times**  
Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
e-mail: [info@kuwaittimes.net](mailto: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:** Clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy to cloudy and Unstable with moderate to fresh south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WATCH			Thunder Rain	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 02/12/2019 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	25 °C	20 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27 °C	16 °C		
ABDALY	26 °C	14 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	26 °C	18 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	24 °C	21 °C		
AHMADI	23 °C	21 °C		
NUWAISIB	25 °C	17 °C		
WAFRA	26 °C	16 °C		
SALMY	24 °C	17 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	12/03	Mostly Sunny	24 °C	18 °C	NW	12 - 38 km/h
Wednesday	12/04	Rather warm and a chance for mist forming at night	23 °C	12 °C	NW-VRB	10 - 32 km/h
Thursday	12/05	Rather warm and Clouds will increase gradually with a chance for rain that might be thundery	24 °C	10 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 45 km/h
Friday	12/06	Partly cloudy with a slight chance for rain that might be thundery at times	23 °C	13 °C	SE-NW	15 - 50 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	05:01
Sunrise	06:25
Zuhr	11:37
Asr	14:30
Sunset	16:49
Isha	18:11

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	26 °C
MIN. Temp.	13 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	47 %
MAX. Wind	SE 21 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I. Joymon** Paulose son of Paulose holder of Indian Passport No. J5343908 issued at Kuwait on 04.03.2011 permanent resident of Vithayathil house, Ayroor, Ernakulam Dist. Kerala, India and presently residing building No. 12, Block-2, Abuhalifa, Kuwait. Do hereby split my name from Heba Joymon Vithayathil to Heba as given name and Joymon Vithayathil as surname with immediate effect. **(C 5692) 3-12-2019**

**(Old name)** Ramachandrolla Bramahaiha S/o R. Ramachandra Res. 16/44 Thimmasamudram T Sundupalli Kadapa Dt. AP. Change my name (new name) Ramachandram Brahmaiah S/o R. Ramachandra Old PP. No K4656763. **(C 5691)**

Airlines	
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493

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

### Flight Schedule

### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 3/12/2019					Departure Flights on Tuesday 3/12/2019				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	KAC 614	Bahrain	13:50	JZR	213	Jeddah
AIC	989	Mumbai	00:10	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20	JZR	221	Riyadh
JZR	716	Sohag	00:35	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:40	KAC	515	Tehran
JZR	254	Amman	00:45	KAC 672	Dubai	14:40	MEA	405	Beirut
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	KAC 774	Riyadh	14:40	JZR	115	Doha
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:45	QTR	1075	Doha
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC 742	Dammam	14:45	MSR	611	Cairo
KAC	102	London	01:25	KAC 118	New York	14:50	GFA	210	Bahrain
DLH	625	Dammam	01:30	KAC 286	Dhaka	14:55	KAC	781	Jeddah
RJA	642	Amman	01:40	KAC 692	Muscat	15:00	SAW	702	Damascus
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 618	Doha	15:00	JZR	123	Dubai
IGO	1759	Delhi	01:55	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:10	KAC	541	Cairo
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:55	JZR 602	Baku	15:10	UAE	872	Dubai
UAE	853	Dubai	02:15	ET D303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC 788	Jeddah	15:25	QTR	1079	Doha
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	JZR 222	Riyadh	15:30	FDB	060	Dubai
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC 562	Amman	15:40	GFA	222	Bahrain
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	UAE 857	Dubai	15:40	KAC	775	Riyadh
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	JZR 732	Cairo	15:50	KAC	673	Dubai
KKK	1268	Istanbul	03:05	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:55	KAC	563	Amman
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:05	JZR 152	Mashhad	16:00	SAW	501	Jeddah
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR 212	Jeddah	16:25	KNE	530	Jeddah
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR 1072	Doha	16:35	KAC	743	Dammam
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR 116	Doha	16:40	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	KAC 502	Beirut	16:45	KAC	785	Jeddah
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:00	KAC 516	Tehran	16:45	ABY	128	Sharjah
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:25	KAC	615	Bahrain
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30	JZR	103	Bahrain
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:30	JZR 214	Jeddah	17:45	KAC	283	Dhaka
KAC	302	Mumbai	04:40	SYR 342	Dammam	17:55	KAC	619	Doha
JZR	702	Asyut	04:50	KAC 158	Istanbul	17:55	KAC	357	Kochi
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	FDB 063	Dubai	17:55	FDB	052	Dubai
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR 302	Istanbul	18:15	UAE	858	Dubai
KAC	358	Kochi	05:10	JZR 124	Dubai	18:15	KAC	331	Trivandrum
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	MSR 620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	343	Chennai
KAC	382	Delhi	05:20	QTR 1080	Doha	18:30	QTR	1073	Doha
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:20	FEG 441	Asyut	18:55	JZR	733	Cairo
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	RJA 640	Amman	19:10	SAW	511	Riyadh
JZR	112	Doha	05:35	KAC 156	Istanbul	19:20	GFA	216	Bahrain
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:45	RBG 555	Alexandria	19:25	JZR	127	Dubai
KAC	284	Dhaka	05:55	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:25	KAC	301	Mumbai
KAC	106	London	06:00	NIA 161	Cairo	19:30	JZR	403	Hyderabad
FEG	341	Sohag	06:05	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	381	Delhi
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	QTR 1090	Doha	19:35	JZR	721	Alexandria
KAC	332	Trivandrum	06:05	KAC 744	Dammam	19:45	SYR	341	Damascus
KAC	362	Colombo	06:30	KAC 782	Jeddah	19:50	JZR	253	Amman
THY	6376	ISL	06:30	JZR 104	Bahrain	19:55	FDB	064	Dubai
KAC	544	Cairo	07:00	FDB 057	Dubai	20:00	MSR	621	Cairo
JZR	120	Dubai	07:00	OMS 225	Muscat	20:05	QTR	1081	Doha
BAW	157	London	07:05	KAC 776	Riyadh	20:05	FEG	342	Sohag
KAC	678	Dubai	07:05	OMA 647	Muscat	20:20	JZR	653	OSS
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	QTR 1088	Doha	20:30	ABY	124	Sharjah
KAC	204	Lahore	07:15	AZQ 4565	Baku	20:30	RBG	556	Alexandria
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC 616	Bahrain	20:30	RJA	641	Amman
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	ICV 6752	Luxembourg	20:35	GFA	218	Bahrain
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:10	KAC 166	Rome	20:40	NIA	162	Cairo
KAC	622	Doha	08:30	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:55	KAC	353	Bengaluru
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC 674	Dubai	20:55	JZR	501	Muscat
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC 542	Cairo	21:10	FDB	058	Dubai
JZR	102	Bahrain	08:55	ALK 229	Colombo	21:20	JZR	401	Mumbai
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	MEA 402	Beirut	21:20	QTR	1091	Doha
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	OMA	648	Muscat
KAC	304	Mumbai	09:30	UAE 859	Dubai	21:30	DLH	624	Dammam
KAC	384	Delhi	09:30	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:30	DHX	171	Bahrain
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:45	QTR	1089	Doha
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:50	KAC	205	Islamabad
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KAC 164	MXP	21:55	MEA	403	Beirut
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	KAC 158	Baku	22:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi
JZR	410	Delhi	10:00	AZG 565	Paris	22:00	ALK	230	Colombo
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC 168	Amman	22:00	GFA	220	Bahrain
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC 564	Doha	22:00	AZQ	4565	Baku
AXB	789	CNN/Bahrain	10:40	KAC 620	Doha	22:05	ICV	6752	Hong Kong
JZR	714	Sohag	10:50	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05	KLM	445	Bahrain
JZR	122	Dubai	11:15	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	UAE	860	Dubai
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	AIC 987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	RBG 213	Sohag	22:30	RBG	214	Sohag
MSR	610	Cairo	12:00	KAC 786	Jeddah	22:50	KAC	783	Jeddah
GFA	209	Bahrain	12:05	BBC 043	Dhaka	23:00	KAC	383	Delhi
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR 1092	Doha	23:10	KAC	411	Bangkok
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR 128	Dubai	23:15	QTR	1083	Doha
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	MSC 405	Sohag	23:15	KAC	795	Madinah



# Could life insurance go up in smoke for some vapers?

**LONDON/NEW YORK:** Global reinsurers are stepping up their warnings to life insurer clients about the potential risks of vaping, putting pressure on underwriters to charge certain vapers higher rates than smokers, or even exclude them altogether. US authorities said last month that there had been 47 deaths this year from a lung illness tied to vaping. The health concerns about vaping have grown despite evidence showing e-cigarettes help smokers to quit, and has led to bans in some countries including India and Brazil.

Reinsurers insure the insurers, and often have large research arms which help their clients by modelling risk. They give broad advice to insurers, rather than specific policy or pricing recommendations, but can potentially refuse to provide reinsurance or can raise premiums if their guidance is ignored.

Most insurers have long treated smokers and vapers the same, meaning they can pay close to double the premiums of non-smokers or non-vapers. But three major reinsurers have provided updated advice on vaping in the past three months, with new warnings, while others are considering their approach. The new warnings focus on young vapers and the vaping of liquids containing marijuana ingredient THC, which is legal and prevalent in some US states and has been linked to lung illnesses in the country.

The shift in the reinsurance and insurance sector represents a further blow to the vaping industry, which markets its products as healthier alternatives to smoking. Hannover RE, which already advised life insurers to treat vapers like smokers, has asked them to be particularly cautious about insuring people aged under 25 following the "epidemic" of lung injuries in the United States, said Nico van Zyl, the reinsurer's U.S. medical director.

The question of whether to offer coverage to this higher risk group should be a consideration for life insurers, he said. French reinsurer SCOR said in a paper on Oct. 24 that e-cigarettes contain nicotine which may have toxic effects, including on brain development in teenagers and young adults. SCOR recommends life insurers treat vaping like smoking, and exclude individuals who use vaping products considered by US authorities likely to cause lung issues - namely, those containing THC (tetrahydrocannabinol).

Swiss Re also treats vapers like smokers. In addition, Global Chief Medical Officer John Schoonbee said the reinsurer has told insurers in recent months to make extra checks on whether vapers are using cannabis products.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

has urged people not to use e-cigarettes containing THC, some of which contain vitamin E acetate, a "chemical of concern" among people with the vaping-associated lung injury EVALI. Stephen Cooley, Chief Medical Underwriter at PartnerRe Life & Health, said more research on the long-term effects of vaping was needed and that life insurance rates for vapers would be the same as smoker rates "at best".

Munich Re and Gen Re said they were monitoring the recent developments in EVALI. Proponents of vaping as a tool to stop smoking say the insurers' and reinsurers' approach is harsh. "Getting insurance is really expensive for people who have taken steps to quit tobacco," said Simon Manthorpe, CEO of British vaping product manufacturer Vapemate. Vaping in Britain and elsewhere in Europe is more heavily regulated than in the United States. Vapes containing THC or cannabis oil of any kind are banned in Britain, and Public Health England says vaping is at least 95 percent safer than smoking.

## Vaping switch

Twelve of 13 life insurers contacted by Reuters in Europe, South Africa and the United States said they already treated vaping like smoking. Most have taken this stance for years, but a handful have recently made the switch to treating vapers like smokers: US insurer Prudential Financial made the change in October, while the Irish subsidiaries of Aviva and Zurich have switched in the past year. Zurich in Ireland said its new approach followed consultation with reinsurers.

Explaining their caution on vaping, Britain's Aviva and South Africa's Discovery said there was a lack of objective evidence of the long-term effects. Justin Harper, head of protection marketing at British insurer LV=, highlighted recent evidence indicating that vaping damages the lungs. Harper said a 20-year policy for a 35-year old offering £100,000 (\$128,300) of life cover and £100,000 of critical illness cover would cost £11.89 a month for a non-smoker/non-vaper, and £20.56 for a smoker/vaper.

The life insurers told Reuters they were not treating young vapers differently, though Zurich said it was monitoring statistics on increased deaths or illness among this age group. One exception among the life insurers in its vaping view is Reviti, a new insurer owned by cigarette and e-cigarette firm Philip Morris. It is offering a discount of up to 15 percent for vapers in Britain. Customers who quit tobacco and nicotine altogether get a discount of up to 50 percent. — Reuters

village near state capital Jaipur. Investigators said the preliminary report suggests that she was raped and throttled with her school uniform belt before being thrown in bushes in a field. "We are questioning (the suspect) after locals saw him with the girl near the school before she disappeared," local police officer Ram Krishan told AFP.

More than 33,000 rapes were reported in India in 2017, according to the latest government figures that included more than 10,000 minor victims. But tens of thousands of such cases remain stuck in courts, often hindering victims and their families as they navigate the slow and cumbersome legal system. In 2017, for example, courts only disposed of about 18,300 cases related to rape and more than 127,800 such cases remained pending at the end of the year. "It's very frustrating for the victim. You keep on going to court, and even after evidence is over, they take a long time to pass the judgement," women's rights lawyer Flavia Agnes told Reuters.

In the eastern city of Kolkata, where protests were planned throughout the day, college student Bandana Mondal said it was becoming difficult to sit back and watch silently. "It is time to hit the road and seek faster punishment for the offenders. The process of law appears slow and there is hardly any deterrent," she said. At a protest in New Delhi, 19-year-old college student Aditi Purohit said that she was so angry and frustrated that she had left her classes and come out. "If they (the accused) were in front of me, I would have killed them," she said. — Agencies

"What is still lacking is political will - to put a price on carbon, to stop subsidies on fossil fuels, to stop building coal power plants," Guterres said. "The best available science, through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), tells us today that going beyond that (1.5C) would lead us to catastrophic disaster."

President Hilda Heine of the Marshall Islands warned that breaching the 1.5C barrier would spell the end of her water-bound homeland. "The most vulnerable atoll nations like my country already face death row" due to rising seas and devastating storm surges," she said via a remote video link-up. Governments that fail to come forward with strong carbon-cutting commitments over the next year are effectively "passing sentence on our future, forcing our country to die."

The talks in Madrid are focused on finalizing rules for global carbon markets, and setting up a fund to help countries already reeling from climate-enhanced heatwaves, droughts, floods and storms made worse by rising seas. Frontline negotiators describe COP25 as "technical talks" setting the stage for next year's meeting in Glasgow, where countries must confront the yawning gap between the Paris targets and current emissions.

But events outside the conference hall in Madrid may change the agenda. "A key question will be to what extent the growing social movements throughout the world will be factored into decisions of the COP25," said Laurence Tubiana, CEO of the European Climate Foundation and, as a former negotiator for France, a main architect of the Paris Agreement.

A climate action group steeped in civil disobedience, meanwhile, laid plans to descend on the Spanish capital. "Extinction Rebellion calls on Rebels Without Borders to come to Madrid," the group said in a tweet, using the hashtag #UltimatimCOP25. "Extinction Rebellion reminds leaders they cannot flee the climate and ecological emergency," the group said separately in a press release. "Civil disobedience and direct nonviolent actions coordinated by global rebels will fill Madrid's streets and squares." — Agencies

## Clerics, jingoism, credit: Aramco casts IPO net

**RIYADH:** From taboo-busting religious support to easy credit and fervent jingoism, Saudi Arabia has pulled out all the stops to prop up Aramco's IPO. The world's most profitable company is seeking to raise around \$25 billion - a fraction of the \$100 billion it once sought - from its much-delayed initial public offering that is heavily focused on domestic and Gulf investors.

The sale of 1.5 percent of the energy giant has so far been oversubscribed 1.7 times, it said last week after its retail tranche ended, with bidding for institutional investors set to close on Wednesday. That however pales in comparison to Saudi Arabia's other blockbuster listings, including the 2014 IPO of the National Commercial Bank, the kingdom's biggest lender, which was oversubscribed more than 23 times. In 2006, a record 10 million Saudis - roughly one in two of the population - subscribed to property developer Emaar's IPO while Aramco attracted only about half as many retail investors.

"Preparations for the public listing of Aramco... have stepped up a gear but the signs are that it is unlikely to be the blockbuster sale that the kingdom once hoped for," said Capital Economics. The sale is on course to beat Chinese retail giant Alibaba's \$25 billion record IPO in 2014, but "the proceeds would barely cover the kingdom's budget deficit for a year", the research group added.

Barring a last-minute surge from institutional investors, interest appears relatively muted despite a nationwide advertising blitz, banks offering easy "IPO loans" and nationalists calling for investment as a patriotic duty. Aramco also dangled sweeteners for local investors, including promises of higher dividends and the possibility of bonus shares if they hold on to the stock.

But in an ultraconservative nation promoting what observers call a de-emphasis on religion amid Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's sweeping modernization drive, some Saudis say they are torn between conflicting religious advice. Senior cleric Abdullah

Al-Mutlaq sought to drum up support for the IPO, saying it was "halal", or permissible in Islam, and that even religious scholars were likely to participate.

But influential cleric Abdelaziz Al-Fawzan, who campaigners say was arrested last year, claimed in a video that resurfaced recently on social media that part of the IPO was not compliant with Islamic principles. "I want to subscribe (to the IPO) but... Fawzan says it's usury and Mutlaq says it's halal. We are lost between them," said one Twitter user.

Some of Saudi Arabia's wealthiest families have been pressed to take part. That reportedly includes billionaire tycoon Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal who was among several businessmen locked in Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton hotel during a 2017 crackdown on corruption. "If I don't invest people will say 'I am not patriotic,'" a Riyadh-based businessman told AFP. "There's so much hype: 'Prince Al-Waleed is investing, Malaysian investors are investing, it's very safe' - but I cannot forget 2006," he added, explaining his decision to steer clear.

The businessman said he lost around one million riyals (\$267,000) in the kingdom's worst stock market crash in 2006, much of which came through three bank loans that he is still repaying. But a senior government figure dismissed such concerns. "Aramco extracts oil from the ground for barely \$3 a barrel," he told AFP. "Even if crude prices stay low Aramco will remain highly profitable for a long time, generating wealth for its investors."

International investors, however, have balked at Aramco's valuation of between \$1.6 trillion and \$1.7 trillion - a figure still well short of Prince Mohammed's desired valuation of \$2 trillion. Aramco last week said that of the \$31.7 billion in bids received so far from institutional investors, foreign investors accounted for just 10.5 percent. Luring international funds for Prince Mohammed's ambitious megaprojects and transformation plan for a post-oil era was once the centerpiece of the IPO, first proposed in 2016.

Malaysian state energy company Petronas, which was expected to invest, said in a statement that "after due consideration the company has decided not to participate in Aramco's (IPO) exercise". However Gulf ally Abu Dhabi plans to pump as much as \$1.5 billion, while the Kuwait Investment Authority is also considering an investment, Bloomberg News reported. — AFP

## India rape protests swell...

Continued from Page 1

The protests yesterday saw demonstrators brandish placards with slogans such as "We want justice". Some covered their mouths with black cloth, demanding that the government provide security and punish the guilty. "I am outraged because I don't want to live with that fear," Kawalpreet Kaur, a student at the New Delhi rally told AFP. Other marches were expected later on Monday, including in the eastern city of Kolkata. On Saturday, police used force to disperse hundreds of protesters after they tried to storm into a police station in Hyderabad where the four accused were held. They have since been charged.

In parliament, lawmakers yesterday also expressed their anguish, with Jaya Bachchan, a former actress and now an MP, saying the perpetrators should be "brought out in public and lynched". Another member demanded a sex offenders' registry and that rapists be castrated, as others blamed the immense backlog of cases in the Indian legal system for the rise in sexual violence.

In Rajasthan in the west, a 40-year-old man was arrested yesterday following the discovery of the girl's body a day after she went missing from her school in a

## UN chief opens climate meet...

Continued from Page 1

Leading the 15-strong Congressional delegation, Pelosi came to Madrid even as her colleagues in the House consider articles of impeachment against Trump. "We see this as an existential threat," she said. "We have not lived up to the challenge. We have a moral responsibility to future generations to pass on this planet in a better way," Pelosi said. "We see climate change as a public health issue," she said, standing alongside heads of state from Costa Rica and Bangladesh. "We see it as an economic issue because this is the way to new green technologies," she continued. "And we see it as a national security issue."

Trump has dismissed global warming as a hoax, and dismantled many of the climate and environmental protection policies set in place by his predecessor Barack Obama. Last month Trump gave formal notice of the US withdrawal from the 196-nation Paris climate treaty, which calls for capping global warming at well below two degrees Celsius, and 1.5C if possible.

In his impassioned appeal, Guterres cited new findings from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirming that the last five years have been the hottest ever recorded. Concentration of planet-warming CO2 in the atmosphere has also reached levels not seen in three to five million years, the WMO will report this week. "The last time there was a comparable concentration," Guterres said, "the temperature was two to three degrees Celsius warmer, and sea levels were 10 to 20 metres higher than today."

A major UN science report last year reset the Paris accord's threshold for a climate-safe world from 2C to 1.5C, concluding that the global economy must be "carbon neutral" by 2050 to stay under that threshold.

## Morocco's poor left behind by...

Continued from Page 1

The government said this month it had allocated 7.4 billion dirhams (\$770 million) to combating social and regional disparities this year as part of a longer program.

King Mohammed VI, who sets the policy direction in Morocco, though it is implemented by an elected government, is appointing a commission to oversee a new phase of development aimed at tackling such disparities. Mohammed's two-decade reign has mostly focused on upgrading infrastructure needed for business, such as a high-speed rail link connecting Casablanca to Tangier, now transformed into Africa's busiest port.

Economic growth averaged 4.5 percent from 2000-2012, but only 3 percent since then, a relatively low figure for an emerging market. A quarter of Moroccans are either poor or at risk of poverty, a recent World Bank report said, and the kingdom ranks 123rd in the UN's human development index. However, investment has helped strengthen a business class that buys its furniture at the Casablanca IKEA and stops for sandwiches on the highway into Rabat at the nearest branch of the French patisserie chain Paul.

In Azrou, located in the Middle Atlas mountains east of Rabat, Akki and his family spend their evenings in the dark. He and his neighbors have to collect drinking water by donkey from a well a mile away. The land he bought a decade ago to build his house cost about the same amount as one of the sofas on offer in the Casablanca IKEA.

Their community, Ait Hammou Ouhmad, is entirely populated by people who have left the mountains to settle near Azrou. They have built their homes cheaply without official permits and are unable to gain access

to government utility services. Country folk fleeing the poverty and uncertainty of an agricultural sector utterly dependent on variable rainfall have swelled the poor districts of Moroccan cities.

For the urban poor, football stadiums have offered an outlet to vent anger. "In my country, I am oppressed," sang fans of the Casablanca team RCA last year. Music is another outlet. A rap song, "Long live the people", a play on the phrase "Long live the king", has gained 15 million views on YouTube and includes the line: "Don't ask me about the wealth. You know who took it." One of the singers was later detained and sentenced to a year in prison for insulting the police on social media, though his lawyer said he believed the song may have prompted his arrest.

Agriculture employs about 40 percent of Moroccan workers but a dry year can cut overall economic growth by more than a percentage point and leave many without work, statistics chief Lahlimi said. The austere circumstances of Akki and his neighbours point to the even harsher conditions endured by those they left behind in the remote mountain regions, many working as shepherds, often tending flocks that belong to absentee owners.

In the high cedar forests of the Middle Atlas, where troupes of macaques lurk along the gloomy treeline, some former nomads still live in tents roofed with plastic sheeting on a barren plateau far from the nearest school or hospital. Fadma Safsaf, whose tent and thorn animal enclosure lie in a wide meadow ringed with cedar forest, looks after two daughters and a son while her husband grazes the flock in the high pastures.

Most of the sheep and the tent they live in are owned by a landlord in France. Their annual payment is a quarter of the lambs born to the flock each year, Safsaf said. "We lack water and electricity and suffer from snow and extreme cold. We lack clothes and shoes," she said. "We often have access only to muddy water. I want to go to the city, but my husband does not have a job. What could we do there? My husband has no skills," she said. — Reuters

experience financial stress even if they are able to use more air conditioning during pregnancy, and financial stress is also bad for children," he said.

Andrew Shennan, professor of Obstetrics at King's College London said that while extremes of temperature have long been linked to the risk of premature delivery, the nature of that link was unclear.

"Given the wide variety of temperatures around the world, and that most women have normal pregnancies, this is unlikely to be an important risk factor for any individual," said Shennan, who was not involved in the study. —AFP

Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Fire service spokesman Iyad Al-Omari told state television channel Al-Mamlaka that eight children, four women and a man had died in the blaze at around 2:00 am, which was likely caused by an electrical fault. Jordan is home to thousands of Pakistanis, many of them agricultural laborers. House fires in Jordan are often caused by the use of cheap but dangerous forms of heating while the occupants are asleep. Jordan has in recent years seen several deadly incidents among Syrian refugees living in camps during the winter, such as fires caused by electrical faults or choking from domestic gas stoves. — Agencies

## Hot weather linked to rise in...

Continued from Page 1

He pointed out that while air conditioning was likely to provide mothers with protection during hot weather, the technology was energy-heavy, expensive, and largely absent in developing nations. "Some families will

## 8 children among 13 Pakistanis killed...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Amir also sent a cable of condolences to Jordan's King Abdullah II. He expressed sorrow over the victims and wished speedy recovery for those injured. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-



Sports

# Tucker's game-winning field goal gives Ravens victory over 49ers

## Rams rack up 549 yards in rout of Cardinals

**BALTIMORE:** Justin Tucker drilled a 49-yard field goal on the final play of the game Sunday afternoon, giving the Baltimore Ravens a 20-17 home victory for their eighth straight win. Tucker's successful kick was his second of the day and his 38th straight in the fourth quarter of games in his career. The Ravens (10-2) covered 34 yards in 12 plays to kill the final 6:28 before the winning field goal. Lamar Jackson kept the drive alive with a 3-yard sneak on fourth-and-1 at Baltimore's 44. The winning drive began after the 49ers failed on a fourth-and-1 at the Baltimore 35, when Jimmy Garoppolo had a pass deflected at the line of scrimmage. San Francisco (10-2) lost for the second time in its last four games after an 8-0 start.

### RAMS 34, CARDINALS 7

Jared Goff threw for 424 yards and connected on his first touchdown pass in over a month, as visiting Los Angeles boosted its shrinking playoff hopes by rolling to a victory over Arizona. Goff threw two touchdowns on the day, his first scoring strikes since Oct. 27 in a victory over the Cincinnati Bengals in London. Tight end Tyler Higbee and wide receiver Cooper Kupp caught scoring passes as the Rams (7-5) rebounded from a demoralizing 45-6 defeat to the Baltimore Ravens on Monday night. Cardinals rookie quarterback Kyle Murray was 19 of 34 for 163 yards, was sacked six times and threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown by Rams rookie safety Taylor Rapp. The Cardinals (3-8-1) were held to 63 total yards in the first half and 198 in the game while losing for the fifth consecutive time.

### TEXANS 28, PATRIOTS 22

Deshaun Watson passed for three touchdowns and added a receiving touchdown as host Houston defeated New England, giving the Texans their first victory over the Patriots since Week 17 of the 2009 season. The Texans (8-4) maintained their one-game lead in the AFC South and handed the Patriots their second loss in 12 games this season. New England had been 10-1 all-time against Houston, including postseason play, with five wins over the previous four seasons. Watson, who finished 18 of 25 for 234 yards, became the first quarterback to throw two scoring passes against the Patriots this season. Patriots quarterback Tom Brady completed 24 of 47 passes for 326 yards and three touchdowns — two in the final four minutes as New England mounted a late charge that fell one drive short.

### CHIEFS 40, RAIDERS 9

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes passed for just 175 yards in windy conditions, but host Kansas City relied on a stubborn defense to stomp Oakland. The victory widened the advantage the Chiefs (8-4) enjoy in the AFC West, as the second-place Raiders fell to 6-6. Quarterback Derek Carr managed just 222 yards passing for the Raiders, who suffered consecutive 30-point losses for the second time in franchise history and the first since 1961. They fell 34-3 last week to the New

York Jets. The sub-200 yard performance was the second straight for Mahomes, who went 15 of 29 with a touchdown. The need for offensive production was minimized by three takeaways generated by Kansas City, including an interception returned for a touchdown by rookie safety Juan Thornhill.

### PACKERS 31, GIANTS 13

Green Bay rebounded from an awful loss to the San Francisco 49ers and handed New York its eighth consecutive loss in East Rutherford, N.J. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, coming off one of the worst games of his career, threw four touchdown passes. Giants rookie quarterback Daniel Jones, on the other hand, tossed three interceptions. Jones, the sixth pick of the draft, won his first two starts in place of Eli Manning but has dropped eight straight. After throwing 11 touchdown passes vs. one interception in his last four starts, Jones was back to his error-prone self. While he didn't add to his league-worst figures of 14 fumbles and 10 lost fumbles, he threw interceptions to cornerback Kevin King, safety Darnell Savage and slot Tramon Williams.

### BENGALS 22, JETS 6

Cincinnati earned its first win of the season as Andy Dalton returned to the starting lineup and threw for 243 yards and one touchdown in a victory over visiting New York. The win ended the longest season-opening losing streak in franchise history for the Bengals (1-11) and ensured they would not join the 2008 Detroit Lions and 2017 Cleveland Browns as the only teams to go winless over a 16-game season. The Jets (4-8) not only had a three-game winning streak snapped but also made the wrong kind of history Sunday, when they became the first NFL team to lose twice to teams that were 0-7 or worse entering the game. The Miami Dolphins were 0-7 before beating New York 26-18 on Nov. 3.

### DOLPHINS 37, EAGLES 31

Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 365 yards and three touchdowns, and Miami scored 23 consecutive points to defeat visiting Philadelphia. Fitzpatrick completed 27 of 39 passes and rallied the Dolphins (3-9) from a 28-14 deficit. Wide receiver DeVante Parker had seven catches for a career-high 159 yards and two scores. Philadelphia quarterback Carson Wentz was 28 of 46 for 310 yards and three touchdowns, but the Eagles dropped their third in a row and fell to 5-7.

### STEELERS 20, BROWNS 13

After a slow start, quarterback Devlin "Duck" Hodges, and Pittsburgh came on to beat visiting Cleveland. Hodges, an undrafted third-stringer who was given the start over Mason Rudolph, was 14-of-21 passing for 212 yards, an interception and a touchdown to James Washington (four catches, 111 yards) as Pittsburgh (7-5) erased a 10-0 deficit. Benny Snell added a touchdown run. Cleveland's Baker Mayfield

The award ceremony was attended by Eng Al-Otaibi, cup sponsor Mohammad Mustafa Karam, and Secretary General of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi.

Shooters of the club were able to snatch the first place gold medals and most of the silver and bronze medals as club and national guard shooters participated.

Engineer Duaij Al-Otaibi thanked officials of Mustafa Karam Company, and that they took upon themselves for many years to support the sports activities and encourage those distinguished shooters of the national teams, to make more achievements for their beloved country Kuwait.

Results of the tournament are as follows:  
Skeet men: Abdallah Al-Rashidii, Mohammad Al-Daihani, Zaid Al-Mutairi.

Trap men: Abdelrahman Al-Faihan, Bader Al-Miqld, Ayedh Al-Mutairi.

Skeet women: Iman Al-Shamma, Fatima Al-Zaabi, Sheikha Al-Rashid.



**BALTIMORE:** Jaylon Ferguson #45 of the Baltimore Ravens tackles Raheem Mostert #31 of the San Francisco 49ers at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland. —AFP

passed for 196 yards, with a touchdown to Kareem Hunt and an interception. He was sacked five times.

### TITANS 31, COLTS 17

Tye Smith returned a blocked field goal 63 yards to snap a fourth-quarter tie, and Ryan Tannehill added his second touchdown pass two minutes later, as visiting Tennessee rallied for a win over Indianapolis. The Titans (7-5) won for the fifth time in six games, avenging a September home loss to the Colts (6-6), and stayed within a game of Houston for first place in the AFC South. With the game tied at 17, Adam Vinatieri tried a 46-yard field goal to put Indianapolis ahead. But Dane Cruikshank surged through the right side to snuff the kick, and Smith sprinted untouched to the end zone with 5:02 left. It was the second field-goal attempt blocked by Tennessee in the game.

### BRONCOS 23, CHARGERS 20

Brandon McManus kicked a game-winning 53-yard field goal as time expired, and rookie quarterback Drew Lock passed for two touchdowns in his NFL debut to lift host Denver to a victory against Los Angeles. The Broncos (4-8) snapped a two-game losing streak and swept the season series, while the Chargers (4-8) lost their third straight. McManus' field goal followed a 37-yard pass interference penalty against the Chargers on a play that began with just nine seconds remaining. It was the third field goal in the game's final 4:26.

### BUCCANEERS 28, JAGUARS 11

Linebacker Devin White intercepted a pass to set up a score and then returned a fumble for a touchdown, as visiting Tampa Bay built a 25-point halftime lead and held off Gardner Minshew-led Jacksonville. Rookie quarterback Minshew replaced Nick Foles at the start of the second half, with the Jaguars down 25-0. Foles was 7 of 14 for 93 yards with one interception and two lost fumbles, with the three turnovers leading to 22 Buccaneers points. Jameis Winston was 21 of 33 for 268 yards for the Bucs (5-7). Minshew finished 16 of 27 for 147 yards, one TD and one interception for the Jaguars (4-8), who were penalized 16 times for 125 yards.

### REDSKINS 29, PANTHERS 21

Derrius Guice rushed for two touchdowns, and Washington came up with a late goal-line stand in a victory against host Carolina in Charlotte, NC. The Redskins (3-9) won for the second week in a row, and they didn't allow a point for a 48-minute stretch until the game's final two minutes. Guice gained 129 yards on 10 carries. Teammate Adrian Peterson picked up 99 rushing yards on 13 attempts, including a 12-yard touchdown run with 4:26 to play. Panthers quarterback Kyle Allen scrambled 17 yards for a touchdown with 1:51 remaining on a drive extended because of a fourth-down conversion. Carolina recovered the ensuing onside kick and reached the Washington 1 for a first down before running back Christian McCaffrey lost yards on consecutive plays, followed by an incomplete pass and a sack. —Reuters

## Mustafa Karam shooting tourney concludes

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex was the venue of the closing ceremony of Mustafa Karam Company Cup tournament which lasted for three days with 120 shooters of both genders participating in the Olympic trap and skeet events.

The day was shrouded with sadness as the national team skeet coach Czech Peter Malik died Saturday morning. He was described by President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi as a respected sports personality and well-known international coach.



## Kuwait to support athletes to make more achievements



**KUWAIT:** President of Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah said the committee's board of directors will continue its support to all Kuwaiti athletes to make more achievements in the name of Kuwait.

Sheikh Fahad spoke when he received Kuwait's gymnastics team which won 25 different medals during

the Arab championship in Tunis, and the wrestling team which won two silver and one bronze medals at the Arab championship in Cairo in the presence of KOC Secretary Hussein Al-Musallam. He said he is pleased with the achievements and called for more efforts to let Kuwait restore its sports status.

## ABK concludes 8th Annual Football tournament

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced the conclusion of the 8th Annual Football Tournament, which was held at 'The Public Authority for Sport field in Bayan. The exciting day-long event took place on 27th November 2019,

from 5pm until 9pm. A total of 8 Academies for children between the ages of 10 and 11 years old participated in the tournament; Kuwait Brazouka Academy, Heroes Academy, Franco Academy, Vision Academy, Kuwait International Academy, Juventus Academy, Sporty Academy, and Samba Academy.

The ABK football tournament is part of the Bank's annual social program which aims to engage with the public by encouraging sport and a healthy lifestyle from an early age. The tournament, which was launched in 2011 has grown substantially in popularity year-on-year.

Fawzy Al Thunayan, General

Manager, Board Affairs at ABK alongside Ali Al Baghli, Senior Manager Corporate Communications, attended the event to present the prizes to the winning teams. The First Place was won by "Kuwait International Academy" with each team member receiving KD 60. The second place was taken by "Juventus Academy" with each team member receiving KD 40.

Mohammed Al Husayan, the team player of Juventus Academy received the prize for 'Best Player' while Baker Abdulkhaleq who played for the Kuwait International Academy won the prize for 'Best Goal Keeper' of the tournament.





## Sports

# Spin king Lyon takes five as Australia thrash Pakistan with day to spare

## Australia clinch second Test and wrap up series 2-0

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard at the end of the pink-ball second cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan at Adelaide Oval yesterday:

**Australia 1st innings** 589-3 dec (D. Warner 335 n.o., M. Labuschagne 162)

**Pakistan 1st innings** 302 (Y. Shah 113, B. Azam 97; Starc 6-66, Cummins 3-83)

**Pakistan 2nd innings** (overnight 39-3)

S. Masood c Starc b Lyon 68

Imam-ul-Haq lbw Hazlewood 0

A. Ali c Smith b Starc 9

B. Azam c Paine b Hazlewood 8

A. Shafiq c Warner b Lyon 57

I. Ahmed c Labuschagne b Lyon 27

M. Rizwan b Hazlewood 45

Y. Shah lbw Lyon 13

S. Afridi c Hazlewood b Lyon 1

M. Abbas run out (Cummins) 1

M. Musa not out 4

Extras (lb6) 6

Total (all out: 82 overs) 239

Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Imam-ul-Haq), 2-11 (Azhar), 3-20 (Azam), 4-123 (Masood), 5-154 (Shafiq), 6-201 (Ahmed), 7-221 (Yasir), 8-229 (Afridi), 9-235 (Rizwan), 10-239 (Abbas)

Bowling: Starc 16-3-47-1, Hazlewood 23-4-63-3, Cummins 15-4-45-0, Lyon 25-7-69-5, Labuschagne 3-0-9-0

Result: Australia won by an innings and 48 runs.

**ADELAIDE:** Spin king Nathan Lyon snared five wickets, including dangerous half-century makers Shan Masood and Asad Shafiq, as Australia wore down a stubborn Pakistan to clinch the second Test and wrap up the series 2-0 yesterday.

Pakistan resumed day four of the day-night match on a precarious 39 for three with Masood not out 14 and Shafiq on eight after being bowled out for 302 in their first innings and forced to follow on.

It followed Australia's mammoth 589 for three declared, built around David Warner's exceptional 335 not out — the 10th highest Test score of all time. Needing another 248 to force Australia to bat again and avoid a second successive innings defeat, they had a decent crack but were eventually all out for 239 with the home team claiming victory by an innings and 48 runs. It was Australia's sixth consecutive win in a pink ball Test — four of them at Adelaide — with every day-night Test played so far since the concept was introduced in 2015 producing a result. "Really happy. Barring few slip-ups in the field yesterday, we played excellent cricket in the last two matches," said Australia captain Tim Paine.

"David and Marnus (Labuschagne) have been unbelievably good. We all witnessed a special knock from David Warner. It is among the top one or two innings ever by an Australian." Lyon was Australia's saviour, finishing with 5-69 on a lifeless pitch that offered little for the home side's fast bowlers, who were made to toil.

It was his 16th five-wicket haul and his first against Pakistan, who have lost all four Tests they have played this year after two defeats to South Africa in January. Defeat continued Pakistan's appalling record in Australia, where they have now crashed in 14 consecutive Tests.

"I would like to congratulate Australia and especially David Warner," said Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali. "We have been beaten by a better team. We will take some positives from here. As a bowling unit, we need to control the scoring rate."

At least they offered some resistance yesterday, with Masood, who models himself on England's Alastair Cook, playing some glorious strokes as he assumed a leadership role after Babar Azam and captain Azhar Ali fell cheaply on Sunday evening.

His sixth Test 50, in his 17th Test, arrived with a



**ADELAIDE:** The Australian team celebrates with the trophy after Australia defeated Pakistan on the fourth day of the second cricket Test match in Adelaide yesterday. — AFP

boundary off Lyon, his sixth four, before he chipped the spinner to mid-off on 68 where Mitchell Starc collected an easy catch. Shafiq, who has 12 Test hundreds to his name, proved to be Masood's equal and brought up his 25th half-century with a single off Josh Hazlewood.

But Lyon struck again, with Shafiq getting a thin edge to a lighted ball that carried to Warner at slip and he was gone for 57. Lyon then removed Iftikhar Ahmed, caught at short leg by Labuschagne for a battling 27, before trapping surprise first-innings century-maker Yasir Shah lbw for 13. Shaheen Afridi became his fifth victim, caught at mid-off by Hazlewood on the last ball before dinner.

The new pink ball was taken when they returned and with the lights on it didn't take long to finish off the tail,

with Hazlewood clean-bowling Mohammad Rizwan for 45 and Mohammad Abbas run out. It capped another commanding victory for Australia who exploited Pakistan's inexperienced bowling attack, which includes two teenagers.

Warner's triple century was the highlight while Labuschagne shored up his burgeoning reputation by making 162 to go with the 185 he made in the first Test at Brisbane. Mitchell Starc was the destroyer in Pakistan's first innings, taking 6-66 to reinforce his position as perhaps the best pink-ball bowler in the world.

Tougher opposition awaits them with the arrival this month of New Zealand for three Tests — in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. — AFP

## England in strong position as N Zealand reach 96-2

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and senior batsman Ross Taylor loom as the key wickets England need to capture to win the second Test as the hosts finished the fourth day on 96-2 at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday.

Williamson was on 37, while Taylor was 31 as New Zealand head into the final day still facing a five-run deficit after England were dismissed in their first innings for 476, with Joe Root breaking out of a prolonged slump with a majestic 226.

The England captain had resurrected his side's innings with a 177-run partnership with Rory Burns (101) on Sunday and 193 with Ollie Pope, who had been in sight of his first test century before he fell for 75 as they chased quick runs before tea. "I have been close for a long time in terms of a real big score," Root told the BBC. "I have never felt like it has been far away."

"Once I got in I had the bit between my teeth and wanted to make a big one. We have got ourselves in a position where we can still win."

New Zealand won the first match of the two-test series at Bay Oval in Mt Maunganui by an innings and 65-runs.

Heavy rain, however, is forecast for Hamilton after lunch on the fifth day and England will need to run through New Zealand's batting early on to seal victory.

Root's third test double century had put his side into a strong position, which was only made stronger when Sam Curran trapped Jeet Raval in front for a two-ball duck.

Raval did not review the decision, despite being asked by fellow opener Tom Latham if it was worth it, but technology suggested he had got an inside edge on the ball before it cannoned into his pad. Latham followed shortly after for 18 when he nicked a Chris Woakes delivery to Root at first slip to leave New Zealand struggling at 28-2, before Williamson and Taylor drove their side through to stumps. England's innings had been dominated by Root, who brought up his 17th test century on Sunday to break out of his prolonged slump.

He had not achieved three figures in a test since scoring 122 against West Indies in St Lucia in February — a stretch of 15 innings — and was averaging 27.10 this year prior to the Seddon Park match.

Root, who had resumed on Monday on 114, brought up his 200 after lunch with a quick single into the offside that left Pope having to dive to make his ground, although the throw at the stumps was wayward.

He eventually was caught in the deep for 226 as he tried to increase the scoring rate before tea, falling four balls after Pope had been caught attempting to do the same thing.

Root moved inside the top-10 test run scorers for England with his innings, advancing to 7282 runs at an average of 48.54, the highest in the list. Neil Wagner finished with 5-124 as he ran through the tail. "We had to graft really hard," Wagner said. "I was lucky enough to get the rewards. I felt a bit sorry for the other guys because they bowled well without much luck." — Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on day four of the second Test between New Zealand and England in Hamilton yesterday:

**New Zealand 1st innings** 375 (T. Latham 105, D. Mitchell 73, B. Watling 55, R. Taylor 53; Broad 4-73, Woakes 3-83)

**England 1st innings** (overnight 269-5)

R. Burns run out (Raval/Watling) 101

D. Sibley lbw Southee 4

J. Denly c Watling b Henry 4

J. Root c Nicholls b Santner 226

B. Stokes c Taylor b Southee 26

Z. Crawley c Watling b Wagner 1

O. Pope c Raval b Wagner 75

S. Curran not out 11

C. Woakes c Watling b Wagner 0

J. Archer b Wagner 8

C. Broad b Wagner 0

Extras (b4, lb14, w1, nb1) 20

Total (all out: 162.5 overs) 476

Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Sibley), 2-24 (Denly), 3-201 (Burns), 4-245 (Stokes), 5-262 (Crawley), 6-455

(Pope), 7-458 (Root), 8-460 (Woakes), 9-476 (Archer), 10-476 (Broad)

Bowling: Southee 37-4-90-2, Henry 33-6-87-1, Wagner 35.5-3-124-5 (w), Mitchell 22-5-69-0 (Inb), Santner 35-4-88-1

**New Zealand 2nd innings**

T. Latham c Root b Woakes 18

J. Raval lbw 0

K. Williamson not out 37

R. Taylor not out 31

Extras: (b1, lb2, w2, p5) 10

Total: (two wickets: 34 overs) 96

Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Raval), 2-28 (Latham)

Bowling: Broad 5-0-18-0, Curran 8-1-26-1 (2w), Archer 7-0-19-0, Woakes 7-3-8-1, Stokes 6-1-17-0, J. Denly 1-1-0-0.

Series: New Zealand lead 1-0.



**HAMILTON:** England's paceman Ben Stokes (L) reacts after New Zealand's batsman Ross Taylor hit a boundary on day four of the second cricket Test match between England and New Zealand at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. — AFP

## Hamilton to be torn between loyalty, novelty

**ABU DHABI:** Lewis Hamilton has admitted he will be torn between loyalty to Mercedes and the novelty of a new challenge at Ferrari when he considers his options for what is expected to be his last racing driver's contract in Formula One. The 34-year-old Briton had little time to bask in the glory of his stunning dominance of Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix before being pressed to talk about his future and a possible switch from the Silver Arrows to Ferrari.

The six-time world champion was circumspect, however, in his answers during post-race interviews in which he declined offers to deny that he had already spoken to the Italian team's chairman, John Elkann.

Hamilton's current contract with Mercedes ends next year, leaving him free to move for the 2021 season when Formula One ushers in a radical new set of rules that may coincide with Sebastian Vettel choosing to leave Ferrari, possibly for Mercedes in a dramatic swap with Hamilton, or to retire.

Hamilton, owner of two high-performance Ferrari road cars, made clear that he is simply looking around to weigh up his options beyond next year when he may equal Michael Schumacher's record of seven drivers' championship titles.

He also made clear that he is in no rush to make any decisions, a position applauded by his current team chief Toto Wolff who may also be considering his future when the sport shifts into a new era.

Wolff said he felt there was a 75 percent likelihood that Hamilton would stay and sign a new contract, likely to be his last as an F1 driver, with Mercedes — but he said also that there was a clear 25 percent chance that he may move. "Naturally, everything that happens behind closed doors is always private with whoever you end up sitting with," explained Hamilton after winning his 11th race this year, his fifth at the Yas Marina circuit and the 88th of his career.

"For many years, I have never sat down to consider other options because we have been driving straight ahead on the path we have been on. We are still on that path and there is very little that is going to shift that."

"I love where I am so it is definitely not a quick decision to do something else, but it is only smart and wise for me to sit and think of what I want if it is the last stage of my career. I want to keep winning. I cannot tell you what is going to happen moving forward. I love where I am so it is definitely not a quick decision to do something else."

Italian news media reported last weekend that Hamilton had held two meetings with Elkann this year — discussions that Wolff appeared to know of when he was asked about his and the Englishman's futures.

"I hope that our relationship continues, but, equally, there is a 25 percent chance we are not in control of," said the 47-year-old Austrian, tipped as a potential overall boss of Formula One if he can be tempted to leave Mercedes. "We will see how the next months pan out... A sports team is not static. It is dynamic. That means there is always going to be change — and change can provide opportunity. If one important member of the team breaks out, that provides risk, but also an opportunity..." — AFP

## Cautious Smith confirms on-going discussions over S Africa role

**CAPE TOWN:** Graeme Smith has confirmed he is again in discussions with Cricket South Africa (CSA) to be their new Director of Cricket, but said a Sunday newspaper report that he had already been appointed was premature.

Smith, the most successful test captain in cricket history with 53 wins, had been encouraged to apply by embattled CSA chief executive officer Thabang

Moroe as the organisation seeks a long-term replacement for Ottis Gibson, whose contract was not renewed after a dismal World Cup in England.

Smith turned down the job in November, but a report in South Africa's Sunday Times said that he had now been persuaded to accept it. However, he said that was not true, at least not yet.

"Contrary to media reports I have not been appointed Director of Cricket by CSA. As previously advised, I withdrew my application for the role. I am, however, in ongoing discussions with CSA, but I still have real concerns, which I have reiterated to them," he said via Twitter.

Smith called his previous discussions with CSA a "frustrating process", without divulging his concerns. Smith announced in a statement on Nov. 14 that he was withdrawing his application having "not developed the necessary confidence that I would be given the level of freedom and support to initiate the required changes".

Moroe has come under fire for the length of time it has taken to fill the role vacated by Gibson in August, especially with a looming, high-profile four-test home series against England that starts on Boxing Day.

Little-known Enoch Nkwe took up the job on an interim basis for a disastrous test tour of India in October that saw the side slip to three heavy defeats, and will continue for the England series unless a permanent appointment is made.

Moroe has also been criticised for an authoritarian style of leadership that saw CSA briefly revoke the media accreditation of five journalists on Sunday, before restoring their access hours later after an outcry over press freedom.

"Their access was revoked because we've been trying on numerous occasions to sit with them so that we can say guys we are not happy with the way you are representing us in the public. We are not silencing journalists," Moroe told Eye Witness News yesterday. — Reuters



## Sports

# Martinez fires Inter top of Serie A as Juventus slip up

## Roma moved up to fourth, two points behind their city rivals

**MILAN:** Lautaro Martinez's first-half brace sent Inter Milan top of Serie A on Sunday with a 2-1 win over SPAL after champions Juventus were held at home by Sassuolo. "We didn't use our heads," lamented Juventus boss Maurizio Sarri after his side dropped their first points at home this season.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored from the spot to rescue a 2-2 draw but Juventus slipped one point behind Antonio Conte's Inter. Argentinian Martinez put Inter ahead on 16 minutes at the San Siro, and then headed in Antonio Candreva's cross to score his eighth league goal this season.

Mattia Valoti pulled a goal back, but second-from-bottom SPAL fell to their ninth defeat of the campaign. Conte has guided Chinese-owned Inter to 12 victories in 14 league games for the first time, and they reclaimed the top spot which they had previously held until their 2-1 defeat by Juventus on October 6.

"When a team like Juventus drops points, you need to make sure that you make the most of that," said former Juve coach Conte. In Turin, Leonardo Bonucci struck early for the eight-time reigning champions but Ivorian Jeremie Boga and Francesco Caputo hit back for Sassuolo before Ronaldo's intervention.

Sassuolo, in 12th, claimed their first ever point at Juventus, and held Sarri's unbeaten champions to their third draw this season. "We got into trouble on our own, we didn't use our heads in the first half, as the goals conceded show," said Sarri.

"But we were coming off two games in which we used up a lot of energy against Atalanta and Atletico Madrid. We woke up after going behind."

Veteran Gianluigi Buffon endured a nightmare in the Juventus goal. The 41-year-old was making just his fifth start this season, putting him two short of Paolo

Maldini's record of 647 Serie A appearances.

Boga dinked the first Sassuolo goal on 22 minutes over the onrushing Buffon, who then fumbled in Caputo's second after the break following a mix-up between Juan Cuadrado and Matthijs de Ligt.

By contrast, 18-year-old Stefano Turati made an impressive debut in the Sassuolo goal, and pulled off a string of fine saves, denying a Ronaldo free-kick, Gonzalo Higuain and Paulo Dybala late on.

Ronaldo's penalty pulled the hosts level in the 68th minute after Filippo Romagna fouled substitute Dybala. It was the Portuguese star's fifth Serie A goal this season, with the five-time Ballon d'Or winner also having an effort ruled out for offside.

"Ronaldo has regained stamina, the next step will be to recover brilliance, but the road is right," insisted Sarri. Lazio consolidated third place — seven points behind Inter — with a 3-0 win over Udinese thanks to a double from Serie A top scorer Ciro Immobile, including one from the spot, to bring his tally to 17 goals this season, and a Luis Alberto penalty.

Roma moved up to fourth, two points behind their city rivals, after a 3-1 win at midtable Verona, ahead of Cagliari, who host Sampdoria on Monday. Justin Kluivert score after 17 minutes in Verona with Diego Perotti converting a penalty just before the break, and Henrikh Mkhitaryan adding a third in injury time.

But Napoli's winless run stretched to eight games in all competitions with a 2-1 defeat at home by Bologna, leaving last season's runners-up in seventh.

Bologna got their first win since October 27 with coach Sinisa Mihajlovic back on the bench following a bone marrow transplant as he fights leukaemia.

Despite taking a point in their Champions League game at Liverpool in midweek Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli



**MILAN:** Inter Milan's Croatian defender Marcelo Brozovic (C) is tackled by Spal's Montenegrin midfielder Marko Jankovic during the Italian Serie A football match Inter Milan vs Spal at the San Siro stadium in Milan. —AFP

are five points off the top four. "It's a very delicate time for us," said Ancelotti.

Fernando Llorente put Napoli ahead four minutes before half-time, but Dane Andreas Skov Olsen volleyed in an equaliser just before the hour with

Nicola Sansone scoring the winner 10 minutes from time. Llorente thought he had scored a 95th-minute leveller, but it was ruled offside by VAR. AC Milan, struggling in 11th, got their first win in a month, 1-0 at Parma. —AFP

## Nigerian challengers Enugu, Enyimba lose CAF Cup group openers

**JOHANNESBURG:** Nigerian contenders Enugu Rangers and Enyimba were both beaten by north African clubs on Sunday as the CAF Confederation Cup group phase kicked off. Enugu coach Salisu Yusuf lost his first match in charge, with the sending off of defender Temitope Olusesi not helping as they crashed 3-1 at home against Egyptian opponents Pyramids.

Two-time African champions Enyimba conceded twice within 19 minutes of the kick-off to lose 2-0 away to Moroccan outfit Hassania Agadir, who reached the quarter-finals last season.

Nigeria assistant coach Yusuf was seconded to Enugu after Benedict Ugwu lost his job for winning just once in the first five rounds of the domestic league.

Ibrahim Olowoyin put Rangers ahead on 29 minutes, but they battled after Olusesi was dismissed following a

second yellow card just before half-time.

Mohamed Farouk equalised with a penalty nine minutes into the second half and Tunisian Amor Layouni and Islam Attia, from another spot-kick, scored in the closing stages for Pyramids.

The Cairo club, formerly called Al Assiouty Sport, was bought by Saudi Turki al Sheikh and he poured money into it, hiring foreign coaches and numerous Egyptian stars.

When ownership switched to Emirati Salem Al Shamsi, he spared no expense to strengthen the team with the aim of challenging traditional Egyptian giants Al Ahly and Zamalek, and seeking CAF titles.

French coach Sebastien Desabre says his targets are competing with Ahly and Zamalek for the league title and winning the Confederation Cup, the African equivalent of the Europa League.

Winning in Nigeria maintained a perfect away record in the CAF competition this season by Pyramids following victories in Congo Brazzaville, Algeria and Tanzania. The other Group A match also delivered an Egyptian victory with Karim el Eraky scoring in stoppage time to snatch a 3-2 win for Al Masry over Nouadhibou of Mauritania in Nouakchott.

A thrilling tussle saw Nigerian Austin Amutu of Masry score the only goal of the first half, then equalise after Boubacar Bagili and Yassin el Welly netted for Nouadhibou. Pyramids and Masry have three points each, and both will enjoy home advantage in matchday two next Sunday, giving them a chance to exert an early stranglehold in the group. In Group D, Hassania wasted no time taking control against 2003 and 2004 CAF Champions League winners Enyimba with Karim el Berkaoui and Senegalese Malick Cisse scoring.

Enyimba substitute Martins Usole blazed over when given a second-half chance during a goalmouth scramble in the southern Moroccan coastal city of Agadir.

Meanwhile, a brilliant last-minute reflex save from Moussa Camara from a Gift Motupa volley gave Horoya of Guinea a 0-0 Group C draw with Bidvest Wits of South Africa in Soweto.

In Kinshasa, Zanaco of Zambia did well to force a 1-1 draw against Daring Club Motema Pembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo after having Kelvin Kapumbu red-carded on 66 minutes.

Cameroonian Moussa Souleymanou gave the Lusaka club a 25th-minute lead that Nigerian Peter Kolawole cancelled with 12 minutes remaining. —AFP

## Draisaitl scores twice as Oilers edge Canucks

**VANCOUVER:** Leon Draisaitl's second goal of the game early in the third period was the winner as the visiting Edmonton Oilers beat the Vancouver Canucks 3-2 on Sunday in the second half of a home-and-home series on consecutive nights.

Oilers goalie Mikko Koskinen made 30 saves and earned the victory thanks to Draisaitl's marker 46 seconds into the final frame, his second power-play goal of the night. While the defenders were focused on his teammates, Draisaitl found a soft spot at the bottom of the right circle and quickly released the shot after taking a feed.

Draisaitl and Connor McDavid — who collected two assists — both reached the 50-point mark. They are the first Oilers teammates with 50 points prior to the 30-game mark since Wayne Gretzky and Jari Kurri in the 1984-85 season.

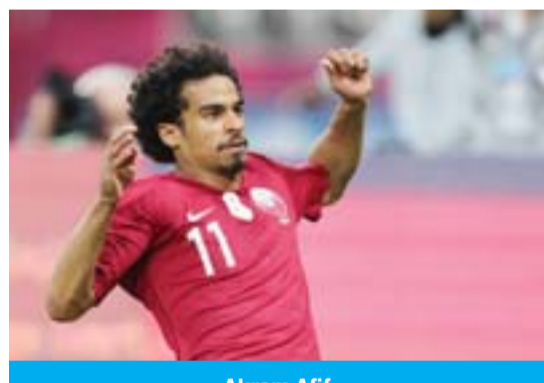
Alex Chiasson also collected two assists for Edmonton, which was without goalie Mike Smith (leg), forward Zack Kassian (back) and defenseman Kris Russell (personal), from Saturday's game. Defenseman Matt Benning returned to the lineup after missing five games due to a concussion, but was hit in the head by a puck late in the first period and didn't return.

Despite the Canucks holding the early advantage in play, Edmonton's Josh Archibald scored his first goal of the season when he redirected Darnell Nurse's shot-pass from the point at 9:09 of the first period.

In turn, the Canucks took a 2-1 lead. Brock Boeser put the hosts on the board with five minutes remaining in the opening frame. Boeser netted his 70th career goal in his 168th game, the third fastest ever that a Canucks player reached that mark behind Pavel Bure and Tony Tanti, by redirecting a cross-ice pass from Quinn Hughes.

Josh Leivo then put the Canucks ahead at 12:06 of the second period by pouncing on a loose puck for his fourth goal of the season. But Draisaitl's power-play goal 105 seconds later equaled the score at 2-2. Draisaitl set up shop near the right faceoff dot and one-timed the pass from McDavid for his 17th of the season.

Jacob Markstrom stopped 25 shots for Vancouver, which was without defenseman Alex Edler, who was injured in Saturday's game. Oscar Fantenberg made his regular-season debut in his place. — Reuters



Akram Afif

## Qatar's Afif, Japan's Kumagai named top Asian footballers

**HONG KONG:** Qatar forward Akram Afif and Japanese World Cup heroine Saki Kumagai were named Asia's men's and women's players of the year at an awards ceremony in Hong Kong yesterday.

Afif, who made a record 10 assists in Qatar's shock run to the Asian Cup title, beat Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand and Tomoaki Makino of Japan to the Asian Football Confederation honour.

"Very happy to be selected as the Asian Player of the Year. This is a great honour for me," tweeted Afif, 23, who was not in Hong Kong for the prize-giving. Kumagai, 29, who scored the winning penalty in Japan's 2011 Women's World Cup victory, also helped the Nadeshiko finish runners-up at the 2012 Olympics and 2015 World Cup, and led her country to the Asian Cup title last year.

She has also enjoyed a glittering club career, winning six French league titles and four Champions League trophies with Lyon. The awards ceremony took place in Hong Kong despite widespread pro-democracy protests that have engulfed the Chinese territory this year.

China's award for grassroots football was collected by an AFC official. Japan's Asako Takakura was women's coach of the year for a record seventh time, while Chung Jung-yong was the best men's coach after he led South Korea to the Under-20 World Cup final. With the top men's award off-limits to anyone based outside Asia, South Korea's Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min was named international player of the year. — AFP

## Late Messi strike sees Barca sink Atletico

**MADRID:** Lionel Messi delivered a major boost to Barcelona's La Liga title hopes by scoring a late winner in a 1-0 victory at Atletico Madrid on Sunday. Messi is the favourite to win a record-breaking sixth Ballon d'Or in Paris on Monday and he came up trumps again for Barca at the Wanda Metropolitano, where an even contest looked destined to finish goalless. "In matches that are close and intense, having Leo is always a big advantage," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde.

The Argentinian's 86th-minute strike, after a neat one-two with Luis Suarez, keeps Barcelona level on points with Real Madrid at the top of the table while leaving Atletico with a mountain to climb if they are to rejoin the race.

"It's important for the three points but also for the mental side," said Valverde. "It sends us into the Christmas period with confidence."

Atletico now sit six points adrift of both Real and Barca, with those two also having a game in hand which will be played out in the season's first Clasico at the Camp Nou on December 18. It means Atleti could conceivably head into the Christmas break nine points off the lead, a significant gap, particularly considering they will have to play away against both Barca and Real Madrid in the second half of the season. "We need points," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone. "We are not far from them but we are worried. I

am happy with the way we are playing but I will not smile at that because that does not bring us points."

Antoine Griezmann was whistled on his return to his former club, whom he left for 120 million euros (\$132.3 million) to join Barcelona in the close season, while toy rats were dropped on the plaque that still bears his name outside the stadium.

But Messi scored his 12th goal of the season and sixth in his last five games. He has now 25 in 27 in the league against Atletico although this was his first at the Wanda Metropolitano. Barcelona were fortunate not to be reduced to 10 men in the second half when Gerard Pique escaped a second yellow card for a late challenge on Alvaro Morata. They rode their luck in the opening 20 minutes too, marooned in their own half and able only to survive thanks in large part to their goalkeeper.

Marc-Andre ter Stegen made two excellent point-blank saves although was given the chance to as Mario Hermoso found himself free at the back post but shot straight at him before Morata met Kieran Trippier's corner but failed to head into the net. There had been little Ter Stegen could do about Hermoso hitting the post early on as his pull-back was diverted almost disastrously by Barca left-back Junior Firpo but somehow stayed out.

Yet after a dizzying opening spell, Barcelona stabilised and finished the half the stronger. Messi skipped free down the right but was ushered out, Suarez fired wide and Pique's header bounced up onto the crossbar.

Thomas Partey should have scored after the interval but opted to pass while Suarez was generous too, shooting straight at Jan Oblak. — AFP



**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid's Spanish midfielder Vitolo (R) challenges Barcelona's Argentine forward Lionel Messi during the Spanish league football match between Club Atletico de Madrid and FC Barcelona at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid. — AFP



Matches on TV  
(Local Timings)

### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Crystal Palace v Bournemouth	22:30
beIN Sports	
Burnley v Manchester City	23:15
beIN Sports HD 2	



**25** Tucker's game-winning field goal gives Ravens victory over 49ers



**26** Spin king Lyon takes five as Australia thrash Pakistan with day to spare



**27** Qatar's Afif, Japan's Kumagai named top Asian footballers



## Bahrain beat Kuwait, advances to s-final

Qatar and Saudi teams in semifinals



DOHA: Bahrain's midfielder Sayed Saeed (L) vies for the ball with Kuwait's defender Amer al-Fadhel during the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup Group B football match between Kuwait and Bahrain at the Khalifa International Stadium in the Qatari capital Doha yesterday. — AFP

DOHA: Bahrain national football team defeated yesterday the Kuwaiti counterpart 4-2, as part of group B in the 24th Gulf Cup at Doha's Khalifa International Stadium. The Bahraini team looked more in control and calm, and was able to score first at 46 minute by Ali Jaafar. Bahrain scored again at the 70 minute thanks to Jassim Al-Sheikh, at the 83 minute by Tiago, and again

at extra time by Tiago. Kuwait scored from a penalty kick at the 59 minute, the shot was taken by Yosif Nasser. The second goal by Kuwait was scored by Ahmad Zanki.

Earlier, Qatar defeated UAE yesterday as part of group A in the 24th Gulf Cup 4-2 at Doha's Khalifa International Stadium. The Qatari team was more calm

and in control, and was able to score through player Akram Afif at the 20th minute.

The same player scored another goal through a penalty kick at the 29 minute. UAE scored their first goal, also through a penalty kick, taken by Ali Mabhkhouf at the 33 minute. In the second half, the Qatari team scored their third goal taken by Hasan Al-

Haidous at the 52 minute. At the 77 minute, UAE player Mabhkhouf scored the second goal.

The Qatari team was able to score their fourth goal at extra time, thanks to Khokhi Bu Allam. In the second match of the same group, Iraq was not able to score against Yemen, which ended the match goalless. Qatar and Iraq advances to the semifinal. — KUNA

## Doncic, Mavs halt Lakers' winning streak

LOS ANGELES: Luka Doncic had 27 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, and the visiting Dallas Mavericks snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' 10-game winning streak with a 114-100 victory on Sunday. Doncic scored 21 of his points in the second half as the Mavericks captured their seventh win in eight games. They are 7-2 on the road. Delon Wright added 17 points and nine assists off the bench, while Dwight Powell, Kristaps Porzingis and Justin Jackson contributed 15 points apiece. Anthony Davis had 27 points and 10 boards for the Lakers. LeBron James finished with 25 points, nine rebounds, eight assists and four steals. Alex Caruso was the only other Laker to reach double figures in points, finishing with 10.

### CLIPPERS 150, WIZARDS 125

Kawhi Leonard scored 34 points on 14-of-21 shooting as Los Angeles routed Washington, beating the Wizards in L.A. for the 12th straight time. Paul George recorded 31 points and eight rebounds as Los Angeles won for the eighth time in its past nine games. Montrezl Harrell added 23 points and a career-best 15 rebounds and Lou Williams registered 22 points and eight assists for the Clippers. Los Angeles posted a season-best total for points in a half (82) and tied its season high for a game, falling two points shy of the franchise mark of 152 set against the Toronto Raptors on March 13, 1998. Rookie Rui Hachimura scored a career-best 30 points and also collected nine rebounds for the Wizards.

### HEAT 109, NETS 106

Jimmy Butler made the go-ahead free throws with 29.7 seconds remaining as Miami closed out the game with a 14-3 run to win at Brooklyn. Reserve Goran Dragic led the Heat with 24 points, as Miami shot just 38.9 percent but held the Nets to 41 points after half-time. Butler added 20, and Bam Adebayo collected 17 points and 16 rebounds. Spencer Dinwiddie scored 29 points, and Joe Harris added 25 for the Nets, who dropped to 6-3 without Kyrie Irving.

### CELTICS 113, KNICKS 104

Boston scored 12 unanswered points late in the fourth quarter for their third win in four games, sending host New York to its season-high sixth straight defeat. Jayson Tatum scored a game-high 30 points for the Celtics, including the run-capping 3-pointer that gave them a 104-95 lead. Jaylen Brown scored 28 points, including six straight for Boston in the final 2 1/2 minutes. Enes Kanter, who played 115 games the previous two seasons for the Knicks, had 11 points and 11 rebounds, while Kemba Walker followed with 16 points. Julius Randle scored 26 points for the Knicks, followed by 17 from Dennis Smith Jr. and 16 points from RJ Barrett.

### GRIZZLIES 115, TIMBERWOLVES 107

Dillon Brooks scored a game-high 26 points, and Memphis snapped a six-game losing streak by knocking off Minnesota in Minneapolis. Brooks also scored 31 points in a Nov. 6 win over Minnesota. Bruno Caboclo, who averaged just 8.7 minutes in his 10 previous appearances this season, played 29 minutes, and his 12 points had him among seven Grizzlies to score in double figures. Grayson Allen and Solomon Hill added 13 and 11 points off the bench. Karl-Anthony Towns scored 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, but

Minnesota otherwise lacked scoring punch. Andrew Wiggins finished with 18 points, almost eight below his season average.

### PISTONS 132, SPURS 98

Center Christian Wood poured in a career-high 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds off the bench as host Detroit routed San Antonio for its largest margin of victory of the season. Wood's previous career high was 26 points for Milwaukee last season. He was claimed off waivers by Detroit during the offseason. Luke Kennard scored 20 points as seven Pistons reached double figures. Pistons center Andre Drummond chipped in nine points, including his 8,000th career point, and pulled down 16 rebounds. DeMar DeRozan led the Spurs with 20 points. Lonnie Walker IV scored 13 off the bench and Rudy Gay added 12. Drew Eubanks chipped in nine points and eight rebounds, but San Antonio was outscored 73-47 after halftime.

### THUNDER 107, PELICANS 104

Chris Paul scored seven points during a pivotal 12-0 run late in the fourth quarter as Oklahoma City defeated host New Orleans. The turnaround was similar to one less than 48 hours earlier, when the host Thunder scored the final six points to beat the Pelicans 109-104. Danilo Gallinari led Oklahoma City with 23 points and 11 rebounds on Sunday. Steven Adams had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Dennis Schroder scored 17 each. Jrue Holiday led the Pelicans with 26 points, Brandon Ingram added 20 and Lonzo Ball chipped in 14. The Thunder made 20 of 26 free throws, while the Pelicans were 9 of 10.

### RAPTORS 130, JAZZ 110

Pascal Siakam scored 35 points on 14-for-22 shooting, and Toronto led by 40 at the half before cruising by visiting Utah. Fred VanVleet



LOS ANGELES: Luka Doncic #77 of the Dallas Mavericks drives to the basket and shoots the ball against the Los Angeles Lakers at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

added 21 points and 11 assists for the Raptors, who are 9-0 to open the season at home, a franchise record. They also are on a season-best seven-game winning streak overall. Mike Conley had 20 points for the Jazz, who have lost three of their past four games on a five-game road trip. Jeff Green added 19 points, and Donovan Mitchell had 16 points, followed by Rudy Gobert with 12 points and 11 rebounds and Bojan Bogdanovic with 11 points.

### MAGIC 100, WARRIORS 96

Markelle Fultz created the sixth lead change of the fourth quarter with a driving

layup with 2:22 remaining, and Orlando held on to defeat visiting Golden State. Evan Fournier scored a game-high 32 points for the Magic, including a layup that extended a one-point lead to 98-95 with 9.3 seconds left. Alec Burks' 3-point attempt hit the back of the rim with time almost expired, and Aaron Gordon grabbed the rebound and sank the game-clinching free throws. The Warriors made just six of their 23 3-point attempts in the game and were outscored 33-18 on 3s by the team that entered the contest with the NBA's worst 3-point shooting percentage. The Warriors' 17th loss is the most by any team in the NBA. — Reuters